



JPIC Voices

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World

Meet the new JPIC International Team!

Joy Luz rscj, who is based in Manila, serves as International JPIC Coordinator, and Rachel Guillien rscj, who is in Grenoble, coordinates the JPIC Learning Hub.

We welcome Margaret Mwarili rscj from Kenya, who takes on the role of UN-NGO Representative in January 2023.



The JPIC International Team (L-R: Joy Luz, Yolanda Jiménez, Rachel Guillien, Rena Bersola, Margaret Mwarili) met in Manila on 15th-21st October to plan the way forward for each of our offices and for the JPIC International Team.

We also had a whole-day meeting with Daphne Sequeira (our GC Link) and Anne Corry, with hearty lunch in-between.





Sheila Smith rscj ended her service as the Society's UN-NGO Representative on 15th October 2022. We thank Sheila for all the endeavours she initiated that provided us with concrete platforms "to strengthen our advocacy efforts and to consolidate on-the-ground educative efforts into a more global response."

[Being Artisans of Hope, p. 22]



Dear RSCJ, Members of the Family of the Sacred Heart, and Partners in Mission,

I want you to know how much of an honour it has been to serve you as the Society of the Sacred Heart's UN-NGO Representative for almost six years. For me it has been a vocation within my vocation and from the time I was named in 2016, I was blessed with a sense of St. Madeleine Sophie by my side. From the depths of my heart, I thank you for entrusting me with this international service. It opened me very concretely to the internationality of the Society and to many of the local ways in which you live our common mission. I am so grateful for your openness, interest, support, and for the many ways we have learned together how to collaborate and grow our little UN-NGO.

As I begin to harvest the graces that have blessed me during these years, there are enough to fill a book! For now, I share three areas of blessing that give me great cause to hope. First, I am deeply grateful to Sacred Heart students, teachers, youth in Sacred Heart projects around the world and those who work with them. You have blessed me with your enthusiasm and the creative ways in which you participate in the Sacred Heart mission in your local contexts and through the UN-NGO. You understand our Sacred Heart mission and its connection to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Your desire to connect with RSCJ and with each other, in shared compassion for all people and the planet, motivated me in my work and helped me to understand more personally Sophie's vision "For the sake of one child". Thank you!

Second, I am profoundly grateful to the young adults who volunteer their time with our UN-NGO, many of whom are Sacred Heart Alumnae. The skills that you place at the service of our mission at the UN are astounding and I know that I could not have succeeded without your technological skills and creative ideas. Of note is your organizing of the annual Sacred Heart campaign for International Day of the Girl, the annual Sacred Heart event celebrating International Day of Education, representation on the Working Group on Girls, and initiating our new WhatsApp group – Sacred Heart Girl Advocates (SHGA). It was an absolute pleasure to work with you and to learn from you. You know yourselves as global citizens and I feel your energy for collaboration as partners in wide-reaching solutions to the world's brokenness. Thank you so much for all your help and especially for who you are. You have made me a better person.

Third, my gratitude goes to you, my own RSCJ sisters, and our partners in mission who participated wholeheartedly as Sacred Heart delegates to the past three UN High Level Political Forums on Social Development (HLPF). I learnt so much about the amazing ways in which the Sacred Heart mission is being concretely lived on the ground. You make my heart full when you share with our collaborators in the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR), the amazing ways in which you are helping to achieve the SDGs in your local contexts. With your help, we are growing our capacity to see local issues as part of global issues, and to speak as one body. Together, we are learning how to join our voices and the voices of those we serve with the global cry for justice, peace, and integrity of creation. Thank you for your loving efforts for global transformation.

At a time when the world is suffering at the intersection of multiple crises that urgently call for governments to collaborate for solutions, our UN-NGO provides a way for Sacred Heart to join the swelling, global wave of civil society organizations that are gaining momentum together as a morally engaged voice for a better world. As I bid farewell to this role and all that it has meant, I am deeply grateful to so many. To my USC province and to the New York community with whom I shared life, I say thank you. To all of you who visited the UN during my time as NGO Representative, I say thank you. Finally yet importantly, I thank the Central Team, especially Daphne Sequeira rscj, the UN-NGO Link person, very specially thank you to Joy Luz rscj, Rachel Guillien rscj, Yolanda Jimenez, and Rena Bersola, all members of the International JPIC Team. I thank Anne Corry rscj, and Cecile Meijer rscj, who prepared the way for the International JPIC Team, and Margaret Mwarili rscj, who has accepted to take up the UN-NGO baton. I look forward to connecting with Margaret and with all of you in new ways as I return to my work in truth, healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

From the heart,
Sheila Smith rscj

Welcome, Margaret Mwarili rscj!



I am Margaret Alusa Mwarili. I was born and raised in a small village in a town called Kakamega in western Kenya. Throughout my primary and high school education, I attended boarding schools run by the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, a local congregation founded in my home district. After high school, I worked in the Catholic Bookshop in Nairobi with the Daughters of St. Paul. That was where I met some RSCJ; and thereafter I joined the congregation. For higher education, I studied Theology and Education at the Marist International University College (then affiliated with the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome). I likewise pursued further studies in School Administration and Supervision at the College of New Rochelle in New York, USA, as well as School Administration at Moi University in Kenya.

Before and after joining the Society of the Sacred Heart, I worked in various ministries including teaching in both public and private primary and secondary schools. I coordinated education programs and administered schools in the heart of the slums of Kibera in Nairobi. Working among the refugees in North Western Kenya with the Jesuits Refugees Service (JRS) and administering a diocesan health facility provided me with the opportunity to accompany and advocate for the needs of the most disadvantaged population: the refugees and persons with HIV. Currently, I am serving as the Development Coordinator of our Uganda-Kenya Province. I coordinate provincial projects, including fundraising for our proposed primary school in Kenya.

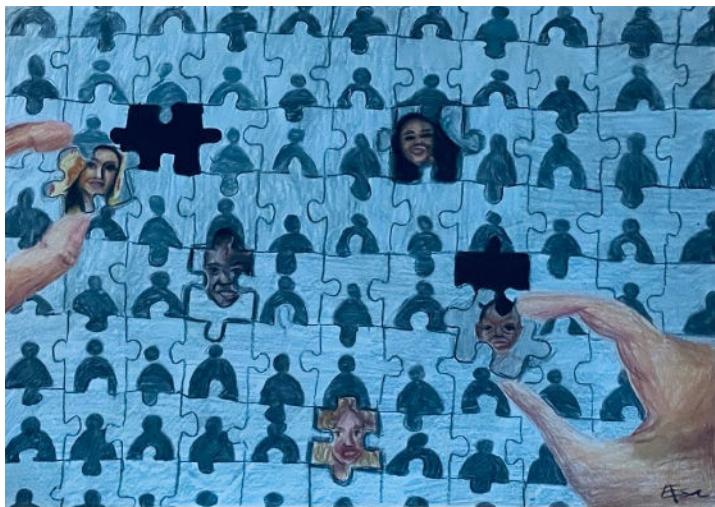
As I take on this new ministry as the representative of the Society at the UN-NGO Office, I feel encouraged as I learn that this work is not a one-person responsibility, but the coming-together of the active involvement of members of the Society and the Family of the Sacred Heart. I hope that, as women seeking to promote Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, we shall stand together to transmit hope in our world. I count on the support and collaboration of each one, and look forward to continue fostering cooperation among us, and furthering networking with other partners in this mission. I pray that the Spirit dwelling within each one of us will empower us to transform our wounded and broken world, and to disseminate hope wherever we are.

Margaret Mwarili rscj



JPIC Learning Hub:

If even one piece of the jigsaw puzzle is missing



Last spring we organized a drawing competition for all our educational institutions, to illustrate our "four JPIC imperatives".

Young people (12-15 years old) from all over the world participated.

Thank you to everyone!

We were impressed by the maturity that could be seen in their contributions, but also by their keen awareness of the ecological and human challenges facing our world.

This is how Elsa Recchioni Baiocchi, from the Institute of the Sacred Heart in Rome, depicted our humanity in the form of a jigsaw puzzle. What a beautiful image: yes, we are all so closely linked to each other.

For Elsa, the people in exile become these "pieces of the puzzle" that have not yet been integrated ... We see discreet hands that help them find a place, their place ... These are the only people to have a face, while those in exile are so often anonymous, or reduced to a "file number" ... How can we give a face and an identity to so many lives in this increasingly complex world of migration and in the way we welcome them?

People who experience exile or other situations of poverty bring with them an experience of humanity that is vulnerable, limited, threatened and yet very much alive, and from which all of us can be inspired.

Doesn't Elsa's drawing stimulate us to do something and to get together?

Rachel Guillien Rscj



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<https://rscj-jpic.org>

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Send your contributions to: rscj.jpic@gmail.com