

# **SND - NGO UNITED NATIONS Update**

## **DECEMBER, 2013**

### **Girls Caucus Creates Indicators to Implement CSW 57**

As girls from various regions of the world were strategizing for the 2013 plan to implement the Agreed Conclusions of the 57<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, the Working Group on



Girls decided to respond to instances of violence against girls on the local level. They took the caucus statements and framed them into a tool that could be used to: 1) raise awareness of the concerns about violence against girls, and 2) find the potential to change systems and transform villages, countries, and the world into a place that is safe, supportive, and a joyful place to live for all children and young people. An instance of leadership in this area was

noted in August of this year reported widely on the internet? *KENYA - GIRLS' ADVOCACY VICTORY - LANDMARK COURT RULING THAT POLICE MUST INVESTIGATE RAPE & PROSECUTE.* The link is: <http://tinyurl.com/lqefrej> Taking courage from this report, they will gather in groups and plan the future of achieving girls' potential! If you are interested in joining part 1 of this project, please e-mail Ilaria Buonriposi at [WGGINDICATORS@gmail.com](mailto:WGGINDICATORS@gmail.com). and she will send you materials to use.

### **Creating a Global Movement for Peace that draws on the Transformative Power of Early Childhood Development**

*- In every language, there is a word for peace; in every language, there is a word for children.*

Increased conflict, and the lasting impact of violence on children, families, and communities is drawing a response from a newly formed *Early Childhood Peace Consortium*. Among the sponsors of this group are Yale University, UNICEF, and the Sesame Workshop. The newly formed group is bringing together leaders from international organizations, academia, practice, philanthropy, media and development institutions. Some elements of the action agenda include:



- To join with member states to advocate for the drafting of a UN resolution on ECD and peace building that complements other peace building resolutions
- To leverage the potential of partners and networks working to advance proven, sustainable ECD interventions and peace building
- To link emerging knowledge from bio-behavioral and environmental sciences with existing programs

If you are interested in joining the Consortium, please go the following website:

[http://www.unicef.org/childsurvival/index\\_70495.html](http://www.unicef.org/childsurvival/index_70495.html)

A reminder about the link to our UN SNDs blog: [www.sndatun.wordpress.com](http://www.sndatun.wordpress.com)

UN SNDs facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/3ccygc3>



## Learning from Our Sisters in India

The best preparation for both representing an NGO organization at the United Nations as well as influencing international policy for the good begins with an understanding of what is happening at the grass roots level of a country. This is especially important as we see growing local and global inequalities. We are also aware of NGOs efforts to reach out to the most disadvantaged and do this in a way that builds people's own capacity to move out of extreme poverty.

The experience provided to Sr. Pat and myself by our Sisters while we were in India was a tremendous help for us to better understand: 1) causes of poverty, 2) effective methods to prepare people to control their own destinies and access their human rights, and 3) modeling ways to build cooperation for changing unjust systems that keep people in poverty.

As was stated in the recent Open Working Group on Sustainable Development, "growth and development are not the same". Observing an increase in a country's GNP can easily mask growing inequality in a country where rural areas are inaccessible and often forgotten. Growing urban populations are often just as invisible. Monies intended for alleviation of inequalities often does not reach the intended populations.

As we moved from place to place where our Sisters minister, we experienced:

- Clinics, where not only immediate needs are met in a timely fashion, but also assistants are trained and the clients are taught preventative medicine
- Women are prepared to use social analysis to help them on the road to empowerment; They have formed hundreds of leadership and microfinance groups
- Villagers are inspired to help one another by means of street plays, illustrating methods to apply for work schemes; human rights training is used to overcome barriers to access
- Thousands of children, particularly girls, in the most remote villages are accessing learning, and many of them come to residential schools managed by the Sisters who are assisted by staff that they have prepared
- Provision is made for the differently abled to receive academic and vocational learning; they receive physical and occupational therapy and move on to the work sector
- Children and young people in schools where those with more advantages can attend are learning activism on behalf of marginal groups as they also care for the earth
- Sisters meet regularly with other NGOs who work in areas of environmental concerns, human trafficking, and promotion of human rights and education for all

We saw very specific examples of concerns and responses to those concerns which will help me in my role of advocating for international system change here at the United Nations. Thank you, Sisters of the Assumption and Visitation Provinces for the invitation to experience India and thank you for your goodness to us in so many ways!

