



Society of the Sacred Heart at the UN *Seeking Justice with the Heart of an Educator*

Holistic and Intersectional Approaches to Peace at the Heart of Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a Post-COVID Era

July 5, 2021
9-10:30 a.m. EDT

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2S7Tr3C>

Interpretation in English, French and Spanish

In 2015 the world's nations came together and pledged their commitment to 17 Sustainable Development Goals to achieve *a more equitable and sustainable future for all*. It is widely accepted that Sustainable Development Goals are indivisible and that their goals and targets are inextricably linked to one another.

The global crisis caused by COVID-19 poses a significant threat to accomplishing the overarching goal of the SDGs to "leave no one behind." The disproportionate impact of the pandemic on poor populations living in Low and Middle-Income countries highlights the interdependencies between the SDGs and the need to focus on the whole development spectrum.

- The United Nations Development Program estimates that in 2020, the pandemic pushed 95 million people into extreme poverty,
- COVID-19 has led to severe and widespread increases in global food insecurity, affecting vulnerable households in almost every country. In 2020, an additional 80,000 million experienced hunger
- The International Chamber of Commerce estimated that COVID-19 erased the equivalent of 255 million jobs in 2020
- Vaccine access, critical in preventing the spread of the pandemic and reopening economies, has resulted in countries competing for supplies. To date, High-Income Countries representing 19% of the world's adult population have secured 54% of global vaccine doses.

This panel will explore vital interconnections between the SDGs in order to achieve SDG 16 (Peace Justice & Strong Institutions). Special attention will be given to the SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Health & Wellbeing), SDG8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) for the realization of peace in a post COVID-19 era.

An interactive panel will bring voices and experiences from the field to highlight the challenges they now face to building peace through more equitable and resilient societies in a post-COVID era. We will hear from individuals working and living in four of this year's VNR countries (Colombia, Japan, Mexico, and Spain). They will speak about some of the intersecting challenges they now face in these countries to realizing sustainable development for all. Additionally, panelists will point to best practices and hope for the way forward.

Rationale

- The global pandemic has revealed more than ever the extent of inequalities that already existed in the world. To be true to the global pledge to *leave no one behind*, the SDGs must be implemented using a rights-based approach.
- Political responses to the global pandemic are critical. *There is nothing inherently conflict-inducing in the pandemic itself. Rather, its effects on peace and conflict depend on how different political forces are willing and capable of responding to the opportunities and challenges that efforts to manage the health crisis invokes.* (*The Global Observatory*, <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2020/10/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-peace-conflict/>).
- The global pandemic is demanding of us to work together in innovative ways for peace. This means that political systems must be re-aligned with human rights at the heart in order to achieve the universal objectives of the “foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” *The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency — but it is far more. It is an economic crisis. A social crisis. And a human crisis that is fast becoming a human rights crisis. In February, I launched a Call to Action to put human dignity and the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the core of our work.* (Antonio Guterres, “We are all in this Together: Human Rights and COVID-19 Response and Recovery”, April 23, 2020)

Objective/ Desired Outcomes

- Prioritize the integration of SDGS in intersectional human rights-based approaches.
- Highlight the nature of best practices and the problems that prevent potential solutions.
- Propose integrated models that are rooted in holistic and intersectional approaches to peace

Co-sponsors

- Permanent Observer Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations, Ambassador Paul Beresford-Hill
- Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)
- Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)

PANELISTS



Alexandra Amelang is an alumna from the United States-Canada Network of Sacred Heart Schools. She has just completed her first year of a degree program in Diplomacy and International Relations. Alexandra is a part-time volunteer researcher with the Society of the Sacred Heart at the UN.

Alexandra will present a brief on the COVID-19 reality and recovery in Colombia, Japan, Mexico, and Spain from national and an international perspectives.



Gloria Diaz Brochet, RSCJ, is from Colombia, where she works with marginalized communities. Gloria is a lawyer specialized in public law and has been a professor of constitutional law, administrative law and state contracting at the Universidad Externado de Colombia and the Universidad Antonio Nariño. She has advised or participated in consulting teams of entities such as the Ministry of the Environment, Superintendence of Public Utilities - SSPD, Water and Basic Sanitation Commission - CRA, Comptroller General of the Republic and the Inter-American Development Bank - IDB.

Gloria Díaz Brochet, RSCJ, will speak about how SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions, is affected by the homicides caused in the following contexts: a) social protest; b) the defense of human rights, territory and community representation, and c) the implementation of the Peace Agreement with the FARC. Likewise, the corresponding calls will be made, especially to the Colombian State, to implement the necessary measures to guarantee the right to life of every person. To this end, the video broadcast by the President of the Truth Commission, Father Francisco de Roux, in the context of the social protest initiated on April 28 of this year, will be presented. Finally, a brief statement will be made on what is expected to be seen in the VNR, to be presented by the Colombian State, in relation to SDG 16 and its implementation in the post-Covid era.



Chiaki Hatanka, RSCJ, is from Japan. She has extensive experience as a teacher of religion in Sacred Heart schools in Japan. After her retirement from education, she served in a rather poor area of Tokyo where many people experienced street homelessness. On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear power plant accident happened. In response to this great tragedy, Chiaki joined volunteer activities for the victims. Presently, she lives in Minami-soma area, which is within 25km from Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant. The Society of the Sacred Heart in Japan is committed to resolving issues concerning of the Nuclear power plant. Chiaki volunteers at Caritas Minami-soma, where she works alongside other volunteers from Japan and abroad. Covid-19 has greatly affected their humanitarian work. However, they continue to help the poor families, the foreign workers and the elderly people who live alone nearby.

In her presentation, Chiaki Hatanka, RSCJ, will highlight the intersection of SDGs 3, 12, and 16 as they relate to the ongoing issues that affect victims of the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant Explosion. On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Power Plant accident happened. The used nuclear fuel rods contain radiation and the government has not decided the final place to keep them. Besides the global worry of nuclear power leading to the production of weapons, Chiaki will highlight how the 2011 nuclear disaster continues to affect the physical health and well-being of families ten years later. Many families were evacuated and or separated in order to survive. Elders who have remained in the vicinity have become lonely and sick because they have lost their homes, community, livelihoods, family, farmland, cattle, etc. Finally, Chiaki will made the point that to address the effects of the nuclear power disaster in a holistic and integrated way includes attention to responsible consumption and production.



Jorge Atilano González Candia, SJ, was born in Huatusco, Veracruz, Mexico. He has been a Jesuit since 1992. His academic background includes degrees in Philosophy and Social Sciences at ITESO (1994-1999); Theology at UIA Mexico City (2001-2005), and Master in Social Ethics at the Alberto Hurtado University in Santiago de Chile (2013-2014). Jorge has worked on several projects, including: an Educational Project in Cuquío, Jalisco, from ACCEDE A.C. (1996-1999); and a Housing Project for the Victims of Hurricane Mitch in El Progreso, Yoro, Honduras (1999-2001). He was the Director of the Jesuit Vocations Team of the Mexican Province (2005-2012); Director and Founder of CIAS POR LA PAZ A.C. (2014-2020). Additionally, Jorge has published ethnographic research on the gangs in Honduras in the book *In Search of the Lost Brotherhood* (2001). His master's degree thesis was titled "Strategies for public security policies, an analysis from the community approach", He is also co-author of the book "Reconstruction of the Social Fabric: A Wager for Peace". (2016) and "A Path to Peace: Experiences and Challenges in the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric". (2019), as well as various articles on security, drug trafficking and gangs. Currently Jorge is responsible for the Social Sector of the Mexican Province of the Society of Jesus

Jorge Atilano will talk about the need for a multi-systemic approach to understand complex phenomena such as violence and offer complex responses that address its cultural and structural causes. He will talk about the research he has been conducting in recent years to understand the violence in the territories and the proposals to address the root causes of this problem that plagues the territories of Latin America and that has been exacerbated by the recent pandemic. He will present a peacebuilding model based on a holistic approach and addressing community traumas, as well as the results that have been achieved in different municipalities in the country. It will focus on SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



Miren Lumberras, RSCJ, is from San Sebastian, Spain. Living near France opened her to internationality since she was a child. When she was 11 years old her family moved to Madrid, which opened her again to another place and culture. Miren has been a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus since 1977. She now lives in Euskadi, Basque Country in the town of Portugalete. Miren has a degree in Law, a Masters in Foreigner Affairs with a speciality in Law, a Masters in Family Counseling and Mediation, and a Degree in Ecclesiastical Sciences. Miren has worked in the educational field with adolescents. Since 2000, she has collaborated in different projects for migrants in Madrid, Granada and now in Bilbao and Santurtzi. For three years, Miren has worked as director of the Migration Secretariat of the Diocese of Huelva (a province where many immigrants work as seasonal strawberry workers).

Miren Lumberras, RSCJ, will make the point that promoting just, peaceful, inclusive societies for sustainable development (SDG 16) is possible if it is accompanied by rights, actions and achievements of other SDGs, from a holistic vision. The topic will be approached from the perspective of the collective of migrants/refugees in Spanish society in their search for a better life. Having a decent job is the possibility of living with autonomy; many have to make a long journey to achieve it (SDG 8). In this process, they need to cover their basic needs: food, housing, health and welfare, training, social integration... The COVID is an added difficulty especially in individuals and families of immigrants who are living very precariously and with great vulnerability. Added to this are the administrative difficulties to regularize their situation and to be able to exercise all their rights.

MODERATOR



Nick Newland, Policy and Communications Manager, Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Nick is responsible for advocacy, communications, and promotion of ACWW. He represents the organisation as Focal Point at the Commission on Status of Women and the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and attends meetings at FAO, UNHRC, CEDAW, and UNESCO to ensure that ACWW's members are heard on the international stage. Originally trained as a musician, Nick was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of the Arts (UK) in 2014. Passionate about education, Nick spent five years lecturing in historical musicology at Goldsmiths, University of London. For his pedagogical work, Nick was awarded a Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy in the UK. In December 2020 Nick was elected to serve a 2 year term on the UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee, representing ACWW and working for all NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN Agency. He will chair the NGO-UNESCO Forum on Global Citizenship in September 2021.

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