

FINAL DECLARATION: NORTH AMERICAN REGION CONFERENCE 2013

Based upon the actions called for in the Work Plan of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) for 2013, namely reduction of poverty, violence, and human trafficking and increasing support for migrants, the North American Region met in Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida USA from 29-30 September 2013 and explored these topics through prayer, speakers and interactive workshop and discussion groups. The 170 persons present, representing all Canadian and US member organizations, spiritual advisors and the President-General of WUCWO, came to the following conclusions:

Whereas we recognize that the North American Region (Canada and the United States of America) are countries richly blessed in many ways, we acknowledge that we do have large segments of our societies that suffer from the poverties of hunger, intolerance, complacency and violence and that some of these poverties know no class or social boundary.

We therefore resolve:

1. That we shall continue to encourage our members to **pray** for an end to these grave poverties in our own countries and around the world.
2. That we shall continue to offer our **material and volunteer support** to charities in synch with Catholic values and teachings that work to alleviate these poverties.
3. That we shall increase our **educational efforts** concerning the extent and root causes of the poverties of hunger, violence, human trafficking and intolerance to migrants/ immigrants.
4. That we shall educate our members and organizations with regard to tangible ways to assist the marginalized, weak, hungry, trafficked and victims of violence and prejudice. This education will include learning the signs to recognize these persons and the best means to address their immediate and long-term needs through established and proven programs and the import of those programs to areas where they do not presently exist but are needed.
5. That we shall **advocate** strongly on the local, national, regional and international levels to end prejudice and injustice in our societies that promote the unfair and inequitable treatment of our fellow human beings.
6. That we shall **dedicate** ourselves in prayer and in work to establish a region and a world where all human beings are treated with the dignity inherent in their beings as children of God and where all persons can achieve that mission for which they were created.
7. North America's WUCWO Member Organizations will strive to be better mentors to all Catholic Women by showing and sharing Christ's love whenever possible. We will practice being peacemakers.

