



*Mandate of IPA:*

1. Enhance communication by using technology creatively:
  - To share resources,
  - To promote interest groups,
  - To provide educational material about the work of the UN.

**Events and Actions of our JPIC committee:**

**Faith and Housing Workshop**

Angela, Clo, Emma and Sharon attended a session on November 20 where people of different faith expressions looked at possible approaches to low-income housing. St. John's ranks very high in Canada with its lack of affordable housing and as the economy improves and rents go higher, the situation worsens for those kept poor. Cochrane Street United Church has a collaborative plan to get funding to use a large portion of that complex for ten units of supportive living.

**CRC Atlantic JPIC**

Flights were cancelled and Emma and Clo missed this meeting in October. The report from the group called upon Canadian Bishops to become more vocal in calling Canada's attention to the problem of *Human Trafficking*.

**Sustainable Development Goals Post 2015**

The United Nations Synthesis Report authored by the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, spells out the necessary components for a realistic outcome on Sustainable Development: inspirational vision, a practical plan, adequate means, and a framework to monitor implementation. The six essential elements to frame and reinforce these goals are: dignity - end of poverty; people - ensure healthy lives; prosperity - strong inclusive economy; planet - protection of our ecosystems; justice - promote safe societies; and partnership - global solidarity.

**IPA Survey:** Our JPIC committee was asked to discuss and reply to an IPA Networker Survey sent to us by Sr. Elena Hoye. The survey asked questions around the specific interventions (ministries) PBVM 's are undertaking regarding issues like Human Rights, Education, Women, Children, Indigenous Peoples, Trafficking, and Sustainable Development. Lois agreed to respond to the survey after receiving permission to use their names from Sisters who may currently be involved in related ministries.

**Articles of Interest**

Read Helen Martinez Journal of her experience at the UN. This is circulated among the Conference of Presentation Sisters on the E-news and in our Communications to Sisters.

The "People of the World" November statement on the typhoon calamities in the Philippines calls on governments and leaders to come up with a new framework and ambitious goals to stop the climate crisis, protect the poor and vulnerable, make the polluters pay, and bring reparation to all victims of the climate crisis. Notice that the Presentation Sisters of NL are signatories to this document.

Read the full statement at

<http://peoplesgoals.org/devjustice/people-of-the-world-surge-forward-for-climate-justice/>

## Not-So-Good News

The UN General Assembly's vote on the modalities for the implementation of the UN's debt restructuring resolution was passed by an overwhelming majority. The vote count taken on December 5<sup>th</sup> was: 128-yes; 16-no; 34-abstain. Canada was one of the 16 "No" votes. Negotiations on the debt restructuring resolution are to kick off in January 2015. Many European countries abstained from vote, similar to the 9 September vote on the actual resolution.

## Good News

On 4 December, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon informally presented an advance, unedited version of his synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda to UN Member States. "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet" outlines a vision for Member States to consider carrying forward in negotiations leading up to the UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015 that will adopt the post-2015 development agenda.

*The following list of SPECIAL DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE DURING 2015 came from the Justice Community of Ireland. We might keep the list and bring them to prayer as they occur. We have included the first six months of 2015 here.*

Jan. 27 Int. Holocaust Remembrance Day  
Feb. 20 World Day of Social Justice  
Mar. 8 International Women's Day  
Mar. 21 Elim. of Racial Discrimination  
Mar. 22 World Water Day  
April 7 World Health Day

April 22 International Mother Earth Day  
May 15 International Day of Families  
May 22 Int. Day for Biological Diversity  
June 5 World Environment Day  
June 20 World Refugee Day  
June 26 Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking

Presentation Justice Network: 'Nagle Community', Mountmellick, Co. Laois.

## Concluding Challenges/Actions:

Seek some way to partner with a cause related to our IPA issues of women and children, indigenous people, sustainable development and human rights at Christmastime.

Read at least one of the articles listed above, or another on a Justice Issue, which you have found, and share with another person. Follow one of these quick links to a related website!

[IPA Website](#)   [Conference Website](#)   [Society Website](#)   [Union Website](#)



Christmas celebrates an inner light, a tree of lights inside the house of our being, and invites us to come close and ponder its beauty. We notice this light because it is contrasted with an outer darkness. Although the outer darkness does not go away, the inner light defies this darkness, refusing to allow it to dictate the terms of existence. "What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).  
-John Shea

*May you know the joy and light of Christmas . . .*

*May our world experience many blessings in 2015 !*

