

Asia Pacific Justice Peace Network

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd



Hi all!

This issue ...

– introduces
Theresa Symons as
Regional Manager for
MDO, Asia Pacific

– congratulates Gendrie
upon receiving Australia
Day award

and stories of a successful
mission trip to Myanmar
by mission partners of
Singapore-Malaysia.

Also stories of great
efforts taken by Good
Shepherd in the region
to end violence against
women and children.

Enjoy!

With gratitude,
Gloria

Mission Development Office, Asia Pacific



From left, Manuela Coletti (consultant), Anna Tram Nguyen (intern from Mid North America), Cristina Duranti (Director, MDO) and Theresa Symons

— In January 2016, the Mission Development Office (MDO) established an office in Asia Pacific to better serve the Units in this region especially those who have requested for MDO assistance in strategic planning for mission effectiveness. The role of this office will mirror the services currently offered by MDO i.e. capacity building, organizational development, resource mobilization and monitoring and evaluation. It will have direct accountability to MDO Rome with annual progress reports submitted to the Asia Pacific Circle of Province Leaders.

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This position of Regional Manager for MDO Asia Pacific will be initially held by Theresa Symons, who is seconded from the Province of Singapore / Malaysia for a period of two years starting January 2016. Theresa, formerly the Executive Director of Good Shepherd Services Malaysia, will continue to be based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Theresa will oversee MDO projects already begun in Asia Pacific i.e. India (jointly between South West India and Central East India Nepal) and Phuket, Thailand. For projects which are at initial planning stages i.e. in the Units of Sri Lanka and East Asia, Theresa will work with an external consultant and the MDO team in Rome.

Broadly, Theresa's role will be:

- 1 Coordinating MDO's Organizational Development and Capacity Development projects in Asia Pacific
- 2 Fundraising and grant-seeking to build a donor base in Asia-Pacific for international fundraising initiatives
- 3 Liaise with the Spirituality and Justice and Peace network to implement an integrated approach and best practices for mission effectiveness

"I will try my best in this new role which is both exciting as well as challenging. There is a lot to learn and re-learn. With the support of everyone, I hope to be able to fulfill the expectations of this role. I look forward to working with the Units to make Good Shepherd mission more effective in Asia Pacific." Theresa Symons †

FROM
Malaysia

PKGS – Combating human trafficking

_____ In the 30th Congregational Chapter Direction Statement, human trafficking was identified as one of the most pressing needs of today. In Malaysia, being a major transit and destination country for human trafficking, there is an ever-growing number of survivors of human trafficking in need of help. Pusat Kebajikan Good Shepherd (PKGS) has been responding to the needs of women who have been rescued from human trafficking by providing shelter services and counselling for the women who have been referred to PKGS by the embassies and other organisations.

In July 2012, PKGS was invited by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia to be a service provider for the government shelter in Kuala Lumpur for women survivors of human trafficking. In December 2012, PKGS expanded its services to the government shelter in Sabah, and in August 2014,

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PKGS gained access to provide its services to the government shelter in Johor. With that, PKGS is now the only non-government organization (NGO) which has access into three women's shelters in three different states.

Our key services which we provide are:-

- Activity programmes where we focus on stress management and anxiety reduction, and to create opportunities for women of different nationalities to bond, thereby reducing conflict and misunderstanding.
- Education and awareness of human trafficking are also incorporated into the programmes as prevention measures.
- Counselling services is one of the core services in all three shelters in helping the women through their trauma and towards healing and recovery.
- Faith sharing for Christians in helping them to find strength and peace through their faith.
- Case management support where we journey with the women and support them through their legal process .

Since our collaboration with the government ministry in July 2012, our works in human trafficking issues and addressing needs in this area have been gaining much traction as we build up our position as a key player in advocating against human trafficking and as a key service provider for women survivors.

One of our significant achievements was being invited to conduct a research on the psychological wellbeing of women survivors of human trafficking at government shelters in 2014 where we presented our findings to The Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons (MAPO). The research report had been instrumental in raising PKGS's profile in advocating against human trafficking. PKGS has been represented in most roundtable meetings and consultations with regards to amendments to the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and other issues relating to human trafficking.

A key milestone in the recognition of our efforts in combating human trafficking was when PKGS was invited as one of the Malaysian civil societies to meet with President Obama on human trafficking issues while he was on an official visit to Malaysia. Theresa Symons had the privilege to represent PKGS and address the President on our works in human trafficking issues. In addition, our Advocacy Officer, Karen Tai, has been selected by the US Department of State for the International Volunteers Leadership Program (IVLP) for training on "Combating Trafficking in Persons" in Feb 2016.

PKGS has come a long way from attending to the individual needs of women and children survivors of human trafficking who have been referred to our own shelters by external parties to now having a visible position and strong standing as an advocate against human trafficking in Malaysia. With Good Shepherd going Beyond Borders, we work towards networking amongst Good Shepherd centres in the sending and receiving countries and becoming a regional player in advocating against human trafficking. †

Mission partners Singapore-Malaysia on mission trip to Myanmar 9-17 January 2016



After much anticipation and a flurry of whatsapp communication, 21 mission partners from Singapore-Malaysia set out on a mission trip to Myanmar. At the Kuala Lumpur Airport we had a challenging fun time maximising the baggage weight of the group so as to bring boxes and boxes of stationery, books, toys, clothing, Milo and other goodies for the Myanmar children.



Our first stop on arrival was the Convent at Yangon. We got to meet our local sisters and acquainted ourselves during conversations which continued over dinner. We toured the compound and met with some girls who had earlier been selected for the leadership program. There is a hospital in the compound too and a learning centre where mothers could leave their children when they go to work.

After breakfast the following day Sr. Rebecca Kay accompanied us on a 3 hour drive to Magyikwin village. As the road leading into the village was not accessible by our coach, some of us walked about 30 minutes along the dusty road to get in. Those unable to walk the distance enjoyed motor cycle rides.

Sr. Rebecca zealously showed us around and explained the various projects undertaken by the sisters. 120 children are fed daily. The variety of food depends on their financial ability for each day. The solar panels, which provide lighting for the children to study is in urgent need for upgrading. There is also the pig project which helps families be self-sufficient. The sisters hope to acquire a light truck to be able to ferry children to and fro from school especially during bad weather. The truck will also be useful when sick children and the elderly need to go to the hospital. We were greatly inspired by their great acts of mercy and love for the children.

As it happened to be the Karen New Year on that day the kids sang a Happy New Year song for us. We took the opportunity to present gifts to each child who was present. It was such a joy to see the children beaming with happiness as they lined up orderly to receive them. They sang 'Give thanks with a grateful heart' to express their appreciation for the little gifts.

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1
*Srs. Jennifer,
Cecilia, Dorothy
and Del*

2
*Srs. Clare
and Del*

impoverished homes. The sisters also care for children of HIV sufferers, giving them proper nutrition and love. We made a brief stop at the vocational centre which is still under construction.

We then proceeded to Pyin Oo Lwin where we visited the Good Shepherd Wellness and Spirituality Centre. Locating this house took us patience and prayer as it was nestled in some unnamed road. Sr. Clare was delighted to meet us.

Finally back in Yangon, we rejoiced with all the sisters at the momentous Jubilee Celebration held at St. Mary's Cathedral on 16 January. Sr. Dorothy summed it all up, "The preparations for the Jubilee celebrations had been meticulously fine-tuned. Everything went off smoothly and beautifully without a hitch. It was truly refreshing for me to see the fresh exuberant young faces of the sisters in the choir as they sang so animatedly during the Eucharistic Celebration as well as the Jubilee Song during the entertainment afterwards. I feel privileged to have been part of the Jubilee celebrations and I thank God and all those who have made my trip possible".



SHARINGS

Sr. Del Kang, rgs

There is specialness about Myanmar, a mission founded in the time of St. Mary Euphrasia. Until about 40 years ago we belonged to the same province. The missionaries expelled from the then Burma had been an inspiration for their zeal and resilience. My experience at this first visit to Myanmar opened me to understand a little of the fire that burned in the hearts of those Sisters I had lived with.

It tugs at my heart to see many children, mainly girls, either eking out a living either on their own or with their mothers, a co-beggar. At least those at our Good Shepherd facilities get a chance to a better life.

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The enthusiasm of Good Shepherd sisters in their ministries is commendable. Many are young, energetic and full of zeal. Mother Foundress must be proud of them. They serve lovingly the poor little ones of an impoverished society. And a hospital, with the barest furnishing, in the compound of the Good Shepherd? I could hardly believe my ears. But, yes, it is there... and my heart aches to see the sick lying on plank beds in the 2 dormitories. Yes, I must work to get some sponsors for at least a thin mattress with sheets for each bed.

As evidenced in Magyikwin, the poor are often happy with little. Their faces light up to see visitors. We have much material gifts but they have more spiritual gifts to share with. Joy and gratitude is their gift to all.

Sr. Dorothy Khaw, rgs

“Rooted in God and in Reality ...
Remembering the past with gratitude ...
Embracing challenges with hope ...
Taking Risk together for Mission ...”

This caption on the banner of sisters’ Jubilee symbol of a boat being tossed about on stormy waters captured my attention. It encompassed the whole history our sisters in Myanmar experienced over the past 150 years of Good Shepherd presence in the country.



It had been a journey through many joys, fame and success interrupted by sorrow, pain, turmoil and expulsion and now 150 years on, it’s a time again for rebuilding and refounding.



*Sr. Jessila
(Magyikwin
Village)*

*Sr. Victoria
(Mandalay)*

*Sr. Goretti
(Hopin)*

And our local sisters, the young and not so young, are proving that they are well prepared for this challenge! Congratulations dear Sisters, I am so so proud of all of you! I believe that symbol was a culmination of a whole year of spiritual preparation for the Jubilee year. Each community had come together for a monthly reflection, at the end of which each sister had presented her own symbol. These were then collated and encompassed into one common Jubilee symbol for the celebrations. May St. Mary Eurphrasia continue to guide and inspire you in living out her spirit and charism in Myanmar. †

For more news on the Jubilee celebrations visit
<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-myanmar-the-good-shepherd-sisters-celebrate-150-years-of-mission-93478/>

Gendrie Klein-Breteler receives Australia Day Award



Congratulations Gendrie, this honour is very well deserved.

— We are incredibly proud and delighted that one of our staff members received an Order of Australia award on Australia Day. Gendrie Klein-Breteler, Mission Engagement Coordinator, has been appointed a Member in the General Division for her “significant service to the community through social welfare organisations, particularly to the disadvantaged and women and girls”.

Gendrie has been with Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand since 1972. Over the decades she has provided counselling and integrated support to young women, implemented a women’s prison program and set up “Outlandish”, an environmental program designed to open up volunteering and employment opportunities for women in St Kilda. Of particular note was her outreach support for women in St Kilda who had been in prison or who were involved in street-based sex work.

Gendrie said the honour has only been possible because she is part of Good Shepherd. “This award is for all my colleagues and volunteers at Good Shepherd – and the courageous and inspirational women we work with. I’m proud to be part of a network of such dedicated, compassionate and responsive people,” she said.

“This award is a recognition of the collective effort within the whole organisation and the communities we work in.

“Good Shepherd’s services and programs are constantly evolving to respond to changing needs in the community, which is why I’ve been here for so long and held so many different roles,” Gendrie said.

Gendrie remains as passionate as ever about assisting women and girls at vulnerable times in their life and creating new education and employment opportunities through community programs. †

GSANZ's Women's Research, Advocacy and Policy Centre

_____The Good Shepherd Women's Research and Policy (WRAP) Centre based in Melbourne, Australia, works to research, raise awareness of and advocate for issues that affect those we serve in Good Shepherd programs and services. At present the WRAP Centre is working on some projects that touch in to the Millennium Development Goals:

The WRAP Team are experienced social policy researchers and advocates. They are finalising reports into:

- 1 The Economic Security for Survivors of Domestic and Family Violence: This is research into the economic impacts of domestic and family violence on survivors.
- 2 Middle Years project: This project is about identifying the needs and service gaps for young women and girls in their middle years (8-12) who are at risk of disengaging from education, are at high risk of experiencing violence, and high risk of experiencing poor mental health.

The WRAP Team are also currently working on the following:

- 1 Completion of position papers covering:
 - Family Violence and Gender
 - Economic Abuse
 - Responding to Family Violence

The WRAP Team with Sr Monica Walsh, acting Province Leader

- 2 In the coming months the WRAP Team will continue to prepare contributions to the Victorian State Government's Commission into Family Violence; WRAP is also one of the primary drivers of the Forced Marriage Network in Victoria, Australia; the team are also preparing a submission on Older Women's Economic Security and a Housing Submission to the Government enquiry into Security of Tenure.



- 3 Good Shepherd has also decided to prepare a response to a Government Review entitled "Access to Justice". And the WRAP Team will also partner with Consumer Affairs Victoria on the Mental Health impacts of being a victim of an online scam.
- 4 The WRAP Team is also working on the development of an outcomes system, outcomes reporting and program logics for the work that they are doing.

For more information of the work of the WRAP Team please visit our website: www.goodshepherd.com.au †



ORANGE THE WORLD – Myanmar Campaign “End Violence Against Women and Girls”

_____The Good Shepherd Sisters in Myanmar were happy to celebrate ‘ORANGE THE WORLD’. It was with pride that we stood together for justice and peace for the women and girls.

THEME: STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Early in the morning, ‘Orange the World’ posters, orange ribbons and orange balloons were put up in the compound. This was to create an awareness of the day and to be in solidarity with women and girls. In the evening 120 people gathered in the hall which was decorated in orange colour. An orange sash was presented to each one as they entered the hall. Soft music was played to make the people feel and hope that oppressed women will have freedom one day.

The opening prayer was led by Olivia and this was followed by a short movie, ‘Violence against women and children’. It was in deep silence that people came to know more of how women are oppressed.

A meaningful drama was organized by the girls from the leadership program. It showed how a girl could be physically abused....

- Her mouth is tied up: “I cannot express what I feel”
- Her eyes is tied up: “I am not allowed to see the world as I wish to”
- Her hand is tied up: “I have no freedom to work”
- Her feet is tied up: “I cannot move from where I am”
- Her body is tied up: “I have no freedom at all”

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With soft music in the background the participants reflected as they saw the tied up girl in front of them. They then untied her to show that she is free from every stage.

Finally the 'ORANGE THE WORLD' message to the participants:

- Why 'Violence Against Women Day'
- When did it start
- How did it start
- How can we work together for the freedom of women in the world

An action song by the girls and an activity by the Thai Good Shepherd Sisters followed. A message encouraging all to fight for the rights of women was given by the MDO representatives, Manuela and Simone.

'IF WE HOLD ON TOGETEHR' sung by all ended the day. Orange fruits and orange juice were served as refreshments.



MANDALAY COMMUNITY

We, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd celebrated "Violence against Women and Children Day" on 5th December, 2015 at Good Shepherd Convent, Mandalay. 20 girls between 10 years to 28 years participated in this. Three Sisters led the program and they shared about the history of violence against women and children today. A video clip about suffering women in the world was shown. The girls were told that everyone has a responsibility to violence against women and children. †



Build a culture of love as opposed to a culture of violence against women and children

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign
NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10



During the 16 days no violence against women and children campaign period, 4 TBGB (Kindergartens) in Batam, Indonesia organised activities to raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking and violence against children. To the parents the awareness on human trafficking was the focus. The objective is to be aware of what is happening in their society. It is hoped that when they encounter people who are victims of human trafficking or suspicious of such people they are prepared to report to the authorities or to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

Nursery children were given awareness activities about violence occurring in the family, such as beatings, aspersion or sexual harassment. It is hoped that with these awareness activities children can boldly and publicly report to the teachers and parents if they or someone else is harmed. The children were invited to pray for the victims of violence and perpetrators of violence that they repent of their bad actions.

Teenage Centers in Bogor and Yogyakarta organized worship of gratitude and self-expression activities. They decorated their neighborhood orange. Their friends who were not residents in the centers were also involved in the campaign.



Save Girl Child Save The World

Good Shepherd communities in Indonesia celebrated 'The International Day of The Girl' in various ways. In Marau, West Kalimantan our girls from the Teenage Center of Our Lady Of Charity of the Good Shepherd celebrated the day by organizing English speech contest and storytelling contest. At the peak of the event they inaugurated a new building and there was a display of performing arts. Through this celebration they demanded that the Indonesian government provide opportunities for the girls to go to school with quality education. They also demanded opportunities for women to be able to express themselves according to their talents and abilities. We believe that once the girls get good education and

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training as well as opportunity to develop and express their potentials they will bring change to the world of justice and peace where human beings dwell humanly.

Jakarta elementary and junior high schools of Santa Maria Fatima celebrated The International Day of The Girl to coincide with the World Food Day. Gratitude was offered through the Eucharistic celebration and each of the students had an opportunity to express themselves and to learn to love the universe that has been providing food for life.



Hear The Cry Of The Earth And The Cry Of The Poor

On 27 November a big rally, on Jl. Thamrin Jakarta, which is Free Car Day area every Sunday morning, was organised by Gerakan Lingkungan Hidup Umat Katolik Indonesia (Indonesian Catholic Movement on Environment). This rally was to welcome Paris COP 21 (the 21st International Conference on Climate Change).



Sr. Agatha Priuntari RGS as Contact Person of JPIC Good Shepherd Indonesia together with JPIC FMM, OSU, PRR, BHK and other congregations as well as VIVAT Indonesia joined hundreds of Catholics in Jakarta in the rally. The theme of Indonesia was 'Smoke-free' while the theme for GCCM (Global Catholic Climate Movement) was 'Hear the Cry of the Earth and The Cry of the Poor.'



We hope that the general public especially the Indonesian government know that the Indonesian Catholics are also concerned with the integrity of creation and environmental sustainability. We brought out the issues of making Indonesia free of smoke, the importance of conservation of indigenous people, stop mining and concerns in the palm oil plantations. This rally was the first time that Catholics in Jakarta dare speak out their concerns as people of Indonesia. †

International Human Rights Day 2015

_____ In culmination of observation of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, from 25th November through 10th December 2015, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in partnership with Lay Mission Partners organised a public meeting at Amaravathi on 10th December 2015 to commemorate the International Human Rights Day. Dalit women and men, around 350 of them, living in and around Amaravathi town were invited and the human rights activists were invited to share the social reality. International Human Rights Day is the day for creating awareness among the victims of human rights violations. This is the day for the rights oriented organisation to make use of such an opportunity to make the people in general to set their mind towards human rights. This means enabling the general public, especially those who are vulnerable to discrimination and violence to understand the inherent meaning of human rights and responding towards the same in every one's lives.

Mr. Laxman, the Project Coordinator welcomed the participants and the resource persons on behalf of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Lay Partners for the public meeting.

WOMEN ARE CREATORS

Sr. Aruna George, the Local Community Leader of the Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi in her opening talk appreciated the key role played by every woman in her home. She praised woman as 'life giver' and therefore has a major role to play. But this is not properly understood by majority of the men. Most of the men treat women as servants and abuse them to the maximum. They need to realize that women are partners in their life and without them no worthwhile lasting beauty can come into life. Women also need to be assertive and should not accept to conditions that degrade their dignity, she said.

ORIGIN OF MANKIND & LEADERSHIP ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN ANCIENT TIME

Mr. Chiluka Chandra Shekar, General Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee, started describing the status of women during the different ages of humankind; he said that in ancient times women enjoyed equal status with men in all aspects of life; women used to be the head of the family and the men used to be at their call. Later, the history says that during Vedic period, women got education

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and during Rigvedic women got married at a mature age and were probably free to select their own husbands. Women used to be the head of the family and manage everything. But the situation shifted slowly from matriarchal to patriarchal he said. Women were denied of education and other learning opportunities. Caste played a major role in keeping the woman to live under man's mercy.

WOMEN PLAY VITAL ROLE IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Down the ages, Mr. Y. Rajagopal, Mandal Development Officer of Amaravathi said that the women played a major role in the development of humankind. The Dalit movement in India has a huge legacy, strong resistance, and its own evolution over several decades now, where Dalit women played a significant role - particularly women who wrote books, songs, poems, and were part of the cultural resistance of that time. Though the frequency of the crimes against dalits is decreasing, the psychological effect it is creating in the minds of the dalits is quite staggering. It reminds us of the need for strengthening the dalits rights attitude further if change has to occur, he said. Women, he said, can play a major role in shaping the personality as the mother spends a lot of time with the child than the father. He had illustrated few incidences that had occurred close to Amaravathi town where women took the initiative of shaping the appropriate personality in children. Only when one educated properly, he/she can imbibe the right attitude towards life. When the dalits get educated and right attitude is developed, the real agitation can begin, in the real sense, the Dalit will be able to attain power and win the movement against exploitation, and then only can the Dalits live a life of equal status, he asserted.

DEVELOPMENT BEGINS AT HOME

Mr. K. Nasaraiah, Mandal Revenue Officer, Amaravathi focused his reflection on the importance of developing appropriate character formation at home matters a lot. Children need to be brought up with right attitude and towards this end the family plays a major role, he emphasized.



BIASED TREATMENT AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Khalidas, Public Prosecutor, in his turn said that Dalits are constantly subjected to egregious violence, dehumanizing labor, and a pervasive system of social exclusion. Though protections exist in Indian law, they are seldom enforced as caste hierarchy is mirrored in the bureaucratic, police and court systems. Untouchability, for a fact, is such an acute expression of psychological violence that right from childhood, a Dalit is made to feel that he or she is an inferior being, a person of low intelligence and a person whose life is worth only the service and the betterment of the dominant caste men and women. The dalits rarely unite due to caste and community divisions, making the achievement of laborer unity, and therefore the implementation of minimum wages, extremely challenging. Women take lot interest in watching television serials which are emphasising on caste system than interacting among themselves and working for their rights. He further said that it is a happy thing to see the Sisters of the Good Shepherd organising the dalits

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to get educated on issues of human rights, which does not generally happen with many of the faith based organisations. He expressed his gratitude to all those who were behind this organising of dalits, especially women through whom change can come into our society.

UNDERSTAND LAW TO ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS

Mr. Kishore, Legal Advisor of the Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi in his short presentation encouraged the dalits to come forward to file cases against the atrocities done to them. Only when the fear in the minds is replaced with assertiveness, change can be possible, he pleaded.

RESOLUTION BY THE PARTICIPANTS

The public meeting ended with taking oath; the essence of the statement collectively read was this;

As human beings, we (the participants) understand that we are all equal with rights to life, development, speech, protection from all forms of abuse, participation in social life and in the decision making process. As human beings with all rights we will allow anyone discriminating us in the name of caste and make all efforts to educate our children to develop knowledge and skills to lead a dignified life with special focus of educating the girl children; provide equal opportunities for the girl children to shine in life; never allow the practice of early marriages in our society; understand that we have rights to own property; rights to decent housing; right to start own business and right to protest against violence and discrimination".

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As an organization shepherding the lost ones, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Amaravathi even in elsewhere in the country make use of this International Human Rights Day as an opportunity for raising awareness among the general public, especially among the marginalized about their human rights which have been articulated in the Constitution of India as well as in the International documents such as Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Despite all these developments, even today, dalit people who constitute around 25 percent are segregated among the mainstream and are looked down upon by the so called high caste groups and communities. The world resources are for all but this is not being understood by the majority of the people. Might is right has become the norm of the day. Land is the basis for subsistence of any creatures on earth; but the lands are in the hands of few and the landless, especially the dalits are forced to live even today at the mercy of other caste groups and communities who wield the power. Right to freedom of speech, freedom of opinion and expression are denied and those who are at the power against the criticism made upon them. It is high time that the dalits are made to understand their fundamental rights and strive to look forward to assert their rights at the right platforms. It is also the duty of the supporting body such as the Good Shepherd to kindle the fire to this process and march towards securing the rights of the marginalised and the disadvantaged.

No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path. – Buddha †

Photographs Showing the Orange Day Observed by the Dalit Women in Amaravathi Region



Students from Shanthiniketan join the Orange Day to create awareness on the violence against women



Mr. Laxman, Project Coordinator of Good Shepherd Convent addresses the participants on the importance of Orange Day



Students from colleges and high schools participate in the Orange Day to create awareness on the violence against women

Our efforts to campaign for the elimination of Violence Against Women and Children

_____The gender-related violence continues to increase in the Philippines despite the continuing efforts of different institutions and agencies to fight violence against women and children. The pervasive view of women as commodities and sex objects is not the only factor that has contributed to the vulnerability of women and children. Whether in the rural areas or in the cities, we are witnesses to how poverty, landlessness, unemployment exacerbated by human-made disasters and climate change, worsening corruption, impunity and injustice have worsened the condition of women and children.

That is why we never stop with our efforts to campaign and advocate for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children whether in the residences, schools or pastoral communities. Every effort is important because we know that we are making life a little bit easier for them.



Candle Lighting in solidarity with our indigenous brothers and sisters peoples who traveled from Mindanao to Manila to bring the voices of their communities to the national capital. They have been struggling to defend their schools (which were ordered closed), communities and peoples from militarization and plunder. There were gruesome killings and enforced disappearances of peace and environmental advocates.

Sisters, mission partners, staff and girls participated in this activity. The sisters also attended the evening solidarity activities of the indigenous peoples in the University of the Philippines.

FORUM

Some leaders of the indigenous communities were invited by Sr. Diane Cabasagan, RGS, cluster leader of the National Capital Region-WJPIC to share their experiences of violence in Mindanao. Aside from the Good Shepherd Sisters and their staff in the compound, there were also many sisters and lay people from other congregations who also attended.

After their sharing the Lumad women (indigenous term in Mindanao region) thanked the sisters and guests through dances. Sr. Juanita Dano, RGS during a prayer service also for the indigenous communities. With her are parish youth, leaders of the Basic Ecclesial Communities, and the Missionaries of the Poor.

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After watching a documentary film on how to avoid being used and abused, the members of the Good Shepherd Home Drop-In Center, who are mostly candle vendors in Naga City, Camarines Sur (Southern island of Luzon-Bicol Region) had a contextualized liturgy to pray for the healing of memories of the survivors of violence. They also shared how they witnessed different forms of abuse and violence at home and in the community. The liturgy ended with prayers for the rights of children and women in the world. †

16-DAY CAMPAIGN/ADVOCACY AGAINST VIOLENCE ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT ST. BRIDGET COLLEGE



Orange Environment in the entire campus to intensify the consciousness of students and teachers to continue to unite against violence on women and children. The monthly advocacy of the school is posted on the WJPIC bulletin board. Its location makes the passers-by stop to look and read.



Classroom education and campaign to allow interactive discussion of issues of gender and violence.



Sr. Teresita Danganan discussing the issue of girl-child