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8th Edition

IPA Justice Contact Update September 2020

International Peace Day

September 21st

During this 75th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we pray that PEACE be in the heart of each child, woman and man, and that as we honor the gifts of Creation, that this PEACE flow out onto our Wondrous Planet.



A Morning Offering

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

One by one, Lord, I see and I love all those whom you have given me to sustain and charm my life. One by one also I number all those who make up that other beloved family which has gradually surrounded me, its unity fashioned out of the most disparate elements, with affinities of the heart, of scientific research and of thought. And again one by one—more vaguely it is true, yet all-inclusively—I call before me the whole vast anonymous army of living humanity; those who surround me and support me though I do not know them; those who come, and those who go; above all, those who in office, laboratory, and factory, through their vision of truth or despite their

How do these words of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin touch your heart?
 Do you feel one with all of Creation?
 Where do you touch into oneness with all creation?
 How do you endeavor to live as a bearer of light and peace?

On this 75th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we invite you to join with the hearts of others and be with all who have experienced violence, horror and loss in times of war.

As a Presentation People, let us re-dedicate our lives as an offering for PEACE for humanity and all Creation.

Seek out a couple of others to share with ... keep your journal.

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

Update from the Programme Action Leader

“From out of the community come the people and gifts necessary to initiate, support, help create, and sustain the understandings that are reached.”

John Paul Lederach

As we enter the month of September, I sit in gratitude for each one of you and the change you are making on the ground and at the global level through the International Presentation Association. We have come a long way in the last year and I am looking forward to seeing where we will be next year at this time. Think about all we have done in the past year together...

- We have created an IPA Strategy and Implementation Plan
- We have established and have passion around an advocacy focus at the United Nations
- We have submitted reports for UN Committees and Human Rights Bodies
- We have and continue to navigate a global pandemic, sharing our stories of response
- We have met virtually in various size groups and as one large group
- We have built relationships across the IPA Team and Justice Contacts
- We have created a sense of oneness

These are not small feats and were not possible without each one of your commitments. I want to thank you for your commitment to justice and to IPA. I look forward to continuing to build on this foundation and honoring the gifts we have as individuals to continue the

As part of the IPA Strategy Implementation Plan, it was requested if *Justice Contacts could aim to send in stories and evidence of change four times a year*. These stories can then be shared in the Update, our Facebook Page, and at the United Nations through Despoina.

Every Friday we will be featuring a Justice Contact on Facebook. Check out our [IPA Facebook Page](#) to learn a little more about our IPA community! Below are our Justice Contact Friday Features for September!

In peace and gratitude,

Mary Therese Krueger, PBVM
IPA Programme Action Leader

Update from the UN IPA NGO Representative



Dear friends,

At a time of great disruptions in the world, the UN is marking its 75th anniversary. Traditionally, the General Debate of the UN General Assembly in September is considered as the most high-profile UN event of the year. This September things are different. This will be the first virtual UN General Assembly session, with world leaders staying at home, away from New York and contributing set-pieces speeches via video link due to the COVID-19 “new (abnormal) normality”.

The 75th session of the UN General Assembly will open on Tuesday, September 15th, 2020. You can find the provisional agenda [here](#). The first day of the high-level General Debate will be Tuesday, 22 September 2020 and the theme will be “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism - confronting COVID-19 through effective multilateral action”. This theme encompasses both the UN’s milestone year and the global crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is the provisional schedule of the **High-Level Meetings of the 75th Session**

- **General debate:** Tuesday, 22 September to Saturday, 26 September, and Tuesday, 29 September 2020
- High-level meeting to **commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN:** Monday, 21 September 2020.

Women: Thursday, 1 October 2020.

- High-level plenary meeting to **commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons:** Friday, 2 October 2020.

Immediately prior to the high-level week, the UN Secretary-General will convene the first annual “SDG Moment” on the morning of Friday, September 18th, 2020. It will build on the most recent High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) session, highlight shortfalls in implementation and investment, and showcase interventions underway to increase action. The SDG Moment is meant to serve as an “annual SDG check-in” and snapshot of progress, rather than a comprehensive picture of implementation. It is an annual event mandated by Heads of State and Government in the political declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit. It will take place as part of every high-level week of the UN General Assembly from 2020 to 2030.

IPA UN Advocacy Focus 2020-2022

As part of the IPA’s Strategy for September 2020-2022 and through a highly participatory and consultative process, we decided, together, to identify and honor a **specific advocacy focus**, which will sharpen our emphasis at the UN and achieve greater impact at a global scale: The **Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children**. In this regard, I thought it would be useful, from now on, to include in the Justice Contacts’ Update each month, some suggested UN initiatives (in addition to the others in which I am sure you are already engaged) that you can actively engage in and support during your everyday mission/work in your communities.

Violence against women and girls is rising globally since the COVID-19 lockdown. Physical distancing will help the world contain COVID-19, but it isolates women and girls from the support of family and friends when they experience violence at home. Since May 2020, UN Women (the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women) has launched the *Shadow Pandemic* public awareness campaign, focusing on the global increase in domestic violence amid the COVID-19 crisis. [Here](#) is a brief infographic on violence against women/girls and COVID-19 that you can share with your local networks and communities:

Violence Against Women and Girls and COVID-19

Globally,

243 million



women and girls aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

The number is likely to **INCREASE** as security, health, and money worries heighten tensions and strains are accentuated by cramped and confined living conditions.

Emerging data shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, violence against women and girls (VAWG), and particularly domestic violence, has **INTENSIFIED**.

In **France**, reports of domestic violence have increased by **30%** since the lockdown on March 17.

In **Cyprus** and **Singapore** helplines have registered an increase in calls of **30%** and **53%**, respectively.

In **Argentina** emergency calls for domestic violence cases have increased by **25%** since the lockdown on March 20.



Increased cases of domestic violence and demand for emergency shelter have also been reported in **Canada, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States**.

87,000 women were intentionally killed in 2017. The majority of these killings were committed by an intimate partner or family member of the victim.

Violence against women and girls is pervasive but at the same time widely under-reported. Less

than **40%** of women who experience violence report these crimes or seek help of any sort.

The global cost of violence against women had previously been estimated at approximately.

US\$1.5 trillion

That figure can only be rising as violence increases now, and continues in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The surge in COVID-19 cases is straining even the most advanced and best-resourced health systems to the breaking point, including those at the front line in violence response.



Domestic violence shelters are reaching capacity, or unable to take new victims due to lockdown and social distancing measures. In other cases, they are being re-purposed to serve as health centers.

National responses to COVID-19 must include:



Services to address violence against women and girls, including increased resources to support shelters, hotlines and online counselling. These essential services should be expanded and adapted to the crisis context to ensure survivors' access to support.



A strong message from law enforcement that impunity will not be tolerated. Police and Justice actors must ensure that incidents of VAWG are given high priority and care must be taken to address the manifestations of violence emerging in the context of COVID 19.



Psychosocial support for women and girls affected by the outbreak, gender-based violence survivors, frontline health workers and other frontline social support staff must be prioritized.



The Shadow Pandemic campaign gives specific advice on domestic violence with a clear call to action to shine a light on the surge of domestic violence that has accompanied COVID-19 lockdowns around the world. The Shadow Pandemic campaign consists of a comprehensive suite of social assets, including advice from experts on the ground and a Public Service announcement (PSA) film, sitting at the heart of the campaign. The PSA is narrated by the Academy award-winning actor, Kate Winslet. You can download the full campaign video [here](#) and a shorter version [here](#) if you wish to share them with your communities as widely as possible. If so, it will deliver a vital message urging people to act to support women if they know or suspect someone is experiencing violence. You can read the full Shadow Pandemic campaign pack [here](#) on how to further amplify this campaign, along with the relevant toolkit on how to share this campaign through social media.

**PREVENT
PROTECT
RESPOND**

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

- We must ensure that all information and services (shelters, helplines, online counseling, 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 taking action 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.

Stay safe everyone!!

Respectfully,


[Click here for the full report](#)


Update from the Grassroots


MEET OUR IPA JUSTICE CONTACTS

North India Unit - Union of Presentations

Pushpa Lalitha Anthonyumuthu, PBVM


Location
 Mandi Dabwali, Haryana,
India

Experience
 3 Years as a Justice
Contact

Words that Inspire
 "The spirit of the Lord is
upon me, because he has
anointed me to bring good
news to the poor." *Luke 4:18*

Thank you Sister Lalitha!


#FeatureFriday



“

I like to work for the people who
are voiceless and promote justice
in a small way. I am passionate
towards my responsibility as a
justice contact person and calling
forth other community sisters to
respond to it as well.

”



**INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTATION
ASSOCIATION**

Victoria - Society of Presentation

Joan Kennedy, PBVM



Location
Melbourne, Victoria,
Australia

Experience
14 Years as a Justice
Contact

Words that Inspire
"I have come that you
might have life and live it to
the full." *John 10:10*

“I am passionate about the need to work with others to stop Human Trafficking and Forced Marriage. The young people I engage with energise me through their strong commitment to creating a better world. Together we are making a difference to the lives of women, children and Aboriginal people who suffer from unjust situations.”

Thank you Sister Joan!
#FeatureFriday



MEET OUR IPA JUSTICE CONTACTS

Ireland & England - Union of Presentations

Brian O'Toole



Location
Dublin, Ireland

Experience
4 Years as a Justice
Contact

Words that Inspire
"For where two or three
gather together in my
name, there am I in the
midst of them." *Matthew
18:20*

“The gift of the regular contact has been to enlighten and learn what are the more pressing issues in our world today and how we as Presentation People face and help with these issues.

I am also convinced that our collective voice, when informed by our lived experience, when expressed, brings a weight to our opinion that must be listened to and heard.”

Thank you Brian!
#FeatureFriday



Thailand - Union of Presentations

Jancy Selvaraj, PBVM



Location
Fang, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Experience
5 Years as a Justice Contact

Words that Inspire
"The Almighty permits everything for the best."
Venerable Nano Nagle

“ Our Presentation spirituality and Pope Francis' invitation often inspire in me a deep desire that our ministry be "life centered" bringing transformation in the lives of the poor and to work for the dignity of all and be attentive to their well-being, as Jesus and Nano have done. ”

Thank you Sister Jancy!
#FeatureFriday



MEET OUR IPA JUSTICE CONTACTS

Western Australia - Society of Presentation

Gemma Thomson



Location
Perth, Western Australia, Australia

Experience
3 Years as a Justice Contact

Words that Inspire
"Never see a need without doing something about it."
Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

“ Every day brings a new challenge and a new opportunity to make a difference to someone or something in our world, the chance to speak out or challenge and to focus on giving a hand up, and not just always a hand out. ”

My passion for justice stems from being raised with strong values and strong faith, my love of travel and the vast injustices I have witnessed, and a love of learning about how I can contribute to making our world a better place. ”

Thank you Gemma!
#FeatureFriday



Pre-Election Forum
WHAKARONGO KI TE TANGI A Papatūānuku
HEAR THE CRY OF THE EARTH

Young environmentalists challenge party spokespeople
 Hear presentation on **Caritas Aotearoa**



September 2020 6-8pm
 Streamed on YouTube

Chair/MC: Areti Metuamate, CEO Te Kupenga – Catholic Leadership Institute
 Address by Cardinal John Dew

Hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission
 With the support of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Promoted by Lisa Beech, Wellington Catholic Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology, Justice and Peace,
 22 Hill St, Thorndon, Wellington 6144

Ruth Coleman, PBVM, (New Zealand) is participating in the Pre-Election Forum: Whakarongo ki te tangi a Papatūānuku; Hear the Cry of the Earth.

Learn more by clicking the image of the Forum

PRESENTATION SPIRITUALITY/WELLNESS
SEPTEMBER 2020

Take some time to foster your spirituality and wellness in the Presentation tradition with these suggestions.

MONDAY meaning, purpose	TUESDAY relationships and gratitude	WEDNESDAY faith, hope and courage	THURSDAY hope, vision and empathy	FRIDAY hope and optimism	SATURDAY hope and vision	SUNDAY hope and vision	
	1 SEPTEMBER Write a letter of gratitude to someone in your life. Really let them know what, and why you appreciate them.	2 SEPTEMBER Consider how you can go one pace beyond in your life. Watch video here.	3 SEPTEMBER Staying connected during Covid is important. Post some notes of kindness in the letterbox of your neighbours or email your friends. Positve vibes and thoughts connect people and make their day.	4 SEPTEMBER How will you continue to light your path and light the paths of all those who you encounter? Listen to this song and write an action plan on how you can bring Nano's sense of hope to others.	5 SEPTEMBER Nano formed many relationships during her time. Write a list of all the relationships in your life that you are grateful for and the reasons why.	6 SEPTEMBER Choose an object that represents Nano for you. Meditate in silence or with soft music holding your object. Consider the symbolism of this object for you as a Presentation person connecting to Nano.	
7 SEPTEMBER Nano had many goals throughout her lifetime that she was determined to achieve. Spend some time reflecting on the following: • Motivation is internal • Remember the reason • Set a daily goal • Keep learning • Maintain inspiring friends • Reward yourself • Motion creates emotion • Move & make things happen	8 SEPTEMBER Think about what it means to be a 'Presentation person'. Create a playlist of songs that describe the characteristics of a Presentation person that you can listen to.	9 SEPTEMBER Reflect on the impact of lockdown on your life, your country and the world around you. What impact has it had on people's faith, our environment and our connections? What are some of the positives that have emerged for you? Watch video here.	10 SEPTEMBER Perform an Act of Kindness in your Home. Embrace Nano's call to be a 'person of welcoming heart'. This could be cleaning up your room or shared space. Cooking a special meal or picking some flowers to be enjoyed. Set the dinner table for a fancy meal and put on some music for the family to enjoy.	11 SEPTEMBER Write a journal reflection or a series of postcards that you can share with your family about how you have found hope in hearing the story of Nano Negley's life.	12 SEPTEMBER Kindness in Friendship. Show ATTENTION to family or friends - give time, energy and effort to flourish. Be TOGETHER as a family or have face time with people. Surround yourself with kind and uplifting people. Show TENDERNESS by being listeners and supporters of people we care about. Remember, you can never be too KIND.	13 SEPTEMBER Read the following passage from <i>Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18</i> . Discuss with your family how you witness these characteristics of God in your every day life.	
14 SEPTEMBER What is your 'call to action' as a Presentation person? Create a vision board using images, words and colour to showcase how you can be a Presentation person of action and spirituality.	15 SEPTEMBER Write a list of 10 things about yourself as a Presentation person, strengths or skills that you are grateful for. Make it colourful and put it up on a wall or mirror so you focus on these things everyday.	16 SEPTEMBER Sit for a whole 30 minutes without technology or distraction. Try being outside if you can in God's creation or view some images of our environment. Listen to your breath and the stillness in your heart.	17 SEPTEMBER Nano always cared for the 'poorest of the poor'. Support a small business that may be struggling. You could buy some take-away or buy a gift card. Or you could pay-forward to someone in need or helping the community.	18 SEPTEMBER Phone a friend and check in with them to see how they are. How can you bring a sense of optimism to them in this uncertain time? Think creatively!	19 SEPTEMBER Light a candle to honour the work of Presentation Sisters and Presentation People who are interconnected around the world. Celebrate with your family at home and acknowledge their sacrifices. This is your turn to make those sacrifices for others. #StayHome	20 SEPTEMBER Write a prayer for someone or something important to you at this time. Share it with your family and friends.	

Graphic Design by Community Relations and Development at Iona Presentation College, Perth, WA. Content by G.Thomson, 2020, Iona Presentation College, Perth, WA.

Gemma Thomson, Western Australia Justice Contact created this Spirituality and Wellness Calendar with the Community Relations and Development at Iona Presentation College where she is the Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity.

[Click here to download the PDF version of the calendar](#)



Click the image the the video of the online prayer service: "Hearing the Whispers of the Poor Suffering" hosted by the UISG

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JUBILEE FOR THE EARTH



2020

CELEBRATION GUIDE



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

1

The Season of Creation is from 1 September to 4 October. [Click here to view the PDF celebration guide to the Season of Creation](#). This guide was put together by the Season of Creation Steering Committee and is collaborative effort of various organizations.



The UISG has a series of four Safeguarding Webinars including:

- Safeguarding & a Theology of Childhood
- Victimology and the Relational Safety Model
- Safeguarding Online in Times of Lockdown
- Care for Children After Lockdown

[Click here for more information](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Recorded: SDGs Learning, Training, & Practice Workshops (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs) - [Learn more](#)

1 September - World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (Catholic Climate Movement) - 3:00 New York / 9:00 Rome / 12:30 Mumbai / 15:00 Manila / 17:00 Sydney / 19:00 Fiji [Register here](#)

2 September - Season of Creation Webinar: A Just Transition for Asia and Oceania (Catholic Climate Movement) - 10:00 New York / 16:00 Rome / 22:00 Manila / 0:00 Sydney [Register here](#)

3 September: Witness & Grace Conversations Tapping the Power of Contemplation with Sr. Nancy Sylvester (Global Sisters Report) - [Learn more](#) [Register here](#)

23 September: Virtual high-level event - Pathways toward the SDGs through South-South Solidarity beyond COVID-19 Webinar (United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)) - [Learn more](#) [Register here](#)

23 September: World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2020 Webinar (UISG/Jesuit Refugee Service) - [Learn more](#)

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

6 November: Monthly Laudato Si Prayer Service (Global Catholic Climate Movement) -

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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 September - 4 October - Season of Creation - [Learn more](#)

5 September - International Day of Charity - [Learn more](#)

7 September - International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies - [Learn more](#)

8 September - International Literacy Day - [Learn more](#)

10 September - World Suicide Prevention Day - [Learn more](#)

12 September - United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation - [Learn more](#)

15 September - 75th Session of the UN General Assembly Opens

15 September - International Day of Democracy - [Learn more](#)

16 September - International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer - [Learn more](#)

17 September - World Patient Safety Day - [Learn more](#)

18 September - International Equal Pay Day - [Learn more](#)

21 September - High-Level Meeting to commemorate the 75h Anniversary of the United Nations

21 September - International Day Peace - [Learn more](#)

22 - 26, 29 September - United Nations General Debate

26 September - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons - [Learn more](#)

28 September - International for Universal Access to Information - [Learn more](#)

29 September - International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction - [Learn more](#)

30 September - United Nations Biodiversity Summit

30 September - International Translation Day - [Learn more](#)

1 October - High-Level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

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

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