

WUCWO



UMOFC **World Union of Catholic Women's  
Organisations**

Please send this Newsletter to all the members of your organisation.

Thank you very much!

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS  
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
**February 8<sup>th</sup> 2018**

*migration without  
trafficking*

**#SayYesToFreedomandNoToSlavery**



 [preghieracontrotratta.org](http://preghieracontrotratta.org)  
[@preghieracontrotratta](https://www.facebook.com/preghieracontrotratta)  
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**Seminar on Migration and**

## Human Trafficking

WUCWO collaborates with Talitha Kum to the organisation of a Study Seminar to be held in Rome at Università LUMSA (Borgo Sant'Angelo 13) on 28 November 2017.

The title of this seminar is "Migration and Trafficking", and it works as a preparation for the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

*Let's keep saying YES to Freedom and NO to Slavery!*

## Meeting with the Secretary of the Synod of Bishops



Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri received Maria Giovanna Ruggeri, President General, Fr. Gerard

Whelan, SJ, Ecclesiastical Assistant and María Lía Zervino, Secretary General of WUCWO on September 25. They handed him the results of the survey carried out in preparation for the 2018 Synod on Youth. The provided summary was prepared by our Vice President General, Maribeth Stewart, with the answers of our organisations. The Cardinal was also given a document including good practices and the work done on Facebook to arouse the interest of the young for the Synod. He welcomed all this and invited WUCWO to be part of the young people who are collaborating with the website and the social networks managed by his Secretariat. [Visit the Facebook page of the Synod.](#)

## WUCWO's Facebook Page

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for 'Synod on Youth and WUCWO'. The cover photo features Pope Francis and a group of young people. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with options like Home, Posts, Reviews, Videos, Photos, About, Community, and Poll. The main content area shows a post from 'Synod on Youth and WUCWO' dated 20 October at 17:29, with the text 'The Catholic Church exhorts her sons and daughters, that through'. The right sidebar displays the page's category as 'Non-governmental organisation (NGO)', its responsiveness to messages, and community statistics such as '87 people like this' and '91 people follow this'.

WUCWO started its own Facebook page in its three active languages, English, French and Spanish. This page intends to link the Synod with the Youth and with WUCWO's resolutions. It seeks to interest the young people of our member organisations and of others in the Pope's convocation for next year; particularly, it wants to invite them to the pre-synodal meeting that the Holy Father has launched for March 2018 in Rome in order to listen to the young people of

the world. At the same time, our Facebook page is a way to make WUCWO known to the younger generations. [Visit our Facebook page.](#)

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## **Meeting at the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life**

The new head of the Women's Sector at the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life received the President of WUCWO. She acknowledged and thanked the work for the promotion of women that we are doing in different parts of the world. She was invited to speak on women's contribution to the Church and society according to the vision of the Dicastery at the WUCWO's Board meeting in Rome next November. [Visit the website of the Dicastery.](#)



## **Meeting at the Commission for Communication of the Holy See**

Nataša Govekar, head of the Theological-Pastoral Direction in the Secretariat for Communication of the Holy See, received the President and the Secretary of WUCWO. She informed them about the kind of communication the Holy Father desires for the Church. On the other hand, they invited her to participate as a panelist in a session of the WUCWO's Board meeting, to speak about the inward and outward communication of an organisation like WUCWO.

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## Conference in Guatemala



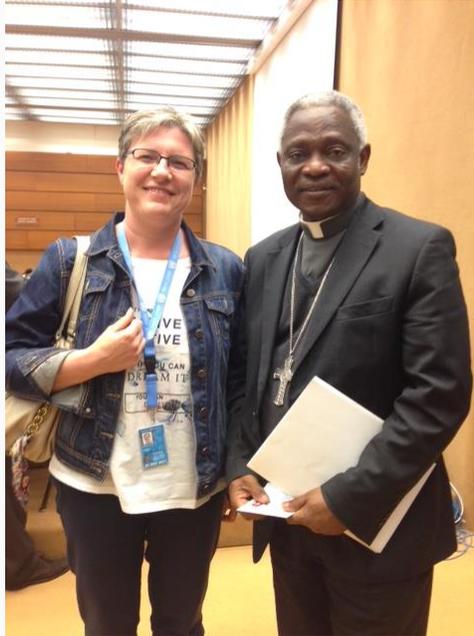
WUCWO's organisations are to hold the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Guatemala from 26 to 29 October. There has been a great deal of preparatory work by the Board members, led by the Vice-President of the Region together with the Asociación of Damas Católicas of Guatemala. This conference was also announced through Vatican Radio, and the President and the Secretary met with the Consul and First Secretary of the Embassy of Guatemala to the Holy See, Adelina Viteri de Bruno, who enthusiastically welcomed this Conference.

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## Right to drinking water

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## and sanitary services



Daniela Castella, our international representative, participated on behalf of WUCWO in the side event organised by the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the UN in Geneva on this subject, whose key conference was given by Cardinal Peter Turkson. At the grassroots level, several of our organisations are working for this right, addressed in one of WUCWO's resolutions for the period 2014-2018. A new drinking water well is being built in a rural school in one of the poorest areas of Argentina, where Misiones Rurales Argentinas carries out its actions, with funds collected in various regions of the world, which will allow children and teachers to quench their thirst, have dignified sanitary services, wash their utensils and irrigate their vegetable garden.

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**Catholic Women's League of Filipinas**

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On sept 1, 2017, at 4:30am in Burnhan Green, Manila, the Catholics of Philippines attended the official opening of the season of creation with a Mass and a walk around the park. During Mass, air and water were symbolically offered.

*Let the earth bless the Lord; let it sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever!*

## Action Catholique des Femmes, France: “THEY ARE WOMEN AND THEY ARE ALONE”

action catholique  
des femmes

EXPOSITION PHOTOS

« ELLES  
ET  
SEULES »

SOLITUDE  
DES  
FEMMES

PARLONS-EN !

Even though media are now more important than ever, in France many people are affected by different forms of loneliness, which can cause pain and distress. Five million people are isolated; they were four million in 2010. This affects all ages and social situations. The Action Catholique des Femmes has launched the project of a photographic exhibition to warn about this difficult reality. It wants to be the spokesperson for those who experience loneliness, which can often disrupt their lives.

## Celebration of the WUCWO Day in Australia



Last May, different branches of the Catholic Women's League of Australia celebrated the 2017 WUCWO Day, whose title was "Suffering women in the world". Both in Queensland and New South Wales events, a message from WUCWO General President, Maria Giovanna Ruggieri, was read. The CWL Queensland celebrated it with Masses and liturgies in all areas of Queensland and a collection of money that was later sent to the Archdiocese. The CWL New South Wales offered Masses in many places, sometimes using the Liturgy by the Latin America and Caribbean Region. Some of the themes addressed were maternal health and well-being of women, prevention of abuse, promotion of dignity and equal rights, and social justice. A generous donation was forwarded to the CWLA National Treasurer.

## **Annual Convention of the Catholic Women's League of Canada**



The Catholic Women's League of Canada celebrated in Charlottetown, August 6 – 9<sup>th</sup>, its 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. From the opening Mass to the closing gala banquet, over 900 members from across Canada gathered in prayer, in social activities, and in plenary sessions. A number of speakers were featured throughout the days, reports were presented, and resolutions were accepted. Delegates at the convention were joined online by members across the country to gather information to help formulate a strategy to take the League into the next century.

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## **Visits to our office in Rome**

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Women of several WUCWO member organisation from Senegal working with our Secretary General, María Lía Zervino, in the meeting room in Via della Conciliazione 1, in Rome.



The Secretariat was glad to receive the visit of our Vice President for Asia-Pacific, Catherine McGrath, during her pilgrimage to Rome.

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