

WUCWO Newsletter April 2016

Amoris Laetitia presented by WUCWO



WUCWO, in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for the Family (PCF), along with other members of the Working Group on the Family from the Geneva Forum for Catholic inspired NGOs: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Caritas Internationalis, Association Points Coeur and Caritas in Veritate Foundation, made an official presentation of the Post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on April 19th, in Rome, at the San Calisto Palace. The speakers were: Mgr. Vincenzo Paglia, President of the PCF, Mgr. Ivan Jurkovič, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva and Maria Giovanna Ruggeri,

WUCWO President General. There were also videos with moving testimonies of "good practices" in relation to the family in line with the Exhortation from different continents. There was a great number of highly regarded participants: Ambassadors or representatives of more than 70 Embassies to the Holy See attended, as well as about 20 directors of Catholic NGOs, special guests and journalists.

[Click here to see the programme for the event](#)

[Click here to Msgr. Paglia's speech](#)

[Click here to read Msgr. Jurkovic's speech](#)

Oral Statement at UN Human Rights Council Geneva



WUCWO made an oral statement at the 31st Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, last March, regarding the protection of the family. It was co-signed by twenty NGOs, 12 with ECOSOC status and 8 without. The Secretary General, Maria Lia Zervino, representing WUCWO, took the floor. According to the virtual archive of the United Nations Human Rights Council on-line, it is the first time that WUCWO has addressed an oral statement, supported by several NGOs, during a session of the Council. This is a new

step in line with the priority of the WUCWO's Plan of Action for this period and one of the resolutions of the General Assembly of Fatima.

[Click here to read the statement or watch the video](#)

Regional Conferences updates: Asia-Pacific, North America, Africa



ASIA-PACIFIC: WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference will be held **1-6 May, 2016**. The Conference will be hosted by the ladies of Fiji even though they have suffered because of Tropical Cyclone Winston. The venue for this Conference is Novotel Hotel Lami Bay, Suva. President General Maria Giovanna Ruggieri will attend. We will have attendees from Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Tonga and the Philippines as well as reports, at this stage, from Lebanon and Iraq. It is hoped some delegates from other countries in the Asia

Pacific will be able to attend as well as many ladies from host country Fiji. The theme of the Conference is 'Hope and Mercy meet in God's Love'. Registrations for the Conference close on 15 April, 2016.



AFRICA: WUCWO Africa Regional Conference will be held **31 August - 5 September**. The opening mass will be an open air mass at Civo Stadium. The chief celebrant will be His Grace Archbishop Thomas Msusa of Blantyre Archdiocese, President of the National Episcopal Conference of Malawi and will be joined by all the Bishops of Malawi. The rest of the Conference will take place at Bingu International Conference Centre (BICC). Madam Getrude Mutharia, wife of the Head of State of Malawi shall be guest of honour at the opening ceremony. It should be noted that we shall also be celebrating 50 years (Golden

Jubilee) of WUCWO in Africa. More than 300 delegates are expected to attend the conference with the delegates arriving on the 30th August and the opening celebrations beginning on the 31st.



NORTH AMERICA: The Convention Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada is the site of our North American Regional Conference to be held **August 14th and 15th, 2016**. Our theme is: "Women of Mercy – United with One Heart, One Voice, One Mission". The conference will be held in conjunction with the national convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada. This is an opportunity to unite "women of mercy" and learn about each other.

Regional Vice President meets President of Spanish Episcopal Conference



On the 10th March the Regional Vice President for Europe, Araceli Cavero, was received by the President of the Spanish Episcopal Conference, Cardinal Emmo. D. Ricardo Blaquez. The meeting was arranged to inform him of her election and to discuss WUCWO's work and projects, and the celebration of the General Assembly and the resolutions adopted in Fatima. It was a very pleasant meeting. He was grateful for the information and shared some suggestions for how to improve the work. A considerable amount of time had passed since the election but due to various circumstances it had not been possible to arrange a meeting earlier.

Femina Europa accredited at the European Parliament



Our NGO is now registered in its own name and our delegate in Brussels, Alix Lejard, can come and go at the European Parliament with her official badge. Alix takes part in monthly meetings of the FEMM committee (Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality) and takes part in a focus group for the **abolition of maternal surrogacy**. She represented Femina Europa at two important events at the Parliament: genocide of Christians and

minorities by the Islamic state and the scandal regarding the sale of parts of aborted fetuses by Planned Parenthood. More information can be found on the Femina Europa website: www.femina-europa.org

Argentina against violence towards women



Acción Católica, WUCWO member organisation, met Mrs. Maria Fabiana Tuñez, president of the National Council of Women, an organ of the office of the National President, responsible for public policies regarding the prevention, sanctioning and eradication of violence against women: the legislator Graciela Ballesteros (Vínculos en Red), Lydia Berberian (Liga Argentina de Mujeres Evangélicas), Eva de Iconicoff (Argentine

Council of Jewish women) on behalf of the Office of Argentine Women's Organisations, Nora Nanni, Cecilia Szyszkowsky (Liga de Madres de Familia, WUCWO member), Andrea Ezcurra (Asociación Argentina de Cultura, WUCWO member) Argentinean representative for the WUCWO Board, Claudia Carbajal and Marilú Tripodoro from Acción Católica Argentina. The guidelines of the National Plan to eradicate gender based violence were presented.

Action Catholique des Femmes: Muslims and Catholics come together



In light of International Women's Day, the women of *Action catholique des femmes* from the Soissons diocese invited muslim women to join them. We are learning to get to know each other" says the director, worried about the increase in extremist talk and thoughts. Over a drink and some cake, around 60 Catholic and Muslim women were able to chat. "It's very enriching. There is a lot of warmth. We know each other from sight but now we can actually get to know each other properly. Following the

attacks in Paris, we said enough! We want to know what is happening and to be able to approach one another". "We are trying to explain that what you see on the television is not necessarily always true". "The Earth belongs to everyone". To see the smiles, the warm handshakes at the time to say goodbye, the meeting was a real success. A momentum that could be kept going through children, 'our future', as desired by both communities.

Special Prayers

We would like to invite you to pray for the Regional Conference of Asia Pacific that will begin soon and particularly for the families victims of Cyclone Winston in Fiji as well as those affected by the Kumamoto Earthquake in Japan. We also ask you to pray for Australia and the ladies of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga who are working hard to change the current law on abortion. And we pray for the countries where the women of our organizations are suffering because of terrorism, religious persecutions, dictatorships and extreme poverty. We remember in our prayers the many migrants who are dying on a daily basis in the Mediterranean as they flee conflict.