

CONFERENCE *of* RELIGIOUS

England & Wales

MEMBERS UPDATE APRIL

2018 - APRIL 2019

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EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Father Paul Smyth CMF

VICE PRESIDENT: Sister Jane Maltby RSCJ

Sister Frances Orchard CJ

Sister Philomena Bowers RSM

Sister Bernadette Boland IBVM

Father Kenneth Okoli CSSP

Father Terry Madden M. Afr

Father Robert Marsh OSA

**Sr Sue Berry CSF, Associate Member
Anglican Representative**

**(During the Course of the Year Sister Mary Mangan & Father Martin
Shipperlee resigned from the Executive).**

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MEMBERS UPDATE
APRIL 2018 –APRIL 2019

Restructuring of COR

The Executive, in accordance with the review of the strategic plan, set up a sub-committee to facilitate a review of the structure of the COR Secretariat. It was assisted in this review by an external consultant from Employment Matters (Mrs Susan Thomas). The Executive set out the criteria and rationale for the changes that were being considered.

As the restructuring was taking place, the General Secretary resigned (Br James Boner OFM Cap); he had been elected the previous year as Provincial of his congregation. As consequence of the restructuring, two of the staff members, Mrs Catherine Langridge and Mr Raymond Wilson were made redundant. The Executive is very grateful for the outstanding service that Br James Boner, Mrs Catherine Langridge and Mr Raymond Wilson have given to COR Executive and membership over many years.

As part of the vision for COR, a new role of Communications and Development Lead was created and Bernadette Kehoe was appointed in May 2018, tasked with leading communication and facilitating the voice of Religious in our society. An Administration Coordinator, Ravina Saluja was appointed in June and lastly the new General Secretary, Valerie Nazareth, took up her post in December 2018, completing the restructure of the Conference.

The Secretariat, in particular our Admin Coordinator has been updating procedures in the office in an effort to improve efficiency.

ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Safeguarding continues to be an important topic. New Terms of Reference have been agreed for the Safeguarding group who have also changed their name from the EASG (Executive Advisory Safeguarding Group) to CORSC (COR Safeguarding Committee) in recognition of their delegated powers. A report from this important committee as well as the new Terms of Reference are included with this Update.

Independent Inquiry into Child Abuse (IICSA)

The impact of this far reaching Inquiry into child sexual abuse is seen as an important milestone in the life of this country. The Executive, in recognition of the importance of this Inquiry, sought to engage proactively with the Inquiry team in collaboration with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW), via the Catholic Council to the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (CC-IICSA. The Council is chaired by Baroness Nuala O'Loan, and is principally comprised of members of Religious Congregations and the CBCEW. During the year, Religious were represented on the Catholic Council by our General Secretary (first by Br James Boner OFM Cap and subsequently by Valerie Nazareth), Sister Lyndsay Spendelow RSM and Sr Helen Costigan.

The aim of this Council is to co-ordinate the Church's work with the Inquiry, to facilitate and to ensure full and proper responses to the Inquiry by the different organisations within the Church. The Executive has prioritised responding to the Inquiry's requests and are kept informed of the progress of the Inquiry and its impact on religious congregations. The General Secretary, on behalf of the Executive, has attended the sessions pertinent to religious congregations.

On 8 August 2017, as members will be aware, the Executive received a Rule 9 Letter and complied via a Witness Statement from the President. On 29th January 2019 the Executive received a further Rule Letter, which required information to be sought from all member congregations as well as congregations who are not members of CoR. This necessitated a very large information gathering process from over 300 congregations and the preparation of a further Witness Statement. This work has been enormously time consuming and could not have been done without the assistance of Sr Monica Matthews SHJC and a representative from the safeguarding team of one of COR's members. Some congregations did not respond to requests for the information within the time agreed with the Inquiry, but work to contact these congregations continues.

The work is being done prior to a 2-week hearing into the Catholic Church starting in late October this year. It is anticipated that there may be considerably more to be done in preparation for the Inquiry hearings and the Executive and General Secretary will continue to prioritise this work, which has, so far, been very time consuming.

Mixed Commission

The Mixed Commission is made up of five members from the CBCEW and five members from COR, ABC (Association of British Contemplatives) and UMS (Union of Monastic Superiors). They meet together with the general secretaries from both Conferences, managing the administrative aspects of the meetings. This enables co-ordinated discussion on significant matters within the Church, between the Religious and the bishops in England and Wales.

In its meetings, it has discussed issues of common concern, including:

- Vicars for Religious;
- Consecrated virgins;
- Points based migration;
- Pastoral support service (NCSC);
- CC-IICSA;
- Protocol for Religious entering England and Wales;
- National Office of Vocations; and
- The Ad Limina Visit.

Communications

Our Communications and Development Lead has revamped our website and refreshed the CORrespondent. Much of the work of religious congregations is largely unknown and under-reported in the press, both Catholic and secular.

Every week or two there are fresh and interesting articles about different aspects of Religious life on our website. For example, at the start of Holy week 2019 we featured an article written by Martina Purdy, a contemplative nun who was formerly the BBC's political correspondent in Northern Ireland, comparing her former and current life. The website also featured an article by Bernadette about the lives a group of sisters are living as part of the community on the 13th floor of a tower block in Hackney. A number of these articles have been placed in or picked up by the Catholic press and even the secular press. In this way, CoR is working to achieve a key desire expressed by many Religious i.e. to help to rebalance the negative press that the church receives by showing something of the breadth of the work being done by Religious and highlighting good news stories.



Bernadette has also been busy with media training, providing training in a broad range of media related activities to 70 people since January including two in Manchester .

An evaluation question - Have you learned new things? evoked the following replies:

- “Yes – how social media can be used effectively, to spread the word of God in an interesting and more engaging way. Also, the Church’s recognition that there is a necessity to move with the times and embrace the digital world.”
- “Yes, the use of media as a way of hearing of the love of God – to reach the end of the world.”
- “Yes, not to feel so scared of the thought of using Twitter & Instagram.”
- “Yes, understanding Twitter. How to make ourselves, as Religious, more visible.”

Immigration

The CoR Office continues to be an official verifier in relation to establishing that applicants for Sponsorship are bona fide Roman Catholic congregations of Religious and the General Secretary provides letters that can be sent to the Home Office concerning this. Given that many Congregations invite Religious from other countries to participate in their ministerial outreach, we recognise the importance of visa applications and sponsorship to many communities. We organised a well-received seminar in April 2019 and are planning to hold a similar event out of London later this year.

The Annual General Meeting 21-23 May 2018

The last AGM focused on leadership and its changing face in religious congregations, and its social impact in this country and abroad. Sister Pat Murray IBVM facilitated this using the theme “Wineskins – Old and New: The Creative Faithfulness of Consecrated Life.” The feedback from the meeting demonstrated how much Sr Pat’s input was appreciated by all those who attended. This resulted in the Executive’s decision to invite Sr Pat to the Annual General Meeting in 2019 to develop the themes and the work begun in 2018.

The General Meeting 2 November 2018

This well attended meeting was held at Notre Dame University, in Central London where Dr Ruth Patterson

presented on the theme of 'The Best is Yet to Be'. The meeting also provided the opportunity for the new Secretariat team to be introduced to the membership.

Modern Day Slavery

CoR collaborated with the Arise Foundation to prepare a report on the work of Religious in combatting trafficking in the UK. The report, called Threads of Solidarity was launched in November. Some of its key findings were:

- 172 Religious were working against slavery representing 643.5 years of service
- The value of properties offered for use by Religious amounted to £16,457,340
- £10,283,347 was donated to this cause by Religious in the past 5 years



To follow up this work we held two meetings, in January one in London and one in Manchester to identify what Religious wanted to do in this area and how CoR could assist their collaboration. Together the meetings attracted over 100 people. As a result of the suggestions made, we have conducted a survey about skills that Religious have, for example foreign language skills, that they want to use to assist trafficking victims.



We are now trying to build connections with service providers so that we can put together those Religious who wish to help, with those in need of help, and are exploring how this might work.

Looking Ahead

A major aim of the Conference is to help Religious face their challenges together, through development of collaborative and networking initiatives, providing strength and support through unity. Anti-trafficking is area in which we are doing this, the next issue we will be pursuing is health and care for the elderly and we hope to develop others during the year ahead for example in the area of initial formation. A meeting about how older religious can work with younger people is also being planned for later in the year. Over the next year we also aim to make the office more efficient.

April 2019

Annual report 2018-2019



Sr Elaine Penrice
Religious Life Promoter



The European Vocations Service is a federation of the national vocation services of European countries under the auspices of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences. The meeting this year was held in Albania and attended by Fr Christopher Thomas (General Secretary to the Bishops Conference) and Sr Elaine (Religious Life Promoter, National Office for Vocation). This meeting is an important opportunity for collaboration at the European level, as well as providing the National Offices for Vocation an understanding of the trends in vocations ministry at an international level.

One of the most stand-out statements of the meeting, was when Fr Amadeo Cencini gave a feedback report after having read the Bishops' Conference reports from all over the world, he said that there is not a crisis in vocations, but the kind of vocations are changing. Vocations seem to be increasing in the new religious communities and secular institutes.

Synod on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment

One of the most important themes of 2018 was the Church's focus on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment. The National Office for Vocation (NOV), helped prepare the Bishops' Conference response to the preparatory document, and was highly commended on its thoroughness at the EVS meeting in Albania. Work continued throughout the year to prepare Young People, Bishops and the wider Church for the Synod which was held in October. The effect of the synod has

created a lot of renewed interest in serving young people in our various areas of ministry and provided a well-researched basis on which to plan vocations ministry for the coming years. The Papal

Exhortation “*Christus Vivit*” published on the 2nd of April 2019 should be read in the light of planning our ongoing ministry with young people.

Vocations Guide Course 2018

NOV held another two-part Vocations Guide Course in the spring / summer of 2019. The course prepares priests, religious and lay people to help discerners understand where the Lord is speaking in their lives. NOV does seem to have a number of guides who we have trained and who are available to support discerners free of charge, but we would like to expand this resource evermore. We have not planned a course for 2019 since it had been so difficult to find people to attend the course in 2018. However, despite having trained 99 people, we still find it difficult to find guides in certain areas. We hope that we will be able to recommence this course in the near future, especially after the exhortation from many young people for the Church to provide guides to support them in their Christian lives.

Called Beyond

The Called Beyond vocations week project had its first official training day in June 2018, for the diocese of Arundel and Brighton. The Called Beyond project has been on hold for the time being, due to lack of personnel in the office, however we have had a very promising conversation with the office for marriage and family life, who intend to have a vocations year... we are working together and perhaps we will be able to breathe new life into this project in the near future.

Adoremus

The National Office for Vocation participated in 3 separate events at the National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool this year:

- **At the main event** at the Echo arena we held a stall in the exhibition where we distributed vocational information and prayer cards to many catechists and teachers who were eager to bring material to their schools and parishes to promote vocation; and a vocation café where people were offered a private space, a cup of coffee and a volunteer spiritual guide to talk things over regarding vocation.
- **At the Youth event**, we also held a stand in the exhibition area, providing vocation material to visitors.
- **Living Joyfully Adoremus fringe event**, with a 2-day rolling program of workshops, presentations and displays with free hospitality at St Patrick’s Church in Toxteth. All our events promoted both vocations to the religious life and priesthood, as well as general vocational material to anybody who might be considering their vocation to the diaconate, married life or single discipleship

National Religious Vocations Personnel Conference

The annual National Religious Vocations Personnel Conference took place on Saturday 3rd

November at Our Lady of Victories Parish Church Hall in Kensington, London. This is a popular event for vocations directors to network, plan and learn from each other as well as being a welcome support base for people working in this ministry.

This year Fr. Richard Reid CSSR was our main speaker, on the topic of 'Vocations Promotion and Accompanying Discerners'. In the afternoon there were two sessions; one on using social media in vocation ministry by Sr Silvana Dallanegra RSCJ, and the boundaries in vocation ministry by Sr Lynne Baron FCJ. We also invited five people who are relatively new in religious life to give us a few minutes on what it's like entering today.

World Youth Day Panama

Sr Elaine and Bishop Terrance Drainey (NOV + Middlesbrough) had a very positive experience at World Youth Day. It was a smaller WYD, but they had an enormous welcome from Panama. About 200 pilgrims from England and Wales went and 4 bishops. Sr Elaine went with Fr John McGowan OCD and Teresa Carvalho (National Coordinator). There were reports of almost 700,000 people at the final mass... which is quite something for a country where previous to this, the largest gathering they have ever had was 20,000.

The next WYD will be held in the Summer of 2022 in Lisbon. We would encourage all religious communities to plan ahead and participate in this wonderful opportunity to support and accompany young people.



Flame



NOV were present with a stand at this important youth event, and priests and religious helped to help raise awareness of Vocation and the work of the National Office for Vocation in supporting young people in their discernment.

God is Young



Members of religious congregations from all over the UK came together in March for a conference in Liverpool which was inspired by Pope Francis and the book of an interview with him, "God is Young."

One hundred participants came from Scotland, Ireland and England & Wales in a collaborative gathering, with the conference being the first time the offices of vocation in the respective countries had organised such an event. It was a great success!

Centre for Catholic Studies
Report for the Conference of Religious in England and Wales, April 2019

2018 was a significant year for the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS), during which we celebrated our 10th anniversary: a decade of research, teaching, and outreach focused on Catholic theology and Catholic studies in the pluralist, public academy of Durham University's Department of Theology and Religion. During these early years of operation we have developed a strong national and international profile and, with the generous support of our partner-bodies and friends, and the dedication of our staff, we have grown to a point of initial relative stability, with two endowed posts. It is significant that this development somewhat swims against the general tide of things, with five major UK tertiary providers of Catholic theology having closed during this same period.

This against-the-trend character of the CCS story needs to be taken very seriously. As the UK Catholic institutional ecology has been undergoing severe stress and shrinkage, the CCS has been planted and has grown in strength. This, I suggest, is no coincidence. The CCS represents the opportunity to plant Catholic theology and Catholic studies in a high-profile, mainstream, and stable international institution in a manner that is also far cheaper than any Catholic-owned and controlled institution given that no physical space needs be paid for and maintained, only posts and projects funded. Amidst times of significant change and challenge, such opportunities need to be spotted and supported for we are called not only to manage well the closing of one period of Catholic mission but also to discern and develop the new that is opening. This requires imagination, initiative, and investment. It is, I believe, incumbent upon us to match this moment of challenge and subtle opportunity with generous commitment. I do not say this lightly and have been thinking and praying about this for some years.

My conviction is that the responsibility and opportunity which falls to us in the shape of the CCS is not simply to support some good things for a season or two, or for a decade or two, but to plant and secure a body which is agile and stable enough to survive and do its work trans-generationally, for a decade of decades and more. We are again, I think, being given the opportunity to plant an effective carrier for Catholic theological and intellectual tradition in a time of challenge and fit for a new phase of Catholic mission in these isles. We need to harness the tide whilst it is in our favour, secure its energy for the future, so it can be an effective carrier of charism and mission when many of our existing institutions and organisations will have passed.

As such our commitment within the CCS is to continue working together in established partnerships and in new relationships, to ensure that the secure foundation of the first ten years can become, for future generations, a stable institutional home for UK Catholic theology in the mainstream of the UK public academy, which can bear fruit for the academy, for ecclesial life locally, nationally and internationally, and for the many scholars who come to work and study with us. Religious congregations have played a crucial role in all of this and we very much hope that that can be continued and extended.

Achievements and Developments over the past 12 months

- We are grateful to COREW for supporting our 10th anniversary conference, *Catholic Theology in the Public Academy: Searching the Questions, Sounding the Depths*, held in Durham in April 2018. The conference was attended by over 180 people, including representatives from our partner
- institutions and donors, many of our long-term supporters, current CCS staff and students, and staff and student alumni.
- In addition to the regular Catholic Theology Research Seminar, the Ushaw Lecture Series and the annual Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture, 2018 marked the inaugural Teilhard Seminar, supported by the Teilhard Association of GB.
- The CCS welcomed three new members of staff: Dr Carmody Grey as Assistant Professor of Catholic Theology, a University-funded post; Dr Gregory Ryan, former CCS PhD student, as Assistant Professor (Research) in Receptive Ecumenism and Ecclesiology, a Porticus-funded post; and Dr Elizabeth Rose Powell as the La Retraite Assistant Professor (Research) in Theology and Spirituality, funded by the Sisters of La Retraite.
- Following on from the ground breaking research colloquium *Boundary Breaking* in January 2015, the CCS has now begun a research project exploring the ecclesial-cultural and ecclesiological implications of the clerical abuse crisis, funded by a grant award through Porticus. Dr Marcus Pound, former CCS Deputy Director, will take the lead on this project assisted by a full-time postdoctoral research assistant.
- Through the generous donations from the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, the Congregation of Jesus, the Institute of Education, the Capuchin Franciscans, and individual donors, the CCS continues to support postgraduate students with scholarships and bursaries. 15 students are in receipt of funding for 2018-19. The texts of presentations from this year's CCS scholarship and bursary holders are available on our website at <https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/ccs/friendsbenefactors/stud.schol.endowment/>

Forthcoming Events to Highlight

In addition to the various regular seminars and lecture, the CCS has six forthcoming conferences:

- 1) *Annual Early Career Conference in Catholic Theology and Catholic Studies*, 12 June 2019, organised in partnership with The Newman Association.
- 2) *Catholicism, Literature, and the Arts II: Legacies and Revivals*, 8-10 July 2019, organised in strong and generous partnership with the University of Notre Dame;
- 3) A launch conference for the Durham Residential Research Library, in which the CCS is heavily involved, *Libraries, Learning and Religious Identities: Britain, Ireland and the European Context, c. 1100-c. 1900*, 10-13 September 2019;
- 4) A multi-disciplinary 450th anniversary conference for the 1569 Northern Uprising, co-organised with the Centre for Anglican Studies, *From Rebellion to Reconciliation: Anglican-Catholic Relations from 1569 to the Present – Regional, National, and International Perspectives*, 17-19 September 2019;
- 5) Two dissemination symposia for the Hilton-funded Religious Life Vitality Project taking place in the autumn, one in Rome 3 & 4 October, the second in London 24 & 25 October;
- 6) 5–7 November, in partnership with the Capuchins of GB and other Franciscan congregations the CCS is hosting *The Franciscan Legacy from the 13th Century to the 21st*.

Full details of all CCS conferences and events can be found at

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/ccs/events/> or by contacting ccs.admin@durham.ac.uk

The Future

The central priority for the CCS now is to complement the existing endowments for the Bede Chair and the St Hilda Chair by raising a £5 million-plus core endowment to fund the CCS administrative and directorial offices and associated running costs into the future in a long-term sustainable fashion.

A new account fulfilling sound ethical investment requirements has been established for this purpose alongside the Bede endowment. I am delighted to say that with a 10% foundation-stone commitment of £500,000 through the University, combined with a commitment of £100,000 from the Sisters of La

Retraite, and £200,000 accrued other donations over the past 10 years, this fund already stands at £800,000, just £200,000 short of the first million, which in turn will represent a 20% achievement of our initial target. We are immensely grateful for our many partnerships, existing and prospective, which are making this possible. I invite you to join with us – as ambassadors, as supporters, as partners, as donors – to secure the CCS for the future of Catholic mission in these isles.

Prof Paul D. Murray
CCS Dean-Director
2nd April 2019



UNION OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCES OF MAJOR SUPERIORS

UCESM, a Church association of Canonical Right and also an International Non-Profit-Making Association of Belgian Right (AISBL), is a union at the service of Religious Life in Europe. For the time being (March 2019), UCESM gathers 38 national Conferences of 28 European countries for a total of about 220.000 religious.

ACTIVITIES IN 2018

Meetings at which members of the Executive Committee / members of the General Secretariat took part

All activities in which the Executive Committee and/or the General Secretariat participated can be found on our completely renewed and expanded website: www.ucesm.net.

The most important event in 2018 was of course our **18th General Meeting** which was held in the Monastery of the Carmelites of Snagov, Ciofliceni, Romania, from 5 to 10 March 2018. Some 90 participants from 34 Conferences of 27 countries, as well as representatives of UISG, USG and CCEE, gathered under the theme “Widen the space of your tent” (Isaiah 54:2).

The theme was about migration and religious life and challenged the participants on their liability in the issue of the refugees, but also on the internationalization of religious institutes, new evangelization and the cooperation between them and with the bishops. The speakers addressed the theme from different perspectives.

As the days went by, it appeared that our tents inside are obviously larger than they seem to be from the outside. The richness of religious life in Europe revealed itself by its opening to different cultures, each one with its own directions.

The Assembly was organized on site by the two Conferences of Romania (men and women).

Leaders of the Romanian Church came to celebrate or concelebrate the Eucharists, and we could enjoy a wonderful afternoon in Bucharest.

On the last day the election of the new president took place. The Piarist Father Zsolt Labancz (43), President of the Hungarian Conference, will bring the mandate of Fr. Giovanni Peragine, who was

appointed Bishop in Southern Albania in June 2017, to an end. Sr. Danièle Faltz (dcn) of Luxembourg remains Vice-President. Sr. Hedvig Deák op, Councillor, and Fr. Nikolay Dubinin ofm conv, Councillor, remain within the Executive Committee. There will be new elections in 2020. The final message addresses all men and women religious in Europe and wishes to convey encouragement and inspiration to better face the issues of migrants and refugees.



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From 27 January to 1 February 2018 Sr. Marjolein was present at the **general meeting of the VFÖ & SKÖ** in Vöcklabruck/Austria and enjoyed Austrian hospitality.

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On 4 May 2018 Sr. Marjolein was present at a historic day: four Ukrainian Conferences (of which 2: CORU [Roman-Catholic Women Religious] and UGCC [Greek-Catholic Women Religious] are members of UCESM) united in an association, presenting their declaration of collaboration. The objective of the "**Association of Consecrated Life in Ukraine**" is to show that it has opened up to unite. This declaration has been worked hard and after several amendments it is consolidated by those present. With unanimous voices the following were elected as secretary: Father Roman Lagish and as his deputy: Sr. Anna Zainchkovska. A description of the tasks is prepared for them. This declaration had a probationary period of 6 months.

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To prepare for the next General Assembly (2020), Sr. Marjolein and Nicole went to **Roggenburg** (South Germany) on 27/28 May 2018 to already make many concrete appointments.

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Sr. Marjolein & Nicole participated in a **study day**, organized by **COMECE**, on 6 June 2018, which was about the concretization of Laudato Si in religious life.

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From 10 to 13 June 2018 Sr. Marjolein attended the **general meeting of the DOK** (German Conference) in Vallendar.

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From 15 to 18 June 2018 the **Executive Committee met** in the beautiful Maronite convent in Bois-Seigneur-Isaac (B) near Brussels.

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In Kőszeg (Hungary), from 12 to 17 July 2018, Sr. Marjolein participated in the study days of the European Dominican nuns, giving a **workshop** with the theme: **human trafficking**.

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In the spiritual centre of La Pairelle (B), the group "**Passion for Europe**" (a group of Catholic Christians of seven nationalities who are enthusiastic about the European project and look forward to the future with hope), consisting of more than 60 people, came from 21 to 23 September 2018 together with Sr. Marjolein. The group, together with the Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC), organized a three-day meeting entitled "Rediscovering the European common good" to examine, discuss and influence the past, present and future of Europe. Working groups and sessions focused on migration, the environment and culture.

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On 24 September 2018, Sr. Marjolein, with 400 members of Catholic and reformed religious orders and of new movements, took part at the KOVOSS'CORISS **Swiss Day of religious «With You»** in Baar (CH), with Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of CICLSAL.

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On 26-27 September 2018, Fr. Zsolt and Sr. Marjolein were in the Catholic Academy in Berlin to attend the **22nd International Congress of Renovabis** under the title "Remembrance and awakening - ways to reconciliation in Europe". During the days it was about remembering, understanding and reconciling, because Europe is currently experiencing a series of crises that are intertwined and mutually reinforcing. Some 260 experts from 26 countries took part. Intensive and lively discussions and encounters took place.

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1 October 2018 was an important date: **Nicole has been working for us for 20 years!** We are more than grateful for everything she has done and still does for UCESM, which without her would not be the same!

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From 12 to 14 October 2018, in Kőszeg and Szombathely there was **the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Margaret of Hungary in Hungary**, of whom our Executive Committee member, Sr. Hedvig Déak, is the superior general. As she herself is a Dominican, it was logical that Sr. Marjolein participated from UCESM. Apart from the beautiful celebrations, she enjoyed the presence of many young nuns.

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On 4-6 November 2018 Sr. Marjolein participated in Erfurt/Germany in a **DOK-workshop** on the themes of congregations that have missions, but of which the sisters in the mother house are growing old.

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On 8 November 2018 Sr. Marjolein was present at the **General Assembly of the Dutch KNR**.

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On 20 November 2018, the Executive Committee of UCESM travelled to Rome, together with the General Secretariat, to pay a **visit to CICLSAL (Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life**

**and Societies of Apostolic Life).** The aim of this visit was to get acquainted and to speak about various present-day topics.

Fr. Zsolt Labancz, President, Sr. Danièle Faltz, Vice-President, Fr. Nicolay Dubinin, Councillor, and Sr. Marjolein Bruinen, Secretary General, had a lively and profound talk with His Eminence, and His Excellency Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, Secretary of CICLSAL.

The Committee also had the opportunity to meet the head of the 1st office of the Dicastery, Dottoressa Daniela Leggio, and her assistant since one month, Sr. Mercedes Leticia Casas Sánchez, former President of CLAR. The conversation they had together was enriching and crucial.

In the afternoon they **visited UISG**. In the conversation we mutually enriched us and that opened perspectives for a good collaboration.

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Being already in Rome for the meetings with CICLSAL and UISG, on 19 November 2018 the **Executive Committee met** in the house of the Piarist Fathers, Piazza de' Massimi, in Rome.

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From 25 to 28 November 2018 Sr. Marjolein attended the **general meeting of the VFÖ/SKÖ** in Vienna, where it was decided to continue to take steps to merge as one Conference.

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On 14 December 2018 Sr. Marjolein was present at the **informal meeting of COMECE**, where old relations were renewed and new ones founded.

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During the year there were **8 Skype meetings**, either between Fr. Zsolt, Sr. Marjolein and Nicole, or with other people.

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Sr. Marjolein also participated in **various webinars** (UISG, COMECE, Talitha Kum and the Forum of Catholic-inspired Institutes).

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A central part of CARJ's activity continues to be its work with **Schools, Families & Young People in marginalised communities**. We currently have two Associates working part-time with young people in schools – building self-confidence and self-esteem and raising awareness. We also continue to encourage reflection and action on 'educational inequality' as developed in our Report – *Stepping Stones to a More Equal Society: a review of selected educational initiatives to support young people, schools and families in marginalised communities* (CARJ 2014)

During the year we have continued to organise a **Traveller Support Network** for Catholics and others working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities. The core of this Network are religious sisters who are working as chaplains to GRT communities in their local dioceses, in prisons and in other contexts. We have taken a particular interest in schools with a high percentage of Traveller pupils – like Crays Hill School in Essex. The Head of Crays Hill School addressed one of our Network meetings this year, and a delegation from CARJ visited Crays Hill in December.

We have continued to hold regular meetings of our **Urban Network** – a mutual support network including 125 members - priests, religious, laity and others - who are committed to the well-being of poor urban communities. This Network meets regularly and shares information and experience by email. Most recently, a meeting of the Network on 19 January featured speakers addressing economic justice (IPPR), migration (Praxis) and how we measure minimum incomes and affordable Housing (Taxpayers Against Poverty).

CARJ works with a number of Catholic, Ecumenical and secular networks, including:

- Citizens UK
- The Christian Network Against Caste Discrimination (CNACD)
- Voice of Dalit International
- The Churches Network for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma (CNGTR)
- Catholic Social Action Network (CSAN)
- National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)
- The Runnymede Trust
- The Traveller Movement

During the year **CARJ published** *Equality & Community: a Review of Recent Papers and Reports* which summarises 19 Government and Research Reports dealing with issues of racial justice. We also published four Briefings - *Institutional Racism, Recent Deportations, Caste Discrimination and Anti-Semitism*.

In the coming year, CARJ will continue to develop all our key areas of work. We are planning to organise a **National Forum** in Birmingham on 16 October 2019 which will bring together groups from local dioceses to reflect on how the Church can support minority communities to feel they truly 'belong' in the UK.

Richard Zipfel  
Secretary to CARJ Trustees



UISG is the International Union of Superiors for women Religious. It was established in 1966, inspired by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council, to promote deeper collaboration between female congregations of Apostolic Religious Life. The USG is a separate Union for male Religious.

Plenary meetings take place in Rome every three years with an attendance of 850-950 women leaders. The Union is divided into a number of Constellations. The UK belongs to one of two Northern European Constellations. Other countries in our English-speaking Constellation are Norway, Ireland, the Netherlands and Malta. The Constellation meets once in the three year cycle. The UK Group has a membership of approximately 25 Congregational Leaders who currently meet three times a year to discuss issues of common interest and to provide mutual support for members. Meetings are usually held in March, July and October at St Philomena's Convent, Euston Square, London.

As a UK constellation we met three times during the past year. At one meeting we had a very helpful presentation on the preservation of archives and the work of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University which we had visited in 2017. Dr James Kelly and Tim Guinan were able to help a number of members with advice and we also learnt of initiatives for special celebratory publications. At our recent meeting we invited Valerie Nazareth the new General Secretary of COR and she updated us on the developments planned for members of COR in the coming months.

In May 2019 the majority of our members will be attending the three yearly UISG Plenary Session from 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> May at the Hotel Ergife in Rome. The theme is "Sowers of Prophetic Hope" and, together with the various webinars provided for us during the year, this will provide us with further information and challenges as we endeavour to respond to the encyclical of Pope Francis, Laudato Si.

I would strongly recommend that all Congregational Leaders join the UISG as it gives a very positive means of support and friendship as we endeavour to fulfil the role of Superior General. We are all busy people and cannot attend all meetings but we receive the Minutes and this helps us to stay in touch. If you are interested in joining please contact me by email on [fmsj@aol.com](mailto:fmsj@aol.com) or by telephone on 07740309051. We look forward to meeting you.

**Maureen Murphy, fmsj**

**UK Delegate**

## **CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

### **Report to the Conference of Religious Executive Committee May 2019**

#### **Background Information:**

In 2007 the Religious Safeguarding Commissions were set up and at the same time a Safeguarding Committee for the Conference of Religious. This was named the Executive Advisory Safeguarding Committee (EASG)

#### **Current position:**

Following discussion with members of the EASG, Executives of the Conference of Religious, The Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) we have revised the Terms of Reference for the Committee and changed EASG to The Conference of Religious Safeguarding Committee. A copy is attached with the Report for information for Members of CoR.

#### **Members of the Committee:**

Sr Philomena Mc Cluskey FMSJ, member of the National Catholic Safeguarding Committee (NCSC) until June 2019 .Safeguarding Lead for her Congregation.

Sr Clare Smith, RSM, Safeguarding Lead for her Congregation and Safeguarding Coordinator for the IOLM (Independent) Safeguarding Commission

Sr Frances Cullen, CSFN, Safeguarding Lead for her Congregation. Religious Representative on the Westminster Safeguarding Commission

Sr Anne Stewart SHCJ, Safeguarding Lead for her Congregation

Mrs Siobhan Fairclough, Administrator to the Safeguarding Lead for the Daughters of Charity.

Mrs Eileen Campling, Independent Safeguarding Consultant and Safeguarding Lead for 3 Orders/Societies

Sr Anne Stewart SHCJ and Mrs Siobhan Fairclough were appointed to the Committee in December 2018.

Sr Lyndsay Spendelow RSM, Vice Chair of the National Catholic Safeguarding Committee, was a member and Chair of the EASG and this Committee until March this year. We are very grateful to Sr Lyndsay for her commitment, advice, generosity, support and time spent on safeguarding matters and work in both roles.

Mrs Eileen Campling was appointed as Chair in March 2019 as a temporary arrangement until December 2019

Abbot Martin Shipperlee, CoR Executive, was a member of the group until January 2019. We look forward to welcoming Father Terry Madden of the Missionaries of Africa, CoR Executive, at our next meeting in June 2019

Mr Chris Pearson, Chair of the NCSC and Dr Colette Limbrick, Director of CSAS attends meetings at least once a year. Throughout the year consultation with both takes place on significant safeguarding matters.

## **Main Issues 2018/2019**

- 8 Network Groups for Religious Safeguarding Leads have been established to support them in their role; they meet with each other three or four times a year to share relevant information and to discuss specific issues relating to their responsibilities and the challenges of Religious Life today.  
3 groups are in the London area, 1 in Chigwell, Essex, 1 in Salford, 1 in Birmingham, 1 in Nottingham and 1 in York.
- A new Job description for Religious Safeguarding Leads was agreed in January 2019 following consultation with Religious, The Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the Conference of Religious.
- Feedback from the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission and the Diocesan and Religious Safeguarding Coordinators Meetings are standing items on the Agenda to ensure we are kept up to date with Safeguarding matters in the Church. This includes updates from the Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse(IICSA)
- Concerns have been expressed about the number of Orders/Congregations/Societies who have not been aligned to any Safeguarding Commission and this work is ongoing with support from The Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) and the Conference of Religious(CoR)
- It has been difficult to ensure that we have the accurate contact details for Religious Leaders and Religious Safeguarding Leads to ensure that they are kept up to date with all safeguarding matters. Therefore some joint work with CoR and CSAS has started to collate this information for the CoR and CSAS Data base.
- Issues have been discussed about the number of Religious who come into this country from Abroad and who may not be aware of safeguarding and the need to be aligned to a Safeguarding Commission. This has been discussed with CSAS, CoR and the Mixed Commission. A new Protocol for the admission of Religious Congregations and Members for Pastoral Ministry in England and Wales has been formally agreed by the Bishops Conference and the Conference of Religious. This has been circulated to members of CoR and is on the CoR Website.
- Last summer 3 members of the group did some work on producing a set of Guidance Notes on Alignment for Religious Leaders and Religious Safeguarding Leads.  
This was discussed with Colette Limbrick, Director of CSAS and is now on hold subject to a review of the alignment process.
- The National Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has been at the forefront of our discussions throughout the year and will continue to be a standing Item on the Agenda for some time

We are very grateful to Religious Safeguarding Leads and to members of the NCSC who have served as members of our group in the past and made a positive contribution to discussions and consultation on many safeguarding issues and matters.

We thank you all for your ongoing support for our safeguarding work and if you have any issues that you would like to bring to our attention please do contact us through CoR.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "E. Campling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Mrs Eileen Campling

Chair, CoR Safeguarding Committee

5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**The Conference of Religious Safeguarding Committee**  
**Terms of Reference**

1. The Executive Advisory Safeguarding Group is to be known as the Conference of Religious Safeguarding Committee.
2. The members of the Conference of Religious Safeguarding Committee are appointed by the Executive of the Conference of Religious. The Committee itself may propose names to the Executive.
3. Members are appointed for three years renewable. The Conference of Religious representatives on the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission should be asked to be members of the Committee, and at least one member of the Executive should be on the Committee.
4. The Committee elects its Chair, for any period up to three years, renewable for a further term up to three years.
5. The General Secretary of the Conference of Religious may attend meetings as secretary.
6. The role of the Conference of Religious Safeguarding Committee is:
  - a) To advise the Conference of Religious Executive on safeguarding issues;
  - b) To work with NCSC and CSAS to promote good safeguarding practice and understanding of safeguarding matters among religious and societies of apostolic life to support the One Church approach.
  - c) To ensure that the interests of religious and societies of apostolic life, with regard to safeguarding matters, are communicated to national and local safeguarding commissions.
7. The Committee may make recommendations to the Executive about action to be taken in regard to safeguarding.
8. The Executive delegates to the Committee the power to take decisions relating to safeguarding matters when it is desirable that a decision be taken before the next meeting of the Executive.
9. The Committee shall after each meeting prepare a short report for the next meeting of the Executive and shall either nominate a member to present it or present it in writing.

January 2019

Review date: January 2022



**The Medaille Trust**  
**Report for the 2019 Conference of Religious (England and Wales)**

***Introduction***

This report has been prepared for COR to inform them of the work of the Medaille Trust during the 2018/19 financial year. We are so grateful to the Orders, Congregations and individual Religious who have been so generous with their prayers, time, financial donations, property loans and volunteering. We acknowledge also the great work being done by Religious fellow travellers at Mary Ward Loreto, TRAC, RENATE and others. Without this vital assistance the support available to our clients as victims of modern slavery would likely be seriously diminished. The remainder of this short report sets out key work which has been ongoing this year.

***Support Delivery***

Support delivery has remained relatively stable as we still have nine safe houses in our services, although we have had slight increases in available beds at a couple of our units. The following table indicates the capacity of our services across the country, and the provision for males, females and families. Whilst we do not specifically provide accommodation for child victims of trafficking, only adult victims, we do have children in our service who are dependents of some of our adult victims – the numbers below indicate the adult capacity of our services, children in our services with their parents are in addition to these numbers.

**Service Provision 2018/19**

| <b>Service</b>      | <b>Houses</b> | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female/<br/>Families</b> | <b>Emergency<br/>Beds</b> | <b>Totals</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Northern            | 2             | 26          | 0                           | 0                         | 26            |
| Mersey              | 1             | 9           | 0                           | 0                         | 9             |
| Southern            | 2             | 0           | 9                           | 0                         | 9             |
| Coastal             | 1             | 0           | 18                          | 2                         | 20            |
| East London         | 1             | 0           | 10                          | 0                         | 10            |
| West London         | 1             | 0           | 24                          | 2                         | 26            |
| Central             | 1             | 0           | 14                          | 0                         | 14            |
| <b>Grand Totals</b> | <b>9</b>      | <b>35</b>   | <b>75</b>                   | <b>4</b>                  | <b>114</b>    |

Four of the nine properties have been loaned to us by Catholic Religious Orders, for which we continue to be most grateful.

The table indicates that we now have capacity for up to 114 individuals at a given time to stay in our safe house accommodation and receive a high standard of support and care from our trained and

committed staff teams. This level of provision makes us the largest provider of specialist safe house beds to victims of modern slavery in Europe.

As mentioned previously, the Medaille Trust continues to work in a holistic manner to deliver accommodation and support services to the victims of human trafficking and their dependants. The model of service delivery developed by the Medaille Trust continues to stand us in good stead and we have worked with a significant number of victims, with some degree of success, in the nine houses we now operate.

Highlights of the 2018/19 period include:

- Continued support of International preventative work in Albania (with Mary Ward Loreto) and Kenya (with Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco)
- The holding of a fifth criminal justice conference in Bled, Slovenia with police representatives from the UK and Europe
- Signing of the “Look Up” awareness raising partnership with the Archdiocese of Birmingham, launched at Saint Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham on the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita (see photo below)
- Updated branding of the organisation (including new butterfly logo – indicative of the journey to freedom)
- Staff restructuring to ensure we are “mission-ready” for ongoing challenges and opportunities, including a potential new Home Office contract from April 2020.



**Archbishop Bernard Longley with the Right Reverend Doctor Alastair Redfern (Retired Bishop of Derby and Chair of the Clewer Initiative) at Medaille’s service in St Chad’s Cathedral, Birmingham on the Feast Day of Saint Josephine Bakhita, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**  
**Service Impact**

The assessment process we undertake with victims is continuous and victims and staff mutually agree achievable objectives and progress against these is closely monitored and recorded in personal files. The Trust is required, as a victim support provider, under the Home Office monitoring regime, to report *'percentage of needs arising during assessment that are met'* and we can confirm that scores of 100% have been achieved during the period covered.

We are pleased with this performance as the environment in which we operate continues to become more and more challenging as the Government introduces changes to benefits and immigration legislation that do not make our task any the easier.

A recurring theme in the feedback we receive from our clients is that they have been changed by their experience in our services. Often victims arrive to a safe house in a truly terrible condition, physically and psychologically. It seems reasonable to posit that through the provision of care, love and support provided by our teams, clients who enter our services as 'victims' may rightly be said to leave our services as 'survivors'.

### ***Challenges for the year ahead***

As mentioned above, the forthcoming year will see a procurement exercise for a new Home Office contract to support adult victims of modern slavery in England and Wales. This brings with it a period of uncertainty for all organisations currently providing beds and support services to The Salvation Army who hold the current contract. Our restructuring exercise has helped us stay in good shape to continue our current work or even expand to take on additional capacity, we will not be complacent but as we are the largest provider of supported safe-house beds under the current contract, it would seem that whoever wins the new prime contract will want to engage our services.

We continue to review our Governance arrangements to ensure we are well managed and mission focused. Many of our trustees have served faithfully and diligently for many years, but some have indicated that they would like to consider stepping down if suitable replacements can be found. Our organisation was founded by Religious and having strong Religious representation on our Trustee board is considered essential to help us stay close to our roots. We are therefore asking any Religious who feel called to this work and who may be capable and willing to serve as a Trustee to make contact with our Chair, Brother Francis Patterson or our Chief Executive, Garry Smith.

### ***Summary***

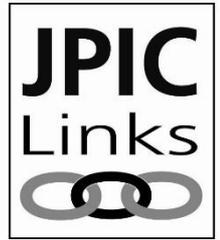
2018/19 has been a busy period with increased staff recruitment and a drive to continue to improve the quality of our services. It remains our core aim to serve our clients well and enable them to achieve a good standard of recovery by the time they leave our services.

We continue to give thanks that from humble beginnings in 2006, started by a small group of Religious with a passion to serve those suffering in their community, we have now grown to be possibly the largest specialist provider of safe-house beds for victims of human trafficking in Europe. Our impact is felt every hour of every day of the year in the lives of over 100 people who have been victims of this heinous crime. Those who we have helped on their journey of recovery now number in the thousands; this is a meaningful impact on many precious lives and a legacy of which our Religious founders can be justly satisfied.

***Garry Smith***  
***Chief Executive***



# JPIC Links Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation



When Pope Francis met with religious in Morocco in March of this year he said that

*'Our mission is not really determined by the number or size of that we occupy, but rather by our capacity to generate change and wonder and compassion'. We do this by the way we live as disciples in the midst of those with whom we share our daily lives, joys and suffering and hopes'*

Our 2018 conference 13 – 15 April facilitated by David McLoughlin 'Renewing the prophetic imagination (sustaining creative engagement) certainly 'awakened wonder and compassion' and some of the ways in which we live out our vocation to be prophets.



year he

*spaces to awaken of Jesus, sorrows,*

entitled,

explored



David suggested that the prophets are people who are 'touched by God, always open to the other, including the stranger and including 'our strange' God).. We now have a Pope who is doing prophetic things. We may have forgotten who we are but Pope Francis goes underneath the problem and reminds us of who we are saying that we must put aside 'the paralysis of analysis' and have a consciousness capable of giving energy. We need to ask ourselves, 'How do we energise?' As someone who has made serious mistakes in his life Pope Francis reminds us that we must risk getting into trouble.

How we important, as

wrote in '1984' 'Who controls the past controls the present controls the past.' In the our remembrance of what is going on now to this remembering. It allows the secular and the intermingle with all sorts of unforeseen The stories are essentially subversive and the Israel always have strangeness at the heart of challenge of Jesus is to imagine a world where all welcome.



remember is George Orwell the future - . Who Eucharist we bring ritual of sacred to circumstances. doings of God in them. The strangers are

God's view of us is never our past, but what we can become. God puts the weak, frail and marginalised at the centre and so must we. Jesus says blessed are the poor. He was radically open to the God of all and he is calling us to the same radical freedom. Jesus is a sign to others that freedom is possible. Jesus' prophetic imagination says this in a new way.



Our role is to keep hope alive. The direction of our grief is often the beginning of empowerment. The new emerges out of people who feel the suffering of the world deeply, the people who grieve now. It is a visceral, not a rational response arising from a cry of misery. We are meeting God in friends and strangers and we need to be telling the stories of the realities of people's lives.

Tackling the roots of inequality in the UK was the inspiration behind JPIC

Links Linking Day 6th October 2018. Religious, associates and friends from JPIC Links gathered for the day which had the title, 'Re-imagining Britain – Freedom and equality as the way to social justice'. The day which was facilitated by Canon Paul Hackwood, executive director of the Church Urban Fund enabled us to look at ways in which we can tackle the root causes of poverty in the UK.

Since the only way to change things is by doing it through real people it follows that the more you can broker conversations between groups, the more you can do, CUF starts with people in communities and works through a 'relational' way of working. Paul spoke about the three 'strands' to CUF's work, **Near Neighbours** – (Social cohesion) **Together network** – (The poverty arm) and **Just finance** – (the financial arm).



In JPIC Links our times of meeting are as much about sharing information as supporting each other and we always go away feeling energised and encouraged by our time spent together. As one recent speaker commented after the conference, 'I did thoroughly enjoy my time with you all, and found it very moving in places. You are a remarkable bunch of human beings!'

On the Sunday morning of the conference we shared ways in which we are 'keeping hope alive' hearing about members' involvement in Environmental projects, 'The Listening Project' in Birmingham, Circles of support and ways in which we welcome and work with people who are most marginalized in society. We continue to lobby politicians, to 'speak truth to power' on many issues including nutrition, UK aid, climate change, the environment, Universal health coverage, the arms trade, labour conditions, migrants and refugees. We continue take part in events and actions organized by a variety of NGO's and disseminate this information to our Congregations.



At the conference members shared about the work of TRAC ((Trafficking, Raising Awareness and Campaigning) a coalition of religious Congregations in the UK. Buyers who seek sexual services, cheap labour or organs-for-sale, create a demand for a supply. TRAC is therefore campaigning for the UK to follow the 'Nordic model' approach to prostitution which decriminalizes all who are prostituted and makes buying people for sex a criminal offence. This reduces the demand that drives the sex trade.



Members of JPIC Links have continued to campaign on trafficking and modern slavery working with a variety of groups including TRAC, Renate, the Conference of Religious, Waling Waling and the Permanent People's Tribunal (see separate report on the latter).



The working group met on one occasion in the café of the Friends meeting house which gave opportunities for JPIC actions. The group held up calls for Universal health coverage (for UHC day) and this was tweeted out and seen by thousands. On this day also we contributed to the Collateral damage installation at Friends house to honour the victims of wars during and since World War I.



In Morocco Pope Francis likened religious to salt saying:

*'The problem is not when we are few in number, but when we are insignificant, salt that has lost the flavour of the Gospel or lamps that no longer shed light'.*

May we all continue to be 'salt' – salt that preserves all that is good, (like) salt that gives flavour and interest to the ordinary, salt that heals and perhaps salt that grabs the attention of those in power who inflict 'wounds' on the powerless.

*Sister Gillian Price FC*





## Report on the Permanent Peoples Tribunal

Between July 2017 and December 2018, in response to the demand of almost 500 migrant and refugee organizations, the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal held five Hearings: [Barcelona](#) (July 2017), [Palermo](#) (December 2017), [Paris](#) (January 2018), [Barcelona](#) (July 2018) and [London](#) (November 2018).

Each of the Hearings heard the testimonies of women, men and young people who presented their experiences of systematic violations of their fundamental human rights arising from migration, development, asylum and border policies being implemented by the European Union and the UK. The PPT Hearings also heard the reports of several expert witnesses on the issues.

The UK was the 4<sup>th</sup> country in Europe where the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal had a Hearing. Over the two day sessions almost 200 people attended. Six jurors, five from the UK and one from Italy listened to the evidence presented by 36 witnesses in November 2018.

Frances Webber, vice chair, Institute of Race Relations (IRR) gave a presentation of the Indictment ie the case being taken against the British Government for the violation with impunity of the rights of migrant and refugee workers in the UK. The Secretariat of the PPT had informed the government that the Hearing was taking place and was open to them to attend if they wished. They did not take up the offer.

A general overview was presented by the rapporteurs. This was followed by individuals giving testimony of the abuses experienced in the workplace. The evidence was presented under four headings including:

- A state of fear
- Detention and corporate profits
- Global supply chain and labour exploitation
- Gender and labour migration

A declaration of all the evidence gathered from the UK Hearing will be available shortly. Meanwhile, on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 the final Hearing of this round of the PPT will be held in the European Parliament in Brussels where the evidence gathered will be presented. The PPT will nominate a panel of judges who will present the Statement addressed to the European Union authorities as well as advocating proposals to the candidates going forward in the European Parliament Election (May 2019).

It is hoped that this experience will strengthen the migrant and refugee communities and enable them to build solidarity among their members and to support each other in their struggles.

This could not have happened without the financial help given by many religious congregations, (Anglican and Catholic). We also received generous contributions from other funders and individuals. And for all of this we are very grateful. All the supporting religious congregations and organisations are included in the declaration.

## TRAC Report 2019

TRAC (**T**rafficking, **R**aising **A**wareness and **C**ampaigning) is a group founded in 2005 to seek the abolition of trafficking and prostitution. We are a network of approximately 16 religious Congregations who meet every 6 weeks or so in Chigwell Convent.

Our campaign has stalled a bit in the last year as our due to the fact that it is Brexit that is concentrating the mind of politicians to the detriment of everything else. However, we have not given up the fight.

Pope Francis speaking in the Vatican recently called human trafficking a crime of the “commercialization of the other” that is a crime against humanity that disfigures both the victim as well as those who carry it out. So, we cannot be silent in the face of this huge injustice.

We in TRAC believe that the demand for sexual exploitation and cheap labour fuels the trade in human beings. And until this is addressed we will continue to have this atrocity in our country. One way to tackle this is to adopt the “Nordic” or “Equality” model. This was started in Sweden twenty years ago and has now been taken up by several countries including France, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In this model the people who are prostituted will be decriminalised and the buyers of sex criminalised. We are not naïve enough to think this will be easy as any exit strategies will take money to help the prostituted women and children obtain life skills, different accommodation etc but with the right will this can happen. To the question what if a woman “chooses” to go into prostitution then the Nordic model offers her better protection against buyers who are violent as she will have the same police protection of every other citizen who experiences violence.

One major supporter of this model is Sarah Champion who is the Member of Parliament for Rotherham. She has first-hand experience of trafficking in her constituency, where several men are now in prison for the internal trafficking of young girls and children. Sarah believes that it is only in ending the demand that this evil will be eliminated. However, she now needs the support of other MPs. We will be working on a letter which can be sent to all our MPs to support Sarah and back this model.

TRAC continues to seek to end the culture of normalising pimping, sex buying and brothel owning. This is a crime that is fuelled by business interests where the purchase of human beings is considered the same as any other business transaction. This has to stop but will only do so when “good” people come together to send a message to Parliament that the demand for sexual services has to end.

*Sr. Marie Power HFB*

Annual report to the Conference of Religious  
April 2019

Your support of CAFOD's general funds gives us the flexibility to act where the need is greatest. As part of the Caritas International network, we work through the Catholic Church in the UK and overseas to support our sisters and brothers to live with dignity and take steps toward a positive future. We are so grateful for your ongoing commitment to our work which is making an incredible difference around the world.

**The future of the Church**

Step into the Gap (SiTG) is our full-time leadership programme, run in partnership with the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. Now in its tenth year, SiTG has supported a total of 74 young adults in the year-long lay leadership programme to develop fresh cohorts of young leaders to work towards a more just and peaceful world, locally and globally, by acting as key influencers alongside CAFOD, the Catholic community and civil society.

In 2018, our young leaders successfully reached 26,000 children, young people and adults in retreat centres, universities and parishes to raise their awareness about the environment, Catholic Social Teaching, Laudato Si' and sustainable development. These are communities we would not have the resources to reach without our young leaders.

This work would not be possible without the support of religious congregations that generously support us to inform and guide the next generation of religious leaders. It is with your support that they can interact with people throughout England and Wales, often in some of the most deprived areas of the country.

They also visit a CAFOD project to learn more about our partnership approach, themselves and the world within the context of their faith. This year the groups visited Uganda and the occupied Palestinian Territory, where they shared stories with local people and saw the impact of the Church network first hand.



The Step Into the Gap volunteers for 2018-2019.

(l-r) Madeline Woods based at Leeds Trinity, Caroline Collins based at Newman, Nicole Gillespie based at Southwark, Kiera Harman based at Walshingham House, Brentwood, Kezia Harrow based at Kintbury, Niamh Melton based at Briars, Sharon Weesooryia based at Castlerigg and Juliette Bone based at YMT.

## Step into the Gap: Wasting our world away by Niamh Melton

Recently I returned from my overseas visit to Uganda. I had the most incredible experience, despite its challenges, and it opened my eyes to many of the world's problems that I had not been aware of before.

In England, we have this huge push on cutting down on our use of single use plastic and for me, this has been a personal goal for a long time now. I've got to the point where I am so aware of my usage that I feel if I do end up having to use single use plastic, I must try to dispose of it in the most environmentally friendly way possible. But obviously, with our inability to drink the tap water overseas and the difference in culture, we were faced with having to use an unforgivable number of plastic bottles. This alone got me thinking, where is it all going?

In Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, waste disposal is said to be the biggest problem that the Kampala City Council faces. On average, each person produces 1kg of waste per day but only 70% of that waste is collected to be disposed of and only 50% is disposed of properly in landfills. The rest is dumped in open areas, streams and inaccessible areas.

We travelled up to the north-east from Kampala to Moroto and the waste was much more visible. What seemed to be pathways or even roads were covered from top to bottom with waste. The water that should have been filling the river beds was replaced with mass amounts of plastic bottles, bags and containers. It instantly reminded me of the line from Laudato Si where Pope Francis stated, "Our world is starting to seem like an immense pile of filth" but also how "it's our poorest communities that suffer the most". This really rings true in Uganda.

During our trip, we had the privilege to visit multiple health centres in Karamoja. We went to Panyangara health centre and it was obvious from the minute we walked in what their biggest issue was that health centres tend to produce a mass amount of unsanitary waste, which due to the lack of a disposal system, was being dumped in the surrounding areas.

In response to this huge and increasing problem Caritas, through the help and funds of CAFOD, were able to install an incinerator to dispose of the waste hygienically and safely. This allowed the community, especially the children, to roam freely around the health centres without fear of being exposed to more illness and disease.

Her full blog is available [here](#).

## Climate Lobby

Year on year we see a higher number of natural disasters including droughts, floods and famine due to the impact of climate change. It affects our health, homes and beautiful landscapes and it hinders the work we do to fight poverty. Addressing climate change is an urgent need and we must act fast. As politicians will only increase their ambition if they see that we care, it is time we tell them enough is enough.

On 26 June, we will be joined at the mass lobby on climate change by 800 CAFOD supporters from every diocese, with representation from schools, parishes and religious communities.

CAFOD will be involved as a member of the Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group dedicated to action against climate change. With 130 member organisations including environmental and development charities, trade unions and faith groups we are passionate about working together to protect our future from the effects of climate change.

Sister Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP (below) shared her motivation to participate in the mass lobby, *"Our behaviour has been impacting negatively on the climate and I have a responsibility towards all my brothers and sisters in this country and abroad to act now."* We are so grateful to religious

congregations for giving their time to stand with us to raise our voice, share our influence and fight to change the future.

The Catholic community in England and Wales have made remarkable steps in changing their habits to be more environmentally friendly with 20 out of 22 diocese using renewable energy. By 2050 there will be a shift in 50 of the

world's poorest countries to renewable energy as the only power source. We are incorporating solar panels wherever we can to power homes, schools and water sources to improve the quality of life for our brothers and sisters.



## Renewable Energy Success

In the North East region of Brazil, where the state of Piauí is located, 23 per cent of the population live in extreme poverty (less than £1.40 per day). The area is characterised by deep socio-economic inequality and communities are increasingly impacted by the effects of climate change, such as extended periods of drought, which hit the poorest and most marginalised the hardest. Infant mortality and malnutrition rates are highest in the areas where crops fail due to lack of rainfall.

Those living in poverty in rural areas are primarily smallholder farmers who depend on agricultural activities to earn a living and feed their families, such as growing corn, beans, rice and rearing small livestock such as chickens and pigs. Access to energy is fundamental for smallholder farmers. Energy enables farmers to fuel crop irrigation systems, power the blending of fruit juices, refrigerate homemade produce to sell at local markets, and light farming cooperative centres where farmers can access training.

However, it is estimated by the Brazilian government that over one million people do not have access to electricity and for those that do have the privilege of energy access, the main grid is fuelled largely via either mega-hydroelectric dams (64 per cent) or fossil fuels (26.17 per cent) – both highly damaging to the environment. Despite Brazil's huge potential for solar energy, it only makes up 0.65 per cent of the country's energy matrix. Although Piauí state hosts one of the largest solar power generation plants in the country, this energy is used by large corporations, while many of the rural poor are excluded from the grid.

Religious communities in the UK have been at the forefront of overcoming the energy inequality in Piauí. In 2018 we partnered with the Passionist Community in the UK and Caritas Brasileira to support poor farming communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to increase their access to sustainable, environmentally friendly energy systems.

We have successfully installed solar panels and the farming communities have developed good relationships with Caritas Brasileira, collaboratively making decisions about how to proceed with the project for maximum impact. They are enthusiastic about the opportunities that are available to improve quality of life, their farming practices and make the most of their land.

## Water is Life

Earlier this year, Amy Gorman (Trusts and Foundations Manager) travelled to Isiolo in Kenya to visit three CAFOD funded projects. Caritas Isiolo and the local community shared stories about the impact of your support and the difference it has made to their lives.

Isiolo County is hot and dry for most of the year with two rainy seasons, although the rainfall is increasingly unreliable. The region, like many other arid areas is challenged by lack of food and water, low income, high unemployment and a changeable climate.

Sister Linapiera Karimi works alongside Caritas Isiolo in Meru at the community hospital and distribution centre. Her garden provides essential vegetables for patients to access a diverse and nutritious diet. As patients regain their strength, Sister Karimi encourages them to spend time in the garden learning to grow crops so they can return home with a new skill and live out their time in hospital with dignity.



It hasn't always been easy though. When our partners discussed the possibility of starting a garden, they warned Sister Karimi that two neighbouring communities had already tried to grow crops without success. Whilst this may have deterred other people, the Sisters said that they would try. In the last year, their passion and determination has reaped the reward of a good harvest including watermelons, onions and butternut squash. This is a testament to their will to bring a better life to the people of Meru and use your generous gifts to benefit as many people as possible in the community.

You may know that in previous years we have received UK Aid Match funding. We put together a strong application before this year's Lent Appeal but it was unsuccessful. That meant we had to considerably scale down the support we can provide to vulnerable families in Bangladesh.

The region, Barisal, is on the southern coast of Bangladesh. Its people are already experiencing increasing challenges due to climate change. Crops are failing as seawater encroaches on fields during increasingly frequent floods, altering the soil that's left behind.

We want to help vulnerable farmers adapt to climate change so they can feed their families by supporting them to grow salt-resistant crops. We will work with local communities and experts to identify suitable trades for people to learn so they can earn a reliable income, like repairing motorcycles and electronics. This will mean that people can continue to live where they are and are not forced to move to urban areas to escape the negative effects of the changing climate.



Mahinur, her disabled husband and 12-year-old son (above), are an example of a family that we hope to reach. Mahinur's family live in Bangladesh, where floods, droughts, and cyclones have damaged crops, homes, health and income. She usually catches fish to sell but last year a drought dried up the local river and all the fish died. The water has returned, but the fish haven't. Mahinur told us: *"There should be fish in the river now. It's the right time of year. But there's nothing."* She cooks and cleans in neighbours' homes for a bit of cash but it's never enough. There are days the family have nothing to eat.

This Lent, we have already raised over £1.2m thanks to the Catholic community in England and Wales which will give vital support to the communities we work with around the world, like Mahinur's. Our local expert, Jamal, has already helped a few families in Mahinur's village - teaching them new farming techniques and distributing seeds, ducks and chickens.

## Cyclone Idai

On 20 March 2019, Cyclone Idai swept across Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi leaving in its wake a trail of destruction, killing an estimated 750 people. Mozambique is described as the worst affected country. Beira city, in the Sofala Province, was battered by the cyclone, bringing torrential rains and winds of up to 140 km/h. Almost 90 percent of the city is now submerged in flood water, and a tidal surge has cut off several villages in the district. Across the three countries, tens of thousands are now homeless, and all three countries have appealed for international humanitarian support.

In the days after Cyclone Idai we pledged £100,000 toward relief in Mozambique and £50,000 for Zimbabwe. We also joined forces with Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to reach hundreds of thousands of people affected by Cyclone Idai, across Southern Africa.

In a statement, Bishop Charles Kasonde of Solwezi, Chairman of the Association of Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa, called for people to “respond to the cry for humanitarian assistance in whichever way possible”. He explained that the need for humanitarian aid is urgent, as everyone affected is in need of food, clean water, and shelter, with some temporary shelters already at capacity.

“I pray for encouragement to all those involved in rescue operations and humanitarian assistance that they may not tire of supporting their brothers and sisters who need them most during this difficult time,” said Kasonde. “I also pray that our partners and people of good will who have always journeyed with us in both good and bad times may rise up to the call.”

We have begun working in Mozambique, sending out boats loaded up with vital food aid, destined for the remote area of Buzi, where at least 50 families are sheltering in the local parish church. We are also providing 30,000 people with basic hygiene, sanitation and shelter supplies, and services in the dioceses of Beira, Chimoio, and Quelimane.

In Zimbabwe, our aid team on the ground in eastern Zimbabwe, have told us that access beyond Chimanimani, one of the worst-hit areas is very poor because major bridges have been washed away, but the government is working to try and build a new road. In a 4x4 vehicle our aid Caritas workers have been able to distribute aqua-tabs - a water purification tablet - to support families who have lost their clean water supply. In Chimanimani and Chipinge an estimated 16,000 people are now homeless and in need of shelter.

Thanks to our supporters we have already raised over £620,000 which will go a long way to helping communities to live with dignity at this challenging time. We ask you to please keep the families affected by Cyclone Idai in your thoughts and prayers.

## Thank you

Thanks to the Conference of Religious and other CAFOD supporters, as well as over 6,000 volunteers we are better able to stand with our brothers and sisters across the world and help them to build more secure lives for themselves and their children. This report details just a selection of the work made possible by your support during the past year

## **Anglican Religious Life 2018-19**

**Conference of Leaders of Anglican Religious Communities (CLARC)** The annual conference met at The Community of the Resurrection's Retreat House in Mirfield, near Leeds, from 8-11 October 2018, joining the Community for worship, as in previous years. 19 leaders attended: 16 women and 3 men. As often happens some community leaders were unable to attend, but the CLARC Conference is always much smaller than the CoR Conference, reflecting the relative numbers belonging to Anglican Religious Communities. As well as opportunities for sharing news of our communities, matters of concern, and necessary business, the conference enables mutual support and encouragement which is much appreciated. We also had stimulating input from our visiting speaker. Bonnie Thurston, formerly Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, and also a poet, spiritual director and retreat leader, was a founding member of the Thomas Merton Society. Her sessions on "Desert Spirituality and Asceticism in Mark's Gospel" were both accessible and thought provoking.

**House of Bishops Advisory Council for Religious Communities.** This body is now composed of 6 bishops, 10 Religious, 7 women and 3 men, elected to represent them by the members of the traditional/historic Religious Communities, and 4 co-opted members representing "New Monastic" communities, and including Dr Peta Dunstan a historian with specialist expertise in Anglican Religious Communities. It meets twice a year at Church House Westminster. Acting on behalf of the House of Bishops the Council it gives advice to communities and bishops who request this. Members of the Council work with new communities seeking official recognition by the church, helping them to fulfil the necessary criteria. "Recognised Communities" are those committed for life to the traditional religious vows, and normally living in Community houses. "Acknowledged Communities" include a growing number of "New Monastic" communities, most of whose members live in dispersion, and may be married or single, and following their own occupations, while meeting together regularly and following a shared rule of life.

The Advisory Council has commissioned a working party to produce a paper on the terminology used in religious life for leadership roles, forms of commitment etc. mainly for the guidance of new and aspiring communities seeking appropriate language to express their reality, who have sometimes used traditional terms with differing interpretations of their meaning, which can cause confusion! This is due to be signed off at the June meeting, and is being welcomed by leaders of such new communities.

**Canon on Religious Communities.** This is the first time Religious Communities in the Church of England have been the subject of a Canon, and is part of the "One Church" approach, partly triggered by safeguarding concerns, but also with the aim of giving Religious life a more recognised position in the structures of the church. An amended version was debated at the February 2019 Meeting of the Church of England's General Synod and it is due to receive final approval at the July 2019 meeting of General Synod. The Canon gives the House of Bishops the responsibility for issuing regulation and guidance for Religious Communities, which will continue to be done through the Advisory Council, which is now fully part of church structures as a Committee of the House of Bishops. The Canon will also include provisions relating to the licensing of ordained members of Religious Communities.

**Handbook of the Religious Life.** Produced by the Advisory Council, this was last issued in 2004, and its revision has been on-going for several years. It will set out the regulations and guidance provided for under the Canon, which is largely what has been contained in previous editions of the Handbook. However following delays because of on-going changes in safeguarding regulations, it is currently delayed by the need to await the final approval of the Canon.

**Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA)** Bishop David Walker, the Chair of the Advisory Council gave a witness statement in March 2018, responding to questions about the structures, accountability and safeguarding procedures of Religious Communities. A representative of the Advisory Council attends the IICSA steering group at Church House, Westminster. There is to be a further hearing relating to the Church of England in July 2019. Provision has been agreed for Religious Communities to be fully integrated into the national Church of England procedures for Safeguarding, largely working through diocesan structures.

**Anglican Religious Communities (ARC)** represents all members of Religious Communities. The committee is elected by the members of Recognised communities, and includes representatives of the Leaders and the Novice Guardians who also meet separately. It has a very part time paid secretary who is currently a laywoman and meets quarterly. It publishes a newsletter distributed to all Communities, encourages working together, and aims to promote Religious Life as well as addressing shared concerns. The ARC Committee now includes representatives of Acknowledged Communities, currently as non-voting members, and is working on changes to the ARC constitution to enable their fuller participation, reflecting the changing situation with the growing number of “New Monastic” communities, and the increasing age and declining numbers in most historic communities.

**ARC Conference “Differences in Common”** ARC is arranging another conference to bring together members of historic and newer religious communities, following the positive response to the two previous such gatherings in 2015 and 2017. This year’s event will be held at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hertfordshire from 9-12 September 2019 and is entitled “Differences in Common”. Any Catholic Religious wishing to attend would be very welcome. There is on line booking at [www.conf.arcie.org.uk](http://www.conf.arcie.org.uk).

**Anglican Religious Life Yearbook** Following the decision to cease publication of the Yearbook a new website is being set up to replace the annual publication, and this is due to be launched in September 2019. The yearbook, produced in UK, aimed to cover Anglican Religious Life world-wide, and the website will do the same.

**Intercontinental Conference on Prayer and the Renewal of Religious Life** Another world wide venture is the Third Intercontinental Conference organised by the Theological Education for Mission in the Anglican Communion (TEMAC) on the theme “Prayer and the Renewal of Religious Life”, which is one of the current Archbishop of Canterbury’s three priorities. The conference will be held at St Paul’s University, Limuru, Kenya from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019, and participants will include Religious from around the world, especially focussing on the global south. Papers from the conference will form part of the material for the 2020 Lambeth Conference.

*Sister Sue Berry CSF (Anglican rep on the COREW Executive) 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019*

