

INTRODUCTION/CONTEXT

The JPIC Network – Animators and UN/NGO Representatives – met several times using Zoom to reflect, evaluate, and give vision to our mission “that all may have life” (John 10: 10) in our living out of gospel values. Working together within the context of a global pandemic, we discussed our hopes, experiences, concerns and actions into the future. This is the origin of our statement, written in light of our 2019 General Chapter Statement.

2021 JPIC/UN NGO Network Statement

As women of passion and compassion, aware of our interconnectedness with all creation,¹ we want to be a voice for the voiceless, listening attentively to the heartbeat of Jesus in all creation. We, RSHM, want to reveal the tenderness of God and respond to the cries of the Earth and of those on the margins.²

We commit ourselves to advocacy in addressing these issues and in shaping an integrated, prophetic response:

- ✓ Climate Change/Care of the Earth
- ✓ Income Inequality - the Increasing Gap between the Rich and the Poor (globally, nationally, locally)
- ✓ Human Rights, especially empowering women and children, and ending human trafficking and slavery.

We want to live as global citizens, working to create a global community of compassion and hope where:

- women and children are respected;
- income inequality is denounced and all persons have what they need;
- refugees find a home;
- families have access to food, sanitation, healthcare and education;
- victims of violence and human trafficking find safety and protection;
- all persons act responsibly in using the diminishing resources of our fragile earth community;
- nations strive to live in peace, choose dialogue instead of conflict and transform their weapons into ploughshares;
- the development of peoples, communities and the Earth is sustainable.

We ask that Areas of the Institute respond to these urgent issues of our times in prophetic hope and action and in accordance with their diverse realities and possibilities.

^{1,2} 2019 General Chapter Vision Statement

May 2021

STRATEGIES/ACTIONS

In a spirit of hope, we suggest these strategies as possible actions to move forward with this

commitment:

- ❖ Active involvement in the United Nations (NGO) with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals and documenting how our ministerial work contributes to the implementation of the SDGs.
- ❖ Studying Church documents on current issues: e.g., peace, systemic racism, Earth as our common home, human trafficking.
- ❖ Sharing stories of our sisters and those with whom we collaborate that demonstrate actions furthering this vision.
- ❖ More direct engagement with other Institute Teams/Committees: Communications, Formation, Institute Stewardship.
- ❖ Advocacy through letter writing, statements, newsletters, demonstrations that offer a public forum for JPIC action.
- ❖ Use social media and networking forums to address issues of care for the Earth, wealth disparity, and human rights.
- ❖ Collaborate with the Vatican's journey of sustainability, in the spirit of the Laudato Si' Action Platform, by promoting programs that ensure a future for coming generations.

Quotes for Reflection from Church and RSHM documents

As believers, we do not look at the world from the outside, but from the inside, aware of the bonds with which God has linked us to all beings. (Laudato Si', 220)

Let us take care of the fragility of each man, each woman, each child and each elderly person, with the same caring and supportive attitude, the same attitude of proximity to the Good Samaritan. (Fratelli Tutti, 79)

In all our works and ministries, we collaborate with the action of God for the transformation of the world, through our commitment to the integral development of the human person. (Constitutions 33)

We are sent to promote the life and dignity of all our brothers and sisters, placing ourselves and our resources at the service of those most in need of justice... (Mission Statement)

Faithful to our call to make the God of love and justice known, we embrace the needs of our global community. (2007 Gen Chap)

The Spirit impels us to listen and learn from voices from below that are being silenced and to open our hearts ever wider to our marginalized brothers and sisters, especially women and children... (2013 Gen Chap)

Collaborating with others, we are called to be women of prophetic hope who proclaim that everyone has a place in our "common home". (2019 Gen Chap)