



Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary NGO with special consultative status in the **Economic and Social Council** of the United Nations since 2013 and with the **Department of Public Information** since 2006.

News from the UN # 97

RSHM at the UN

November / December 2018

In this issue, we touch on some key themes that shaped action and advocacy at the UN during the months of November and December. Themes related to **Migration, climate change, the 16 days of action to eliminate violence against women** are all profoundly related to **Human Rights**. As we commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** we recognise the ever-growing importance of our RSHM commitment to uphold and advocate for Human rights, so that "All may have life".

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



The Trusteeship Council was flooded with the colour orange on November 19th, for the commemoration of the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women!** The colour orange symbolizes a brighter future and a world free from violence against women and girls and is a part of the Orange the World: #HearMeToo campaign. The event was marked by messages from Secretary-General, António Guterres, President of the General Assembly, María Fernanda Espinosa, Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, activists and many others. There was a musical performance by **The**

Angel Band Project whose mission is to make a difference in the lives of survivors of sexual assault through music. Women law enforcement officers were present and celebrated, and a police car painted orange was parked near the inside entrance to the United Nations. Perhaps the most profound message of the day came from a young woman with disabilities and a FUSA beneficiary, Daniela Elizabeth Giuliano, who said, "Listen to me, I have the same rights. Thank you to the UN for teaching me what my rights are." The event marked the beginning of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** which ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day. ➡ [Read more about the 16 Days of Activism and take action for the safety of women and girls around the world.](#) ➡ [Watch a performance from the Angel Band Project](#)

➡ [Read more about the Angel Band Project](#)

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women



The **UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women** (UN Trust Fund) awards grants to initiatives that demonstrate that violence against women and girls can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated. According to **UN Women**, since its creation in 1996, the UN

Trust Fund has awarded **USD 128 million to 462 initiatives in 139 countries and territories**. Its current portfolio comprises 120 grants totaling USD 50 million in 80 countries and territories.

Case studies from this program are shared in the **2017 UN Trust Fund annual report**, highlighting the life-changing results of grantees working to prevent and end violence against women and girls. One case study focused on a project in Brazil by Casa da Mulher Trabalhadora, according to the

Tolerance and International Education

November 16th marked the celebration of two important days at the United Nations, the **International Day for Tolerance** and **International Education Day**. The morning started with an event entitled "**YouTube Creators for Change**" in observance of the International Day of tolerance and spotlighted filmmakers who use YouTube's global reach to change conversations around tough issues and make a positive impact. Invited high school students had submitted short videos celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Short videos were presented from both YouTube Creators and high school students on themes such as racism, xenophobia, homophobia and women's empowerment. The afternoon focused on education and highlighted academic institutions as vibrant civil society partners for implementing the SDGs. Youth activists celebrated the role that international education plays in creating a more peaceful, just, and equitable world. Both events highlighted the importance and value of youth empowerment.

➡ [Watch videos from Creators for Change here](#)

Call for proposals: The UN Trust Fund is currently accepting applications for multi-year grants up to USD 1 million. The online application will be available from 25 November 2018 until 18 January 2019 on the [UN Trust Fund website](#).



report the project seeks to, "to raise awareness among marginalized groups of young women in Rio de Janeiro on identifying violence, including technology-related violence, and how to address it. Three months after training 95 young people, which took place in March and April 2017, 94.4 percent of young women who had participated had carried out some form of awareness-raising activity in their locality... Do you know of any projects that may qualify for a grant from the UN Trust Fund? Consider applying below!

➡ [Read more of the 2017 UN Trust Fund report; View the 2018 application guidelines](#)



Climate issues in the Sahel and Small Island Developing States



On Tuesday, November 13th, the United Nations hosted two panels focused on the countries that are most at-risk from climate change. The first event focused on the **Sahel region**, with a strong emphasis on linkages between climate change and challenges to

peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel. The second event explored pathways to resilience in climate-affected **Small Island Developing States, particularly Islands in the Caribbean** who have seen devastating hurricanes over the past two years. While these events focused on different parts of the world, the threats from climate change are consistent; climate change is likely to increase conflict,

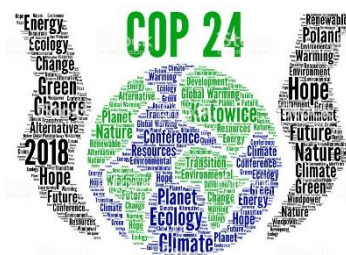
poverty, threatens the livelihoods of pastoral communities and will increase migration flows. Governments, NGOs and other stakeholders are doing their best to prevent these issues in the Sahel and in Small Island Developing States. For example, the Mayor of Dori in Burkina Faso spoke to many initiatives his government has undertaken to protect water and agricultural access locally and regionally and noted, “we are not fatalists; we believe there are solutions.” Similarly, many leaders in the **Caribbean** spoke to their community mobilizing **1.6 billion dollars** in donations and **1 billion** in loans to recover from the 2017 Hurricanes. In



both cases, however, local action is not enough. The United Nations is aware that climate change is a global problem that requires global solutions.

COP 24

The 24th UN Climate Talks (COP24) took place from 2 to 14 December in Katowice, **Poland** – ironically, in a country where 80% of electricity, and half of primary energy, is produced from coal. The “Paris Rulebook” was adopted at the end of meeting, providing guidelines for implementation measures that need to be followed through if humanity is to keep within the 1.5 deg Celsius limit. However, it was widely felt that the outcome did not adequately reflect the extent of climate urgency needed and there was a lack of attention to solidarity and equity. The fact that strong mechanisms and financial commitments are lacking, and references to human rights and food security are missing from the Rulebook indicates that governments are shying away from their responsibility to act.



- ➔ [Read about COP 24](#)
- ➔ [Watch the documentary “Energy to change”](#)



Migration Summit – Marrakech

The adoption of the **Global Compact for Migration** on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech, **Morocco** was a turning point in international migration governance. Fruit of a two-year process, it marked the first time that UN member states around the globe had successfully negotiated an agreed set of commitments to help manage migration and ensure its safety for everyone. Also adopted in Marrakech was the **Global Compact of Refugees** which sets out measures to share responsibility to help those who, because of conflict or persecution, are forced to flee their countries. Both Compacts were formally adopted by a vote of the UN General Assembly in NY in the week of December 17th.

Women and girls who migrate often face a heightened risk of having their human rights violated, through exposure to human trafficking, **exploitation and sexual and gender-based violence**. On **December 12th**, the **Women in Migration Network** launched the Marrakech Women’s rights Manifesto. This **7-point Manifesto** highlights the importance of migrant women’s rights and leadership, and urges Governments to place women’s rights and voices at the center of implementation of the Global Compact on Migration.

- ➔ [Endorse the Manifesto](#) and pledge to work in your countries to put women’s human rights at the center of migration policy.
- ➔ [Read more about the Global Compact on Migration](#)

Fast facts on Women in Migration

- **Half of the 258 million migrants globally are women.**
- **44 % of the estimated 150 million migrant workers are women.**
- **Women make up 73.4% of international migrant domestic workers; yet, only 26 countries have ratified the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers**
- **Migrant women workers send back USD \$300 billion to their countries**
- **Women and girls constitute 98 % of all sexually exploited victims of trafficking.**

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