

Upcoming Events

November 2023
Int'l Day for the Eradication of Violence
Against Women 11/25

16 Days 11/25 - 12/10

December 2023
Int'l Human Rights Day 12/10

February 2024
Commission for Social Development (02/4 -
02/15)

March 2024
Commission on the Status of Women 68
(03/11 - 03/22)

Past Events

SDG Action Weekend 09/16



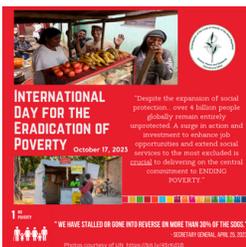
International Day of Peace 09/21



International Day of the Girl 10/11



International day for the Eradication of Poverty 10/17



A Journal of Congregational Justice Issues

prepared by GSIJPO



Embrace the World

Hello friends,

The Good Shepherd International Justice Peace (GSIJP) office would like to share our mission of advocacy, where we aim to create a world permeated by God's love, where justice and human rights support the dignity of every girl, woman, and child. Embrace the World is a safe space to update and highlight GSIJP's mission of advocacy, our interactions with the United Nations (UN) and a place to celebrate the Congregation and its Mission Partners. Happy reading!

- GSIJP Office News in Summary - Winifred Doherty (p. 2)
- Snippets from the CLT Letter of October 4, 2023 (p. 3)
- 2nd Place in Art for Well-Being Competition - Christle (.3)
- Articles published in ONE Magazine (CNEWA) by Claude Neddaf and Winifred Doherty (p. 4 & 5)
- A Journey of Learning and Self-Discovery – by Melina Ong, Lucy Chia and Julia Quick – Asia Pacific Region (p. 5, 6, 7 & 8)
- Art4Right E-book - Girls and Boys in Asia Pacific (p. 8)
- Schools and Rural Communities in Kitale, North Western Kenya say 'THANK YOU' - Anna Landy (p. 9 & p. 10)
- Rethinking Multilateralism - Winifred Doherty (p. 10 & 11)
- Round-up of Day of the Girl - Winifred Doherty (p. 12 & 13)
- Upcoming Events - Winifred Doherty (p. 14)

Next newsletter will be published in January 2024.

GSIJP Office News in Summary

by Winifred Doherty

Since our last edition of Embrace the World, July 2023, when Sude Gokce wrote an article entitled: - 'Disappearing in the Rear Window - the State of the SDG's Halfway to 2030, momentum at the United Nations in preparation for the Sustainable Development Summit (SDG Summit) of September 18 and 19 increased. The days were preceded by multiple events and activities by the United Nations and Civil Society alike. September 16 and 17 kicked off with the SDG Action Weekend. This could be described as the Summit of the NGOs within the United Nations Headquarters – a two-day event giving a platform to NGOs to share their concrete action toward the fulfillment of their vision for the well-being of people and planet. September 17th and 18th the Global People Assembly took place at the Church Center – parallel with both the SDG Action Weekend and the SDG Summit. The Global People's Assembly incorporated the Climate March on Sunday, September 17th in New York City, and on Monday, September 18th SDG Summit opened with the adoption of the Political Declaration by consensus, pledging to act on all levels for full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Within an already complex and multipolar world, yet another unseen and unplanned conflict has erupted following the indiscriminate and brutal murders of Israelis resulting in the escalation of violence, and destruction with a total disregard for human life, making a mockery of the consensus Political Declaration a few weeks earlier. Holding hope aloft, we at the GSIJP Office seek to be peacemakers leaving aside all retaliation, all blaming, praying for all hearts to break open to permit 'the other' to enter in all their diversity and pain such that, we are all listening and responding, human to human from our own broken hearts. It is so easy to get sucked into the conflict, to be for one side or the other. This is duality thinking, assuming a universe where there are only two contrasting mutually exclusive choices right and wrong, good and bad. This breathes polarities and aggression which can erupt in more violence. Our peace-filled stance is that of welcome, mercy, reconciliation, and inclusion, engaging with and encouraging every person to seek peace, engage in processes that promote conflict resolution, uphold international law, and global agreement, and think of the common good.

“May Peace Reign on Earth”.



A RALLYING CRY FOR LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Snippet from the CLT Letter of October 4, 2023

Our Deepest Appreciation to...

Sr Winifred Doherty for 16 years of devoted, passionate, and untiring service as Director of the Good Shepherd International Justice and Peace Office and as NGO Representative to the UN Economic and Social Council. Winifred will be retiring from this significant position on 30 June 2024. We thank you, Winifred, for your commitment and love for the mission expressed through sharing your expertise in the area of Justice and Human Rights advocacy work, education, and awareness creation. These have brought about a shift in consciousness and empowerment of sisters and partners in mission, who have converted their learning and insights into application and practice as we seek to "widen our tents".

In response to the letter from CLT with news of Winifred Doherty's upcoming retirement as NGO Representative to the United Nations, Winifred offered the following reflection " I am grateful to the congregation for the opportunity to serve as the NGO Representative at the United Nations since 2008. It has been both a challenge and a privilege. In serving in this role, I have provided leadership in many areas and with some wonderful NGO colleagues - religious sisters, brothers, priests, representatives of other religions, and of none. Concern for people living in multi-dimensional poverty and who experience violence of all sorts, particularly gender-based violence has always been at the forefront of my concern and advocacy. I have been engaged in many notable achievements of the United Nations - the most spectacular being the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. It is indeed the global roadmap forward. This work of advocacy is continually nurtured by Good Shepherd mission partners and the people they engage with throughout the world. The list is long of all who have contributed to and enhanced our advocacy efforts. The culmination has been demonstrated in the agency, voice, and participation of girls from Good Shepherd Ministries around the world at the United Nations."

2nd Place in Art for Well-Being Competition

by Christle



[2nd Place] All This Time

Artist: Christle Salgado Age: 19
Country: Sri Lanka With each passing day, there have been ups and downs ...

Congratulations to Christle, who came second in the music section of the Art for Well-Being Competition sponsored by PMNCH Women's, Children's and Adolescent Health. The text and recording of her song is available at <https://www.1point8b.org/post/all-this-time> Thank you to all who voted

Music Winners!



Thank you

Words are simply insufficient for me to say how grateful I am and I'm beyond blessed by God's graces. To my beloved family, my school Ave Maria Convent, Negombo, all who assisted in the production, teachers, friends, relatives and to all who've supported me in every way possible, thank you with all my heart..

The ride has been so tough as it was based on 70% jury and 30% votes for the final judgement and this would be simply impossible hadn't it been for the gush of immeasurable love and support by all of you. Thank you for making this victory so special and unforgettable for me..

-Christle

Articles published in ONE Magazine - CNEWA

Sharing with permission for CNEWA

Good Shepherd ministry and advocacy work featured in ONE Magazine published by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) in their September 2023 edition. The theme of this current issue is “Fighting a Crime Against Humanity – The Church Tackles Human Trafficking.” Tackling human trafficking is not new to Good Shepherd Sisters who are engaged in multiple ministries around the world. Sr Marie Claude Neddaf, a Good Shepherd Sister and the coordinator of Wells of Hope, a regional initiative of Talitha Kum shares her story. With teams in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Jordan, Wells of Hope seeks to prevent human trafficking in the Mediterranean Basin and to help survivors heal and rebuild their lives. Marie Claude’s article is entitled ‘Maiden, Arise’ Read the full article <https://cnewa.org/magazine/maiden-arise/>



Sister Marie Claude Neddaf, R.G.S., comforts a trafficking survivor in Beirut. (photo: Raghida/Skaff)



Sister Winifred Doherty, R.G.S. (photo: Michael Scott)

Quoting from the article Winifred wrote “...I like to explain advocacy to end human trafficking with the scriptural image in Matthew 13:33 of the yeast that a woman mixes into three measures of flour, “until the whole batch was leavened.” Even though she adds only a little yeast, it permeates every part of the dough. So, I seek to influence by presence — a presence that is proactive, networked and relational. However, advocacy is not a solo venture. Advocates against human trafficking must be as well networked as the criminal network. Effective advocacy is always with like-minded people who coordinate for a helpful outcome.

The emergence of survivor advocates has been the biggest highlight for me in the advocacy field. They are instrumental in creating a new level of awareness of the harms of human trafficking. My work at the U.N. is most effective when informed by recent advances or setbacks at the national, regional or local levels from survivor advocates. They represent multiple experiences and powerfully inform the discussion. Their advocacy is critical to where we are today.

Advocacy is about navigating the challenges that present themselves. Gaining access to the space — a seat at the negotiation table at the U.N. — is critical. Equally important is meeting with member state representatives, building relationships while highlighting the need to adopt and implement policies and legislation conducive to ending the scourge of human trafficking in all its forms. Researching and organizing well-prepared points with recommendations is another step in the process. ...

Trends seeking the normalization and legalization of prostitution, pimping and brothel-keeping, pushed by market concepts of supply and demand and reinforced by neo-liberal capitalism with its sole drive for profit — even arguing for a person’s “right” to buy sex — are antithetical to human rights and dignity. I call this the “corporatization” of women’s bodies.

Major advances in technology have added to the problem. Traffickers use technology for their criminal operations, remotely identifying and recruiting individuals on a larger scale than what was possible through traditional offline schemes.

Positive characteristics of recent laws against trafficking are the focus on criminalizing demand and the push to follow through with prosecutions. It is a shift from the blame traditionally placed on the victim.

However, it can prove extremely difficult to implement this law and to prosecute perpetrators. ...

What kind of system or structure permits an 11-year-old girl to be in a brothel? Systems where poverty is rampant, systems that permit the sexual exploitation of the girl child with impunity and that profit financially from applying the market forces of supply and demand to human beings, creating the slave trade of today.

I face each day holding not only girls and women, but every person impacted by these unjust systems and structures in my heart and in my prayer. It is their suffering and pain that motivate me to seek every opportunity in U.N. diplomacy that their rights may be upheld. Read the full article

<https://cnewa.org/magazine/a-letter-from-the-united-nations/>

“Trends seeking the normalization and legalization of prostitution, pimping and brothel-keeping, pushed by market concepts of supply, and demand and reinforced by neo-liberal capitalism with its sole drive for profit — even arguing for a person’s “right” to buy sex — are antithetical to human rights and dignity. I call this the ‘corporatization’ of women’s bodies. Winifred Doherty

A Journey of Learning and Self-Discovery – Asia Pacific Region

by Melina Ong, Lucy Chia and Julia Quick – Asia Pacific Region

Thirteen partners-in-mission from Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Pakistan, India, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar embarked on a transformative journey in Singapore from July 30 to August 20, 2023. This English immersion training programme on effective communication and essentials of leadership, titled “Winning Hearts and Minds Through Impactful Communication,” was organized by Good Shepherd Convent Restful Waters. The programme was divided into four key segments:

1. Setting the Context: Good Shepherd Community Perspective. Delving into the leadership of St Mary Euphrasia - her leadership styles and KPIs.

2. Leadership Skills: (a) Essentials of People Leadership and (b) Meeting of the Minds – Communicate, Connect and Collaborate.

3. Technical Proficiency: (a) Grant Proposal Writing, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, (b) Delivering Impactful Presentations, (c) Conducting Effective Training, (d) Mastering Business Writing.

4. Fostering Community: Immersion in an international community experience, communal prayer, bonding through excursions and celebrations with Good Shepherd Mission Partners.



The days of intensive learning flew by, and on 19 August, the participants, adorned in their national attire, stood ready and energized for their missions. Confidence, excitement, joy, and nervousness filled the air as each the participant took the stage to showcase their projects. Their passionate accounts covered diverse initiatives, such as providing education for underprivileged children, addressing high school dropout rates, empowering women through skill development and entrepreneurship, human trafficking, creating safe environments for children, ensuring clean drinking water access, and introducing solar power to electricity-deprived villages.

Through these presentations, the audience gained profound insights into the extensive work carried out by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Asia. Despite English not being their first language, the participants' determination shone brightly, and the audience could clearly understand and feel their unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those they served. It was a meaningful conclusion to the programme, aligning with the celebration of the Feast Day of St John Eudes.

Please visit <https://www.goodshepherd-asiapacific.org.au> for more photographs and complete reflections. Here we share some excerpts:

“All the sessions molded me, nourished me, and made me think out of the box. Especially the session on building our presenting skills which was a turning point where I learnt new ways of relating and reaching out to people.” Sr Shanika Silva

“...This experience allowed me to break free from my comfort zone and be inclusive within the group dynamic. I derived immense satisfaction from the leadership skills session, which made me realise that the more I know and understand myself, the better I can know and understand others.” Sr Goretti Nant

“The concepts of interconnectedness, networking, collaborative mission partners, and internationality are more meaningfully and effectively understood by being here in this setting...” Sr Kalai Selvi.

“This experience has strengthened my courage, dedication, and sacrifice for our mission and those I serve.” Sr Assumpta Tran

“... I am thankful for this journey. The knowledge I am gaining and the transformative gift that is molding me into a more confident person... Life has undergone significant changes during my time here.” Sr Jantana Jantorn.



“As I reflect, I realize that the person I was is not the person I am today. And I know that I will not be the same person I am as I progress in my life. Change is what truly defines me... I am loving this journey of self-discovery, self-awareness, evolution, and transformation.”

Sr Myriam Bui

“I was able to see my inner being and become more mindful... The sessions made me more aware of my ministry and community life.” Sr Annunciata Mariyampillai

“... to be positive about life, to give without expectations, and to leave my footprints wherever I go. I carry these lessons in my heart as I return to my country and make a difference in the lives of many who are in need.” Sr Rini Varghese

“The experience helped me gain insights into my personality... Through the course, I gained a clearer understanding of myself and how to maintain positive relationships with others.”

Sr Jayamani Rodrigo

“The programme was very intensive and there were lots of opportunities to participate.”

Shireen Kamal

“... I am thankful for the valuable experiences and friendships. I am sure what I have learned here will keep motivating me in the next part of my journey. The lessons and memories from this journey will stay with me as I head home, ready to use these new skills and ideas for what is to come.” Sr Apinya Sornjan



“The collective feeling among us was one of happiness and accomplishment, knowing that we had succeeded.” Sr Assumpta Tran

ART4RIGHT E-BOOK

Published by Good Shepherd Asia Pacific

Enjoy the Art4Right E-book published and launched by Good Shepherd Asia Pacific on International Day of the Girl 2023. It is a compendium of art pieces by girls and boys from Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, and Sri Lanka on Girls' Rights. Access the E-book by using the QR Code or directly at this link:- <https://bit.ly/3M9AzKc>

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 2023

ART4RIGHT: AN INITIATIVE OF GOOD SHEPHERD ASIA PACIFIC

INVEST IN GIRL'S RIGHTS
Our leadership and wellbeing





Schools and Rural Communities in Kitale, North Western Kenya say 'THANK YOU'

by Sr. Anna Landy



Sr Anna Landy, Province of Ireland engages in Fund-Raising and Setting up Projects in Africa. Anna shared her report with the GSIPJ office on the work undertaken between 27th February and the 6th April 2023. Anna, together with Seán, and Jacinta who are volunteers arrived in the region of Kigali, North East Kenya after two days travelling by plane and minibus. They were given free accommodation in an African 3-bedroom house in the grounds of the local health centre. There was security on duty 24/7 each day so they felt very safe. They were close to a market area, but 10 miles from the nearest town, Kitale. Anna is motivated by these words of God, "I have no eyes but yours, no ears but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, no heart but yours to help me love and care for my people" and so undertakes such work to express in action God's care and providence for people most in need. Here are some diary extract from Sr Anna's Mission to Kenya.

300 mothers were provided with small hand-knitted jumpers and hats for their babies and small children. Thanks to so many groups and individuals for this wonderful donation from north, south, east and west of Ireland.

WATER PUMPS

Water shortages have been a very serious problem in the area of Kitale for decades, resulting in residents having to travel 10 kilometres for a drink. The response of Anna is to install six efficient water pumps. The work was completed, the pumps blessed and handed over to various schools and communities. While supplying water to the schools the pumps will supply water to nearby communities, about 100,000 people. (Picture Right shows completed pumps)



SCHOOLS

Over 5,000 children were fitted and provided with new school uniforms, school shoes, socks and gumboots (wellingtons). Over 7,000 students from six large primary schools received pens, pencils and copybooks, materials that only a few had, and Siyombe Primary School received 20 new school desks. Footballs were given to one large school of over 1200 children permitting students the joy of play. (Picture left shows Sr Anna engaged in the production of school uniforms.)

HEALTHCARE, HOUSING AND FARMING

Over 500 hampers were donated to people in living in poverty and older persons. Three wheelchairs were provided to health centres, and €800 worth of medication was donated to two local dispensaries to be dispensed at no cost to whoever is in need.

Mattresses, blankets, pillows and beds were provided to over 200 people who are sick and elderly and unable to afford such basics for themselves

Broken roofs were fixed and galvanized iron sheets and roofing nails were used to replace leaky straw roofs. Cows, heifers, sheep, donkeys and chickens were provided to 50 families to help facilitate better nutrition within the family and opportunities for income generating.



Rethinking Multilateralism:

Responding to Interconnected Crises from the Lens of the 'People' SDGs, Partnerships, and Civil Society

Thursday, September 14, 2023
10:00am EST | Online

Rethinking Multilateralism

by Winifred Doherty

Winifred Doherty was invited to be a panelist at a parallel event in the lead up to the UN SDG Summit which took place on September 18 and 19. An initiative of UNANIMA International, the title of the event was 'Rethinking Multilateralism: Responding to Interconnected Crises from the Lens of the 'People' SDGs, Partnership and Civil Society.' Some excerpts from Winifred's statement follow:

The core elements underpinning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are enumerated in the 5 P's, - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. These 5 P's are central to the SDGs and are undergirded by the concept 'multilateralism', the concept we are considering today.

Some words presented on a UN Website capturing the meaning of multilateralism are cooperation, consultation, inclusion, and solidarity. Multilateralism happens when collectively developed rules of engagement and the resolution of potential conflicts are agreed and acted upon. The United Nations as a Multilateral system has been effective. Trust, relationship, and respect are at its heart. The Secretary-General said to the Security Council on 24 April of this year that "Multilateral cooperation is the beating heart of the United Nations, its *raison d'être* and guiding vision." Quoting the words of María Fernanda Espinosa, "The SDGs are a true jewel of multilateralism."

So, what is preventing us from achieving the SDGs, our common, comprehensive, blueprint for people, planet, and prosperity, resulting from the multilateral system at its best? We've seen Voluntary National Reviews consistently presented over the past 7 years in the spirit of multilateralism. And yet the SDGs are so terribly off track? (Despoina informed us) Only 12% are on Track; 45% are moderately or severely off track with 37% showing stagnation or regression.

I offer two explanations: firstly, the current UN system has not managed to keep abreast of global current developments, and secondly, and more importantly for me, the 'new multilateralism' of corporate partnership engagement is erosive in the system and is not the enabler it proposed to be.

Why do I say this? Because some of the players are not inclusive of foundational principles such as the well-being of people and planet; human rights; gender equality, and resource sharing ... rather they are a counterforce, an opposing force, raging and plundering, wielding exploitative power over people and governments while breaching international law and planetary boundaries with impunity. ...

I reference a review of a recently published paper by the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung's European Union and Washington, DC offices entitled "[Shaping the Future of Multilateralism - Inclusive Pathways to a Just and Crisis-Resilient Global Order](#)" The authors paint a troubling picture from trade to climate finance to digital governance – and the human rights, equality, and equity breakdowns that run through all of those global issues. They argue that the world's richest nations have sidelined their poorer counterparts and profited from their resources with little return. At the same time, poorer countries have often been caught in the vice of geopolitical and geo-economic competition.

"Multilateral cooperation is the beating heart of the United Nations, its *raison d'être* and guiding vision." The UN Secretary General

"The SDG are a true jewel of multilateralism." María Fernanda Espinosa

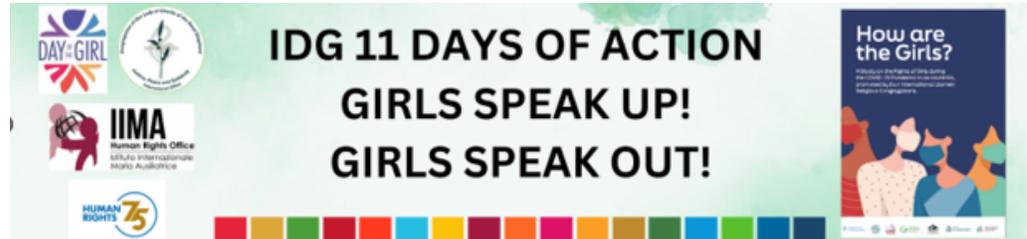
Roundup of Day of the Girl - October 11

by Winifred Doherty



On behalf of the Good Shepherd family around the world I offer our congratulations to Kimberly who delivered a beautiful baby girl, Esmeralda Rose, on August 21 and is currently on Maternity Leave. Mother and baby are doing well enjoying the fall season!

Kimberly was missed by all during the International Day of the Girl activities October 1 - 11.



11 Days of Action and Girls Speak Out.

The GSIJP Office cosponsored with Instituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA) on October 7 of the 11 Days of Action. The Office engaged in an interactive X/Twitter Chat on the theme of 'Invest in Girls Leadership' We celebrated the achievements of Good Shepherd girls all around the world who are demonstrating leadership, power, and agency - Speaking Up and Speaking Out!

Good Shepherd Girls from Asia Pacific and Africa responded to the call of the 11 days to submit creative expressions of girls' leadership in action in video, art, poetry, or using another creative medium. Some pieces that I reviewed were superb! These were used to inform the Girls Speak Out which took place in the United Nations on the morning of October 10. It was a Hybrid event and webcast live on UN Live TV. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1o/k1ouwljrtg> We were privileged to have Andrea from Bolivia as a panelist. She highlighted her engagement as a girl leader with girls in her community and school creating awareness and taking a stand for Girl Rights.

Snippets from Andrea's statement.

My name is Andrea. I am 15 years old. I live in Bolivia. I have a family that supports me and loves me very much. I study in a public school, I am in the 4th year of high school. I like to sing and cook. My greatest strength is that I have the ability to organize and guide. I have a dream of becoming an influential leader in my country Bolivia.



My activism comes from my own identity of being a girl. I am proud to be a girl. I am happy to be here this morning. I am going to share with you the needs and interests that we have as girl children and adolescent GIRLS in my country. I had the opportunity to be trained in citizen leadership. This was followed by specific training in Girls' Empowerment. This training helped me to represent my group of girls. We call ourselves the **"Butterfly Revolution."** The trainings helped us to make a reflective analysis of the reality in which we girls live. The biggest concern that emerged was that of violence.

Upcoming Events

Below are upcoming events that the GSIJP office highlights for your awareness and engagement:

November 20 - World Children's Day - Anniversary day of the adoption of the UN General Assembly Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959, and of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. Catholic Care for Children International (CCCI) launches one-month social media campaign, running from October 20th to November 20th.



This is a collaborative effort across the CCC partners in the globe to build awareness about the importance of Family-centered/family-like care for the children. ...

Together we can create a brighter future for the world's children

Click here for more information: <https://www.uisg.org/en/news/Children-Deserve-Families-CCCI-Campaign>

November 25 - International Day for the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women
16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



Between November 25 and December 10, 2023 we will engage with social media posts in the campaign to end discrimination against Women and Girls. Please follow us at X/Twitter and Facebook.

Click here for more information:

<https://bit.ly/3FNZWxM>

November 30 - December 12, the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) will take place in the United Arab Emirates. Click here for more information <https://unfccc.int/cop28>



December 10 is Human Rights Day, celebrating 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The theme for 2023 is: 'Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.' Click here for more information <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

"We must stand firm against rising intolerance and build a future of dignity, security, justice & human rights for all."
Secretary-General - António Guterres



Editor’s Note: “Embrace the World” can be published thanks to each of your contributions of articles, stories and other news concerning justice & peace issues in the world-wide Good Shepherd community. We continue to count on you for upcoming editions of the journal. Please share with us activities, news and events from your Units and countries. Thanks to all who have contributed to the **October 2023 issue**.

Working to end poverty, human trafficking & gender-based violence Advocating with women & girls, migrants & refugees Recognizing our interconnectedness with the whole of creation, we seek to realize the rights of all and achieve gender equality

Journal written, edited, and prepared by **Winifred Doherty**
Contributed by: Melina Ong, Lucy Chia and Julia Quick – Asia Pacific Region; Sr Anna Landy and Winifred Doherty
Original in English
Translated into Spanish by Victor Carrasco
Translated into French by: Solange H-T P

Please distribute to all communities, programs, and Good Shepherd Friends in your Unit.

Thank you!

Click below to follow us on Social Media

