

WUCWO Newsletter March 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!

AUDIENCE WITH THE PREFECT OF THE NEW DICASTERY



Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the new **Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**, received with high esteem the President General, the Ecclesiastical Assistant and the Secretary General of WUCWO, on January 20, 2017. He encouraged to keep on the connection with the Catholic women from the Middle East and welcomed the notification of WUCWO's change of domicile, which was moved from France (Paris) to Italy (Rome) by unanimous vote of the Board at its meeting in October 2016. It recommended to work with the youth, to act against human trafficking, particularly in Africa and the Philippines, and demanded a greater dissemination of the activities being carried out by our organisation.

Read full article on Women's Voice 42, in WUCWO Information

RECEPTION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF ITALY



The President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, invited Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, our President General, and Anna Paoletti, representative of Italy at the Board and convenor of the International Committee, to the reception organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day in the Quirinale Palace, official residence and symbol of the Italian State. For the first time **WUCWO received the distinction of participating in this celebration.**

[Read article on Quirinale website \(in Italian\)](#)

PRESENTATION OF THE WOMEN'S CONSULTATION GROUP



The Women's Consultation Group, **body of the Pontifical Council for Culture**, was presented in the Press Room of the Holy See on March 7 by Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, who wants all the activities of his dicastery to have a women's point of view. Since 2015, 35 women, economists, scientists, entrepreneurs, intellectuals, athletes, journalists, actresses and theologians, even non-Christians, have been part of this commission; among these women, there is the President of WUCWO, who can bring the experience of some 10 million committed Catholic women in their respective countries.

[Listen to the report by Vatican Radio, *Mujeres Semilla de Esperanza* \(in Spanish\)](#)

[Read more about the Women's Consultation Group](#)

SEMINAR AND HOLY MASS IN THE VATICAN



Voices of Faith and the *Jesuit Refugee Service* organised a Holy Mass at St. Mary Queen of the Family and a Seminar titled "Shaking the Water - Making the Impossible Possible" at the Headquarters of the Academy of Sciences of the Holy See. The President and the Secretary of WUCWO participated in these

events, together with a **group of women peacemakers** who gathered in the heart of the Vatican to tell their stories of peace and hope, on March 7.

[Read more](#)

AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ROME



“They are just children! Not slaves!” was the theme of a campaign organised from Rome by Talitha Kum and other organisations, including WUCWO, for the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking. "Voices of Women on Trafficking in Children and Adolescents" was the subtitle of the seminar in which **Maria Giovanna Ruggieri was part of a panel**. María Lía Zervino, Servidora, participated in a video for the campaign, in the press conference and in the prayer vigil.

[Watch video](#)

EVENTS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST





On February 23, WUCWO was represented in the **StandTogether project**: a digital, inclusive and ecumenical platform created to give voice to all Christians living in situations of discrimination or persecution, especially Christians in the Middle East. Moreover, on March 6, WUCWO participated in the **Middle East Studies Center** of the Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture, when H.E. Mons. François Eid, Procurator of the Maronite Patriarchate in the Holy See, and Nicola Pedde, director of the Institute for Global Studies, gave a talk ([click here to read more, in Spanish](#)).

WUCWO IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



From 23 to 27 January 2017, María Lía Zervino, Secretary General, with Anne Marie Morizot and Françoise Zorn, WUCWO International Representatives, participated **in the winter session** of the Council of Europe. They met with Bishop Rudelli, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the Council of Europe, after attending Mass with representatives of international Catholic NGOs. They also met Daniel Gueri, head of CINGO (Christian group) and Jean Marie Bernard (jurist).

[Read more](#)

FIGHTING AIDS IN THE IVORY COAST



The Ivory Coast is one of the West African countries most affected by AIDS. A member organisation of WUCWO, **AFEC, which is one of the religious organisations that the ARSIP (Religious Alliance against HIV / AIDS) brings together**, has participated in actions against HIV / AIDS and in promoting the quality of life of people. On behalf of the Catholic Church, the AFEC has acted through women in the GEC (Savings and Credit Group) and supporting orphans and children vulnerable to HIV / AIDS.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER OF FEBRUARY 8, IN ARGENTINA



On the occasion of the meeting of the **Team against Trafficking in Persons, which reports to the Justice and Peace Commission of the Argentine Episcopal Conference (CEA)** - in which WUCWO participates - and on the occasion of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking on February 8, 2017, Mons. Carlos Malfa, Secretary General of the CEA, was present at the beginning of the meeting and encouraged the participants to continue working on this path. In the Chapel of the Episcopal Conference there was a prayer dedicated to the victims of trafficking to ask God to end this scourge.

[See useful material](#)

FROM THE CROSS TO THE LIGHT! WAITING FOR EASTER



WUCWO'S WISH

Deep in every person there is the desire to love: WUCWO invites you to wait for this fullness that will come, as the fruit of Lent, on the Easter of the Lord.