

Summary of international activities carried out during 2013

- Circulation of the Petition “One of Us” among all our European member organizations and collection of signatures for the European Citizen Initiative ending November 2013
- Sponsoring and co-signing of the Declaration of the Civil Society on the Occasion of the XXth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family 2014
- International Representatives attended sessions at:
 - UNESCO: members of the group preparing International Day of Migrants and International Day of Peace; oral and written statements to request that the expression “gender equality” be replaced by “man/woman equality” in the texts
 - UN New York: three International Representatives and several women from WUCWO member organizations advocated for a just defense of women’s rights, according to Catholic social teaching, at the 57th Commission on the Status of Women. Submission of a written statement at the CSW 2013.
 - UN Geneva: We have worked with other Catholic Non Governmental Organizations present which has enabled us to join in concrete actions (written and oral statements).
- Council of Europe: our representative has been active in
 - Religions and Human Rights working group: on-going active participation in elaborating the report “Human Rights and Religions”, including a summary memo emphasizing what is at stake for freedom of religion and expression. We voted against the final draft and the text was definitely discarded.
 - Support of MEP Luca Volontè’s Written question No. 638 to the Committee of Ministers concerning “Obligatory deconstruction of “gender stereotypes” and violation of parents’ rights”
 - Regular participation in the informal group initiated by the European Center for Law and Justice to ensure, anticipate and prepare coordinated activities between the European Court of Human Rights, the Parliamentary Assembly and the net work of CINGOs.
 - Correspondence with Mme Chavanon, President of the Commission on democracy, social cohesion and global issues to indicate to her that the expression “sexual orientation” included in the proposed Resolution is neither relevant nor a right. Favorable response. We made an Oral statement in full session on this theme.
 - Seminar and work to support the CE Resolution "Safeguarding human rights in relation to religion and belief and protecting religious communities from violence." (Doc. 13157)

- Forum of Catholic NGOs:
 - WUCWO Secretary General served as Facilitator for the Course and Strategic Agenda Setting Meeting which gathered 120 NGO representatives in Rome for a full 3 day session. As Discussion Group Speaker, she gave an introductory talk on “Maternity and Global Governance”.
 - WUCWO Secretary General serves on the Interdisciplinary Group of the CNGO Forum since 2011
 - Continued work done by the ‘Observatory’ that researches relevant issues pertaining to women and informs CNGO Forum participants in order to facilitate effective action. The Observatory was initiated by WUCWO and works from Geneva.