

WUCWO Newsletter April-May 2017



# World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations

*This Newsletter is for*

***ALL WOMEN WHO ARE MEMBERS of WUCWO organisations.***

*We kindly ask you to share it as soon as possible with all the members of your organisation. Thank you very much!*

## **Our President General at the Pontifical Council for Culture**



The *Women's Consultation Group*, of which our President General Maria Giovanna Ruggieri is a member, continues its work within the Pontifical Council for Culture. On 19 April, she contributed on the basis of

the experience of member organisations. Now it could be created a youth working group on violence against women, including human trafficking, a theme in which WUCWO has been involved for some years.

[Read more](#)

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## **WUCWO at the launch of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development**



The High Pontiff gave a speech at the meeting organised by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, on the occasion of its launch and of the 50th anniversary of Blessed Pope Paul VI's encyclical "Populorum Progressio". Our Secretary General, María Lía Zervino, on behalf of WUCWO, participated in this event, which took place in the Synod hall, in the Vatican, in April.

[Read more](#)

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## **Dialogue with Migrant Sector of the Holy See**

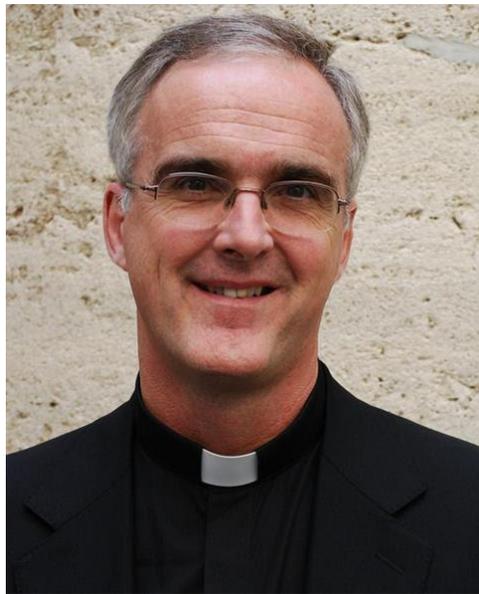


Pope Francis, within the new Department for Promoting Integral Human Development, decided to have the migrant sector (including human trafficking) under his personal leadership. He has appointed two under-secretaries as his close collaborators. The President, the Ecclesiastical Assistant and the Secretary of WUCWO engaged in a dialogue with one of them, Fr. Fabio Baggio and with the Executive Assistant, Francesca Donà, in order to start a joint work.

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## **The Ecclesiastical Assistant, co-author of a book on *Laudato Si***



On April 6, Father Gerard Whelan, SJ, our Ecclesiastical Assistant, invited the President General of WUCWO, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, and the Vice-President General, Maribeth Stewart, to the Gregorian University in Rome for the presentation of the book *Laudato Si, interdisciplinary guidelines for the care of the joint household*, of which he is co-author.

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## International Congress of IFCA and 150th anniversary of the Italian Catholic Action



The Holy Father gave a long speech - almost two hours - outlining the profile of the laity in the Church today, to the participants in the International Congress of Catholic Action. The President and the Secretary of WUCWO were present. The following days, 28 to 30 April, the 150th anniversary of the Italian Catholic Action took place, culminating in a large meeting with the Pope in St. Peter's Square.

[Watch the video](#)

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### Actions against Human Trafficking

In the months of April and May, in working meetings with Talitha Kum (Network of Sisters Against Trafficking) and Caritas Internationalis, the International Seminar and the World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking (February 8) were addressed. An international (with our organisations in Malawi, Swaziland and South Africa) and an interinstitutional pre-project (CI, Talitha Kum and WUCWO) was also launched to contribute to the elimination of part of human trafficking networks worldwide.



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## Invitation by the Ambassador of Peru to the Holy See



H.E. María Elvira Velásquez, Ambassador of Peru to the Holy See, invited WUCWO's authorities living in Italy to participate in the Mass celebrated on the occasion of the *ad limina* visit of the bishops of her country to the Pope, held in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, on May 19. On that occasion, the President spoke with the President of the Episcopal Conference, Mons. Salvador Piñeiro, on the possibility of contacting Peruvian organisations interested in joining WUCWO.

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## European Regional Conference



It was held in Madrid, from 17 to 20 March, with the participation of 40 women from member organisations from France, England, Italy and Spain. The theme, "Women of WUCWO for honesty and justice" (in accordance with the resolution of the Fatima 2014 Assembly on the prevention and fight against corruption), was developed with interesting presentations and exchange of good practices.

[Read more](#)

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## **East Asian Regional Conference on Family**



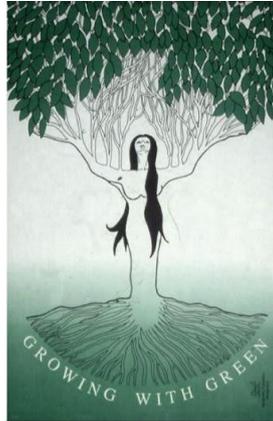
The National President of CWL in the Philippines and WUCWO board member, Amparo Lim, has represented the President General at the East Asian Regional Conference on Family, held in Taiwan, organised by the FABC (Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference) in May 2017, with the theme: "Family living a mission of love, as hope for Society".

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## **Climate change: meeting of women from South Asia**



The National President of the Council of Catholic Women of India, Juliet Ramamurthy, has represented the President General in the South Asian Regional Conference on “Climate Change Impacts on Vulnerable Groups & Women’s Perspectives”, held in India, organised by the FABC Climate Change Desk, the Office of Laity & Family, Women’s Desk, & Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India, Council for Women.



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## Femina Europa at the European Parliament



On the occasion of the review of the directive on audiovisual media by the European Parliament, Femina Europe co-signed, together with 25 NGOs, the petition by FAFCE (European Federation of Catholic Family Associations) to deputies on the protection of minors against harmful audiovisual content and on the improvement of the prevention of children's exposure to pornography and violence.

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## WUCWO at the European Union-Latin America Women's Forum



The Women's Forum of the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly in Rome had our President, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, as a speaker at the Italo-Latin American Institute, with the theme *Women together to grow in co-responsibility and solidarity*, and the Secretary, María Lia Zervino, at the Pontifical Council for Culture giving a talk about *The place of women, from Argentina*. These events took place on 18 and 19 May, respectively.

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## Visits to our office in Rome



The Vice-President General, Maribeth Stewart, and the Vice-President for Africa, Rosaline Menga, visited the Secretariat on the same day. Father Vincent, ecclesiastical assistant of the Catholic Women's Organization (CWO) of Malawi, visited the Secretariat on behalf of his organisation as well. In addition to this, we were visited by the National President of the Association Sainte Marie "Ekoan Maria", Brigitte Essimbi Elandi, who has recently been named responsible for the platform of the Associations Féminine to the Conference Episcopale Nationale du Camerun.



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### **WUCWO Day also in the Middle East**



With the prayer for 2017 prepared by the Latin American and Caribbean Region on "suffering women of the world," many member organisations celebrated WUCWO Day on (or about) 13 May. For example, in Valencia, Spain, the General Catholic Action and the Coordinator of Catholic Women's Organisations of the diocese celebrated a Mass followed by a conference; in Rome, there was a Mass and then a fraternal celebration. We are delighted with all the celebrations and particularly with that of our beloved sisters of the Women's Commission, from Lebanon, who honoured us with their representation at the meeting in Bari in 2016 and who translated the prayer into Arabic.

**اليوم السنوي للصلاة للاتحاد العالمي للمنظمات النسائية الكاثوليكية WUCWO  
نوايا لعام 2017 "النساء اللواتي يتألمن في العالم".**

تعلمى في مثل هذا اليوم صلاة نذكر الاتحاد العالمي للمنظمات النسائية الكاثوليكية  
وكان النساء المعتادات في خدمة الكنيسة والجمع والتعبو العام في كل بقاع الأرض وخاصة في مشرقا الحبيب  
بارب، أنت دعونا وبخصوصا هذا العام المشاركة في مناسك العقيقة، أن تتبنا وبشراكة صليب المعانة والقلق  
مع أوقاتنا التي تتألمن.  
تذكر اليوم في صلاتنا كل اللواتي تعرضن لسوء المعاملة والإعتصام والظلم والتضطهدات وكان المحرومات من  
كرامتهن.  
تعلمى من أجل الأزمات البائسة من عدم توفر مياه الشرب المشوية وخدمات الصرف الصحي والقضاء الكافي والرعاية  
الطبية للعائلات.  
تعلمى من أجل اللواتي تكافهن من أجل القضاء على أيد الحياة، تلك السمكوتات والمهتدات والتجذبات  
تعلمى من أجل اللواتي تتألمن في الأوقات واللواتي تعانين من التمييز المنكرو، واللواتي تحملن ألام اللامبالاة  
والإضطهاد والإستعمار.  
تعلمى لهذا اليوم الذي تتألمن فيه النساء في الكرامة والحقوق، وتتسكن أن تعتن بالسلام والفرح والإستبشار.  
تسبغ بارب والذين بالله أنت وحده من تحملن هذا الرجاء. آمين.



يقول لنا الربا في القديس في 2014 : 24 :  
[...] أصبح إنه قديس مني اني اتركك أنت في المعانة وحده لأن الله في حبه الرجوع لعصبي الإنم الشري وكل معانة  
شأعت، صمودة الخلق، وفي تكريمه الإلهي طويحت يسوع في الأمة يقرب من كل أم الجري، من كل  
تكون هذا مسيحين صامحين، لتتلمن في أكثر مدرسة لمن يريد ان يكرس نفسه لخدمة الخرسى والأخوة الذين  
يعانون...  
عليك لتتلمن بالأمم يسوع المشعنة في القراء، في الأشخاص الذين يعانون، في الأطفال لغير مرحوب فيهم،  
في الأشخاص الذين يعانون من الإعتلات الجنسية أو العقلية في كبار السن...  
كشاهد لـ WUCWO تري دائما مسيح المحب في أولئك الذين يعانون...  
من تتركك هذه الأمم يسوع...  
من تتركك هذه المسحوب فيهم؟  
من تتركك لنا مدعوين شخصيا، في مخالفتنا ومنظمتنا؟  
وكل الشيا في مسيحين لنا بعد 12/9/2013 :  
أحسن تكون مسيحين صامحين، يجب الشاكن بأستجابة يسوع ومعانة الإلهية، لتشهدن، وتقرأن على الشهادة لتقرأن،  
تسبغ بارب والذين بالله أنت وحده من تحملن هذا الرجاء. آمين.

**General Assembly 2018 in Dakar, Senegal**



WUCWO is heading towards its next General Assembly, whose theme will be: **WUCWO women, Carriers of "living water" to a world which thirsts for Peace.** It will be held in Dakar, Senegal, from 15 to 22 October 2018. The preparations are already being made by Monique Faye, Senegal’s Board member, together with the member organisations of her country. The Secretary General will meet them in Senegal in June, in order to finalise the pending issues. On May 19, she also accompanied the President General to a meeting with the Ambassador of Senegal to the Holy See, who was honoured and grateful for the election of his country as host of WUCWO women from so many parts of the world.

**THE NEXT WUCWO GENERAL ASSEMBLY in Dakar, Senegal, will be called:**

***WUCWO Women,  
Carriers of “living water” to a world which thirsts for Peace***