



Justice Coalition of Religious

Justice at the heart of global transformation

Company of the
Daughters of Charity

Congregation of the
Mission

Congregation of
Notre Dame

Congregation of Our
Lady of Charity of the
Good Shepherd

Congregations of
St. Joseph

Dominican Leadership
Conference

Edmund Rice
International

Fondazione Proclade
Internazionale-Onlus

Institute of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
- Loreto Generalate

International
Presentation
Association

Loretto Community

Maryknoll Priests
and Brothers

Maryknoll Sisters of St.
Dominic

Medical Mission Sisters

Oblates of Mary
Immaculate

Passionists International

Religious of the Sacred
Heart of Mary

Salesian Missions

School Sisters of
Notre Dame

Sisters of Charity
Federation

Sisters of Notre Dame
de Namur

Society of the
Sacred Heart

UNANIMA
International

VIVAT International

To the 2026 Candidates for the Office of United Nations Secretary-General:

We write to you as members and partners of the Justice Coalition of Religious, a collective of Roman Catholic religious (Sisters, Brothers, and priests) and their colleagues with decades-long presence at the United Nations, at a moment of profound consequence for our human family and our planet. Our member organizations serve among the most vulnerable people on earth—in conflict zones and climate-ravaged communities, in refugee camps and urban slums, in places where hope is fragile and the need for principled international leadership has never been greater. These communities experience increasing hardship due to global political instability.

United by a shared conviction in the equal dignity and inherent worth of every human being—the sanctity of life of people and planet—we offer these expectations, rooted in our faith tradition, to guide your candidacy and, should you be entrusted with this office, your tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Our Expectations

1. Moral and Servant Leadership

We call for a Secretary-General who leads with moral courage, humility, and a servant's heart—one who places the equal dignity and human rights of every person at the centre of all decisions. We seek a leader whose words and actions consistently reflect that no human being, nor any part of our shared precious planet, is expendable.

2. Commitment to Peace, Prevention, and Non-Violence

Faith communities have accompanied countless populations through the devastation of armed conflict. We urge a strong, proactive commitment to international peace—one that prioritises prevention of conflict, ending the nuclear threat, mediation, and nonviolence in resolving disputes. The next Secretary-General must be a persistent and courageous voice for dialogue and reconciliation, denouncing violations of the UN Charter and threats to international peace and security.

3. Consistent Defence of Human Rights

Human rights are not a geopolitical bargaining chip. We expect unwavering defence of international law and the human rights of all people—giving particular attention to those on the margins of society, including women, children, minorities, indigenous peoples, the homeless, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, and those persecuted for their beliefs.

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4. Urgent and Integral Climate and Ecological Action

The communities we serve are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and are often disproportionately impacted by climate change. We expect clear and ambitious prioritisation of climate action, integral ecology, biodiversity protection, and ecological justice. Our faith tradition teaches us that the earth is a shared inheritance to be nurtured for future generations; its destruction falls most heavily on those least responsible. The next Secretary-General must champion science-based action and hold all nations accountable to the commitments of the Conference of the Parties of Climate Change agreements.

5. Tackling Economic Injustice and Extreme Poverty

Growing inequality is a moral scandal and a driver of instability. We call for a determined commitment to tackling extreme poverty and economic injustice, the regulation of AI, the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index, and bold engagement in shaping an ambitious and equitable post-2030 framework that reflects the voices and priorities of the most vulnerable. The structural causes of poverty—including global debt burden, unfair trade rules, and illicit financial flows—must be named and addressed.

6. A Humane Approach to Migration, Displacement, and Human Trafficking

Millions of our brothers and sisters have been compelled to leave their homes by conflict, persecution, poverty, inequalities, and climate breakdown. People on the move also make significant positive contributions to their communities. We expect a consistently humane, rights-based approach to migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons—one that upholds international law, rejects the criminalisation of migration, and ensures protection, inclusion, and dignity at every stage of the journey. Survivors of human trafficking demand particular attention and dedicated resources.

7. Inclusion, Gender Equality, and Meaningful Participation

Lasting solutions cannot be imposed from above. We call for genuine inclusion and gender equality throughout the UN system, and for the meaningful participation of youth, older persons, and affected communities—especially the most vulnerable and marginalised—in decisions that shape their lives. Inclusion is not merely a procedural virtue; it reflects the conviction that every voice carries wisdom and has a right to be heard.

8. Genuine Dialogue with Civil Society

Civil society—including faith-based organisations—is a vital source of knowledge, accountability, and effective partnership. We expect the next Secretary-General to foster and protect authentic, meaningful dialogue with civil society at all levels, ensuring that greater opportunities are provided for the voices of the marginalized to be heard and heeded at the highest tables of decision-making.

9. Respectful Engagement with Faith-Based Actors and Interreligious Dialogue

Faith communities represent the oldest and most expansive civil society networks in the world. They provide healthcare, education, humanitarian response, and moral formation at a scale no government or institution can replicate. We call for systematic, respectful, and structured engagement with faith-based actors as partners in the work of the United Nations, alongside active promotion of interreligious dialogue as a tool for building peace and social cohesion.

10. Renewal and Reform of Multilateralism

The United Nations was born from the ashes of world wars with a promise of "never again." That promise is being tested by the reckless violence we see in the world today. We urge a renewed commitment to the reform of multilateralism—with greater transparency, accountability, and equitable representation for the Global South. The trust of ordinary people in international institutions must be rebuilt, not assumed. The Secretary-General has a unique platform and responsibility to lead that renewal.

We offer these expectations as committed partners to the renewal of international cooperation. Our organisations stand ready to accompany the next Secretary-General in this vital work—bringing resources, relationships, and the moral authority rooted in centuries of service to humanity's most vulnerable.

The world is waiting for decisive values-based action from the UN. Too many people live in crisis situations. They deserve a Secretary-General of vision, integrity, and compassion. We hope—and pray—that, if selected, you will be that kind of leader.

Respectfully submitted,



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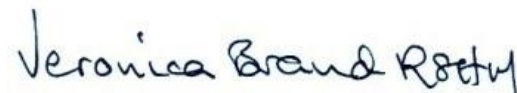
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