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Presentation Convent Senior Secondary School, Delhi 6

25th Nano Nagle Inter-School Debate

Submitted by: Sr Jayasri Vedanayam

It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it

~ Joseph Joubert

Debate is one of the scholastic activities that empowers students to express themselves creatively. The length and width of knowledge that they obtain through this is purely unparalleled. The 25th Nano Nagle Inter School Debate Competition for the students of class XII was organised on Tuesday, 26 April 2022 on the occasion of our Founder's Day. It is organised every year on Founder's Day to commemorate the pioneering efforts of our Founder, Venerable Nano Nagle. The event paid tribute to the lady, who was blessed with a divine vision to lay the foundation of the Congregation of the Presentation Sisters. Her vision continues globally with the dedicated service of the Sisters in the Ministry of Education, carrying the flame of her lantern. This was a day to reflect upon our glorious legacy and how it manifests in our present leading the way to a hope filled future.



The event was held in the school hall and was graced with the presence of Col R K Anuj, the Chief Guest, and Rev Fr Antony William, from St Mary's Catholic Church, Delhi-6, as the Guest of Honour. The enthusiastic audience for the exciting event was made up of students from class XII. The topic for the day was 'The Progress of a Nation Lies in its Military Might', a relevant global issue of the current times. Twenty prestigious schools of Delhi participated in the competition and expressed their point of view with reference to the ongoing Russia and Ukraine War.

The teams were well prepared and undoubtedly influenced the audience with their beliefs and well-articulated views. The participants made their opinions more vehement with their righteous facial expressions and voice modulation. They displayed great oratory skills. The highlight of the event were the interjections, as a volley of questions were answered confidently by the witty and vivacious speakers, inviting praise and appreciation from the audience.

The Chief Guest addressed the audience on a very optimistic note by taking a middle path in the debate, explaining the significance of military might.



The rolling trophy for the Best Team was won by Montfort School, Ashok Vihar. The Best Speaker was Kunal Verma, from the same school. Other winners included Rashi Pandey, First Runner Up from Loretto Convent School; Second Runner Up, Mishty from Montfort School; and Jasmeh Kaur from St Thomas School received the consolation prize. The Best Rebuttal was won by Manan Jain of Fr Agnel School.

The event was a kaleidoscope of ideas, thoughts, opinions and perspectives that unquestionably enhanced the students' knowledge and understanding of the motion. The competition was an enthralling experience for the speakers as well as the audience.

Reflections on being in Aran

Submitted by: Bernadette Joyce

What are you going to do in Aran? You'll go mad in there on your own! Are you not afraid?

It's not safe nowadays. Are you going to write a book or what? Is it going to find yourself you are?

Be sure you take plenty of tapes and books.

These are just a few of the comments and questions expressed by my family and friends when I announced my plans to spend three months in the Aran Islands as part of my Sabbatical. It was



never easy to give a satisfactory answer or comment to my enquirers. In one conversation with two friends I tried to put a respectable face on my life of *Being* in Aran by enumerating what seemed like *doings*. Going to Irish class, reading, writing, praying, reflecting, walking, cycling. Maura suddenly asked "But what are you doing anyway? Did I miss something?" Mikey came in with his own summing up of what I had just said "Didn't you hear her? Nothin". So much for my *being* in a world that is geared to produce at all costs at all times.

For some years I've felt the need to live somewhere in Ireland and just give myself the time to experience in a deep way life in my own culture, so I chose Aran as a place where I could touch, feel, and sense again, my own Celtic roots without too many distractions. Maybe T.S Eliot's line

says it better for me *to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time*. I've become sensitive to similarities and differences in cultures and I'm aware that in my time abroad I've been touched in many beautiful ways by the people of New Zealand and Chile. Now I was taking time to immerse myself in the culture that shaped me in my youthful years. The consumerist part of Ireland too left me with many questions.

Back on the job I tend to be overactive, a kind of head down and tail up style, now I decided to reverse the order – put tail down and head up. Although I spent a lot of time on my own, there were times when I wanted desperately to communicate with the locals and hear their experience of life and the whole Aran story and in deference to them *as Gaeilge*. I felt like Ritchie Kavanagh as he expresses his plight in school 'And I not know no focal at all'. I had very few *focals* and what I had was a mixture of Spanish and Irish. I was feeling alienated, a *strainséir* in my own country but this



feeling was not new to me nor is it only peculiar to missionaries as one writer says, 'One must plough in an alien soil in order to sow'. Here I was now in my own soil and handicapped. I had no plough. I realised I had to let go of one language and begin to think in Irish. I wasn't ready to let go of my Spanish. As I walked home to my hermitage that night clutching my bundle of *cipíni* I thought of life, letting go and alienation.

I sat in front of the fire that night and noticed that the sticks, although quite decayed, held a variety of shapes. The identity of each one remained intact as the blaze ran through them transforming those ordinary bits and pieces into rods of bright gold. The *cipíni* I had carried home were now a glow with new life. Was *this Being or Doing or both?* I wondered. I was grateful for the times, the places and the people who have helped and continue to bring about change in me. Maybe too it's about being vulnerable in this world of efficiency and power. This was certainly my experience on entering Chile without the language.

The Aran world is eight miles long and seven miles wide dotted with Christian and pre-Christian ruins. St Enda had many disciples who spent time here in preparation for mission.

'The world is charged with the grandeur of God'. Hopkins' line is an apt description of the Island. Creation and nature call one to constantly be reminded of God. Here I was breathing in, listening to and delighting in *being* in a place *where peace comes dropping slow* (Yeats). Allowing this part of my life to unfold in its own way in an atmosphere that's alive with the Celtic spirit. I think the following lines sum up the simplicity of what it means to look the ordinary way!

Contemplation

Where shall I look for enlightenment?

Here

When will it happen?

It is happening right now,

Then why don't I experience it

Because you don't look.

What should I look for?

Nothing. Just look.

At what?

Anything your eyes light upon.

Must I look in a special kind of way?

No. The ordinary way will do.

But don't I always look the ordinary way?

No.

Why ever not?

Because to look you must be here.

You are mostly somewhere else.

Healthcare Ministry in India South Unit

Taken from the South India Unit Newsbrief April 2022

As Presentation women in healing ministry we are called to follow Christ in the spirit of Nano Nagle, bringing good news to the poor and the disadvantaged promoting God's reign of truth, goodness, justice and peace...

- ❖ We provide healthcare services for the poor and the marginalised with special focus on women and children, people living with HIV/AIDS and other health needs of the people that may emerge as a major concern.
- ❖ We give importance to an holistic approach to health and alternative systems of medicine.
- ❖ We endeavour to promote, realise and safeguard higher ideas and values in spiritual, moral, ethical, nursing, educational and social areas of health.

It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver ~ Mahatma Gandhi

The pandemic has radically changed all of our lives. It has brought severe restrictions to everyday life and painful limitations on social contact. But it has also spotlighted how important our health is. When Covid-19 hit, healthcare workers and hospitals found themselves frequently stretched to their limits. Our doctors, nurses, technicians, transporters, EMTs, pharmacists and everyone who supports patient care is rising to the occasion and caring for our most vulnerable populations. Their dedication, commitment and courage deserve our deepest gratitude and admiration. Their service to patients is saving countless lives and making thousands of differences. May we, the followers of Jesus and Nano, continue to spread the same love, compassion and healing to the people we now serve. Here we present the report of the Health activities of different communities.

In Holy Redeemer Hospital, Theni, we provide quality care for all patients with medical assistance to the poor for both the out-patients and the in-patients. We make sure that our facilities are available at affordable costs to the poor and we also educate them about the facilities provided by the Government sectors and encourage them to benefit by it. Some of our activities are...



- ❖ *People's health is in their hands* is our motto for Community Health. Our outreach programs are strengthened by using the services of self-help groups (women & men) in the neighbouring villages and colonies by ensuring our support to other mission stations in Vadaputhupatty (old-age home run by the Franciscan Sisters) and every Thursday to Ahalya Health centre, Varusanadu.
- ❖ We conduct an awareness program for social transformation based on existing evil social systems and malpractices, through community participation in decisions that affect health.
- ❖ We provide special attention to help infertile couples by equipping the hospital with IUI procedures and with Hormone Analyzer for better investigations and treatment. We have a team of doctors for couples' counselling.
- ❖ We have the availability of diagnostic procedures; a well-equipped operation theatre for performing procedures like laparoscopic, hernioplasty, appendectomy, total thyroidectomy etc.
- ❖ We also practice alternative systems of medicines (Naturopathy, Magneto Therapy, Herbal Medicine and Counselling).
- ❖ We empower the young girls with job opportunities through our Vocational Diploma in General Duty Assistance (VDGDA) training.
- ❖ Recognising that the school is one of the most effective platforms to promote health among the future generation, we conduct school health programs.
- ❖ We network with Government Hospitals, like-minded doctors, Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), Tamil Nadu Voluntary Health Association (TNVHA).
- ❖ We celebrate important days like Aayudha Pooja, Pongal, Christmas, Laborer's Day, Nurses Day, Doctors Day...

In Nagle Health Centre, Colachel, we focus on the Holistic Health approach. We have been ministering in Kottar Diocese, Kanyakumari district for over forty-six years. Maternal health has been one of our services. Women come from near and far, seeking services during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal period. Everyday people come to the out-patient department seeking cures for various illnesses. We reach out by organising medical camps.

New Life Centre provides services for de-addiction through family counselling, deepening of spirituality, house visits, follow-up meetings, reconciliation rituals and retreats. On the 39th anniversary of its beginning, eighty people participated in a three-day event and renewed their commitment to sobriety.





The Naturopathy Department provides drugless therapy including yoga, meditation and body massage, different types of baths, magneto therapy, counselling, stress management and organic foods. We collaborated with the CRI Sisters at diocesan level and the Friends of Nano to empower a group of transgender people with some income generation programme.

In Jeevan Jyothi Hospice, we see the tremendous suffering of the people who are living with and dying of HIV/AIDS – which creates orphans and widows and made us think seriously and work effectively with commitment and dedication. We are conscious of People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as dignified individuals who have the right to a decent life, care, acceptance and therefore a right to our assistance and support for a better life. We try to be effective instruments offering quality, holistic, palliative and institutional care aiming at psychosocial and spiritual support to PLWHA which is community based, resulting in acceptance by rehabilitation in the community. We dream of a society which is healthy and free from HIV/AIDS.

During our interaction with patients we realised that HIV/TB co-infection is very high and there are a few deaths among them. Our activities are based on our objectives as follows:

- *We care for our patients in the hospice through* medical/nursing care, palliative care, documentation, yoga training, spiritual support, good nutrition/nutritional training, visits of doctors, counselling for individuals, family groups, one to one interaction: providing nutritional support and general care.
- *We reach out to the wider community by* community/home-based care, house visits, referrals, children's education, awareness programme, palliative care, meeting the people on Anti-Retro Viral Therapy (ARVT) and PLWHA, providing psychosocial support, attending in foster care meetings, legal aid training, organising Income Generation Programmes, training caregivers and programmes for CIA/CAA.

Our response to Covid-19 has brought tremendous change in the life of many at different levels, economic, social, educational and so on. People were depressed due to lack of finance and food. We continue our support to the poor and needy with rice, dhal and groceries. About 750 families received the nutrition support. Our target groups are tribal families from four villages, elders who have no one to care for them, widows and disabled. Also we identified transgender people who needed support and those families affected by corona virus.

In the Healthcare Centre at Karanje, every month we attend to 250 – 300 patients in the dispensary. We use herbal medicines for basic illnesses wherever possible. We have thirty-six health workers who keep basic emergency medicines with them to treat basic and minor illnesses at the initial stage. The health workers are also trained to prepare herbal medicines and dispense the same.



It is through these health workers that we reach out to the tribal people in remote and inaccessible villages. We hold annual Medical Camps. We also maintain an herbal garden in our campus at Karanje. Palghar District has one of the highest rates of malnutrition. In order to reduce malnutrition, we have a nutritional program for the children. This is mainly for infants and children up to 10 years of age. We make tonics and other similar nutrients. Through health education, we create awareness and try to prevent the diseases on time. In this area, there are no proper sanitation facilities. There are no proper toilets, no washrooms or bathing spaces. We begin merely with the children to make them aware of many possible health hazards and to inculcate in them the value of cleanliness, concern for others and taking care of self.

In Ahalya Healthcare Centre at Manalathukudisai, we attend to the daily health needs of the people from nearby villages. Weekly visit by Dr Sr Raja Pushpam encourages the people to ensure their physical fitness to work hard for their livelihood. People are helped in their dire need for



medical assistance at our centre; when it is found that they need further help or guidance they are referred to available facilities for advanced care. We focus specifically on couples who come longing to have the gift of a child. We too have success in treating infertility cases. We educate people with non-communicable diseases and preventive and curative measures.

Along with Catholic Health Association of Tamil Nadu (CHAT), we take door to door surveys to reach our health care facilities at people's door-step. We conducted a health camp in a village where nearly 70 people benefitted from that. To commemorate World Cancer Day, we organised five health talks at five villages for self-help women groups. We distributed nutritional supplements to them. Nearly 80 women participated and were helped by this endeavour. We reached out to the girl children who are in class 9 to 12 through our health awareness program on mental health and anaemia. We also focus on a particular village for disease mapping and reaching out to their medical needs through a project financed by CHAT.

In Kanikai Matha Healthcare Centre at Kanur, our focus is on physical, mental, social, psychological and spiritual health of the human being. People come to our centre not only for physical ailments but also for counselling. Over the past six years, 5,091 patients benefitted through our health centre for different ailments.



Some of our activities are...

- We organised programmes for adolescent girls on healthy relationships at home and in society.
- Awareness programmes on personal hygiene, reproductive health care, nutritional programme and communicable diseases to different age groups have been provided.
- We organised a free eye camp with the help of the Pondicherry Aravind Eye Hospital. Four hundred and fifty-four people were screened and cataract surgery was done on seventy people.
- We visit the sick, especially the terminally ill people.

Congratulations to Sr Christy!

Taken from South India Unit Newsbrief April 2022

We congratulate Sr Christy Xavier who completed her Ph.D on *The Effect of Psychological Intervention on Self-Worth and Emotion Regulation among Emotionally Neglected Adolescents*.

She was honoured with the Doctorate in SIET College on 13 April 2022.

To celebrate Christy, Sisters from Egmore, Church Park and Manora House participated in this event. Sr Christy says *The study was highly commended for its nature by all three external examiners from regional, Indian and international levels. Among the Asian countries, this problem has been unnoticed. Exclusive questionnaires to access self-worth and emotional neglect among adolescents are a huge contribution to society. Emeritus Professors, Professors, Research Scholars and students who witnessed said it was an extensive study and an extraordinary presentation. They also said the study was unique in addressing the relevant issue in the current Indian scenario.*



Many, including our Sisters present, expressed that the ambience was beautiful with calm and peaceful energy all through the viva voce examination. One of the supportive staff of the department was highly appreciative and talked about a power encircling the event and gathering.

We bless Sr Christy as she continues to be resourceful for the life and mission of the Congregation.

Returning to the Holy Land

Submitted by: Sr Julie Hurtado

Our participation in the Congregational Community nurtures a global consciousness and a spirit of solidarity. It alerts us to the Gospel call to mobility for mission. C54.

On Presentation Day, 21 November 2019, I went to the Holy Land in response to a heartfelt call for ministry and returned in February 2020. I had to be in the US to apply for a permanent visa and thought I would return in a few months. It was at that time that we were learning of Covid and the impact it was having on our society and the world. Everything was put on hold and I had no idea when it would be possible for me to return.

During these past two years God blessed me with a wonderful ministry. I was part of the Los Angeles, CA Department of Health Covid Response Team for those made poor and those experiencing homelessness. Our teams did Covid testing, gave out food, sleeping bags, tents, administered flu vaccines and, when available, Covid vaccines. We also did Street Medicine and helped those with acute and chronic illnesses. For a few months I nursed in a Skid Row clinic frequented by the homeless population in Los Angeles. I truly loved and felt I was in a ministry that I had prayed and yearned for many years.

Nevertheless, I still wanted to return to the people in the Holy Land. I have been asked why I wanted to go back since I was doing good work in a ministry I loved. My only answer was *I am called! I feel it, I know it in my heart*. After much prayer and discernment and communication with our Sisters in leadership, I knew I had to return. It would have been easy to stay. I had made many connections in my ministry and was well known by staff and patients. I knew all the Sisters in my large community and enjoyed our gatherings. I was part of a Unit in the US with wonderful Sisters that I have known for many years and I was near family, friends and relatives.

I arrived in the Holy Land on 26 February 2022. I am in a community with Sister Anna Manyonga, PBVM, Zimbabwe, Africa. We come from very different cultures but our common thread is our love and service for Jesus and our Congregation. We pray together daily and spend time sharing and getting to know each other. I am learning about her culture and she is learning about my Mexican American culture and both of us are trying to learn about the culture surrounding us each day. Even though, at this time, there are only two of us, we are closely connected with our Sisters in Ireland, England, America, Africa and different parts of the world as we all follow Christ and strive to live the Gospel and follow in the life and charism of Nano. We are also closely connected with other religious Sisters and Brothers in the area.



Sister Julie (centre) with Arabic language classmates

It is interesting to live in a country where daily it seems I am learning more about our Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers, their feasts and holy days, as well as more about our faith and Jesus and where he walked. I am currently learning Arabic and Anna is learning Hebrew in Jerusalem, since only about half the people speak English. My class has proved to be a multinational, multi-faith, multicultural experience. It fosters my dream for peace as we go about forming community together.

I have been in the Holy Land for a little over a month. As I write this, the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, I can hear the Call to Prayer chanted in Arabic over the loudspeakers here in Jerusalem, near the Garden of Gethsemane. Soon the Jewish people will celebrate Passover and we our Holy Week and Jesus' Passion and then his Resurrection on Easter.

Being in a foreign land has many blessings yet it also has its challenges and pains. Just recently, I had a death in my family. It was a shock and I felt the deep pain of being so far from my loved ones. Through phone and internet, I have been able to communicate and pray with them. This past week I prayed and reflected on the many people who are also experiencing being separated from their loved ones during difficult times...right now in Ukraine, in this land and in so many parts of the world people are being separated from their loved ones and don't know if they are alive or dead. What came to mind was that we are in Lent and are preparing for our Lord's Passion and death and the deep pain of Our Lady of Sorrows, so they know and understand our pain.

This time has called me to deeper relationship with God. It has been a time for me to draw closer to God's unfailing love and to hold dear in my heart his words *I am with you always, until the end of time*. My trust and faith in Jesus have been comforting in knowing that he has welcomed our loved ones to be with him in paradise and the joy they are experiencing as they gaze upon his beautiful face. We are Resurrection people and believe in the promises God has revealed to us and so with joyful hope we carry on following him until the day comes for him to carry us home.

We all experience pain and suffering in our lives yet we are comforted by our deep faith in our merciful God who loves us and knows our hearts. We unite in our joys and celebrations and also unite in our sadness and sufferings. We are all on this journey together and let us continue to keep each other in prayer.

News from the USA

Submitted by: Sisters Jan Ihli and Jane Bonar

Soup and Fry Bread

Ethnic groups call this fresh bread by different names and use ingredients of choice. Ours was simply a piece of bread dough cut from a mountain of raised dough stretched out to make a 'pie' shape, then lovingly laid into hot oil and browned on both sides which result in a piece of golden bread. A bit of drizzled sugar makes it delicious. For some reason this is always a big treat for the people at the shelter. Maybe it is because these guests represent all ethnic groups!



L-R: Srs Josephine Brennan and Jan Ihli pack the car with fry bread and soup

Continuing a ministry of providing hot meals to the guests at the Gladys Ray Shelter (GRS) Fargo, North Dakota, Sisters Maureen Nolan, Maura DeCrans, Josephine Brennan, Jan Ihli and fellow resident of Riverview Place, Selma Keller fired up the kitchen once more with soup, salads, bars, chocolate pudding, peaches and fry bread. Since the GRS facility does not have cooking facilities, it depends on donated hot meals. Soup is always a winner.

This shelter was envisioned and begun by a Native American woman, Gladys Ray of Fargo, ND. When she saw the great number of Veterans, Native Americans, both men and women, living on the streets, she determined to take action. Her facility became known as the

Gladys Ray Shelter. She was on the teaching staff of Shanley Catholic High School and discovered that she and Sister Jane Walker were of the same ilk. Sister Jane was to begin our ministry to the homeless as Presentation Partners in Housing which today has 15 hired staff and is responsible for having housed dozens and dozens of single persons and families. *A BOND REMAINS*. The



Sr Maura DeCrans preparing soup

Sisters do not have a shelter to house overnight people. The GRS provides overnight or temporary housing.

The mission of the GRS is to provide a safe, conformable temporary place to people who cannot access other shelter options in the community and helps connect people to housing and services in a welcoming and non-judgemental environment. GRS is able to accommodate 25 adult men and 10 adult women. It provides respite from the streets, provides basic needs, facilitates their move toward self-sufficiency and addresses core issues of homelessness including chemical dependency, mental health or disabilities. The facility also provides a separate safe space where police can bring guests for detoxification. Forty to sixty guests are fed in one evening.

Presentation Partners in Housing ministry works closely with other community Agencies committed to the homeless and vulnerable. To enhance the effectiveness of everyone's efforts, the PPIH Board of Directors include representatives from some of these Agencies.

Presentation Learning Centre, Watts, California

Volunteer and Friends of Nano Annual Retreat



Sr Mary Moloney, PBVM

This year's annual volunteer / Friends of Nano retreat was led by Sr Mary Moloney, PBVM, currently ministering in Chile. Sr Mary is a Healing Touch practitioner and shared many of the practices with us to reduce stress and pain. This bi-lingual retreat, attended by 40 Learning Centre volunteers / Friends of Nano, had been cancelled the past three years due to Covid. It was once again a welcome time to be together at the beach and catch up on our lives again. We

are deeply grateful to Sr Mary for sharing her gifts with us.



Learning Healing Touch



Practicing Healing Touch

Update from the Communications Desk!

Submitted by: Aisling Moran

Website

Greetings from Monasterevin!

As you know we are continuously updating our redeveloped website www.pbvm.org with news of ministry work in different parts of the world, Sisters stories, vocations, inspiring videos and more. We are also sharing information on our social media channels, which are updated several times a week with news of events, articles and celebrations both locally and internationally. Links to all of our social media channels below are also available on the home page of our website :

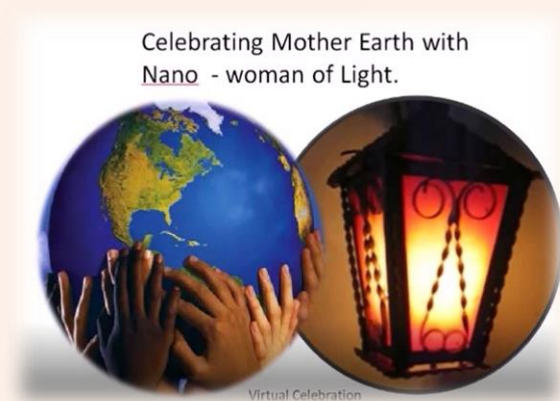
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PresentationSistersUnion>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/presentationistersgeneralate/>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8ANk-xPmr69fBCoKr7VIQQ>

We encourage you to keep visiting the website to keep up to date on what's happening within the Congregation around the world and also to keep sending us your stories and material so we can keep the website current and keep sharing your news with others.

Earth Day 2022



This year to celebrate Earth Day on 22nd April, Presentation Sisters from around the world gathered on zoom for a virtual gathering, *Celebrating Mother Earth with Nano - Woman of Light*. This gathering was organised by the Sisters at the Garden of Oneness in Zambia and the zoom was led by Sr Lynette Rodrigues. Sisters from various Units of our Congregation participated, sharing their creativity through dance and song. You can view the recording of this gathering on our website, just click on the 'Where We Are' section, then click Africa, <https://pbvm.org/who-we-are/structure/africa/>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries about the website or social media. You can email any material you would like us to share for your Unit or community to communications@pbvm.org



Significant International Dates in June

There are many dates throughout the month of June that hold both ecumenical and humanitarian importance. Read about them here.

1 June – Global Day of Parents



Since the 1980s, the important role of the family has increasingly come to the attention of the international community. The General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions and proclaimed the International Year of the Family and the International Day of Families. Emphasising the critical role of parents in the rearing of children, the Global Day of Parents recognises that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children. For the full and harmonious development of their

personality, children should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Designated by the General Assembly in 2012, Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents for their 'selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship'.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/parents-day>

4 June – International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression



It is a sad reality that in situations where armed conflict breaks out, it is the most vulnerable members of societies – namely children, who are most affected by the consequences of war. The six most common violations are recruitment and use of children in war, killing, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access. The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.

Its work is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/child-victim-day>

5 June – World Environment Day

In the universe there are billions of galaxies, in our galaxy are billions of planets, but there is #OnlyOneEarth. Lets take care of it.



Earth faces a triple planetary emergency; the climate is heating up too quickly for people and nature to adapt; habitat loss and other pressures mean an estimated 1 million species are threatened with extinction; pollution continues to poison our air, land and water. The way out of this dilemma is to transform our economies and societies to make them inclusive, fair and more connected with nature. We must shift from harming the

planet to healing it. The good news is the solutions and the technology exist and are increasingly affordable. #OnlyOneEarth is the campaign for World Environment Day 2022. It calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.

12 June – World Day Against Child Labour



Children around the world are routinely engaged in paid and unpaid forms of work that are not harmful to them. However, they are classified as child labourers when they are either too young to work, or are involved in hazardous activities that may compromise their physical, mental, social or educational development. In the least developed countries, slightly more than one in four children (ages 5-17) are engaged in labour that is considered detrimental to their health and development. Africa ranks highest among regions both in the percentage of children in

child labour – one fifth – and the absolute number of children in child labour – 72 million. Asia and the Pacific ranks second highest in both these measures – 7% of all children and 62 million in absolute terms are in child labour in this region. The Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions together account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide. The remaining child labour population is divided among the Americas, 4% in Europe and Central Asia and 3% in the Arab States.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour>

19 June – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

We cannot allow this already underreported crime to slip further into the shadows. Perpetrators must be punished.

Investment in recovery from the Covid pandemic must tackle the root causes of sexual gender-based violence.

~ UN Secretary-General António Guterres

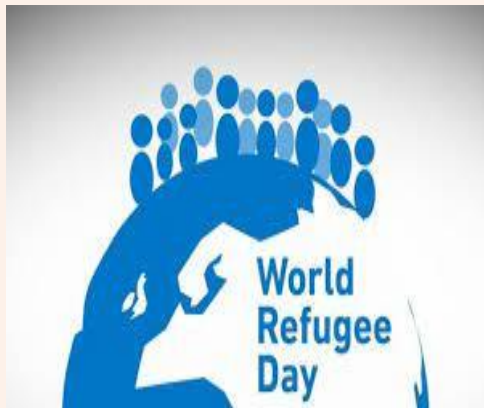


The chronic underreporting of conflict-related sexual violence, due to stigma, insecurity, fear of reprisals and lack of services, has been compounded by Covid-19 containment measures. Lockdowns, curfews, quarantines, fears of contracting or transmitting the virus, mobility restrictions and limited access to services and safe spaces, as shelters closed and clinics were repurposed for the pandemic response, added a layer of complexity to existing structural, institutional and sociocultural barriers to reporting. The

pandemic has laid bare the intersecting inequalities that plague our societies, as compounded by conflict, displacement and institutional fragility. The only solution for these overlapping ills is an injection of political resolve and resources equal to the scale of the challenge.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-sexual-violence-in-conflict-day>

20 June – World Refugee Day



Refugees are among the most vulnerable people in the world. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol help protect them. They are the only global legal instruments explicitly covering the most important aspects of a refugee's life. According to their provisions, refugees deserve, as a minimum, the same standards of treatment enjoyed by other foreign nationals in a given country and in many cases, the same treatment as nationals. The 1951 Convention contains a number of rights and also highlights the obligations of refugees towards their host country. The cornerstone of the 1951 Convention is the principle of non-refoulement. According to

this principle, a refugee should not be returned to a country where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom. This protection may not be claimed by refugees who are reasonably regarded as a danger to the security of the country, or having being convicted of a particularly serious crime, are considered a danger to the community. Some basic rights, including the right to be protected from refoulement, apply to all refugees. A refugee becomes entitled to other rights the longer they remain in the host country, which is based on the recognition that the longer they remain as refugees, the more rights they need.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/refugee-day>

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