

**Union Mondiale des Organisations Féminines Catholiques
World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations
Unión Mundial de las Organizaciones Femeninas Católicas
Weltunion der Katholischen Frauenverbände**

Piazza di San Calisto 16 - 00153 Rome - Italy - Tel.: +39 0669887260
info@wucwo.org - www.wucwo.org

UMOFC

***Women Reading Fratelli tutti
to celebrate International Women's Day
Wednesday 3 March 2021, 9 am-11 am CET***

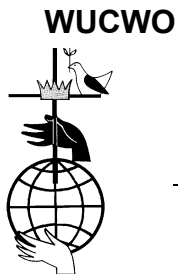
International Women's Day will be celebrated by women from different continents, cultures and religions in a webinar on 3 March 2021, from 9:00-11:00 CET, with women leaders of religious communities from Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Hebrew, Ecumenical and Catholic perspectives as panellists.

The ecumenical and interreligious event is organised by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) and the *Consulta Femminile* of the Pontifical Council for Culture (PCC), in collaboration with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID), with the sponsorship of the Embassies to the Holy See of Argentina, Austria, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Peru and East Timor.

Cardinals Gianfranco Ravasi, Prefect of the PCC, and Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, Prefect of the PCID, and Dr Irina Bokova, member of the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, will also participate.

Nadine Iarchy, President of the Interfaith and Intercultural Committee of the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW), explains that “the ecumenical and interreligious reading of *Fratelli tutti* is a revelation for non-Catholic readers. As women, we have another approach to the religious text. So, to organise such an event on the occasion of International Women's Day is a very positive step.”

Sally Axworthy, British Ambassador to the Holy See, said: “Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli tutti* challenges us to look again at some of the assumptions that underpin our world today, and go back to the ideas of virtue and community. His Holiness focuses particularly on the role of religions in shaping the societies in which we live - and we know that it also sees a special role for women.”



Union Mondiale des Organisations Féminines Catholiques
World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations
Unión Mundial de las Organizaciones Femeninas Católicas
Weltunion der Katholischen Frauenverbände

Piazza di San Calisto 16 - 00153 Rome - Italy - Tel.: +39 0669887260
info@wucwo.org - www.wucwo.org

UMOFC

Shahrzad Houshmand, Muslim theologian, said: "Women, with the beauty of welcoming femininity, read, dream, unite their children, and are sensitively able to understand the dream of a Pope named Francis who, in a text of great and authentic wisdom, calls all to dream together, 'to dream as one humanity,' one human family in solidarity."

Isabel Phiri, Deputy General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, said that "reading *Fratelli tutti* from the perspective of women involves thinking about all that impedes and distorts our common kinship and reflecting on how we can move together towards a new reality where we live as brothers and sisters, and children of the one creator and in 'fraternity' and social friendship."

Elena Seishin Viviani, from the Buddhist Union, stated that "*Fratelli tutti* challenges every woman and every man to open themselves to a new perspective of encounter: in the words of the Holy Father, it returns the centrality of education to fraternity, and from here we must go towards a new pact, a new covenant that unites us and restores the deepest meaning to one's own living."

Svamini Hamsananda Ghiri, of the Hindu Union, affirmed that "the voice of the Holy Father is always clear, strong, plural and above all it becomes an echo for those who, weaker, are not heard. Women will make their contribution with the new impulse of their energies, as is fully expressed in all our Holy Scriptures, *_Vasudaiva kutumbakam_*: 'the whole world is but one big family'."

 **LIVE STREAMING ON YOUTUBE: [WUCWOUMOFC](https://www.youtube.com/WUCWOUMOFC)**

Thank you for disseminating
María Lía Zervino
WUCWO / UMOFC President

Please find attached programme and poster
More information: info@wucwo.org; www.wucwo.org
Contact: Lavinia Rocchi Carrera

Rome, 25 February 2021