



BEING ARTISANS OF HOPE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Newsletter of Sacred Heart at the UN

SPECIAL EDITION

Civil Society Appeal
at the UN

PAGE 1

Being Artisans of Hope

PAGE 2

Resources

PAGE 3

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Greetings from Sacred Heart at the UN

SHEILA SMITH, RSCJ
UN-NGO REPRESENTATIVE
SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART

Dear Members of the Society of the Sacred Heart, Associates and Partners in Mission: Greetings and prayers for your safety and well-being in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. On page 2 are some initial actions that we can take as one body. If you have other suggestions, please send them to: un-ngo@rscj.org.

Civil Society Appeal to UN

Through our UN-NGO Office, the Society of the Sacred Heart is supporting a civil society appeal asking UN Member States to hold a special meeting at the Financing for Development Forum in July 2020. We believe (and hope) that by July 2020 it will be possible to review the global response thus far to the COVID-19 emergency and assess what further social, economic and financial policy measures might be adopted at relevant United Nations and other international forums. The Society will be represented at this forum where we will collaborate with other members of civil society to give input. In order to contribute substantively, I will be in touch with the UN-NGO Liaison persons before July to gather information about recommendations from our provinces and countries.

However, July is far off. How can we be Artisans of Hope now? See page 2.



JANA PARKES, TRANSFORMATION OF THE HEART
WWW.JANAPARKESART.COM

BEING ARTISANS OF HOPE IN OUR BLESSED AND BROKEN WORLD.

*Our starting point is the Gospel with
all that it demands from us of love, forgiveness and
justice, and of solidarity with those who are poor and
rejected by the world, Constitution #7*

- 1) **Pray** together for those affected around the world, especially the most vulnerable and their families, all those working in essential services, and decision makers.
- 2) **Visit** RSCJ International to get updates about our provinces and countries: <https://rscjinternational.org/news/covid-19-pandemic-updates-our-provinces-and-countries>.
- 3) **Be informed** about the impact of COVID-19 around the world. One tracker: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/685d0ace521648f8a5beeeee1b9125cd>
- 4) **PETITIONS:** for healthcare, financial help, and debt relief. **Sign this petition** to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to protect the vulnerable https://www.jubileeusa.org/aa_covid-19_imf_2020_petition (English, Spanish) and <https://jubileedebt.org.uk/a-debt-jubilee-to-tackle-the-covid-19-health-and-economic-crisis> (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese).
- 5) **SUPPORT the EASING OF SANCTIONS: ***Attention all JPIC and UN-NGO Liaison Persons in sanctioning countries** please find out which local group(s) that your province or country can support to help ease sanctions that hinder access to basic needs in countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, North Korea, and Zimbabwe. The UN Secretary General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have pleaded for an easing of sanctions for these and all countries that are struggling to meet basic human needs. See a link to their letters in the Resource section on page 3. These top UN officials did not directly point to which countries to petition. JPIC and UN-NGO Liaison Persons can contact the UN-NGO Representative at un-ngo@rscj.org for more information.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

[HTTPS://WWW.WHO.INT/EMERGENCIES/DISEASES/NOVEL-CORONAVIRUS-2019](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)



WHATSAPP HEALTH ALERT
ARABIC, ENGLISH, FRENCH, ITALIAN
SPANISH

[HTTPS://WWW.WHO.INT/NEWS-ROOM/FEATURE-STORIES/DETAIL/WHO-HEALTH-ALERT-BRINGS-COVID-19-FACTS-TO-BILLIONS-VIA-WHATSAPP](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/who-health-alert-brings-covid-19-facts-to-billions-via-whatsapp)

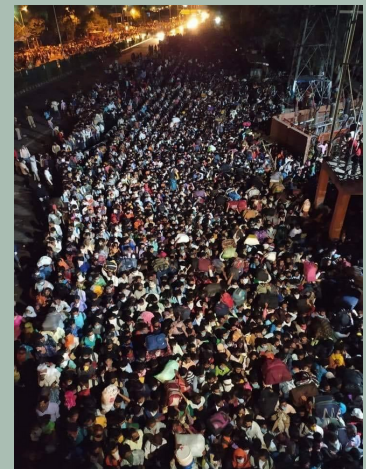


Photo Credit: the WIRE.in, Published in Matters India_ migrants stranded.

MIGRANTS WALK TO THEIR VILLAGE NATION WIDE AMID COMPLETE LOCKDOWN TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS IN GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH INDIA THURSDAY MARCH 26, 2020.
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY RITA PINTO, RSCJ (IND)



PHOTO CREDIT: BETHANIE SULLEZA, RSCJ (PHI)

SAINT MADELEINE SOPHIE FOUNDATION IN MONTALABAN, PHILIPPINES PREPARES 100 5-KG RICE PACKS FOR FAMILIES DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY. SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS VERY MINIMAL. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MOTHER HOUSE WE CAN GIVE OUT 4 MORE BATCHES OF RICE PACKS EVERY 2 WEEKS.

Covid-19

Photo credit: <https://pixabay.com/>

Resources from the UN

CORONAVIRUS COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

[HTTPS://WWW.UN.ORG/EN/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus)

Statements

Secretary General António Guterres pleads for UN States to address three critical areas:

- 1) Act with coordination and cooperation to suppress the virus
- 2) Minimize the social and economic impact of COVID-19 for everyone and stimulate a faster recovery everywhere
- 3) Reaffirm our common responsibility to “recover better”, with more inclusive and sustainable models of development

Full text:

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/230320_sg_letter_g20_covid-19.pdf

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet calls for easing of sanctions. Full text: <https://ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25744&LangID=E>