Dear APJP Mission Partners,

This inaugural APJP Network newsletter focuses on the campaign ‘16 Days No Violence Against Women and Children’ which was actively participated by GS in the region. We would like to congratulate the panel for CSW57 comprising of Hung-Hsin Lin from Taiwan, Ferew Lemma from Ethiopia and Maureen McGowan from USA. This panel was prepared by Sr Therese Thong, Taiwan. There are more details of this in the flyer. Our heartiest congratulations to Sr Niluka too for her impactful statement on the ‘Right To Peace’. She is a JP Contact Person in Sri Lanka and member of the APJP Network core team. Enjoy all the news! Gloria…Coordinator APJP Network

‘Right To Peace’ by Sr Niluka

"Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen who work for human rights to peace I welcome this opportunity to address the civil society preparing for the Advisory Committee and give full support to the Draft Declaration on the Right to Peace. As a Sri Lankan whose country is the aftermath of civil war, I affirm the necessity of the right to Peace as a foundation of all human rights. As a member of an international NGO, doing direct service for women and girls, I affirm that this issue pertains not only to my own country but to far too many nations, far too many suffering people have been stripped of human dignity and rights due to conditions of war." Read more on the following link or on our Justice Peace website page: http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en/good-shepherd-international-justice-and-peace-office-gsijp_1605/gsijp-news_1609/cso-meeting-on-the-advisory-committee-declaration-on-the-right-to-peace
\textbf{From Myanmar, Goretti, rgs reports}

\textbf{25November} - The Sisters from the Mandalay community, together with the 11 girls under their care in the rehabilitation program and 20 girls in the educational centre, actively participated in the discussions on gender violence. They are now more aware of women’s dignity and value.

\textbf{26 – 30November} – The Sisters were invited by ‘Karuna Mandalay’ to conduct a seminar in Tha Yet Kone village, over 300 miles from Mandalay, which is a hot spot for the human traffickers. The young people from Thae Phyu and Nyaung Pin Tha also joined in. The seminar helped those intending to migrate. The sharing of those who have returned from abroad was also helpful to them. Their experiences of being abused, cheated by employers and trapped in human trafficking situations alarmed everyone. Pamphlets on human trafficking, HIV/AIDS and CRC were distributed at the seminar. Contact information of immigration offices was also made available to all.

Every night, village leaders and elders watched videos on human trafficking and role plays by the young people. It was heartening to notice that all were ‘one’ irrespective of their different religions. Among the 85 participants, the majority were Buddhists. All valued the knowledge and experience during the seminar.

\textbf{2December} – a retreat was held in Myo Thit for the 31 girls under their care. Daily prayer service would begin at 8am. All participants expressed their desire to eliminate violence against women through prayer and daily reflections. The girls were made to be more aware of women issues and their responsibilities.

As a celebration of World AIDS Day, the Good Shepherd Sisters and Columban Sisters organised a day of fun for the children whose parents are affected by HIV/AIDS and the children who are victims of AIDS from our nursery. The happiness of sharing a meal during the outing and the opportunity of playing together made the 25 children feel loved and equal.

\textbf{27November} – the Good Shepherd Sisters invited NGO, ‘Gender Group’ to conduct a seminar on the ‘Elimination of Violence Against Women’ in Magyikwin village. Around 200 women and men attended it. They shared information about the background of the campaign, CEDAW and gender equality. Men participants were encouraged to work hand and hand with women to end violence against women. They are now more aware that both women and men need to respect each other. Good Shepherd works to support women and children in this village.

Each community joined in the campaign by way of prayer services in their own ministries with staff, lay partners, students and villagers during the ‘16 days’ campaign.
**From Indonesia, Ima reports**

**Seminar on the International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence**

On 25 November, Good Shepherd Services for Women and Children (GSSWC) Indonesia conducted a seminar in partnership with ‘Vivat Indonesia’. The seminar highlighted the ‘16 days’ campaign. It was also noted that as violence against women is an everyday reality, all efforts to eradicate it should be put in place. 160 participants consisting of the religious and church activists attended the seminar.

**‘16 Days No Violence Campaign’ via radio and television**

In collaboration with Communication Commission Archdiocese Jakarta, the campaign was broadcasted through radio, Cakrawala. Sixteen priests, for the ‘16 days’ participated as guest speakers in the one hour talk show.

On 26 November 2012, Sr Lia rgs appeared on TVRI. She spoke of the campaign and that violence against women happens at home, at work, on the streets and in other public spaces. She emphasised that all efforts to stomp out violence against women must be our priority. A single mother, survivor of multiple forms of violence shared her experience during the show.

**Bookmarks, T-shirts, Bags for Campaign**

16,000 bookmarks were distributed to parishes throughout Indonesia. On one side of the bookmark was information on the campaign and on the other, a prayer for survivors of violence. T-shirts and bags were specially made for the campaign. The bags were made by the single mothers in our economic justice program and unwed mothers in our shelter in Jakarta.

**Special Prayers In Parishes**

Led by Rev. Peter Subagyo OMI, parishioners were informed about various forms of violence. Special prayers were prepared for the ‘16 days’ and Human Rights Day. Homilies were focussed on the issue of violence against women.

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"From Australia New Zealand report, kindly see the separate attachment prepared by Rosie"
From Singapore-Malaysia, Gloria reports

The UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign proclaims every 25th of the month as Orange Day, aiming to raise awareness about the issue of violence against women and girls, not only once a year on 25 November (the International Day to End Violence against Women), but every month! The first in a series of Orange Days was launched on 25 July 2011, and will be repeated every consecutive month leading up to the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2013), which will focus on the prevention and elimination of violence against women.

During the Sabah Youth Day in Kota Kinabalu, the youths from the Alamesra Youth-PREP Centre, took the opportunity to promote the campaign to some 3,200 Catholic youths who gather once in every 4 years. A poster was designed by the youth and orange ribbons were distributed to the participants. They were also encouraged to wear orange T-shirts, caps and anything orange to express their support of the campaign. Many showed interest in it and were thankful to know about the campaign. Similar initiatives were organised in other Good Shepherd centres, hostels and schools throughout the Province.

Alamesra Youth-PREP Centre, is a youth drop-in centre which provides a safe place for youths to seek support on matters like education, work, family, relationships and ultimately a better future.
In Ipoh, under the sweltering evening heat, the staff of Mariaville Good Shepherd Kindergarten and Rose Virginie Good Shepherd Centre joined in the walk to stomp out violence against women and girls. The walk was organised by Soroptimist International, Region of Malaysia, in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and The Body Shop.

In Sabah, the campaign took off with a ‘bang’. White ribbons were distributed as part of the campaign. Staff and volunteers from Seri Murni Crisis Centre (SMCC) were stationed at strategic locations throughout the city to hand white ribbons and flyers to the public as well as to conduct a signature campaign. Wearing a white ribbon is a symbol of men’s opposition to violence against women (VAW). The signature campaign aims to generate an increased level of awareness among the general public on the negative impact of violence on women and children. Public support was tremendous! The banner was filled with signatures within the hour. It was heartening to see parents encouraging their young to pen their names on the banner in support of the campaign. It is hoped that through this campaign, victims of violence themselves would also be empowered to take positive steps to seek support and help available from various agencies and NGOs such as SMCC and Sabah Women Action Resource Group (SAWO). This event was reported in the Daily Express on 1st December.

Elsewhere in the Province, posters, flyers and white ribbons were distributed to the Churches through their Women’s Desk during the ‘16 days’ campaign. The flyers were available in 3 languages, English, Bahasa Melayu and Mandarin.
From Macau, Juliana, rgs reports

Response to the comments of the Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau that “Making Domestic Violence a Public Crime is ‘Not appropriate’ for Macau”

As the Director of Good Shepherd Centre, an agency that has offered shelter to victims of domestic violence for the last 22 years I would like to respond to remarks in the Legislative Council by Mr. Andrew Cheong, the Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau on Thursday November 22, 2012. The original draft of the domestic violence law was welcomed as a long overdue step in the right direction by those of us directly involved in serving victims of domestic violence. Therefore it came as a surprise and a great disappointment to learn that there has now been a complete U turn and the door has been closed to defining domestic violence as a public crime. To say that Macau cannot adopt a solution similar to Portugal because Macau wants to have harmonious families is not a convincing rationale. Does Portugal not want to have harmonious families? Does not every country want harmony in the family?

The sad reality is that what destroys family harmony is domestic violence. Not the law. The new draft of the law is a step backward or at best simply maintaining the status quo. The new measures introduced of better support systems for victims can be implemented by administrative procedures and do not require any law to be enacted. So why make a law if it will leave us where we are? While making domestic violence a public crime will not solve all the problems of domestic violence it does one important thing which is necessary for justice to be carried out. It makes the offender take responsibility for the harm inflicted and accept the consequences. In our experience more than 90% of victims will never prosecute and will drop the case after they make a police report. Therefore, the abusers get off scot free. Victim safety is important but so is abuser accountability. By closing the door on making domestic violence a public crime Macau is out of step with international covenants as well as the trend in many countries.
ONE BILLION RISING CAMPAIGN!

**ONE BILLION RISING** is a campaign to end violence against women. It aims at getting one billion women/girls and those who love them WALK OUT, DANCE, RISE UP, and DEMAND an end to this violence. ONE BILLION RISING will move the earth, activating women and men across every country. The event is to take place on 14Feb2013. See [http://www.onebillionrising.org](http://www.onebillionrising.org) for the event. It is fun and all will enjoy the dance whilst advocating for the rights of women and girls.

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**Take an action today to end poverty:**

Add your signature in support of the **Social Protection Floor Initiative**


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**The Asia Pacific Justice Peace Network**

[http://apjpnetwork.wordpress.com](http://apjpnetwork.wordpress.com)

**Our priorities**

- Trafficking
- Migration
- Economic Justice
- Prostitution
- Girl Child
- Ecology

**Our network**

- Cambodia
- Thailand
- Myanmar
- Vietnam
- Korea
- Macau
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- India
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- Pakistan
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Philippines
- Australia
- New Zealand
- Singapore
- Malaysia

**Our core team**

- Sr Maureen Catabian
- Sr Niluka Nisansala
- Sr Virginia Kim
- Ms Gloria Bon (Coordinator)

**Our regional designate representative**

- Sr Sutisa Utalun

**Our APC link persons**

- Sr Maria Rose
- Sr Joan Lopez

**Our NGO Representative – Economic & Social Council, New York**

- Sr Winifred Doherty

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