



# JPIC Voices

***Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World***



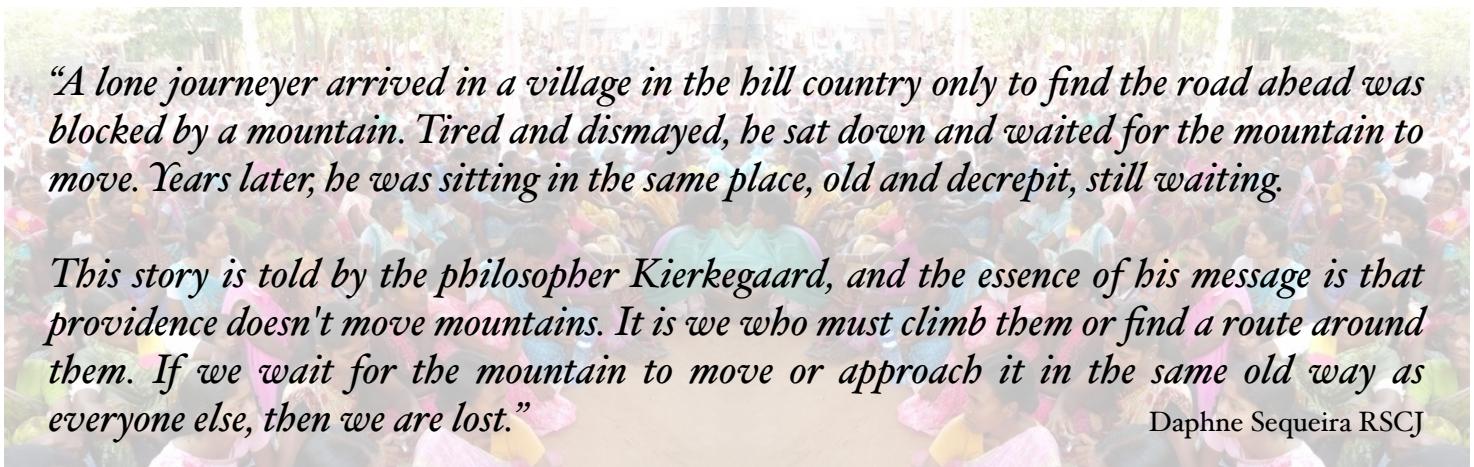
## International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, Daphne Sequeira rscj was invited by the Jesuits to write an article for International Women's Day and to pose challenges that they need to consider as they collaborate with women.

Daphne listed some issues in the process of empowering women that the Jesuits need to give attention to in order to help bring a paradigm shift in the Church.

- Often in partnering, the sense of ownership remains non-negotiable. Consequently the center of a women's empowerment program remains man-centered. Initiatives involving women's empowerment need to have inbuilt, liberating structures leading to mutuality and reciprocity. This would provide equality and dignity in the collaboration.
- Another power imbalance happens when men are managers and women remain implementers of the programs. Women need to take the lead in initiating women's programs. The real success of empowerment is when the power is transferred to the hands of those who are being empowered.
- Often women's skills are used in the Church, both locally and globally, but they are not included in the thinking and shaping of the programs and policies. It is an urgent need for the Church structure to become more inclusive and give back to women the space that belongs to women. The Jesuits can play an important leading role in bringing justice and collaborating with women to contribute their might in the Church.

RSCJINTERNATIONAL has re-published the article. [Click here to read the full text.](#)

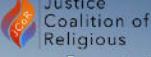


## Commission for Social Development ~ 59<sup>th</sup> Session (CSocD59)

The 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD59) took place from February 8 -17, 2021. The priority theme of CSocD59 was ***"Socially-just transition towards sustainable development: The role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all."***

How did the Society of the Sacred Heart help to bring voices to CSocD59 from those most affected by a lack of digital technology for social development and well-being? We used two of the platforms available to civil society at the UN. They are parallel events and written statements.

The Society of the Sacred Heart was involved in the following two parallel events:

 Justice  
Coalition of  
Religious

### Serving Across the Digital Divide: Catholic Religious Witness to the Role of Digital Technology in Social Inequalities

15 February 2021  
13:15-14:30 EST (UTC-5:00)  
via video conference

**Speakers to include:**

- Sr. Lorraine Connell, SNDdeN, General Treasurer & Founder of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur's African Photovoltaic Project in West & Central Africa
- Sr. Sr. Coltridah Mooya, RSHM, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary's St. Mulumba Special School in Choma, Zambia
- Naydesign Joan Talasan, MMS Associate, Medical Mission Sisters' school in the Philippines
- From the Society of the Sacred Heart's Saint Madeleine Sophie Foundation: Bethanie Sulleza, rscj, SMSF President; Lizette Santillan-Paas, SMSF OIC Executive Director; and Joy Luz, rscj, Coordinator of the Society's JPIC Learning Hub

\*\*Translation from English to Spanish, French and Portuguese will be available\*\*  
REGISTER HERE by 14 FEBRUARY: <https://bit.ly/3oFmXYL>



**CSOCD59**

### MIGRATION, DISPLACEMENT & THEIR CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY & JUST TRANSITIONS

Speakers- Lived Experience: Ify Ofong (World Wide Network Nigeria); Monica Duhem (Hear Colors & UNDESA); Chioma Agwuegbu (Techerng); Preety Gadokane (St John University); Inkeri von Hase & Michael Stewart-Evan (UN Women)

8:30- 9:45AM  
NYC TIME  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsc02orTspGtFncaVhRELNp2KE8hjIGw>

REGISTER HERE  
FEB • 09 • 2021  
ONLINE



1. *Serving Across the Digital Divide: Catholic Religious Witness to the Role of Digital Technology in Social Inequalities.* RSCJ from the Philippines prepared a video on this theme. Thank you to Joy Luz rscj, Beth Sulleza rscj, and Lizette Santillan-Paas from Saint Madeleine Sophie Foundation (SMSF) in Montalban, Rizal. [Click here to watch the nine-minute video.](#)
2. *Migration, Displacement and their Cross-cutting Issues In the Context of Digital Technology & Just Transitions.* [Click here to read in English about the event.](#)



The Society of the Sacred Heart endorsed three statements by civil society on the theme of CSocD59. These can be accessed through these links.

*(The documents are currently available only in English.*

*Please click ENGLISH when you get to each of these sites):*

### **On the dark side of technologies:**

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2021/NGO/11>

### **On the digital divide and socio-economic inequalities:**

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2021/NGO/11>

### **The impact of the digital divide on homelessness:**

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2021/NGO/17>

### **UPCOMING:**

The **65<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women** in 2021 will take place from March 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. Attending virtually for the Society of the Sacred Heart are Sheila Smith rscj, UN-NGO Representative, and Lisabeth Kelly, UN-NGO Volunteer Education and Gender Equity Associate.

The **High Level Political Forum for Social Development (HLPF)** in 2021 will take place from July 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. At the forum, countries will discuss their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in relation to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The role of civil society at HLPF is to bring voices from the grassroots where people experience the achievement (or not) of the SDGs.

The Society of the Sacred Heart has a delegation of nine who will remotely attend HLPF 2021. They are from some of the countries that will report at HLPF 2021.

Sheila Smith rscj, UN-NGO Representative, will work with:

Colombia:	Carmen Cecilia Alfaro rscj Maria del Carmen Jamaica rscj
Japan:	Chiaki Hatanaka rscj Yasuko Taguchi rscj
Mexico:	Maricruz Trigueros rscj Noemi Escobar
Spain:	Miren Lumbrales rscj Pilar Pavia rscj

*Preparation has begun.*

*Look forward to more updates from us!*

## JPIC WEBINAR CO-SPONSORED BY THE SOCIETY THROUGH THE UN-NGO OFFICE

### Domestic Violence: Gender-Based Violence & Degradation of Our Common Home

15 March 2021, 4:00-6:00 (EDT)

In this parallel virtual event for the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, speakers from the Americas and Asia Pacific regions shared women's and girls' experiences and recommendations on domestic and family violence, and examined the relationship between gender-based violence and violence against Earth.

English / Spanish interpretation were available

65th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Monday, 15 March 2021  
4.00pm-6.00pm (EDT)

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE & DEGRADATION OF OUR COMMON HOME

#### Speakers:

Louise Parinjo - Coordinator, Mercy Works PNG, Mt. Hagen  
Ana Siufi, rsm - Justice Advocate, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Yolanda Flores Montoro - Educational Promoter, Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente  
Pat Ryan, MM - President, Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente  
Jocelyn Bignold - CEO, McAuley Community Services for Women Representative of Australian Government (TBC)

#### Moderator:

Angela Reed, rsm PhD - Head of Mercy International Association: Mercy Global Action

TO JOIN: Register as Advocate on the [NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum](#) and Register as participant on the [Event Page](#)

\*English/Spanish Interpretation Available\*



The website of the JPIC Learning Hub is still being constructed.

In the meantime, follow us on our RSCJ-JPIC webpage on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/rscjpichternational>

Please visit the site and click "Like"  
to get updates on your timeline.



*"For a real and lasting peace will only be possible "on the basis of a global ethic of solidarity and cooperation in the service of a future shaped by interdependence and shared responsibility in the whole human family."*

Fratelli Tutti #127