

IPA Justice Contact Update

October 2020



Jyoti's Love Story

Jyothi is 15-year old and just passed grade eight. Mohan is a migrant worker in Delhi. Since the lockdown he lost his job, had no money or place to stay. Besides he was injured and unable to walk. He was desperate to get home to Bihar in North East India. Jyoti said to him *'don't worry Papa I am here.'*

They had just 20 dollar and she bought a bicycle. She asked her papa to sit

on the rear side carrier holding their meagre possessions and started peddling it with indomitable courage and determination. She said 'I remembered God for few moments and set off with my ailing father heading towards home.' She covered about 150 kms each day. When she got tired, they sat by the road, washed her face, drank some water from the bottle they carried, and shared few biscuits together. *They gave each other eucharist.*

She recalled with tears in her eyes that she had to remain hungry for two days but fed her father with whatever she had carried. *She gave him eucharist.* In some places along the way people took pity on them and gave them food and water. *They gave them eucharist.* Braving against all odds Jyothi brought her father safely home after cycling for seven days covering 1200 kms. *Her faith in God, trust of her father, the source of her strength, and her own indomitable courage brought them home safely.* [Click here to see Jyoti's love story.](#)

Pilgrim, repose with a quiet heart, listen to the beat of Holy Presence...

What is Jyoti's Love story saying to you?

Recall the face of the poorest person you have come across, during this pandemic. Sit with her/him, listen to their God story.

Seek out couple of others with whom to share eucharist together... keep your journal.

From the IPA Spirituality & Charism Committee PBVM Srs. Terry Abraham, Maria Lazzaro, & Dorothy Scesny



Update from the Programme Action Leader

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si #139

As the Season of Creation concludes, Pope Francis calls us to continue to focus on the intersectionality of issues. The COVID-19 global pandemic continues to impact our lives. For some of us, our lives have slowed down and created space to be still. We have had extra time to enjoy the beauty of creation and reflect on social justice issues that have risen to the surface because of this pandemic.

For some of us, our lives have sped up. The chaos of uncertainty, anxiety, changes in work environments, financial struggles, and our lives have become non-stop trying to integrate the changes needed. Across the world, inequalities have been expanded and violence has increased, especially against women and children.

What does the Season of Creation have to teach us in this moment? It can teach us gratitude for the blessings we have and stretch us to find the intersectionality of

our local and global contexts. Creation teaches us everything is interconnected. We rely on one another, the planet relies on us, and we rely on the planet.

IPA's UN advocacy focus for 2020-2020 is the "Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children". What steps can we take to find the intersectionality of this crisis and care of creation?

IPA's UN advocacy focus does not minimize our IPA commitment to the IPA foci of honoring and advancing the rights of Earth, indigenous and tribal people, and all rights of women and children. It calls us to reflect deeper on the complexity of these crises and to find an integrated approach to local and global change.

IPA is what it is because of the actions and prayers of Presentation People. Thank you for your commitment to justice and for all you are doing in your local context! Below are our Justice Contact Friday Features for October!

In peace and gratitude,

Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM
IPA Programme Action Leader

Update from the UN IPA NGO Representative



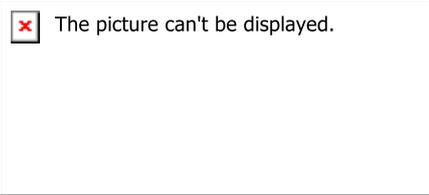
Dear friends,

This year marks the ninth anniversary of the International Day of the Girl (IDG 2020)!! On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly

adopted [Resolution 66/170](#) to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. Empowering women and girls and promoting gender equality are crucial to accelerate sustainable development. Ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it also has a multiplier effect across all other development areas.

As you are aware, IPA is an active member of the Working Group on Girls (WGG) - an NGO Committee who works with and for girls at the UN. In August 2020, I was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the WGG for one year aiming to address the special needs of girls who have their own struggles for equality, education, and the right to be protected from oppression in any form.

The WGG is comprised of various committees dedicated to raising awareness and furthering the empowerment of the Girl Child. The Girls

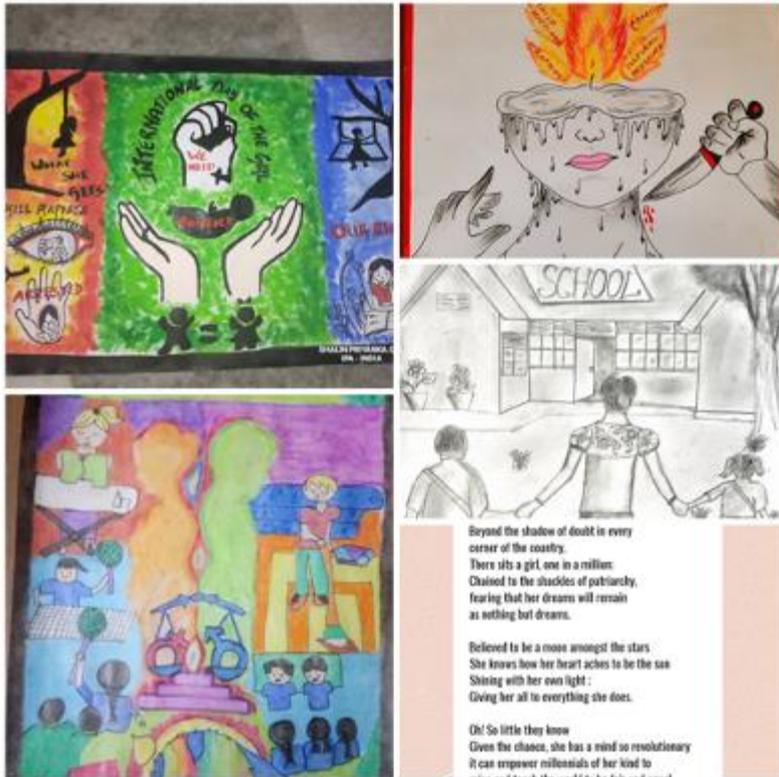


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Participation Committee (IDG Summit) facilitates a number of exciting girl-led programs and events, such as the 11 Days of Action and Girls Speak Out. Every year, there is a free event held at the United Nations Headquarters in NYC that is completely run by girls! This year looks a bit different as a result of COVID-19, but the event will still be held virtually.

In the framework of the 11 Days of Action (October 1st to 11th), the IDG Summit Team will be hosting, on **October 9th**, 2020 (10:00-11:30am EST), a virtual **Girls' Rights Townhall** where girl activists will come together with UN policymakers to talk about building equity for girls. You can watch the event via YouTube (check here <https://dayofthegirlsummit.org/2020-idg-townhall/> for the updated link).

On **October 11th**, 2020 the **Girls Speak Out** will premiere on [YouTube](#) throughout the day (a total of six times to accommodate all regions of the world!) with a video compiled of submissions from girls around the world as they share about what building equity means to them through music, poetry, and art. Find your time zone and language [here](#). Viewers will have the opportunity to join the dialogue through a live chat – ask questions and share their experiences! The IPA, together with other



Unfortunately, due to a large number of submissions and a very limited number of slots, not all the pieces from the IPA girls were able to be included in the program. This decision from the IDG Summit Team does not reflect any weakness or fault in the pieces. They assured me that they enjoyed reviewing our girls' work and encouraged them to continue sharing their voice and ideas for girls' rights. All of the video clips that the IPA girls sent will be posted during October on the IPA Twitter and Facebook accounts aiming to raise awareness and empower other girls around the world who also advocate for their rights! Let us amplify their actions and impact to inspire others! I hope you will join us on your favourite social media platform sharing this information widely with your networks.

IPA UN Advocacy Focus 2020-2022

Did you know?

- Around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in

their lives. However, girls living in certain parts of the world seem to be at greater risk than others.

- Research has found that girls who have been sexually abused are at higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence and of being involved, or exploited, in sex work later in life.
- Globally, nearly one in three adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 (84 million) in formal unions have been the victims of any emotional, physical or sexual violence perpetrated by their husbands or partners at some point in their lives.
- At least 60% of countries still discriminate against daughters' rights to inherit land and non-land assets in either law or practice.
- Worldwide, nearly 1 in 4 girls aged 15–19 years is neither employed nor in education or training compared to 1 in 10 boys of the same age. By 2021 around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day — including 47 million pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19.
- Consequences of disasters such as droughts, floods and storms on women and girls include increased maternal mortality rates and increased child marriage rate.

As domestic violence reports surge during the COVID-19 crisis,

- We must ensure that all information and services (shelters, helplines, online counselling, psychosocial support) to help those experiencing violence are accessible to all women and girls;
- To protect the safety of a woman or a girl you believe is experiencing violence at home, we must seek her consent before acting and keep her identity and experiences confidential. Only act with her permission, unless lives are in danger;
- We must stay alert and virtually connected with our communities.

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Stay safe everyone!!

Respectfully,

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki

IPA NGO Representative at the UN

Update from the Grassroots

MEET OUR IPA JUSTICE CONTACTS

Pakistan - Union of Presentations

Rozie Younas, PBVM



Location
Swat City, Pakistan

Experience
8 Years as a Justice Contact

Words that Inspire
"What does the Lord ask of you? To ask justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God."
Micah 6:8

Thank you Sister Rozie!
#FeatureFriday

“ I personally feel this is a special call to work with those who are most vulnerable, rejected, and in need. God's guidance and the vision of nano strengthen us as Presentation People to work for justice as we become voice for the voiceless through our active ministries. Presentation Sisters in Pakistan work for social and personal transformation especially while working with people of different faiths and backgrounds. ”

 INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION ASSOCIATION

MEET OUR IPA JUSTICE CONTACTS

Dubuque - Conference of Presentations

Joy Peterson, PBVM



 **Location**
Dubuque, Iowa,
United States of America

 **Experience**
3 years as a Justice
Contact

 **Words that Inspire**
I find my inspiration from
the stories of people I
meet or read about.

“ I have had a desire to promote justice for a long time because I see so many inequities in government systems and in society. I have also come to recognize some of my own biases toward persons who are different from me and I hope to be converted to a more inclusive heart through my work. ”

Thank you Sister Joy!
#FeatureFriday



INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTATION
ASSOCIATION

MEET OUR IPA JUSTICE CONTACTS

Queensland - Society of Presentations

Richard Rogusz



 **Location**
Brisbane, Queensland,
Australia

 **Experience**
11 Months as a Justice
Contact

 **Words that Inspire**
"Deeds, not Words." *Nagle*
Family Motto

“ I take seriously the Church's
social justice teaching and
understand justice to be
foundational to a fully realised
faith.

”

Thank you Richard!
[#FeatureFriday](#)



INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTATION
ASSOCIATION

MEET OUR IPA JUSTICE CONTACTS

Fargo - Union of Presentations

Roselima D'Costa, PBVM



Location

Fargo, North Dakota,
United States of America



Experience

1 year as a Justice
Contact



Words that Inspire

"...but to do justice, and
to love kindness, and to
walk humbly with your
God" *Micah 6:8*



I am passionate about
justice and peace because
it is one of the human
urges of the heart.



Thank you Sister Roselima!

#FeatureFriday



INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTATION
ASSOCIATION

New Windsor - Conference of Presentations

Dorothy Scensy, PBVM



 **Location**
Leominster, Massachusetts,
United States of America

 **Experience**
20+ years as a Justice
Contact

 **Words that Inspire**
"You have not chosen me
but I have chosen you to
go forth...." *John 15:16*

“
What makes me passionate is both
the call of Jesus and the example of
Nano Nagle and presently.... the
state of our planet and the chaos
caused by the unspeakable
injustices all around us. ”

Thank you Sister Dorothy!
#FeatureFriday





Sisters Marilyn Omieczynski and Jan Ihli display the hundreds of cookies.

The Good Book says "...not by bread alone..." we also must have cookies! In this time of physical distancing there is a wonderful excuse for baking cookies. Well aware that there may be additional stress on the part of our friends with special needs at Friendship Inc. the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent, Fargo, North Dakota, USA with enthusiasm and joy created cards and wrote messages, baked cookies and packaged them for each individual. We know how important it is for each to be recognized and honored for who he or she is, and to let them know that they are not forgotten. The sisters want to remind these friends that they are in our thoughts and prayers, and hopefully brighten their day with a delicious treat.

Since the sisters themselves are still quarantined, our faithful and dedicated director of Friendship, Dori Leslie, picked up the packages and made the deliveries. To her and the staff members for their personalized, warm and dedicated ministry, to our special friends we wish to say a big "THANK YOU"!

Oregon



Here in Oregon, we're spreading peace by growing and donating vegetables to our local food bank.

The Aberdeen Presentation Community took part in the Franciscan Peace Center's "Walking for Peace Across the USA" video project in celebration of the International Day of Peace and Campaign Nonviolence.



Sr Julie Hurtado is a Presentation Sister in Los Angeles, California, USA from the Union - USA Unit. She is a registered nurse and tends to the homeless on Skid Row in Downtown L.A with the Department of Health Services Covid-19 Response Team. This video highlights her ministry as a response to COVID-19.

#EqualPayDay

EPIC
Equal Pay International Coalition
EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Building back for a better future
Work by ensuring pay equity

Celebrating First International Equal Pay Day

Date / 18 September 2020
Time/ 15:00-16:30 (CEST)
bit.ly/epic2030

International Equal Pay Day 2020: Building back a better future of work by ensuring pay equity.

Webinar hosted by International Labour Organization (ILO)

AMANDA DU-PONT

SIYA KOLISI

KARUNA NAIN

PATRICIA GEORGIU

LOUIS COLE

AMBER WHITTINGTON

SDG ACTION ZONE

NEW PATHWAYS:
UNDER THE INFLUENCE - ONLINE SOLUTIONS TO REAL WORLD VIOLENCE

SDG Action Zone's Webinar: "Under the Influence - Online Solutions to Real World Violence"

This webinar discusses the challenges and opportunities for social media to drive social change to eliminate violence against women and children.



Edmund Rice International hosted a series of webinars on "Edmund the Advocate" which many Justice Contacts attended. You can view versions of the webinars by clicking these links.

[Oceania](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)

[The Americas](#)

[India](#)

Upcoming Webinars

2 October: Monthly Laudato Si Prayer Service (Global Catholic Climate Movement) - [Learn more](#)

2 October - 4 December - Edmund Rice International Advocacy Training (Every Friday)

9 October - Girls' Rights Townhall (IDG Summit Team) - [Watch here](#)

11 October - Girls Speak Out (IDG Summit Team) - [Learn more](#)

19-22 October: EU Green Week 2020 - [Learn more](#)

20-22 October: Women 20 Summit 2020 - [Learn more](#)

6 November: Monthly Laudato Si Prayer Service (Global Catholic Climate Movement) - [Learn more](#)

12-14 November: Rebuild the Global Education Compact: Commission on Education of the Unions of Men and Women General Superiors (USG/UISG) - [Learn more](#)

4 December: Monthly Laudato Si Prayer Service (Global Catholic Climate Movement) - [Learn more](#)

1 January: Monthly Laudato Si Prayer Service (Global Catholic Climate Movement) - [Learn more](#)

Upcoming Dates

1 October - High-Level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women - [Learn more](#)

1 October - International Day of Older Persons - [Learn more](#)

2 October - High-Level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

2 October - International Day of Non-violence - [Learn more](#)

5 October - World Teacher's Day - [Learn more](#)

5 October - World Habitat Day - [Learn more](#)

9 October - World Post Day - [Learn more](#)

10 October - World Homelessness Day - [Learn more](#)

10 October - World Mental Health Day - [Learn more](#)

11 October - International Day of the Girl Child - [Learn more](#)

13 October - International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - [Learn more](#)

15 October - International Day of Rural Women - [Learn more](#)

16 October - World Food Day - [Learn more](#)

17 October - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - [Learn more](#)

20 October - World Statistics Day - [Learn more](#)

24 October - United Nations Day - [Learn more](#)

24 October - World Development Information Day - [Learn more](#)

27 October - World Day for Audiovisual Heritage - [Learn more](#)

31 October - World Cities Day - [Learn more](#)

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