

## Good Shepherd NGO office celebrates 10 years of collaboration at the UN

Good Shepherd became affiliated with the United Nations as an NGO with consultative status with ECOSOC in November 1996. The purpose of this affiliation is to further our mission of reconciliation, particularly in its orientation toward girls and women. It is a means of collaboration through which we work to bring about change in whatever condemns others to live a marginalized life. Through our affiliation with the goals of the UN, we seek to extend mercy to the poor, to the oppressed, awakening in our world the dignity and value of each person.

As the NGO office in New York has approached our 10-year anniversary, we have thought often about collaboration, which is a dynamic that our Chapter/Assembly documents have encouraged us to use. We have asked several international NGOs with whom Good Shepherd has collaborated over the past year to briefly describe their experience of collaboration with Good Shepherd. Their responses below are a true celebration for the NGO office. With much gratitude to these and so many other NGOs who are part of the Good Shepherd mission.



From left to right, Good Shepherd Sisters Vandana Lobo, Clare Nolan and Maureen Catabian



**Marie Elena Dio, SC**  
Elizabeth Seton Federation,  
<http://www.sisters-of-charity.org/>

Having shared office space for almost five years with the Good Shepherd NGO, I must offer my greatest respect and love for the work, knowledge, involvement, and collaboration of your NGO representative. As a result of her work, your NGO is highly appreciated by other NGOs as well as by UN offices with which has worked. You can be proud!



**Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz**  
Coalition Against Trafficking In Women And Girls – Region of Latin-American-Caribbean (LAC),  
[tulloaz@hotmail.com](mailto:tulloaz@hotmail.com)

The best services delivered for victims of trafficking against women and girls in the Latin-American-Caribbean (LAC) region are being delivered by the Sister of Good Shepherd, always willing to collaborate and undertake enormous amount of work, even to coordinate the national networks, as in the case of Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil.



**Leslie Wright**  
former chair, NGO Committee on  
the Status of Women,  
[lwright@social-profit.org](mailto:lwright@social-profit.org)

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd can always be counted on to produce effective, accurate research on the issues at hand, especially those affecting women and girls. As the former chair of the NGO CSW NY the organization provided leadership on trafficking and on violence against women and girls, and leadership in communicating their research to NGO and government stakeholders



**Sr Dorothy Farley**  
International Catholic Communica-  
tion Office,  
<http://www.oic-ico.org/>

The Good Shepherd NGO at the United Nations, led by Clare Nolan, is focused, intelligent and cooperative. Time and time again, the Good Shepherd NGO provides background material and methods of furthering the issues of Violence Against Women and Trafficking of Women. I rejoice that we in the UN Catholic community -- lay persons and religious -- have experts in our midst!

The Good Shepherd Sisters also provided us with the finest (from the Middle East Lebanon) when Sister Hiam Baroud was here recently with us. How very helpful it is to learn from those abroad who speak with compassion.



**Ann Scholz**  
School Sisters of Notre Dame,  
[www.gerhardinger.org/](http://www.gerhardinger.org/)

We have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the Good Shepherd NGO for past ten years on both sides of the Atlantic! The SSND and Good Shepherd offices in New York and Rome have collaborated very successfully on any number of projects. Each brings a unique perspective and set of experiences---the whole is always greater than the sum of the parts. It has been a pleasure to multiply our effectiveness by sharing our gifts.



**Sharon Altendorf**  
International Presentation  
Association Sisters of the  
Presentation  
<http://www.ipa.ozehosting.com/>

Clare, representing your NGO, agreed to mentor me as I began the work here at the UN. Since then we have worked together mostly on the issues of women – Clare usually leading and challenging me to even more work!



**Mercedes Roman**  
Maryknoll Office for Global  
Concerns,  
[www.maryknoll.org/globalconcerns](http://www.maryknoll.org/globalconcerns)

It has been for me a privilege to work in collaboration with the Good Shepherd as an NGO at the UN, especially at the occasion of the II Congress against commercial sexual exploitation in Yokohama, where we organized a workshop on prevention, accepting the challenge of bringing people from other countries.

I met Clare at the UN coming back from Brazil, where I have another rewarding experience working with sisters of the Good Shepherd, also preventing child prostitution in Joao Pessoa, Paraiba. Currently and thanks to Clare, I am also working in close collaboration with Sister Zaira Naranjo of the Good Shepherd Community in Venezuela, which adds my positive experience in working with the Congregation.

I have to add that working and sharing views and concerns with Clare Nolan at Sessions, Committees and Working Groups, is not only a rewarding working experience, but a deep personal enriching one, and I know that all my colleagues feel the same. Clare brings fresh air and a profound honesty to the discussions.



**Melissa Farley**  
The Coalition Against Trafficking  
in Women  
<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/>

1. Wonderful research support in Thailand and spiritual inspiration there. I was so appreciative of a Catholic service organization run by sisters that had pictures of the Buddha along with Jesus. A simple thing, but it moved me.

2. Clare Nolan's rock-solid presence at the UN, always welcoming and supportive, has meant a lot to me over the years.



**Catherine Ferguson, SNJM**  
Coalition Coordinator, UNANIMA  
International,  
<http://www.unanima-international.org/>

UNANIMA International, a coalition of twelve congregations of women religious and relatively new on the UN scene has benefited tremendously from our collaboration with the Good Shepherd NGO. Right from the beginning Clare Nolan was one of the speakers who helped us understand how to work effectively as an NGO. Later, when we adopted trafficking in human beings as our major focus, she helped us make effective connections with others working on this issue. Last June, we worked together to bring 3 experts in violence against women through trafficking to give their testimony at civil society hearings to influence the outcome document for the General Assembly this fall. Because of this work, the statement gave much more attention to gender inequality. It's been a great collaboration and I hope it continues for many years to come.



**Deirdre Mullan RSM**  
Mercy Global Concern,  
[www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)

My experience of collaboration with the Congregation of the Good Shepherd has been very positive. Your NGO (Clare Nolan) is a highly respected member of the NGO community and we, Sisters of Mercy have been glad to collaborate with her especially on the many issues involving Women, which are discussed at this worldwide forum.



**Hourig Babikian**  
Christian Children's Fund (CCF),  
<http://www.christianchildrensfund.org/sponsortoday/>

Over the years, my experience in working with Clare Nolan, Representative of Good Shepherd NGO, has been very positive, professional, focused and successful. Clare always brings our attention back to the key issue, the children and women on behalf of whom we work. Thank you.



**Joan F. Burke,**  
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur,  
[www.sndden.org](http://www.sndden.org)

Working with Clare Nolan of the RGS always helps assure that discussions are grounded in reality. Her and her organization's hands-on experience and focus on concrete results keeps us action-oriented in responding to voices of persons / peoples living in poverty. She "talks straight."

[Were the language not taken from the vocabulary of violence, I would say Clare shoots from the hip and knows how to hit her mark!]



**Philo Morris,**  
Medical Mission Sisters  
[www.medicalmissionsisters.org](http://www.medicalmissionsisters.org)

It has been great working with Clare Nolan of Congregation of Sisters of the Good Shepherd at the United Nations. I am inspired by the hard work and dedication to women and children and the world's poor.

Each of us have devoted our energies to a particular area of the UN, and piecing it together, our contribution is unmatched for making another World possible.



**Sr Jean Schafer SDS**  
Sisters of the Divine Savior  
*Anti-Trafficking Awareness Project*  
<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraffic/org/>

The Good Shepherd NGO link to Clare Nolan has been a very helpful relationship: significant references to global trafficking issues, actions, perspectives; candid feedback on information we feature in our newsletter; fast turn-around in the dialogue; a solid grounding in humanitarian compassion and justice!



**Mary T. Keane**  
Trickle Up,  
<http://www.trickleup.org>

Your organization has given the wider community a vision of those you serve through your promotion of their exquisite work. The beauty of the cultures and women you honor through promotion of their products is reflected in the luminous faces of your staff.

Addendum: In my Quaker faith we speak of the Inner Light and how it radiates to others. I think of that often when I see your staff at SCSU and the UN carrying those bundles of products to sell and standing long hours at the fairs. The joy of their work and commitment to service of others radiates all around them.

My NGO, the Trickle Up Program, gives small grants to the poorest to start their own businesses and I see a collaboration of spirit in our work together. Thank you for enriching this world by your vision and commitment.



**Kim Robey**  
The Episcopal Church of the USA,  
Office of Women's Ministry,  
<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/un/contacts.html>

Clare Nolan has been an invaluable resource to us all at the Episcopal Church USA.

She has been a speaker on several occasions to groups here as she did at the beginning of the UNCSW 2005 at the UN. Clare graciously agreed on short notice to give a very useful orientation to the UN to our 85 women as to how we, as an NGO, could get the most benefit from our time at the UN. Her practical advice is well respected by all at our office.

Clare also served as consultant to our Committee on the Status of Women as they were trying to prepare a report and resolutions to our elected body for the Episcopal Church, the General Convention, on the issues of trafficking as they affect women. She is extremely generous with her time and advice, sharing resources freely.



**M. Stacy Hanrahan**  
C Notre Dame,  
[www.cnd-m.com](http://www.cnd-m.com)

The Good Shepherd NGO representative has provided invaluable resources and education about the realities of Trafficking in Women and Children to the various constituencies served by the Congregation of Notre Dame. These constituencies are located in United States, Japan, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and the Cameroon.



**Carolyn Donovan**  
United Nations Representative  
American Association of University  
Women (AAUW)  
<http://www.aauw.org/>

Our collaboration with Good Shepherd NGO can be characterized as extremely satisfactory. We respect the representative's understanding of the issues, effective advocacy efforts, suggested solutions, and compassion for girls and women who are trafficked and objects of violence.



**Janice G. Raymond**  
Coalition Against Trafficking in  
Women (CATW)  
<http://www.catwinternational.org/>

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women is proud of its decade-long collaboration with the Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. We have accomplished many good things together for women and women's rights and will continue to join forces to combat prostitution, trafficking and the global sex industry.



**Nadia Shmigel**  
World Federation of Ukrainian  
Women's Organizations,  
<http://www.wfuwo.org/>

My experience of NGO collaboration with the Good Shepherd NGO (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd) can be characterized in the following way: Congratulations on the ten years of excellent collaborative work at the UN. The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd brings into life their commitment to inclusion, collaboration and respect for cultural and individual differences.



**Mary H. Purcell,**  
International Federation of University Women,  
<http://www.ifuw.org/>

My experience of NGO collaboration with the Good Shepherd NGO can be characterized in the following way - Outstanding, Creative, and Dependable, particularly in our work together for the Working Group on Girls of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and the development of the International Network for Girls.



**Lucianne Siers, OP**  
Religious Orders Partnership  
[www.religiousorderspartnership.org](http://www.religiousorderspartnership.org)

It is delightful to have a colleague so willing to assist us in sharing her wisdom, knowledge and experience particularly on the issue of trafficking of women and girls. We depend on Clare to keep us updated on this important concern.



**Jackie Shapiro,**  
Zonta International,  
<http://www.zonta.org/>

My experience of NGO collaboration with the Good Shepherd NGO is one of the finest in my UN activities. The Good Shepherds can be relied on to be knowledgeable about the issues they advocate for, reliable in their follow through on activities and, most important to me, they endeavor to always interject the perspectives of the poor people of the world, whose voices need to be heard in UN deliberations and programs.



**Bernadette Sagma**  
Salesian Sisters,

<http://www.salesiansisterseast.org/>

My experience of NGO collaboration with the Good Shepherd NGO (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd) can be characterized in the following way:

We, Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, are impressed by the readiness of the Good Shepherd NGO to mentor beginners like us in the issue of involvement at the UN. We are also very grateful to the organization for enlisting us to participate at the Commission on the Status of Women in 2001.



**Dr. Bobbi Nassar**  
International Federation  
of Settlements and  
Neighborhood Centers,  
<http://www.ifsnetwork.org/>

... My experience of NGO collaboration with the Good Shepherd NGO has been very positive. Specifically Good Shepherd has been proactive in bringing grassroots advocates for women's human rights to CEDAW meetings to present shadow reports. During all of the Commissions that are held at UN Headquarters Good Shepherd has presented knowledgeable advocacy for victims of human rights violations; these Commissions include the Status of Women and Social Development. Good Shepherd representatives are excellent collaborators; always available for sharing experiences and knowledge.

## ***Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd***

an NGO in special consultative status with ECOSOC, United Nations

*"Our commitment to reconciliation  
demands that we promote justice and peace..."*

**Clare Nolan, NGO representative**  
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