

UNITED NATIONS –NEW YORK

EVENTS ATTENDED:

- December 15, 2015      Holy See Mission sponsored event: Celebration of *Nostra Aetate* -50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vatican II Declaration on the Relations of the Church with non-Christian religions
- March 21, 2016      Holy See Mission sponsored session on the Pastoral Care of Women and Girls Working or Living on the Streets
- March 22, 2016      Holy See Mission sponsored event on Sexual Violence Against Women in Conflict Situations
- April 7, 2016      Holy See sponsored event: Ending Human Trafficking by 2030: The Role of Global Partnerships
- April 28, 2016      Holy See sponsored event: Defending Persecuted Christians

CSW 60 March 14-24, 2016

Commission on the Status of Women Session 60 Summary:

Held 14-24 March 2016, the 60<sup>th</sup> session was attended by NGO's, Member States, and accredited entities to discuss the role and status of women in the world.

The Primary Theme was Empowerment of Women and its link to Sustainable Development

The Review Theme was Elimination and Prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

Five Areas for Action were identified:

Strengthen legal and policy formation

Create enabling environments for financing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls

Strengthen the leadership of women as well as full and equal partnerships in decision making in all areas of sustainable development

Increase data collection on gender equality as well as follow-up

Enhance national institutional arrangements

Resolutions Included:

Release of women and children hostages in armed conflicts

Assist Women, the girl child, HIV and AIDS

CSW 60 Sessions attended included:

Mechanisms for Gender Equality –National Legislative Change Accountability

Increasing Women's Participation and Leadership

Responsibility of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality

Monitoring Results of Gender Equality Actions

Rights of Marginalized and Disadvantaged Girls

The CSW as a Means for Change

What Has the Empowerment of Women and Girls Have to Do with Sustainable Development

The Syrian Regional Crisis

The Connection Between Undocumented Immigration and Trafficking of Women: Global and Regional Trends and Challenges

Protecting the Human Rights of Women Refugees

## Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls in the Digital and Technological Age

### Eradication of Child Marriage

### Women in Politics: Successes, Failures, and Challenges

### Power of Legislation for Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development

#### WUCWO ACTIONS:

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING:** Many member organisations have held conferences on this topic to educate members and the public concerning this terrible issue. Many member organisations have worked to publicize how to recognize a trafficked person and what to do. We continue to work on this subject world-wide to make all aware of the scope of this issue, urge enforcement of existing legislation, and work to free those who are trafficked. A WUCWO Resolution adopted at the most recent WUCWO General Assembly requires member organisations to work to fight against human trafficking.

**REFUGEES:** Recognizing that wars and conflicts have created the largest number of refugees since World War II, WUCWO member organisations work to provide financial and volunteer support, resettle refugees, and create mechanisms to let refugees know that we are acutely aware of their situation and assure them that they are in our prayers, our hearts, and that we advocate for them in our respective countries. WUCWO will hold a second meeting with Christian Women from the Middle East in October 2016 to underscore our commitment to this global issue.

#### EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS:

- **Education:** Member organisations contribute financially and with volunteers to organisations that advocate and provide for the education of girls, particularly in areas where this is not considered important. It is through education that women will achieve their rightful position in this world and will not be considered second class citizens. In some areas of the world, girl children do not attend school because they are tasked with obtaining water from sources located at a distance from their home. This not only precludes their education but puts them at risk for rape or being kidnapped into a trafficking situation. WUCWO and its member organisations provide wells, bore holes, and other technologies to provide sources of clean safe water in areas where clean water is not readily available to help prevent such issues for girls. A WUCWO resolution calls for the provision of clean safe sources of water for drinking and for sanitation.
- **Family:** WUCWO supports the traditional family and the important complementary roles of the father and mother in that crucial basic unit of society. WUCWO has contributed to the documents that preceded both the Extraordinary Synod on Pastoral Challenges to the Family and the most recent Synod on the Family. Our member organisations have made championing the traditional family a centerpiece of their work, WUCWO has a Working Group devoted to the Family, and adopted a resolution calling for work to support the traditional family and to address the challenges facing the family in today's world.
- **Protection of Women and Girls in Conflict Areas of the World:** WUCWO has adopted a resolution to promote Peace and Tolerance, particularly through youth, in order to prevent future conflicts.
- **Gender Equality:** WUCWO supports the tenet that women should enjoy rights equal to those of men allowing them education, decision making, title to land, work commensurate with their abilities and training, and respect. WUCWO recognizes that men and women differ in ways that make them complementary to the other, with one sex not better than the other but equal with different strengths. WUCWO decries the use of the term gender equality to denote anything other than equality of the male and female sex. The use of the term to define rights for other

self-identified genders is not supported by WUCWO. WUCWO does emphatically support the right of women to be educated leaders and the right of women to be highly respected for their unique role of mother. WUCWO supports legislation and practice that provide women and girls with the respect and rights that belong to every human being. Our member organisations work to advocate for and support the above named goals.

- Empowerment of Women and Girls: WUCWO member organizations work to support the education of the girl child. They support efforts to elevate the status of women in areas of the world that employ a tradition of a patriarchal society. WUCWO and its member organisations support and advocate for women to be afforded decision making and leadership roles. WUCWO supports efforts and laws that protect girls from mutilation and child marriage. WUCWO supports the right of women to inherit and to administer land and to conduct business in a manner equal to that of men. Some WUCWO member organisations provide funding to start microbusinesses run by women in developing countries. WUCWO supports the recognition of the dignity and unique talents and abilities of women. WUCWO does not support the misuse of the term empowerment of women to mean a right to abortion or other medically related procedures that run counter to natural human processes, such as artificial insemination, surrogacy, sterilization, and other such procedures. WUCWO supports the right of a woman to bear her children in a safe and healthy manner and to have a voice in the raising of her children, male and female. All of these statements have been borne out by WUCWO member organisations in advocacy of legislation and support of efforts to achieve these goals.