



# ACTIVITY REPORT

2012  
2017

## MISSION & VISION

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## Mission & Vision

### MISSION

Contribute in the building of harmonious societies, based on coexistence with respect, dignity and human security. To spread, promote and defend human rights, peace and sustainable human development. To empower women, migrants and young people so they may have equal opportunities, enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential.

### VISION

The International Miraisme® Association's main objective is to contribute to the building of harmonious societies, based on coexistence with respect, dignity and human security through the application of universal values and principles, promoting the confluence of peace, development and human rights effectively.

In this way, the Organization intends to spread, promote and defend human rights, especially those with higher rates of breach or are less known, advocating for the harmonization and respect for all freedoms. The Association also aims to work in peacebuilding and peacekeeping processes, providing models of reconciliation, elements for building a culture of peace, and mechanisms for conflict resolution. The defense of human rights and peacebuilding will allow the Organization to contribute to sustainable human development, an essential line of work aimed to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

According to the above, the International Miraisme® Association promotes the empowerment of women, migrants and young people so they may have equal opportunities, enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential, thus contributing to inclusive economic growth, reduce inequalities and mitigate all forms of discrimination and hatred, to prevent imbalances and social conflicts.



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A busy agenda  
on the issues of  
people of African  
descent in Spain







## A. MIGRANT HUMAN RIGHTS

### A busy agenda on the issues of people of African descent in Spain

During the month of January, the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional accompanied members of the African Descendants Global Platform.

A delegation from the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional attended, along with members from the African Descendants Global Platform, the 2012 Afrosocialistas Awards, organized by the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE), where Senator Carlos Alberto Baena López, from the MIRA Political Movement, received a special recognition for his work on behalf of Afro-Colombians.

The agenda was also full of important meetings, like the one held with the Kenyan ambassador to Spain, Mr Bramwel W. Kisuya, in which the support of the Kenyan government towards the Third International African Descent Congress, to be held in Kenya in September this year, was formalized.

Meetings were also held with various agencies of the Spanish government, such as the General Department of Andean Countries and the General Department for Equal Treatment and Non Discrimination, and the Office of Human Rights, which were informed about the agenda that the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional and the African Descendants Global Platform have.

Another important meeting was held with the Secretariat for Cooperation of SEGIB, whom Senator Baena sent a request that in future Ibero-Americans of African Descent Plan meetings, that a program be taken into account on strengthening electoral rolls to correct the unwanted effects of the invisibility of African Descendants, which have occurred both in Colombia and in other countries of the region.

In addition, a meeting was held with the associations most representative of the Afro-descendant community in Spain to analyse the main problems and develop a joint work agenda.

Finally, the delegation of the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional attended a meeting with the UN Special Envoy of racism, xenophobia and intolerance, Mr Mutuma Ruteere who was on an official visit to Spain.



The Asociación Miraísmo Internacional  
and United Nations Experts,  
committed to those of African Descent.







## The Asociación Miraísmo Internacional and United Nations Experts, committed to those of African Descent.

The Asociación Miraísmo Internacional (AMI) was represented at the United Nations XII Session of Working People of African Descent Panel, held in Geneva from the 22nd to the 26th of April.

The delegation consisted of Claudia Beatriz Mosquera, Deputy Spokesman of the association Amigos MIRA España on affairs of African descent, accompanied by Diana Maria Escallón and Diego Mauricio Betancourt, both linked to the headquarters of the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional in Geneva.

The interventions and recommendations made during the first session by the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional were related to the topic of Recognition through Education,

cultural rights and data collection, which had an important reception, having included a reference in the final conclusions on the following statement: "young people of African descent are under-represented in higher levels as a result of the cumulative impact of discrimination at the lowest levels of education". (Click here to see the video of the intervention).

During the second intervention on Friday, a request by the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional was read, accompanied by the Colombian Association Afroamigos, to draw the attention of the Group of Experts on People of African Descent, on the latent threat to the Anti - Discrimination Act, a posture taken by the Attorney General's Office, which has recently requested the repeal of this important piece of legislation for the protection of the rights of Afro - Colombians.

In this sense, the intervention of the Expert Group was requested, presenting an invitation to visit Colombia, which was accepted. (Click here to hear the audio of the intervention).

The delegation of the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional then proceeded to file the document with the official request. (Click here to read the full document).

By participating in these important days in the United Nations, there has been progress in strengthening the links between the United Nations and the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional, advancing the work commitment that Senator Carlos Alberto Baena established a year ago during his participation in this same scenario.





## The 1st International Forum on Sub Saharan Immigration





## The 1st International Forum on Sub Saharan Immigration

Madrid, 28th May 2014

The Asociación Miraísmo Internacional organised the 1st International Forum on Sub Saharan Immigration at the European Commission.

The event counted on the collaboration of the Africa Foundation South, Doctors of the World, representatives of the embassies of Guinea-Conakry and Senegal, the Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID), the Institute of Political Studies in Latin America and Africa (IEPALA) and Uhuru Afrika TV.

The main objective was to present and analyse the causes and problems that create the migratory movement within the African community to Europe. As well as possible solutions to the problems of social exclusion experienced by immigrants for immigration policies that have violated the rights of Africans, "forgetting that before being immigrants, they are human beings", as expressed by the director of Doctors of the World in Madrid, Begoña Santos.

The head of the European Commission in Spain, Francisco Fonseca, was on hand to kick off the forum, who emphasized the need for all EU countries to be involved in the situations of African society, citing the situation in Spain with the bladed wires in Ceuta and Melilla "If a sub-Saharan wants to cross the bladed wire, it is not only Spain's problem, but also Finland's".

In this sense, the director of Immigration of the Community of Madrid, Gonzalo Ortiz, said that "nobody emigrates to a site without opportunities"; to which the president of the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional, Enrique Montes Pérez, added that these opportunities have to be accompanied by integration through the academic, economic and social spheres in order to build a harmonious society between these cultures.

The day was divided into three stages to show the reality suffered by this group during their displacement. The first thematic block "The social reality of African immigrants" was developed by Mathieu Loua, Counsellor of the Embassy of Guinea; Mouctar Belal BA, General Consul of the Republic of Senegal; and Begoña Santos. A space where, point by point, the current immigration policy was broken up, concluding that the public health system must be modified and take in immigrants because "today there is a failure in the system in responsibility, because before, when we were paying, Social Security valued us, and now things have changed " as expressed by the Consul of Senegal.

The Asociación Miraísmo Internacional, who sponsored the forum, presented a paper titled "Sub-Saharan Immigration, an opportunity to build harmonious societies". "It is undeniable that we are part of Africa from its past, present and future" expressed Montes, stating that Sub-Saharan Africa is a region of co-responsibilities.





## The 1st International Forum on Sub Saharan Immigration

The second block "International cooperation in the case of Africa," was led by the director of AECID, Alberto Virella and the director of Africa Foundation South, Lazarus Bustince, who reflected on economic policies, showing that financial powers, multinationals and corrupt local policies are largely responsible for the impoverishment and migration of millions of Africans. Concluding that for the benefit of African society, there is a need to constitute fair economic policies.

In the last block "From vulnerability to overcoming", the President of IEPALA, Juan Carmelo Garcia, and the CEO of Uhuru Afrika TV, Abuy Nfubea, analysed the burden of responsibility of the African community and the attitude to be assumed for the repair and conceptualization of the Sub-Saharan migration process at the international level. He concluded that it is globally necessary to acquire a political commitment between national and international efforts to ensure the sustainable development of migrant organizations and recipient countries.

Without a doubt, this 1st Forum on Sub-Saharan Immigration in Europe opens the doors to different actors, encouraging them to jointly build effective tools in seeking to improve the reality currently lived by sub-Saharan migration in Europe.



**Informal UN  
General Assembly  
Multi-stakeholder  
Hearings in p  
reparation for the  
UN Summit on  
Refugees and Migrants**







## **Informal UN General Assembly Multi-stakeholder Hearings in preparation for the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants**

The reason why the United Nations was the place to bring together civil society on the 18th July 2016 was with a view to feed grounds and solutions to the summit to be held on refugees and immigrants on the 19th September 2016. The humanitarian crisis caused by violence in many latitudes is an issue that should be discussed at the highest levels and stages of decision-making. Consistent with this slogan, the heads of state and non - governmental organizations agreed on the importance of uniting ties towards a solution to the tragedy experienced by refugees, especially those fleeing violence in the Middle East.

Resolution A / 70/539 opens the door for this high-level meeting in which both civil society and heads of state and UN dignitaries converge on the premise and solve the precarious plight of refugees.

This time, we were able to contribute from civil society in this preparatory process with ideas and proposals that feed the debate to be held at the summit on the 19th September.

The International Miraism Association is convinced that dialogue and joint efforts between different actors in society such as governments, associations, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, academics and the scientific society, are not only necessary but peremptory to approach the solution of one of the most notable dramas in recent years: forced displacement due to violence in certain regions of the world.

Men, women and children suffer the consequences of war - not only having to emigrate from their countries but also having to face difficulties after crossing borders where many of them fail to even reach other countries. The Mediterranean Sea has witnessed the death of thousands; many suffer repudiation by the citizens of the countries they go to, and under such rejection they often become victims of homophobia and discrimination due to their religious beliefs. For all the above, we welcome this kind of initiative and we will attend this important summit on the 19th September 2016.





## UN ON MIGRATION

The United Nations General Assembly based in New York, was the scene that brought together members of civil society, non-governmental organizations and dignitaries from different member states around migration.

On the 24th October 2016, the President of the General Assembly appointed the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland and Mexico, to carry out this important event in order to gather ideas and recommendations for the implementation of measures to improve the way to approach the important issue of global migration.

Such opinions will serve to draw the roadmap on what has been called a Global Agreement to be adopted in 2018.

With this Global Agreement in mind, member states of the United Nations want to collect opinions, experiences, recommendations and other contributions from civil society, the private sector and the diaspora in general about migration; all this in order to get to implement measures to help develop a comprehensive strategy to be adopted in 2018.

Among the panellists, the International Miraism Association had the opportunity to share their experiences with the migrant community and to make recommendations, which will be taken into account for 2018.

For the Association, it is imperative for there to be a greater participation of migrants and better attention to their needs in host countries.

To do this, we consider that their home governments play an important role for those purposes. A greater representation in assemblies, parliaments, chambers and other decision-making governmental entities is necessary.

For example, Colombia has about six million citizens living abroad. However, at this time, the Colombians abroad have only two representatives in Congress and in the next legislature that number will be reduced to one - making contact with fellow nationals living abroad very difficult, hence preventing better help to protect their rights in their foreign countries of residence.



## UN ON MIGRATION

We applaud these kind of proposals by civil society to include in the design of a 2018 Global Agreement, as it is civil organizations that have more direct contact with migrants around the world.

Due to the civil-social management and constant contact with the community by civil society and migrant organizations, their contributions are vital for inter-governmental negotiations on structuring the participation of immigrants. Research and statistics should be complemented by practical and qualitative knowledge that can be brought by these institutions.

The International Miraism Association will continue to monitor this process and contribute with our experience on migration in such a grand stage, as is the United Nations.



ASSOCIATION  
MIRAISME®  
INTERNATIONAL



# 62º período de sesiones del Comité de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales

Evaluación de Colombia en el  
Comité de Derechos Económicos,  
Sociales y Culturales de la Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas.



del 18 de Septiembre al 6 de Octubre de 2017

**EVALUATION OF COLOMBIA IN THE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF UNITED NATIONS.**





## **EVALUATION OF COLOMBIA IN THE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF UNITED NATIONS.**

Geneva, September 13th, 2017. From September 18 to October 6, 2017, the 62nd session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights organized by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in the city of Geneva.

The Committee, formed of independent experts in human rights, will examine the progress and problems regarding economic and social rights in Colombia during the session on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th, September.

As an NGO that since 2013 has developed different research on the situation of human rights in Colombia, Association Miraisme® International has presented two reports that address the social and economic barriers to the integration of returned migrant women in Colombia and the situation of women and girls in the implementation of the peace agreement.

The following are highlighted among the most important points of the contributions elaborated by the organization:

- \* Promote regulatory actions to ensure the protection of women and girls residing in areas of incidence of groups outside the law.
- \* Improve the databases that might allow the development of ethnic, racial, and women indicators that support the creation of psychosocial, mental health, primary and specialized care programs, among others.
- \* Promote the creation of microenterprises that allow access to productive credits, especially for returned women.
- \* Promote legislative measures for the incorporation of returned women into a system of psychological care programs, entrepreneurship and incorporation into the labour system, as well as the creation of care programs for their families.
- \* Efficiently implement the legislation to eradicate inequality and discrimination against women.

The AMI delegation participating in the event will provide different approaches to the mentioned points, highlighting the role of women in society and the importance of providing the necessary tools and mechanisms so that their social contribution becomes more effective and visible.





Enrique A. Montes Pérez



## THEMATIC SESSION: ELABORATION OF THE GLOBAL AGREEMENT FOR MIGRATION IN UNITED NATIONS





## **EVALUATION OF COLOMBIA IN THE COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF UNITED NATIONS.**

Geneva, May 2017.

Given the current migratory crisis and the need to converge approaches from different sectors of the population, the international leaders agreed in 2016 to elaborate a Global Agreement for a Safe, Regular and Ordered Migration according to the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly where they included the phases for the development of the Agreement.

Thus, this May 8 and 9 began the first thematic consultation sessions where different international organizations, states and third sector organizations meet to make contributions to take into account in the construction of the agreement.

The sessions will continue until November and it is expected that in September 2018 it will be approved before the high-level debate of the General Assembly.

The Association Miraisme International has been present at these first thematic sessions in May, addressing in its intervention the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants in the host countries. The president of the organization, Mr. Enrique Montes Pérez, affirmed in his participation in the dialogue between co-facilitators and stakeholders that: "There is an internal connection between the moral notion of human dignity and the legal conception of human rights" so it is necessary to build societies based "within the framework of respect and a broad moral norm in which any discriminatory position is eradicated".

The entity emphasized the relevance of the development of a regulation that includes the protection of all human rights of migrants and, in particular, the full exercise of a fundamental right: religious freedom.





## **SIXTH THEMATIC SESSION FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE GLOBAL MIGRATION PACT**

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## SIXTH THEMATIC SESSION FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE GLOBAL MIGRATION PACT

Geneva, October 13, 2017.

The sixth thematic meeting to advance the elaboration of the Global Migration Pact held in Geneva from October 12 to 13, focused on the evaluation of measures to reduce irregular migration, the promotion of decent work and labor mobility, as well as the recognition of skills, qualities and qualifications of migrants to improve labor mobility.

Important initiatives and recommendations for the improvement of immigrant conditions (with irregular as well as regular status) were presented, highlighting among others the need to develop:

- research reports on the operation of human trafficking in order to develop intervention measures,
- models to improve the capacity of border agents,
- Policies that are not uprooted from the reality in which migrants live,
- flexible immigration systems that allow the granting of employment visas without the sponsorship of employers,
- recognition not only of qualifications, skills and technical skills but also of interpersonal skills,
- policies prohibiting hiring fees,
- passports of skills and competences, and
- Legal assistance for migrants to report abuses.

Most of the states present at the convention focused on the existence of bilateral or regional agreements to encourage labor migration, particularly in the agricultural sector, and in access to education. It should be noted, however, that there is a lack of necessary measures and examples that guarantee the decent work of vulnerable groups such as children and women.





## SIXTH THEMATIC SESSION FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE GLOBAL MIGRATION PACT

The Director of the International Center for Migration Research, Ms. Jenna Hennebry spoke in this last aspect, "policies suffer from a gender blindness, approximately 50% of labor migrants are women who can often be exposed to exploitation. and the abuse by the control of their employers, and the bilateral agreements are not the only solution. "

In turn, the Coordinator of the Migration and Asylum Program of the Center for Human Rights of the National University of Lanús, Professor Pablo Ceriani Cernadas, called attention to remind interested parties that bilateral measures and the majority The recommendations presented during the convention are minimum measures that have been established in the international labor migration treaty.

For its part, the AMI was pronounced to recommend the inclusion not only of children and women, but also of the elderly and people with disabilities in the framework of the Global Migration Pact to reduce the possible exploitation risks that these groups of migrants may face.



## B. DIFFUSION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The AMI participates in events on Human Rights



During November, the Asociación Miraismo Internacional participated in very important world-class events in which it has left its seal and signature as an advocate entity of religious freedom, justice, equality and development, which are essential for healthy coexistence and progress of societies.

In Lleida, Spain, Enrique Montes, president of the Asociación Miraismo Internacional, participated in the 1st Matinal Conference, Let us act, whose focus is on the Defence of Human Rights in a particular case: Colombia.





## Contributing to the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council

Throughout its history, the United Nations has turned its effort to defend and disseminate human rights from all areas of application. In its 32nd regular session, the Human Rights Council met to discuss current and relevant issues such as the protection and promotion of the right to development, empowering women in aid of the sustainable 2030 development goals proposed by the UN and of course, the challenges and achievements during the first decade of life of the Council.

On this occasion, the International Miraisme Association participated with two oral statements that make reference to two specific areas, the first of which referred to the rights of women in the context of Colombia. They wanted to draw the Human Rights Council's attention to a climate of two strands of violence: The first refers to the violence suffered by women in armed conflict, the second, to attacks against their physical integrity from male violence. Both of which the Association flatly reject but also echo in the Council to alert international authorities on the severity of the attacks against the rights of women, which is also deteriorating their mental health.



The second of the statements focuses on development in the technological world that shelters us today and the controversial right to freedom of expression; without doubt, the expression of thoughts, ideas and opinions make the individual fully develop his personality, however, this right together with technological advances can distort its essence. A central issue of the declaration focused on the virtual space and coexistence with respect. It aimed to leave a deep reflection on the discrimination and harassment of minority groups by those who use social networks and virtual platforms as a springboard to freely express intolerance, hatred and apathy towards the "other". Meanwhile, it demanded States to enforce greater punitive measures as a constant requirement of civil society.



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**IPSA**  **AISP**

**24<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Political Science**  
**24<sup>e</sup> Congrès mondial de science politique**

**23-28 | 07 | 2016** **Poznań, Poland**



**POZNAN 2016**



**Participating in  
The World Congress of  
Political Science**





## Participating in The World Congress of Political Science

The 24th World Congress of Political Science was held in Poland from the 23rd to 28th July 2016, which focused on politics in a world of inequality. Thousands of attendees from various nationalities took part in forums, lectures, meetings and interesting events in which Mr Enrique Montes, president of the International Miraisme Association, also participated, with a paper entitled “Is it possible to find a balance between freedom of expression and freedom of religion?”; A presentation that focused on the conflict arising between those two freedoms and has resulted in a series of attacks from different perspectives.

The president of the Miraisme Association stated that freedom of opinion and religion are fundamental pillars in the structuring of democracies, stressing that it must take into account the multiplier effect in the globalized scenario that we live in today, coupled with massive human displacements that occur and bring a number of avalanches and cultural impacts within different communities. The intervention was oriented to denote the commitment of all governments in the struggle for human rights and our duty as citizens to respect the pluralism that exists within the society, calling for closer ties to meet the challenges that are forged in these times; These should be structured as local solutions with measures to create a neutral education based on universal values in order to build diverse societies that accept pluralism, multiculturalism and that are far from prejudice.

Thus was the successful conclusion of the Miraisme Association’s intervention in a Congress that presented a timely opportunity to gather a range of experts to discuss issues to be analysed by political actors around the world through events like this. The first congress was held in 1950 in Zurich, Switzerland, with just 81 participants, today it is attended by more than 3000 experts in different subjects. The World Congress of Political Science provides important insights and practical contributions of all elements that bring different challenges for contemporary governance.





## PERSECUTION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS AND HUMAN RIGHT DEFENDERS IN COLOMBIA

The International Miraism Association is an organization that focuses on the disclosure, promotion and defence of human rights, peace building and sustainable development where all individuals can develop as active members of a free and peaceful society and culture; the organisation rejects any acts of aggression based on persecution, harassment and killings that have targeted social leaders in Colombia.

This is evidenced by the increasing violence, severity and scale of reprisals towards leaders and advocates who until the end of November, according to the Office of the UN Human Rights High Commissioner, had recorded 35 attacks and 52 killings against those leaders, a percentage even higher than the previous year[1] .

Hostile acts have increased in recent months, which have claimed the lives of several activists leaving serious consequences for rural populations, who are the most vulnerable; as well as deepening the stigma that exists on these political subjects, limiting positive actions in different communities. Not forgetting the stresses caused to women who have suffered the acts described above, since their situation and function require special attention with regard to the different ways they may be affected due to gender-based violence.

For this reason, we express our concern about the situation, because the leaders who make an effort to promote and protect civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, tackling all kinds of problems in the most affected and vulnerable populations and communities are who assume a decisive role in building peace and strengthening democracy. Hence there is a rise in the need to provide support and protection to these leaders and human rights defenders in the context of their work.





## PERSECUTION OF COMMUNITY LEADERS AND HUMAN RIGHT DEFENDERS IN COLOMBIA



**STAND UP  
FOR SOMEONE'S  
RIGHTS TODAY**

**Human Rights Day 2016**

We encourage in the first instance, that the Colombian State and all its institutions strengthen their responsibility to protect, promote and implement all human rights and thus take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of every individual, especially these leaders and the social condition of female leaders against violence, threats, retaliations, adverse discrimination, pressures or any other action from which they are being victims.

In addition we call on society in general, we all have a duty to promote and safeguard human rights and democracy. Therefore, both the population and civil society have a role as defenders of the fundamental rights and freedoms, with the aim of strengthening the due enjoyment and promote the building of peace in a more harmonious and inclusive society.



## Miraism and Civil Society

The International Miraism Association is a non-profit organization established in 2012 and has consultative status with ECOSOC since 2015. Since its foundation, it has been linked particularly to the defence of human rights, emphasizing the fundamental rights of women, young people and migrants.

**Asociación Miraísmo Internacional**  
**EN DEFENSA DE**  
**LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS**



It has conducted several studies on freedom of religion or belief and its proper alignment with freedom of expression. It has also made known the important implications of this right in building harmonious, democratic and pluralistic societies. The defence of freedom of religion or belief has been established as one of the organisation's most important pillars.

However, thanks to the integration of its qualified and multidisciplinary volunteer research groups, the organisation has delved into other key issues on the promotion of human rights such as peacebuilding, sustainable development, and linked its work to the 2030 Agenda.

Because of its history and the handling of these issues from a global and international perspective, the organisation has held workshops to disseminate human rights, publicising the Sustainable Development Goals and the need to join efforts in civil society to achieve them. These workshops in the United States and Colombia have had a great significance in the community and are expected to continue to spread in different parts of the world.





## COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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## COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Geneva, August 21st , 2017

On August 21st it took place the commemoration of the World Day of Humanitarian Assistance in Geneva; The Association Miraisme ® International was part of this meeting organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Doctors Without Borders (DWB), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the United Nations Office of Geneva (UNOG).

Every year on August 19th, the World Humanitarian Day is commemorated on the anniversary of the 2003 attacks of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad in which 32 humanitarian assistance workers lost their lives. The commemoration is to pay tribute to workers who have risked and lost their lives during the humanitarian assistance and at the same time, promote the defence of the vulnerable populations, hospitals, humanitarian and health workers who continue to be the target of terrorist attacks around the world. In the course of the last year alone, 418 people lost their lives in attacks on the health sector.

During the commemoration the Sergio Vieira de Mello award was dedicated to Dr. Rebecca Dali for her help in the reintegration into society of kidnapped and orphan women from the militants of the Boko Haram armed group in Nigeria. The award was given every two years to recognized courage and humanitarian work. In the word of Dr. Dali, "although I have also been a victim of the conflict, this award motivates to continue forward in the fight to help society".



# Declaration on religion and discrimination in Forum on Minority Issues

Participation in the UN VI Forum on  
Minority Issues on Religious Minorities  
Geneva, 26th November 2013







## C. Activities on Freedom of Religion or Belief

### Declaration on religion and discrimination in Forum on Minority Issues

Although rights such as freedom of religion and belief are considered universal human rights, infringement and violation has become a more common situation, and a true mitigator of human dignity and the consolidation of living with respect.

Actions by different States, as well as individual's actions, add to this situation that has triggered a series of unfortunate events that threaten every thought and diversity. For the particular case of religious beliefs, there is proof of prevailing arbitrariness and absolute belief, beyond all kinds of tolerance, understanding and recognition of differences.

Speaking of these situations is unreasonable in a world where we presume that social growth opens the door to free thought and the consolidation of a critical stance based on respect and the existence of heterogeneity.

But how far away are those countries where despite the absence of a ruling way of restricting religious freedom, there are victims of other types of harassment inspired by the same issues resulting from the lack of tolerance in areas such as social networks?

Social networks have become the perfect setting to be, in an open way, disrespectful, intolerant and harassing, offending and ignore the existence of multiculturalism that characterizes the citizens of the world.

The concept of "bullying" has become known around the world. Cases of harassment, intimidation, and physical and psychological aggression, increasingly become more common in children and adults, being especially visible in venues such as schools. But this concept is transcending territorial areas, and taking great importance in virtual spaces, leading us now to talk about cyber bullying.





## **Declaration on religion and discrimination in Forum on Minority Issues**

This phenomenon not only creates a social imbalance in an individual or in a group, using disaccreditation as a tool, but is also severely empty when claiming a defence for this type of violation.

This reality that exists in social networks is spoken of in a study conducted by Harvard University, where it is stated that people lose their ethics and consideration for others when expressing their opinions through a social network.

At present cyber bullying has strict control for all issues related to child pornography and related issues, which is considered crucial and necessary. LGBT populations also have significant support by networks of support within Facebook. However, for issues related to religious freedom, there is no such control, which unleashes destructive criticism and incisive offense.

When searching through social networks, it can be observed that there is not an appropriate restriction on the publication of information that express or incite hatred towards religious groups.

It is imperative that states legislate in this regard and report clearly on how to report and defend the religious freedom of citizens; and social networks should take action to promote and encourage respect and tolerance of religious freedom.

It is also necessary to continue training citizens on values, in order to promote a harmonious coexistence.

On behalf of the Asociación Miráismo Internacional, we thank the Presidency for the opportunity to participate in this important forum.





## Participation in the 2014 International Congress on "Religious Freedom in the 21st Century"



Córdoba Argentina, 3rd September 2014.

The Argentine Council for Religious Freedom organized the 2014 International Congress, which gathered large institutions, entitled "Religious Freedom in the 21st Century".

Some of those present were, the IDC Herzliya University - Israel, the FAIE - Argentina The Federation of Evangelical Churches, the Complutense University of Madrid - Spain, the University of Zaragoza - Spain, the Adventist University of Plata - Argentina, CALIR, the National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of Córdoba, the Higher Institute of Religious Studies - ISER, Brigham Young University BYU - the United States, among other prestigious universities and highly recognized institutions.

Some of those present were, the IDC Herzliya University - Israel, the FAIE - Argentina The Federation of Evangelical Churches, the Complutense University of Madrid - Spain, the University of Zaragoza - Spain, the Adventist University of Plata - Argentina, CALIR, the National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of Córdoba, the Higher Institute of Religious Studies - ISER, Brigham Young University BYU - the United States, among other prestigious universities and highly recognized institutions.

The Asociación Miraísmo Internacional and the Political Movement MIRA (Colombia) actively participated in the Congress, the latter with the paper " Policies from the values of religion: the case of the Church of God Ministry of Jesus Christ International and Political Movement MIRA ".

Meanwhile, the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional presented an interesting publication entitled "Hate speech against religious freedom and living with respect". This document is a complete reflection and interesting analysis on how societies reflect their rejection and fear of those who are classified as different and dangerous, it also emphasizes the existence of a speech called to exalt the supposedly despicable and abuse of what moves people to tolerate attack s on different groups.

The agenda included three intense days of speeches, presentations and group workshops, with the aim to explore in depth important issues such as Religious Freedom in these times. Undoubtedly this conference generated great expectation due to the quality of its participants, academia, intellectuals, experts and state representatives.





## Participation in the VII UN Forum on Minority Issues.

Sede de Naciones Unidas  
Ginebra (Suiza)



Speaking at the Forum on Minority Issues, established by the Human Rights Council. Seventh session. Geneva, Switzerland. 25th and 26th November 2014. Agenda item entitled: Understanding the root causes of violence and atrocities.

Doctor Carlos Alberto Baena López highlighted the necessity to “make recommendations on the harmonious exercise of religious freedom and expression, so that hate speech against religious minorities cannot be sustained in the wrong understanding of the media’s freedom of expression”.

He also invited the UN to adopt 2016 as a memorial to the defence of religious freedom and the abolition of religious hatred, to disseminate worldwide this right, and advance procedures and leadership training for the defence of their communities.

Also in accordance with the powers conferred by Resolution 60/251 adopted by the General Assembly on March 15, 2005, and based on the work of its special procedures, to develop a global report on respect for religious freedom and belief of minorities in the world, and determine alarming countries early on, and evaluation. Video of the speech:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8f7-xbsins>





## Interactive debate with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion.

The Asociación Miraismo Internacional participated in the interactive debate with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Mr Heiner Bielefeldt, on the 11th of March during the 28th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

In his intervention, Mr Enrique Montes, president of the Asociación Miraismo Internacional, emphasized the need to conceptualize "hate speech", so that progress can be made in the regulation of positive practices that ban hate speech against the convictions of religion or belief.

The main argument of his talk was on the power of word and the extraordinary power of communication to deface the image of one or more persons. In this sense, religious minorities are particularly vulnerable to messages that incite discriminatory and violent actions against those who do not profess the same religion as of the masses.

Finally, the Association stressed "the framework that offers coexistence through respect for each other's identity, which can develop the harmonious exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and mitigate effectively disseminating negative stereotyping, stigmatization, hate speech and violence for reasons of religion or belief"

Complete speech:  
<http://miraismo.org/index.php/sala-de-prensa/item/219-debate-interactivo-con-el-relator-especial-sobre-libertad-religiosa>

[www.miraismo.org](http://www.miraismo.org)



1st March 2015. Geneva, Switzerland

ASSOCIATION  
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INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017





## 1st European Forum on Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Expression

On the 10th of June at the Headquarters of the European Commission in Madrid, the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional held the 1st European Forum on Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Expression, an event that brought together a large group of experts, religious confessions and communicators.

The event began with Mr Juergen Foecking's greeting, deputy director of the European Commission, that lead to the opening speech by Mr Enrique Montes, president of the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional, the organization hosting the event. In his speech entitled "The balance of rights: the road to coexistence with respect", Mr Montes highlighted that: "It's time to continue articulating all actors of civil society to promote a culture of respect for each other's identities from educational settings; to involve all community and political sectors from their powers to promote social control and promote scenarios, not only for recognition, but for defence of those who see their rights violated because of their religious feeling".

The event was then followed by the thematic blocks, the first one called "Social treatment and promoting coexistence with respect: social management of religious diversity and legal framework" in which Mr Ricardo Garcia, Deputy Director of relations with confessions of the Ministry of Justice, and Mr Fernando Arias, president of the Foundation for Pluralism and Coexistence, told us the regulations and public management of religious pluralism in Spain.

**I FORO EUROPEO**  
**SOBRE LIBERTAD DE RELIGIÓN Y**  
**LIBERTAD DE EXPRESIÓN**

**MECANISMOS PARA MITIGAR**  
**EL EXTREMISMO Y EL**  
**DISCURSO DE ODIO**  
[www.miraismo.org](http://www.miraismo.org)

**#Living**  
**With**  
**Respect**





## 1st European Forum on Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Expression

Mr Higinio Junquera, president of Catholic Action, then followed with the first speech of the second block called "Conflict of religious freedom and freedom of expression: stigmatization, hate speech and extremism". After his speech, Ms Carolina Aisen, director of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, Mr Abdelaziz Hammaoui, president of the Islamic Cultural Centre of Valencia, Ms Ruth Alvarez, a lawyer for the Federation of Evangelical Religious Entities of Spain, Mr Jairo Cardozo, Representative of the Church of God Ministry of Jesus Christ International, Ms Carmen de Riego, president of the Executive Committee of the Press Association of Madrid, Ms Sandra Camps, journalist specializing in social issues, Mr Ignacio Arsuaga, president of Hazte Oír and CitizenGo, and finally Mr Ted Blake, director of Open Doors in Spain, spoke in depth on the causes and consequences of conflict. As a focal point the speakers emphasized the importance of learning to live together respecting equal rights and establishing harmony between the manifestation of faith and freedom of expression.

Finally, notable scholars discussed the issues related to the harmonization of freedoms as a foundation for coexistence with respect. Mr Rafael Palomino, a professor at the Complutense University of Madrid, an expert in ecclesiastical law began the thematic block by mentioning the role of religion as a factor of identity. Later Mr Jaime Rossell, expert on freedom of religion and professor at the University of Extremadura, Mrs Rosa Maria Martinez, professor of American History at the Complutense University of Madrid, Ms Elena Real, deputy dean of international and institutional relations of the School of Information Sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid, and José María Contreras, expert and member of the Observatory of Religious Pluralism in Spain, deepened this same point, mentioning the axiomatic union of both freedoms and the importance of having knowledge of the other to build a tolerant and pluralistic society.

Complete information:  
<http://miraismo.org/index.php/sala-de-prensa/item/225-i-foro-europeo-sobre-libertad-de-religion-y-libertad-de-expresion>





## Meeting in Belgium with international expert groups in legislation on Freedom of Religion.



The Association participated in the meeting of the Working Group composed of 16 international experts working on behalf of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Development in Europe) and the Venice Commission, also known as the European Commission for Democracy through Law, who focus on the design of international standards of religious freedom.

It is worth noting that the Venice Commission is composed of 60 countries, not only the EU, but many others, including the US, Canada, Korea, Mexico, Argentina and Japan. The Venice Commission provides advisory services to member states who wish to improve their legal and institutional structures according to European standards, international experience in democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

In the meeting, recently published guidelines contained in international standards on the legal personality of communities of religion or belief, as well as the guidelines published in 2014 on freedom of religion were analysed from different points of views.





## A busy agenda during the month of October.



There was a busy schedule during the month of October; the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional was very active in several events related to its main line of work "Freedom of religion and belief".

Among the events to highlight, on the 8th of October in the United States there was an event held entitled: "International Religious Freedom: Towards a model for transatlantic cooperation", the event was organized the Religious Freedom project in the Berkley Centre, Georgetown University, USA. The event brought together personalities from around the world and various responsible NGOs attended to spread an excellent message of democratic integration.

The theme of the event was based on the continued promotion of religious freedom, not only as a democratic issue, but as a call to overcome the differences in Western countries; during the day, the possibility of designing strategies to eliminate them were examined, in order to advance the process of integration of religious plurality in an environment of dialogue and tolerance.

As part of the main notes of the event, the common denominator from the presentations was highlighted, which was of great importance for the Asociación Miraísmo Internacional, which was on the significant progress in the US on policies and regulations of Freedom of Religion,





## A busy agenda during the month of October.

a draft project for implementation in Europe as it is a model of success in promoting and defending it. It also means that Religious Liberty is understood as a fundamental basis for achieving a sustainable economic and social growth, as well as being the backbone to contribute to the main objective of the United Nations in achieving and maintaining peace.

The threat against Freedom of Religion in different States; an aspect that still remains in the crosshairs of great debates, given its worldwide violation, it is of great concern to those attending the event.

Finally, it was concluded that Freedom of Religion should be extended to all religions or manifestations, and should not go against what different Constitutions define as a religion, the protection of this law must cover all those involved; summarized as: to seek common welfare and not of one's own.

For more information on the event, please follow this link: <http://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/events/international-religious-freedom-toward-a-model-of-transatlantic-cooperation>

In Spain, the First Congress on Human Rights of the Catalan Bar in Granollers was held; a special event because it is the first time that Religious Freedom was analysed from a legal point of view. The event featured the inaugural speech of the Catalan Deputy Prime Minister Neus Munté, the president of the Consell de l'Advocacia Catalana, Abel Pié, the dean of the Bar Association of Granollers, Josep Medina, and Mayor of Granollers, Josep Mayoral.

The thematic development of the congress focused on the analysis of sentences more relevant to the religious sphere, analysis of crimes against freedom of religion, and of course, the analysis of national and international regulations regarding this fundamental freedom.

The points to highlight from this magnificent legal meeting resulted in a deep study on the level of respect that different religions extend to human rights, their adaptation and acceptance of religious plurality and of course, limits that short-change the violation of freedom of religion.

Another subject of special attention during the day was the high rate of discrimination and intolerance towards religions, an inclination towards one or certain religions and the persecution experienced by them.





## A busy agenda during the month of October.

Therefore on the table there is an unmatched deck of tools to improve the process of elimination of discrimination and intolerance towards religious plurality; legal instruments present in this struggle become valuable in order to obtain from governments a better defence of Fundamental Rights, especially Freedom of Religion.

In London, UK, a seminar was held on the rights of children, religious minorities and the law, the event was held by the organization INFORM.

The topic of discussion focused on the main challenges facing States when balancing the equal rights of each group.

The close connection between childhood and freedom of religion have been known to cause a high degree of violation, the seminar was attended by some affected by religious discrimination suffered during their childhood; thousands of difficult cases have been received by the European Court of Human Rights, a matter that concerns INFORM.

Of course, we reiterate the importance of international laws to protect those affected by human rights violations, hence the responsibility of States when applying this on-going debate.

The frequent participation of the AMI in these vital events strengthens links between different promoters and organizations defending Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, while encouraging the implementation of strategies for the growth of a solid democracy, guarantor and advocate of these Human Rights.





## Religion and Peacebuilding durante la Geneva Peace Week.



On the 20th of November 2015, Geneva Peace Week finished with great and important events that gathered together individuals from different organisations. Amongst them can be found the event organised by Asociación Miraismo Internacional and the Freedom of Religion International Centre, the “Religion and Peacebuilding Forum” carried out at the United Nations, Geneva.

The event began with a welcome speech from Mr Enrique Montes, President of the Asociación Miraismo Internacional, who said “religious beliefs constitute a driving force of social development, taking into account the individual and

collective contribution of religious confessions in everyday life”. After welcoming the panel, he gave way to Professor Clements, Chair and Director of The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago, Dunedin NZ. Visiting professor in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, University of Kent, Canterbury, U.K. Professor Clements delved into the importance of compassion and conditions of equality, opposing “power over others” vs. “power among us.”

Next, Mr Carlos Alberto Baena, former senator of the Republic of Colombia, general pastor of the Church of God Ministry of Jesus Christ International, member of the Freedom of Religion International Centre and great promoter of human rights,





## Religion and Peacebuilding durante la Geneva Peace Week.

explained the post-conflict characteristics of the country and the need for forgiveness and reconciliation in order to achieve true peace. He emphasized the relevant role that religious denominations have in this process and the need to promote equality between faiths as a complement to freedom of religion and worship.

Then, Professor Domle, expert in minorities and peacebuilding, and Yazidi activist, gave a brief presentation on the situation of religious minorities in Iraq, explaining the situation of the victims of the conflict who have not only have been attacked but also displaced because of the violence afflicting the country.

Mr Paolo L. Gamba, a former adviser to the European Commission and former adviser to the Italian government, provided important nuances to the table as the current adviser of religious organizations. His speech invited actors to not just be spectators of the current economic, political and social crisis in Europe today, mentioning that "churches are the soul of Europe," called to build bridges of dialogue to improve the current context.

Being aware of this reality, Mr Ricardo Espinosa continued with the event's program. In his speech, the Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue highlighted the role of religious denominations in promoting harmonious societies, and emphasized dignity and respect for others as basic points for building peace and coexistence.

In charge of closing the event was Mr Michael Mutzner, WEA Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, who highlighted the important role of religious leaders in building peace, being examples for believers.

The event attracted a large audience of different nationalities. At the end of the interventions of the speakers, members of other organizations, such as the Luventum Bay International Community, raised questions that deepened discussions on the relationship of peace and religion in the present context.

To conclude the meeting, the Asociación Miraismo Internacional said that the true meaning of religion is peace, and peacebuilding needs presence and interreligious dialogue.





## AMI participation in the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies



Monday 7th of December 2015 was the date chosen for the Symposium on Religious Studies at Oxford, in which ex-Senator of the Republic of Colombia, Carlos Alberto Baena had thirty minutes to talk about freedom of expression and religious freedom, pillars of Western and democratic society.

Over those three days, Oxford gathered together the most distinguished professors from different universities and institutions in the United States, United Kingdom, Turkey, Qatar, Nigeria, India, Morocco, Colombia, Pakistan, Portugal, among others, to address the issues that gave way to this Symposium on Religious Studies; in which the AMI explained that religious communities have a key role in the peace processes and post-conflict, highlighting that most religions study human behaviour and human life, responding in some way to essential questions on the behaviour of humans. This leads man to conduct himself based on respect and human dignity without which social life would be completely impossible.

The AMI said that religious convictions, when using reconciliation as a tool, with their consistent messages can be an inspiration to educate children and youth in respectful pluralism seeing as religions provide different concepts that can intervene in reconciliation, such as, denoting forgiveness, which is needed in order to not be anchored to the past and move towards peace, and societies need to favour proper personal and collective development.





## AMI participation in the Oxford Symposium on Religious Studies

Carlos Alberto Baena advocated for the compliance of human rights and so it is understood that all of them are necessary for life in society in order to contribute to the effective development of individuals, not only collective rights but also those born of the privacy of individuals: the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

The Asociación Miraismo Internacional denounced that antireligious hate speech is the reverse to freedom of expression as any ways of propagating, inciting and promoting intolerance, grows scourge and hatred in societies. This becomes a call to strengthen ties and take on the challenges that are forged in these times so that future generations can have the opportunity to revel in peace; as well as a call to create an education on diversity and pluralism within communities, through measures such as access to neutral information, far from prejudices and manipulations, or exemplary sanctions against hate speech.

The Asociación Miraismo Internacional defended on the one hand that peacebuilding can be achieved through practice and said practice or action can be achieved through education in values that contribute to form responsible, autonomous, free and critical beings who are conscience of the world around them, whose dynamism, among other things, can develop programs or proposals for peace to be effective and real.

And on the other hand, that peacebuilding requires a real education for all and in all areas, based on ethical and moral values of a society that accepts and values multiculturalism, assuming respect for fundamental freedoms as a key to living together in harmony.



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Anniversary of  
UNESCO  
Association for  
Interreligious Dialogue







## Anniversary of UNESCO Association for Interreligious Dialogue

On 18 February 2016, the International Miraism Association attended the 15th anniversary of UNESCO for Interreligious Dialogue, held in Barcelona, Spain. Representatives of different religious faiths existing in Barcelona such as Buddhists, Christian Catholics, Protestant Christians, Jews, Muslims amongst others, gathered at this event.

UNESCO shared new projects and initiatives that are being undertaken. An example of this is the "Building Bridges" project, where the aim is to train and advise young people of different faiths and knowledge about the existence of the other faiths in the city of Barcelona, seeking to contribute to its conviviality. The International Miraism Association is participating actively in these projects, since the goal is to promote coexistence with respect and social cohesion in the population.

On the other hand, the International Miraism Association raised concerns about the events against religions that currently are being generated and have been increasing in many cities (on rejection, disaffection and religious intolerance). The Association emphasised the need to build strong bridges for dialogue, cooperation and inter-religious understanding. As well as, the importance of the contributions that religions can provide to humanity, such as promoting values and virtues in people, as well as humanitarian aid provided without distinction of ethnic groups.

The anniversary celebration was also attended by representatives of the City of Barcelona, the Commissioner of Immigration and the Director General of Religious Affairs of Catalonia, who emphasised the cultural and religious diversity in Barcelona and the wealth it represents within the city.





## Religious education as a mean to strengthen tolerance and respectful coexistence

On the 9th March 2016, the International Miraism Association participated in the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Heiner Bielefeldt; during the 31st session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Committed to the defence of human rights and human development, the organisation said that intolerance and lack of information generated negative stereotypes that are sometimes what the Association called: "distorted references by the media or social networks." This leads to the growth of violent and discriminatory behaviour, especially towards minorities.

Mr Enrique Montes, president of the International Miraism Association said: "Education plays a vital role in building tolerant and inclusive societies, arguing that this is "a mean of internalising the human dignity of others, based on the knowledge of their history, their culture and their religion. From this perspective, education "becomes a mechanism for the defence and promotion of human rights".

For this reason, the organisation promotes the design and development of public policies in education that include the study of different religions, their history, geography, customs and general principles in the curriculum. This is without entering into doctrinal content or religious sermons.



The International Miraism Association believes that: "the importance of understanding religious diversity is increasing, since only by knowing others can people understand their reality and their way of thinking. The development of tolerance, empathy, respect, etc. must go together with the curriculum to promote such values in students".



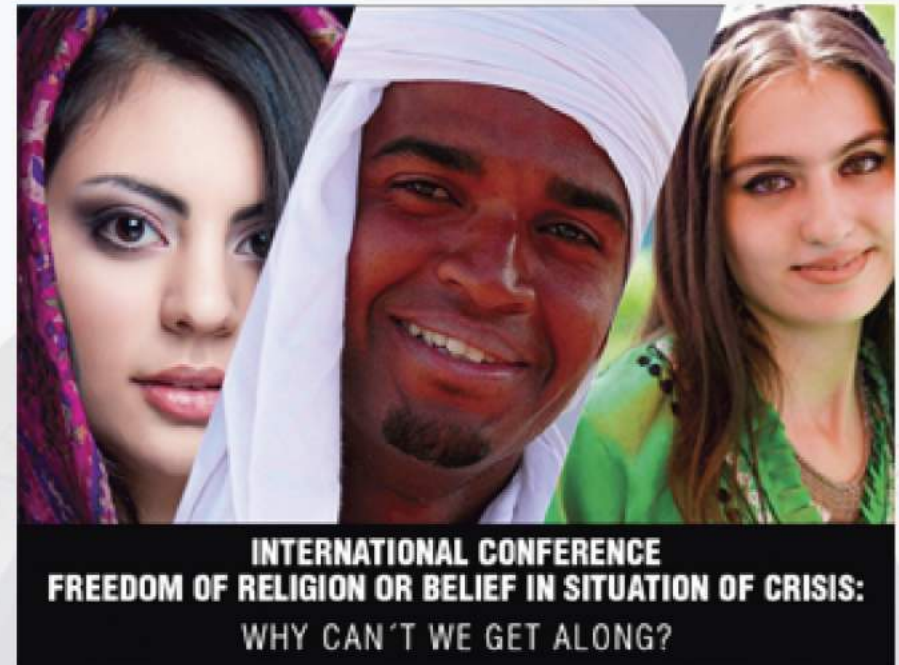


## International Conference: "Freedom of Religion or Belief"

The International Miraisme Association, through its President, Enrique Montes Pérez, took part in the International Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief in Situations of Crisis: Why Can We Not Get Along?. The Association introduced the subject "Education as a mean to mitigate violent extremism".

In this regard, the Association understands that education is the foundation of all behavioural patterns. It is essential even from childhood to contribute to the construction of harmonious and peaceful societies.

Consequently, the family is by far the main core moulder of human behaviour. Therefore, it is necessary to inculcate a values-based education that respects differences, in this case religious differences. Within the family, the Association highlighted the great role played by the mother as an innate educator and tireless fighter. Mothers are the key social agents in the fight against violent extremism.



Is this way, knowledge and the diffusion of social, cultural and religious multiculturalism becomes a powerful antidote to combat violent extremism and hate speech; created within the family and promoted by public spheres through the State, institutions and schools.





## CONFERENCE RELIGION, BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT





## CONFERENCE RELIGION, BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

On Wednesday 6th September 2017, the European Platform against the Religious Intolerance and Discrimination (EPRID) and the Vietnamese Committee of Human Rights (VCHR), in collaboration with the office of the representative Ramón Tremosa i Balcells, organized a conference on "Religion, Human Rights" at the European Parliament.

Among the speakers there was Dr. Brian Grim, President of the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation (USA); Dr. Ján Figel', Special envoy for the Promotion and Protection of Religious or Beliefs Freedom outside of the EU; Amarjit Singh, partner of Ernst & Young LLP (UK); Michael Wakelin, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, and Merete Bilde from the European Service of External Action.

The conference was presided by the eurodeputy Ramón Tremosa i Balcells, moderated by Penélope Faulkner, member of the Coordinator Council of EPRID and Vice president of the VCHR, and it counted with the wide diversity of representatives, diplomatic personnel, functionaries of the EU institutions, defenders of human rights from the EU and Asia.

During the conference the different speakers; shared their point of view and their own testimony of how to manage the religion, the businesses and the human rights in their organizations and in daily life. Some of them highlighted that: "Faith can be mixed with businesses without problems". Also, that: "Faith is important for the companies, is the bond of the people in an organization and is the success of their companies". Likewise, some of them underlined that: "It is necessary to create spaces for the inclusion within the organizations where, the rules of tolerance for every person are maintained, respected and valued", "The fact of having the confidence and the power to speak with liberty and respect for each employee's religion without the fear of being dismissed".

Lastly, they emphasized on treating people in an integral way and in that sense, to include the beliefs as inherent part of the personality. Thus, proposing a greater comprehension among individuals: "If we don't understand religion, how people can then be understood"





**OSCE - THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**





## OSCE – THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

On June 22 and 23, the Association Miraisme International participated in the meeting of the OSCE - The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe held in Vienna on Freedom of Religion or Belief: Issues, Opportunities and Specific Challenges to Combat Antisemitism and the Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians, Muslims and Members of Other Religions. Our intervention focused on the connection between freedom of religion and human dignity, also highlighting the role of freedom of religion in the construction of individual and collective identity. The importance of a society based on respect and a broad moral norm.

Our recommendations were focused on:

- The harmonious exercise of freedom of religion in its relationship with the rest of rights and freedoms to avoid negative stereotypes, stigmatization and hate dialectics.
- Awareness of all social actors and their responsibility in the image they consolidate of the other, especially the media.
- Formulas to eradicate new forms of discrimination or exclusion against ethnic or religious minorities.
- Education about religions and their role of religions in society. Understand to respect. Know to mitigate violent extremism.

Some aspects that will form part of the conclusions and recommendations are to inform society about the religious reality, the neutral role of the State, strengthen religious dialogue and the involvement of young people and women to promote freedom of religion or belief.

Official website: [http://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm\\_1\\_2017](http://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_1_2017)





## D. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### World Day for Women: Equality and Development #PLANET5050 BY 2030

The 8th March is only a reminder of what should already be a way of life worldwide. It is a reminder that women are more than a symbol, a trophy, an instrument or a convenience to the daily routine.

Women should be understood and valued as one of the two halves of humanity that form everything in the world, making it clear that inequality in the twenty-first century should be discarded out of any plane going beyond tolerance and acceptance to get to the real and definitive inclusion of women in all areas they already occupy and in which they wish to occupy.

This was mentioned by UN Women: "With the new global 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by the Member States of the United Nations on the 25th September 2015 we look at how women

are affected by each one of the 17 proposed SDGs and the way in which women and girls can and will become key players to achieve each of these objectives".

For this reason, it is very important to promote the empowerment of women and their participation in all fields as an essential part of sustainable development and social growth. In this regard, the role of women in conflict resolution and building peace stands out because despite being direct and indirect victims of war and violence, women are not represented in the tables of dialogue 2. Without the achievement of lasting peace, the optimum achievement of the SDGs is not quite possible.

The International Miraism Association, aware of the importance of raising awareness about this reality, joined the United Nation's campaign #Planet5050 by 2030, by proposing that civil society promote through images the need to work for equality and full inclusion of women in all areas, in accordance with the goals set out in this regard in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development:





## D. WOMEN'S RIGHTS

### World Day for Women: Equality and Development #PLANET5050 BY 2030

Some of the key objectives of the 2030 Agenda:

- \* By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete primary and secondary education, which must be free, fair and of high quality and produce relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- \* By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete primary and secondary education, which must be free, fair and of high quality and produce relevant and effective learning outcomes.
- \* Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private sectors, including trafficking and sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation.
- \* Eliminate all harmful practices such as early and forced child marriages, and female genital mutilation.



For more information:  
<http://www.un.org/es/events/womensday/>

<http://miraismo.org/index.php/sala-de-prensa/item/257-women-s-rights-in-post-conflict> (poner los verbos en pasado)





## Women's rights in post-conflict

In March 2016, the 31st session of the Human Rights Council was celebrated in Geneva; during which, on the 18th of March, the International Miraisme Association organised a parallel event called Women's rights in post-conflict that aimed to provide a reflection on the human rights of women and their participation in peacebuilding. The International Miraisme Association stressed that the position of women throughout time has always been underrated in areas considered as owned by men, as in the case of war, specifically post-war and during peacebuilding.

Women are one of the main elements in the process of reconciliation since they seek recognition of both the physical and psychological injustices suffered in armed conflicts. The resilience of women and their importance in the family is the key to reconciliation and deepening the culture of peace, without which the peace process would not be possible.



Sign up and participate at:  
<http://womeninpostconflict.econgresos.com/ingles/index.cf m?origen=web>

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MICROMACHISMS AND  
THE CULTURE OF  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN







## MICROMACHISMS AND THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

November the 25th marks the International Day of Non-Violence against women: a date to highlight the situation of vulnerability in which they are immersed, because as mentioned by UN Women "one in three women around the world suffer violence during their life, often at the hands of a person known, loved and trusted." It is a violence that worsens violations of human rights, causing illness, suffering and carrying high economic costs.

But this violence comes not only from what is usually known and translates into increasingly delegitimized physical and psychological aggression. Today we are beginning to be aware of other forms of violence against women, forms commonly accepted by society and reproduced in different environments and scenarios.

A culture of gender-based violence that has formed in macho societies and despite efforts from all sectors has generated a coexistence characterized by asymmetry in gender relations that seeks hegemony of men over women. This has given way to talk of "micromachisms" a term coined by Luis Bonino since the 1990s that refers to the "practices of male domination and violence in everyday life, the order of the micro, (...). That is to say, there is micro-violence and micro-abuse that try to ensure that the male maintains his own position of gender, subtly creating a network that entraps women and jeopardize their personal independence (...); [Becoming] the breeding ground for other forms of gender violence (psychological, emotional, physical, sexual and economic abuse)".

There are frequent behaviours that occur in the daily lives of people and their social interactions, some of these micromachisms are conscious and deliberate by men and others on the contrary are the result of an unconscious habit, without planning, automated and have been consented by the social order established in our communities.





## MICROMACHISMS AND THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In fact, there are mental and corporal devices that are part of the development of "becoming men" like habits of operating in front of women, which are consolidated from the formation processes of learning and growing. Thus in most cases they are considered normal, invisible behaviour and with total impunity, especially for those who suffer because in one way or another they are manipulative attitudes that perpetuate the typical roles that are assumed in society. These are ignored despite the repetition and incidence of them over time and the consequences of great affectation for the freedom and dignity of women and for society in general in the fight to achieve gender equality.

However, in assuming this reality, we can begin to distinguish and take action against them as they occur in all social relations either from our homes in assuming that domestic tasks belong only to women, overloading them with chores; In the intervals of leisure, considering that space and time shared between people correspond mostly to men; In the workplace, accepting that the logic and "reason" of man is the right one; Others which are under a less visible threshold, such as the exploitation of the ability of women to care for others as they are considered compassionate subjects. These are all practices that are not perceived at the moment but generate discomfort and affect self - esteem in the development and progress of women in life and in society.

Hence the need for this type of behaviour to be made visible and removed from everyday life and every social context. Starting to discredit its tolerance and suppress the ignorance of these actions, small but with great impact. Therefore the task must be continuous, working from the early stages of training. For from different perspectives such as language, gestures, and different scenarios such as work, street and home, big changes are initiated to eliminate all forms of both direct and indirect male aggression and eradicate the imaginary legitimization of violence against women, making no distinction of race, culture, age or socioeconomic status; Thus making an impact on the progress of equality between people and the quality of life of women, providing opportunities and putting an end to violence against women and girls, a scourge that affects the whole world.

Erika Torres  
Miembro Grupo de Trabajo de Mujeres





**FORO DE ALTO NIVEL  
Sobre FLUJOS DE MIGRANTES  
EN SITUACIÓN MIGRATORIA  
IRREGULAR**

**HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON FLOWS OF MIGRANTS  
IN IRREGULAR MIGRATORY SITUATION  
IN THE AMERICAS**





## HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON FLOWS OF MIGRANTS IN IRREGULAR MIGRATORY SITUATION IN THE AMERICAS

On September 12th and 13th, thanks to the organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the General Administration of Migration and Foreigners, with the collaboration of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, the "High Level Forum on the Flows of Migrants in an Irregular Migration Situation in the Americas".

The meeting brought together in San Jose, Costa Rica, representatives of 19 countries that participated in the renowned Forum, a meeting that was held on the initiative of Costa Rica, following the publication that the OAS gave last March, of the Regional Report on Migrants in Irregular Immigration Situation.

From this document, which emerged following the request made by Costa Rica by the Chancellor of the Republic, Manuel A. González Sanz, in May 2016, on the occasion of the regional migration crisis of 2015-2016; it is deduced, among other data, that the United States is the destination of 5 out of every 6 of the migrants of the Americas. In addition, it reveals that with respect to 2013, between 2014 and 2015 the number of asylum applications was doubled; The largest increases in Latin America are recorded in Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and Argentina. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, the Goal 10.7 calls so as to facilitate migration in an orderly, safe and responsible manner through the implementation of adequate migration policies. In addition, fundamental issues for the analysis of several causes of migratory flows, such as poverty, education, inequality and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

The States must, therefore, renew commitments with the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Migrant people are individuals with rights that, due to their condition of great vulnerability, require special protection by States. This constitutes a first step for the integral approach of migration from a more human perspective, which promotes respect for migrants and their families.

The countries of the continent have good experiences in terms of tools and protocols for prevention, assistance, management and reintegration of migrants. It is urgent to improve and expand cooperation, exchange and harmonization of such practices.





## HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON FLOWS OF MIGRANTS IN IRREGULAR MIGRATORY SITUATION IN THE AMERICAS

On September 19, 2016, at the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, heads of State and Government met to discuss issues related to migration and refugees. This was an important recognition, that migration and refugee issues have become a major topic on the international agenda. Through the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the 193-member countries of the UN recognized the need for an integral approach to human mobility and strengthened cooperation at the global level through the creation of mechanisms that protect migrant populations. The Declaration of New York, in its Annex II, initiated an intergovernmental consultation and negotiation process with the objective of adopting a global Agreement for a safe, regular and orderly migration, within the framework of an intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in 2018.

Among the migratory trends analysed by the Forum:

The need to identify and provide special protection to accompanied and unaccompanied minors, seniors, women, people with disabilities and LGBTI.

Promote the principle of family reunification, and the positioning of the concept of migrant family.

Strengthening of consular networks for the protection of migrant populations, access to effective justice and the right to the required process.

The migration associated with climate change must be incorporated into the Global Agreement for Migration. Criteria should be considered for the identification of people displaced by disasters, the use of regular categories of migration for this population, as well as temporary protection measures.

Gloria Rodriguez

FOOT PHOTO (Main Hall of the High Level Forum on Irregular Migration in the Americans, in which representatives of the majority of OAS member states participated.)



**GLOBAL AGREEMENT FOR SAFE,  
ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION**





## GLOBAL AGREEMENT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

The Association Miraisme® International participated in the construction of the Global Agreement for safe, orderly and regular migration, attending the III Thematic Session that takes place in Geneva on June 19-20, which addresses issues related to international cooperation and governance of the migration in all its dimensions, including borders, transit, entry, return, readmission, integration and reintegration.

Our contribution includes recommendations on global migration, governance and other important factors that contribute to a safe, orderly and regular migration, placing emphasis on mechanisms for the strengthening of international cooperation and the processes of reintegration of migrants, with policies from a macro-social and systemic perspective, with a gender focus and keeping in mind the children as the most vulnerable group of migratory movements.

The contribution made by the association during the 1st thematic session, on the dimension of freedom of religion in the migratory movements, obtained the formal recognition of the co-facilitating countries, by a congratulation letter and joining the official documents from the which the Global Agreement on Migration will be drafted. It is expected to be adopted at the General Assembly of the United Nations to be held in New York in September next year.

The AMI affirmed in this third session that one of the main problems when talking about return is the so called "re-migration" or "migration-rebound". When the country of origin does not offer opportunities, a true reintegration can not be carried out and this leads the returnees to make the decision to embark on another migration. States must avoid the application of return policies that encourage re-emigration and implement mechanisms that promote the sustainable return of migrants. In this sense, systemic public policies are needed that work from a macro-social perspective and focus on the collective improvement of the returnees.

Human dignity plays a specific role in good governance practices that provide welfare and a dignified life to its citizens. Therefore, it is necessary a careful consideration of human dignity, placing the dignity of the person in the centre of attention, as a fundamental principle in the design of return migration policies.

The governance of migration represents a challenge for the international community and at present it seems as fragmented and disconnected, with a series of formal and informal institutions operating in different levels and scenarios. The Global Agreement can become the articulating element that allows the development of more cohesive governance models as expressed by the Association Miraisme in the III Thematic Session for the construction of the agreement.



## HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

E. Other populations

that it is possible to promote social development.  
And we need to update the way we





## E. OTHER POPULATIONS

### HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On the 4th March the International Miraismo Association participated in the Clustered Group with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Independent Expert on enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism.

The Association, represented by Mauricio Betancourt, said that in Colombia the Presidential Programme for Comprehensive Action Against Anti-personnel Mines (PAICMA) has registered a total of 11,243 people, victims of anti-personnel mines and unexploded devices. However, this is not a concrete figure; due to the complexity of the context it is possible that this number may be even higher. There are thousands of people who are in situations of disability due to internal armed conflict, causing physical and psychological consequences.

Colombia was about to sign the peace agreement, facing a major challenge on the integration and respect for human diversity. Under this, it was necessary to promote a paradigm shift and focus attention on the abilities of people with disabilities and not only on their limitations.

In this regard, Mr Betancourt mentioned that: "Part of the solution is to think of a model to propose true inclusion, in this context, the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation is a non-profit organization, which offers society a model based on education and humanitarian assistance that seeks to enhance capabilities and discover abilities, to discover opportunities. The Foundation proposes to "understand disability as the cause and effect of poverty in the world, and as a condition that all human beings at some point in their life will have to face".

This model recognized the need for building social fabrics which promote "participatory rehabilitation, access to

information and mobility, skills training and competence and income generation for people with disabilities".

In the debate, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities reaffirmed the need for this paradigm shift, empowering people with disabilities and giving greater visibility to their rights. In her speech, she mentioned the need to integrate people with disabilities to achieve the objectives of sustainable development since it cannot move towards development without integrating all individuals, respecting diversity. In this regard, she finished by promoting the slogan: "Nothing without people with disabilities".

Oral statement:  
[http://miraismo.org/documentos/OS\\_HRC31\\_derechos\\_personas\\_con\\_discapacidades.pdf](http://miraismo.org/documentos/OS_HRC31_derechos_personas_con_discapacidades.pdf)





## People with disabilities and the 2030 Agenda

For the International Miraisme Association, the rights of people with disabilities are part of its main objectives. That is why any initiative that aims for the welfare of this group will be accompanied and/or supported by our organization.

The 9th session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP9) was held between the 14th and 16th June at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. This high-level conference sought to follow up on the rights of people with disabilities in relation to the sustainable development goals by the year 2030.

The main event focused on the strengthening of seventy (70) parallel events, all with the main objective of seeking measures to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities around the world.

The Association was part of very significant panels and events. For example, the Korean delegation held a forum in which it drew attention to the lack of measures for tourists who travel and have a disability and do not have the best accommodations for them, such as hotels, public transportation and traditional tourist sites. It also warned about the need to ensure the freedom of people with disabilities to exercise their right to vote in a secret manner and the introduction of technology to achieve that goal.

OAS (Organization of American States) was present with a side event in which it suggested that the countries in the American continent guarantee the rights of people with disabilities who are themselves immigrants. It recognised the lack of social security for workers and their families, which interferes with the 8th goal of the Sustainable Development Goals, which has to do with access to decent work. In some countries, the constitution prevents a person with a specific disability from acquiring citizenship on account of his or her condition. In other cases, people must migrate and find another country where they can have better conditions because of their disability - to utilise their skills and to feel useful in society.

The Colombian delegation took the floor in the General Assembly and reflected on the urgent need to reach a solution on the Colombian armed conflict that has left more than 10,000 maimed by antipersonnel mines.





## People with disabilities and the 2030 Agenda

The International Miraismo Association delegation was led by a Congressman in Colombia who is also an honourable member of our organization, Carlos Eduardo Guevara, who was able to step in and share the initiatives that his political party, the MIRA Political Movement, with the integration of different political parties have advanced in Colombia to the benefit of people with disabilities in what they have called the "Bench in" and their commitment to introduce any legislative measures that benefit this group that has much to contribute to our society.

These kinds of initiatives at an international level are needed to improve the quality of life of people who for some reason have a disability. From the United Nations, a call is made to the world to generate actions towards making disability an opportunity to dignify people regardless of their adversities. From the International Miraismo Association, we will continue to fight for the rights of these human beings and accompany each initiative that seeks to improve their lives



COSP9  
14 y 16 JUNIO 2016



NOVENA SESIÓN DE LA CONFERENCIA  
DE LOS ESTADOS PARTIDARIOS  
POR LOS DERECHOS DE LAS  
PERSONAS CON DISCAPACIDADES



# Activities on Living with Respect and Peacebuilding

Miraism legislation  
on anti-discrimination







## Miraism legislation on anti-discrimination

On the 27th and 28th of November 2012, the UN in Geneva held the Forum on Minority Issues.

The year 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

The Declaration is an authoritative guidance source that establishes basic standards on the rights of minorities, ranging from the protection of their existence and identity, non-discrimination and effective participation in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life.

A delegation from the Asociación Miraismo Internacional, was invited to participate and present some recommendations to be passed on to the Human Rights Council and member countries, among which was a great success that emphasized "the importance of states to develop laws criminalizing acts of discrimination and racism", giving as an example of positive practice, the law 1482/2011 authored by Senator Carlos Alberto Baena, President of the Political Movement MIRA.





## Report on the Social Forum

From the 1st to the 3rd of April 2014, the Social Forum was held at the UN (United Nations) in Geneva, Switzerland, in which the Asociación Miraismo Internacional took part.

In this Forum, discrimination towards the elderly was analysed, a real situation that is not covered explicitly in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Compliance with the rights of the elderly has become a challenge for society. In fact, in 2007, citizens over 60 years old accounted for 10% of the world population, a figure that by 2050 is expected to exceed 22%. So by that time, millions of people will need social protection. However there is still a lack of a general system of protection against discrimination based on age.

### **Discrimination towards the Elderly: Ageism, an invisible discrimination.**

The prohibition of discrimination on grounds of age is not explicitly mentioned in the reports that have been submitted to the member states of the UN, so it is essential that the High Commissioner acts on it, as was done in the case of discrimination against indigenous groups.

The Representative of the UN High Commissioner in Latin America calls the phenomenon of age discrimination ageism. A particular aspect of this type of discrimination is not seen, it is invisible, because in many societies, they are separated and/or these societies do not take the elderly into

consideration and it is considered as something natural. The global population is aging and until a few years ago society was composed of 3 generations. Today, instead of three generations, there are cases in which four or even five generations are coexisting together. That causes many governments, and even NGOs, to not give the elderly the necessary importance and protection but rather focus their efforts on other factors affecting today's societies such as Social Welfare, Housing, Health and Disability Care, among others. For these reasons, in many societies a culture of "right to be forgotten" has been created.

In fact, 80% of people over 60 in the world do not have a pension or social protection in their retirement age.

It is a human right to age in a healthy way, safely, without anguish and with dignity. You cannot use the term of dignity for the elderly and then, because of particular economic interests in each country, put restrictions and limitations on allowing the elderly to live their old age in a dignified manner.

### **Social Protection is NOT an expense, it is a Right.**

One of the reasons why many countries allege failure to provide necessary social protection to elderly citizens is the lack of economic resources, but this is a myth.

Those in power seek to convince citizens that there are no solutions, when their job should be to create alternatives to solve the problems of the elderly population.





## Report on the Social Forum

Many countries see Social Protection for elderly people as a risk to state budgets. According to them, allocating budgets to people who are always sick and/or disabled generate unnecessary costs, since such persons do not generate any benefit to society; this is indisputably an act of discrimination by governments towards their citizens.

Governments should consider that the elderly have lived a life process, during which they have worked, paid taxes and contributed to the progress of society, and therefore, they have earned the right to social protection. In some cases, some governments have even accused the elderly to be ambitious in their claims and needs.

The Right to Social Security and the protection of the elderly cannot be linked to the wealth or poverty of nations, but to the correct distribution of income. 70% of the wealth of many countries belongs to a few, causing flagrant inequalities, promoting austerity in social protection.

### **Therefore, this message is given to Member Countries:**

A message to policymakers. In many cases, pensions are considered as an expense in state budgets. But it should be kept in mind that they are part of the balance of the economic system as consumers and as activators of the economy.

In this regard, according to the ILO (International Labour Organization), in Brazil, for each Brazilian Real dedicated to social spending, performance in the economy increased by 1.8%, demonstrating that Member Countries would receive many more benefits if social spending was increased.



## Report on the Social Forum

### ***Growing old with dignity is not only about Accumulating Years; it is to live fulfilling lives.***

By 2050, 50% of the elderly will be considered as dependent, and therefore need special care, and the right to autonomy, including Dignity and Self-determination.

When a young person is faced with a situation of disability which creates dependency, or requires special care, society takes remedial measures, but when the elderly face the same conditions of disability, this is considered normal and society, therefore, does nothing about it.

### ***That is discrimination.***

It should be noted that when an adult in a state of dependency or disability enters a Centre or Long Stay Residence, during that stay, the right to informed consent must be respected, a right that is systematically violated by the administrators of such centres/homes and families.

Most member countries and their laws "accept" that the elderly are less able and less participatory. This creates stereotypes and prejudices against them, and therefore violations of their rights of autonomy.

In many cases, people age gradually and without mishaps, but in other cases, this process occurs abruptly and becomes an ordeal for the person. That is why we insist on the need and the right to age with dignity, which means not only to accumulate years, but live fully during those years.





## Report on the Social Forum

### ***Recommendations to Member States.***

Although Member States are required to submit reports on social protection systems in their countries, the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights depends solely on the goodwill of governments.

Therefore it is necessary that the Commission drafts a legal document, which legislatively prohibits old age discrimination.

Member countries are requested to establish prohibitions against neglect, and physical and mental abuse of the elderly, and this request is made so that Old Age Discrimination is included in the Declaration of Human Rights.

Member countries are also urged to provide social protection, housing modifications, mobility, recruitment and training for the elderly.

This Forum has had a global significance and has set a very important precedent regarding the increase in the protection of the Rights of the Elderly.



ASSOCIATION  
MIRAISME®  
INTERNATIONAL





## Organisation of the Forum: Human Rights in Colombia: dialogue on Resolution 16/18

The Asociación Miraismo Internacional in collaboration with the NGO África Culture Internationale, carried out a Forum about Human Rights in Colombia: Dialogue on Resolution 16/18.

Mr Lamine Dianko, president of África Culture Internationale, opened the event with an introduction that addressed the general themes of the forum which were religious freedom, freedom of expression and the convergence of both rights internationally, especially in high-risk countries such as Colombia where there are brewing new conflicts due to political and social characteristics.

Regarding the progress on the implementation of Resolution 16/18, Ms Gloria Nwabuogu, Human Rights Officer from the Anti-discrimination Section and Mr Marc Limon, Executive Director of Universal Rights Group, widely discussed issues on combating discrimination against religious minorities.

In the second part of the forum, the Asociación Miraismo Internacional opened with a presentation on "Religious freedom in Colombia, a right that has become a privilege", with special emphasis on the defence of freedom of religion or belief, putting forward its own research carried out in Colombia.

Then Mr Jimmy Bula and Richard Gamboa of the Colombian Assembly of Religions and Spiritualities', and Ms Lorena Rios, Coordinator of the Office of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Colombia, participated in the forum. Their video messages were very helpful, making recommendations for a better management of religious diversity in a social framework of coexistence with respect.



Geneva, Switzerland, 11th March 2015

Complete information:

<http://miraismo.org/index.php/sala-de-prensa/item/218-foro-derechos-humanos-en-colombia-ponencias>





## Functional diversity: “discovering capacities, an opportunity”



The city of New York will host another important event; in this case it is the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD54) to be held from the 3rd to the 12th of February 2016, at the Headquarters of the United Nations, under the priority theme "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world".

This Session will focus its discussion on the crucial role of social policies and development in the achievements of each individual as a key component of sustainable development, and to identify effective compliance with the 2030 Agenda through senior roundtables.

This CSocD54 is vital as it will be the first after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which includes goals for sustainable development.

In light of this event, the Colombian former senator, Carlos Alberto Baena will be in charge of representing the Asociación Miraismo Internacional, with his statement

"Discovering the ability of people with disabilities", which states that the social deficiency to recognize the ability of people with physical or cognitive limitations, is one of the problems that the Commission for Social Development can find a solution to.

In this regard, former Senator Baena highlighted the work of the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation, mentioning in his statement the importance of the model used by the Foundation: "The model identifies barriers in communication, education, health, accessibility or infrastructure, and social or cultural acceptance of persons with disabilities, and then focuses on collective recognition and building of a social fabric, participatory rehabilitation, access to information and mobility, training for skills and income generation".

Information link:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/54th-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development-csod54.html>





## A peace culture and human rights



The Asociación Miraismo® Internacional understands and defends that to enjoy harmony and the coexistence of all human beings, there is a need for a culture of peace that is not only non-violence or the absence of conflict, but also the union of principles, values and circumstances that favour its consolidation and its practice.

Also, one of the basic foundations for building peace is the art of understanding between people, and between the state and citizens, and only in this way will peace bear fruit and remain unchanged over time. Since reconciliation is not achieved overnight, it is necessary to invest time and disposition.

Mr Enrique Montes, representing the Asociación Miraismo® Internacional, reflects on the role of values in post-conflict situations at the Table on Culture of Peace of the Culture of Peace International Meeting for Colombia: Culture, Arts and Civil Society, together with other specialists such as Emilio Casinello, Mercedes Hernandez and Enrique Santiago.

This meeting, organized by Red Colombia and the International Forum of Victims - Madrid, aims to provide a space for reflection through art, culture and knowledge about the peace process that characterises Colombia, followed closely by the entire community international.





## Childhood and Armed Conflict

The International Miraismo Association intervened on the 8th March in Geneva - Switzerland, to address the serious consequences of violence and armed conflict on children in the interactive debate with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

Thus, it is intended to recall the importance of ensuring an honest development, that allows access to equal opportunities in those sectors affected by the atrocities of violence, so that the population in general, and children in particular, may enjoy the full benefits of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Guaranteeing a decent life, a good quality education and the necessary means to battle against poverty, are some of the key points that the International Miraismo Association argued in defence of the respect and the guarantee of human dignity of all people, whilst promoting awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In his speech, Mr Enrique Montes, president of the Association, noted that it was necessary to prevent the recruitment and involvement of children in terrorist or illegal groups, remaining a primary duty of both governments and society in general; hence the importance of contributing to research and development of public policies through these events, always keeping in mind the best interests of the children.



This intervention, therefore, is not intended to be left alone in a text, but seeks to be reflected on in reality by means of actions that allow in the medium term to obtain positive results that will reflect on the enjoyment of a normal life by the youngsters.



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# INFORME ROMPIENDO EL SILENCIO

  
Breaking Silence  
ASOCIACIÓN  
MIRAÍSMO  
INTERNACIONAL  
POR LA RENOVACIÓN ABSOLUTA







## Breaking Silence

The International Miraism Association took part in the socialization of the report 'Breaking Silence'. 'Searching for the missing of Colombia', a report converged with Colombians living in the United States, not only with their Colombian nationality as a common denominator, but also with their sympathy due to their loved ones who continue to be missing because of the armed conflict that still exists from several decades in the South American country.

The report states shocking figures, which turn out to be the pain and uncertainty of those who demand an answer from the Colombian government.

The high numbers of crimes against humanity committed by various organizations operating outside the law and by Colombian military forces have left, according to data collected by the US Office of the Colombia and Latin America Working Group Education

Fund, authors of the report, discouraging numbers: More than 218,000 people dead, among which 80% were civilians; more than 5.7 million internally displaced; more than 489,000 women victims of sexual violence; more than 50,000 missing persons; 31,000 persons subjected to enforced disappearances, and the list goes on. Meanwhile, Colombian law remains fragile, thousands of families waiting for a response from the government, an indication of, what happened to their loved ones.

The positive outcome of the meeting is a list of recommendations to the Colombian government, the US government and Academia, Media and Civil Society, among which stand out:

- a) Strengthen the National Search Commission.
- b) Strengthen the budget for the Single Virtual Identification Centre.

c) Elaborar propuestas estratégicas para poner en marcha las fases del Plan Nacional de Búsqueda.

d) Develop strategic partnerships to implement the phases of the National Search Plan proposals.

e) The embassy and the US State Department should urge the Colombian government to increase budget allocation for the National Search Commission and the Single Virtual Identification Centre.

f) US AID to extend the funds given to the contribution of clarification of enforced disappearances, and various human rights associations of missing relatives, among others.

Academia, the media and civil society must work together in order to devise strategies and solutions to the issue of disappearances.



## Peacebuilding and the role of youth







## Peacebuilding and the role of youth

On the 10th November 2016, during Geneva Peace Week, the event named Building Europe, Building Peace was held; an event focused on the European actuality and its main challenges in the short and medium term to reach peace. The challenges identified: mitigation of hate speech, effective inclusion of refugees and reduction of the impact on youth by violent extremism.

The event began with the intervention of the Association's delegate, the young Renata Kowalczyk who stated that: "Youth activism has an enormous ability to transform and renew social and cultural trends, improving interaction in the community based on principles and ideas that spread from different groups, thus assuming the role conferred by UN Resolution 2250". Following these words of introduction, she gave the floor to the different participating panelists, all of whom are young people committed to the community.

The first to speak was Paloma Cantero who made special reference to the refugees and prejudices that have been generated around this group, preventing the construction of peace in the European region. Cantero stated that we should seek to eliminate the concept of victim associated with refugees. On the contrary, we have to recognize their courage and tenacity with having decided to change their circumstances. Having goals and seeking to change our reality is essential for individuals and collective progress. This model of behavior must be internalized by young Europeans in such a way that there are no excuses to not achieve our goals. Without goals, we have no direction, and with no direction, no changes concluded Paloma.

Then Viera Pejchal spoke and stated that young people need to know limits on the exercise of our freedom of human dignity, and that abusing this freedom may generate hate speech which will stimulate violence. And not only this, young people are urged not to remain silent when they witness hate speech in their environment and on social networks.





## Peacebuilding and the role of youth

Nicolas Peynseres expressed that to avoid the terrorist cells attract the youth community, we are required to work locally, promoting educational programs that teach and encourage effective participation and inclusion in the community. In this way, local groups for interaction and social impact may well be created.

During the open dialogue, Renata highlighted the crucial role that the media plays in mitigating hate speech and spreading peace, and the importance of including young people in the political environment of the country to be active and develop more easily their identity. In this way, the vulnerability before the uptake by terrorist cells will be reduced and no social tension will be promoted from the youth community, on the contrary they will be proactive and part take in positive change in their society.

Then, one of the leading members of the public mentioned the importance of education on the issue of human rights in order to mitigate speech hate by allowing society understand these rights and how not to 'exaggerate' or overstep boundaries when exercising them.

Catalina Bahamón, delegate of the International Peace Committee from the Political Group MIRA, denoted the role of the youth community in building peace, similar to what Viera said that intergenerational discourse is essential to mitigate hate speech. Young people are called to sensitize their parents and grandparents; as younger generations have more interaction with people of other cultures in their schools or in their inner circle. Plurality must replace protectionism practices, cultures of fear, prejudice and stereotypes handed down from generation to generation. Young people currently have the role to stop this spread, breaking ideas that encourage segregation and discrimination.





## Peacebuilding and the role of youth

Mauricio Betancourt, an active member of the FRICE stressed the importance of the role of religion in peacebuilding, explaining that inter-religious dialogue can achieve a harmonious coexistence, to which Nicolas added that for the proper preparation of young people, is essential to promote training in human rights, so that they can transmit this knowledge to others.

The event concluded that it is of vital importance to give opportunities of participation to young people, making them part of the solution, providing the necessary tools so that they are able to identify and fight against the spread of extremist ideologies, hate speech and the discriminatory behaviours. Consequently, they are assigned the role of being builders of the future, saturated with values which are the basis of a respectful coexistence in this new era of globalization.



## Workshop reflecting on women in conflicts and peace processes

On Thursday 17th November 2016, the International Miraismo Association and Casa de la Mujer, organised an event held in Colombia. The meeting was sponsored by the Human Rights Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, intended as a work space so that through questions and reflections, proposals from women on the peace process could be pulled together.

The aim of the workshop was for this group to identify strategies to promote peacebuilding improvements, to acquire more information on the current situation and know about the essential aspects for women of the modified Peace Agreement. After the workshop came an agenda for reflection which counted on the participation of Gloria Stella Diaz Ortiz, President of the Women's bench, Belen Sanz , Representative of UN Women Colombia , Martha Ordoñez Vera, Presidential Adviser on Equality for Women, Olga Amparo Sanchez Gomez, director of Casa de la Mujer, among others. This space reflected on the importance of the participation of women in social and political movements, and the empowerment of women in peacebuilding and the role of women in reconciliation and forgiveness, among other topics. The conclusions of the event are reflected in a public document as part of the research conducted by Casa de la Mujer and the Women's Working Group of the International Miraismo Association.







## Women in conflicts and peace processes



The International Miraism Association, in collaboration with Casa de la Mujer, developed a document reflecting the reality of women in armed conflict and the importance of their participation in peacebuilding. This project was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain as part of a set of activities designed to highlight the role of women and the need to promote human rights, especially in scenarios of conflict and post-conflict. Women have assumed different roles assigned by the context, on the one hand, as victims of armed conflict and, on the other hand, as heads and administrators of the home, which leads them to seek new horizons in the labour market.

The struggle of women is to make visible their political, social and economic participation in the country. The following document is proof of the leading role of women in peace building:  
[https://issuu.com/asociacionmiraismointernacional/docs/doc\\_mujeres\\_abc\\_ingles\\_ii-1-vol2](https://issuu.com/asociacionmiraismointernacional/docs/doc_mujeres_abc_ingles_ii-1-vol2)



## GENEVA PEACE WEEK: ANNUAL MEETING ON THE PLATFORM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PEACE OF GENEVA





## **GENEVA PEACE WEEK: ANNUAL MEETING ON THE PLATFORM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PEACE OF GENEVA**

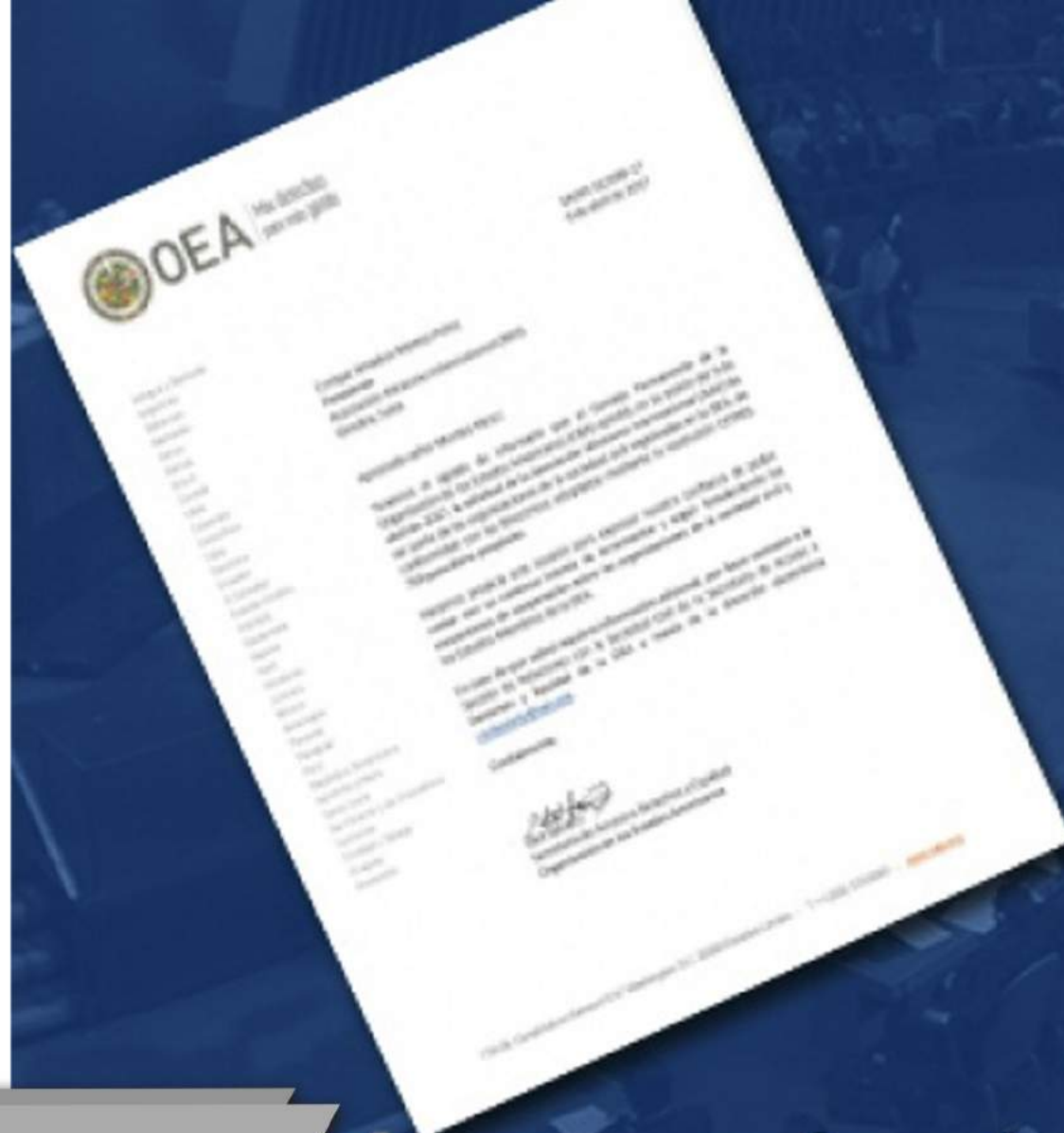
Geneva, November 6-10, 2017. The Association Miraisme International was present during the Geneva Peace Week on November 6-10. During the event, the construction of peace in Colombia had a special focus within some of the discussions.

Undoubtedly, the concern of the different organizations, institutions and international organizations participating in this event, and of course, of the different groups representing civil society, is to generate awareness and culture of peace among the members of the society and the processes to create alarm systems that prevent future outbreaks of violence and insecurity within its territory, but also the call for civil society as an indispensable means for the consolidation of strategies that avoid them.

One of the interventions that caused great impact due to its development was that of the Executive Director of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Mr. Darynell Rodríguez Torres, in his speech explained the need for social transformation in Colombia to move from a culture of violence to peace through dialogues with civil society and the populations most affected by violence. Through these intergenerational dialogues, young people are empowered to take initiatives in local communities and at the same time allow learning by older generations. In turn, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in partnership with the European Union and the Colombian government presented projects on food safety and agriculture in Colombia to help build the lasting peace in the country and achieve the Sustainable development goals. Among the presented projects are education activities, construction of institutional capacity in remote areas, monetary aid for student victims of paramilitarism, and initiatives for the creation of microenterprises and cooperatives.

Throughout the peace week, several conclusions can be obtained, one of them is the integration in the democratic mechanisms, the participation of the civil society in the formation of citizen overseers, peaceful managers and social leaders that contribute to the consolidation of a rural peace as well as a urban.

For civil society organizations, the work continues, the empowerment of women and men strengthened by knowledge brings coexistence with respect.



La AMI es parte  
de las organizaciones de la sociedad  
civil registrada en la OEA

**THE AMI IS PART OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF  
CIVIL SOCIETY REGISTERED IN THE OAS**





## THE AMI IS PART OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY REGISTERED IN THE OAS

The Permanent Council of the OAS approved the entry of the AMI into its Registry of Civil Society Organizations at its meeting held on April 5. Since 1999, the organization of American States (OAS) has created spaces for the participation of civil society in its activities. Resolution CP / RES. 759 "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities" institutionalizes and provides for the participation of civil society in the political bodies of the OAS.

Since 2015 the AMI has Consultative Status with ECOSOC and is integrated into a new international scenario to continue focusing on the defense and promotion of human rights, convenience with respect and the construction of peace. In this case, joining the civil society registry of the OAS implies that the AMI may participate in the public meetings of the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary bodies, making contributions through written documents, related to the theme of the meeting of the Permanent Council and CIDI. They may also make a presentation at the beginning of the deliberations with prior permission and many other mechanisms for interaction with the OAS and its dependencies. This positioning of the AMI, promotes the promotion of Miraismo® at an international level and constitutes another reason to advance in the research and programmatic development of the entity in the different topics of debate and interest of the international community.

see document

For more information: [http://www.oas.org/es/sre/dai/sociedad\\_civil/registro.shtml](http://www.oas.org/es/sre/dai/sociedad_civil/registro.shtml)

Apprentissages Sans Frontières (ASF)  
le Plateforme d'ONG sur le droit à l'éducation  
La valorisation de l'apprentissage,  
une stratégie pour atteindre les objectifs du droit à  
l'éducation  
Rapporteur spécial  
Missionnelle M. H.

**ACTIVITIES ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Forum on the value of  
apprenticeships**







## Forum on the value of apprenticeships

On the 12th of March 2013, the AMI participated in the Forum on the Value of Apprenticeships to achieve the objectives of the right to education, which took place at the Palace of the United Nations.

An apprenticeship is understood as the means by which a person develops a theoretical and practical training in an entity, in exchange for a company to provide the means to acquire vocational training, activity or occupation. On this occasion, representatives from different countries, including Switzerland, India, Germany, New Guinea, Australia, who shared the experience they have had with Apprenticeships in their respective countries.

The aim of this forum was to create a constructive and multidisciplinary reflection on the subject, and set targets for rights to education; the exhibitors concluded and agreed on the following aspects:

- There must be quality teachers and educators.
- The facilities where Apprenticeships occur must be suitable for this purpose.
- A bilingual world should be encouraged so that languages may no longer be a barrier in the workplace.
- To not underestimate apprenticeships, or take it as a second option, on the contrast, to recognize it as an international training model, and also as the key that will allow an excellent education, and thus enabling different States to achieve economic development.



## THE CHALLENGE OF EMPOWERING AGENTS OF CHANGE

Facing such an important step in constituting a global roadmap towards the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a firm and continuing commitment from the political sector, civil society and developmental cooperation agencies, to implement the 2030 Agenda internationally.

It is for that reason that empowering agents of change is one of the most important steps for achieving this objective. Young people play a prominent role in projection in the short, medium and long term, as mentioned by Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary General, in his opening speech at the Youth Forum held in New York, saying: "the voice of young people is crucial for the United Nations. Our success in this gigantic task will depend largely on the extent to which young people are a motor in implementing the agenda".

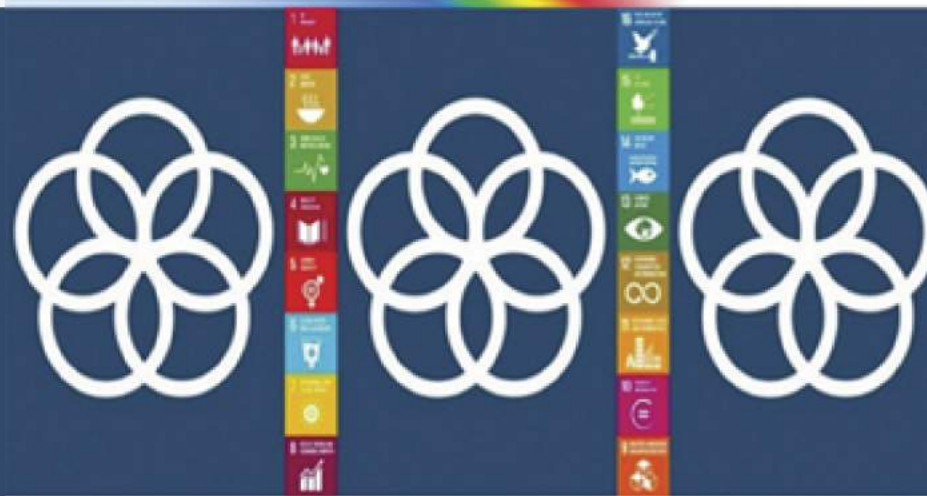
Despite the economic crisis, scepticism and ethical relativism, many young people are determined to change these circumstances and be proactive. Youth currently participate in society through volunteerism, social programs, citizens' platforms and other mechanisms created to respond to problems they perceive in their immediate environment. This activity by young people in the third sector and other areas of society, contributes to the development and construction of open and innovative communities.

The values of commitment and solidarity of the youth group themselves lead to a generational change in different social settings in which they interact as agents of change, opening a new horizon of transformation and renewal. These values are therefore existential goals that become talents or abilities, which once applied, generate practical results and direct benefits for the community.





## THE CHALLENGE OF EMPOWERING AGENTS OF CHANGE



For this reason, it is considered that the empowerment of this group should be treated as an engine for social change that will achieve progress in the sustainability of economics, the environment and socially, as presented in the 2030 Agenda.

That said, the promotion of spaces for dialogue, workshops, means of formal and informal education, accompanied by institutional and financial support necessary for youth organisations and projects under the different dimensions of development, are mechanisms that facilitate the leadership of new generations, and thus build enabling environments for achieving the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda.



**THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IS THE APPROACH OF DISCUSSIONS  
OF THE COUNCIL OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENEVA**





## THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IS THE APPROACH OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENEVA

The integration of the gender perspective within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was the focus of the meetings of the Human Rights Council on September 15 in Geneva.

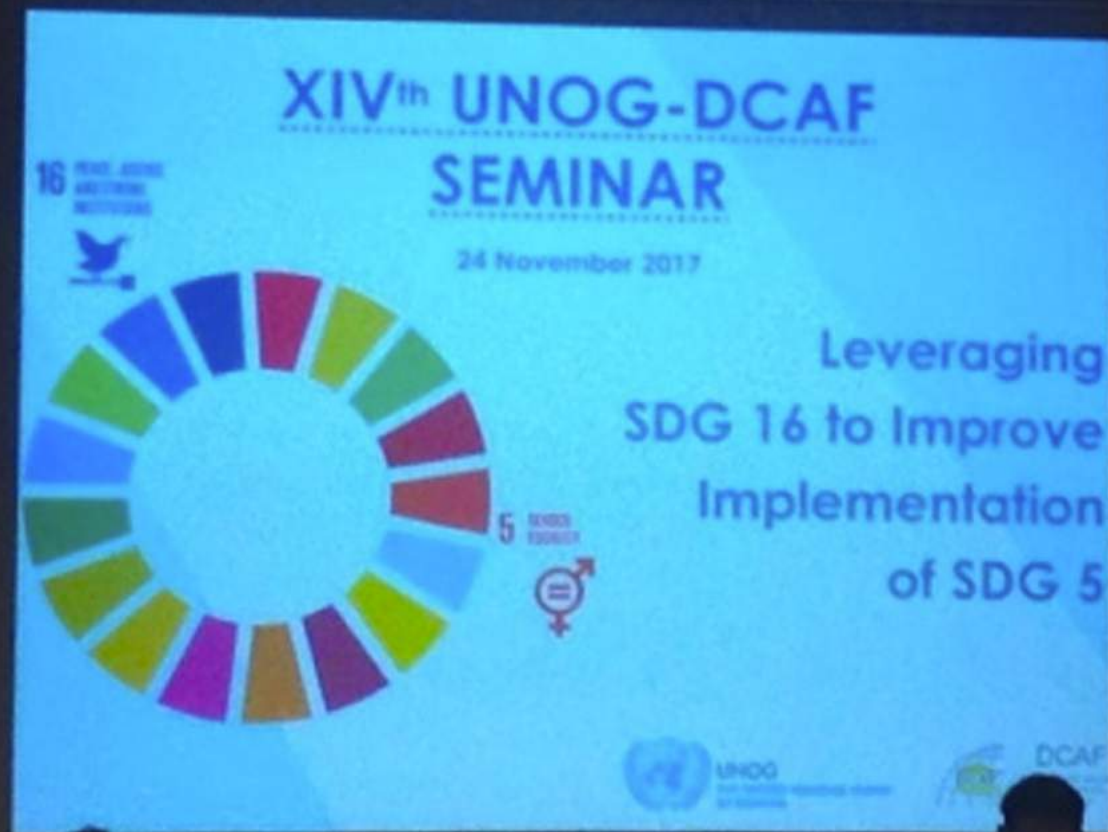
The AMI was part of these important discussions aimed at achieving progress in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the world.

During the session, Mr. Roland Chauville, Executive Director of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Info, recommended the development of disaggregated or specific indicators to monitor progress in the protection of women's rights.

At the same time, a general call was made to allow women to lead national debates in this regard and foster a better gender equality within the United Nations Organization itself.

The focus on the rights of women and girls was also part of the discussions organized by the Center for the Reproductive Rights and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), where the AMI was present.

Rapid access to health services, psychosocial and judicial services for women and girls is essential in conflict situations. However, it is vital to ensure that these services are accessible in post-conflict situations, particularly for women and girls in rural areas.



**THE XIV SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE OFFICE  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS OF GENEVA AND THE GENEVA CENTER  
FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)**





**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENDER EQUALITY AND THE PROMOTION OF JUSTICE AND PEACE ARE  
THE APPROACH OF THE XIV SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE OFFICE OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS OF GENEVA AND THE GENEVA CENTER FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)**

Geneva, November 25, 2017. The seminar entitled Making use of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16: "Justice and peace" for the Improve the implementation of the SDG 5: Gender Equality, aimed to highlight aspects of gender inequality. The AMI was present during this important event on November 25 in which the General Director of the United Nations Office in Geneva, Mr. Michael Møller, mentioned the importance of achieving gender equality and referred to the current problems around the world, where it is underlined:

- Only 50% of women of working age are working compared to 77% of men,
- Women receive 23% less salary than men,
- Only 23% of national parliamentarians are women,
- Only 30% of researchers are women,
- Of the 500 largest companies in the US, only 21 are led by women
- Today there are only 15 women heads of state
- More than 60 million girls are denied access to education,
- 4 out of 5 victims of human trafficking are girls, moreover, women between 15-44 years of age around the world have a greater risk of rape and domestic violence than of suffering from cancer, traffic accidents, war or malaria.

In the context of vulnerability, the Deputy High Commissioner of the United Nations, Ms. Kate Gilmore, referred to child marriage as "a problem of paedophilia disguised as marriage and tradition" and called for changing the current rhetoric to end with this abuse.



**PARTICIPATION NAT THE 55TH COMMISSION SESSION ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
UNITED NATIONS (NEW YORK)**

**101**





## **PARTICIPATION NAT THE 55TH COMMISSION SESSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNITED NATIONS (NEW YORK)**

In this year, the Commission for Social Development has focused its attention on short and medium term strategies that improve the quality of life of people with disabilities.

In the forum on February 6, called "Poverty and Disability", the Association Miraisme International intervened, showing the correlation between the disastrous consequences of poverty and disability.

During the meeting, it is affirmed that some governments are lagging behind in the implementation of policies that facilitate greater inclusion for people with disabilities. These shortcomings in the regulations can be alarming, especially when 15% of the world population, that is, more than a billion people in the world suffer from some kind of disability.

In Latin America, more than 80 million people have some type of disability, only between 20% and 30% are in school, 80% are poor, between 80 and 90% are unemployed and those who have jobs are poorly paid.

This is an opportunity to advance in the visibility of this community and its needs and establish the appropriate mechanisms to look after this vulnerable population, having the necessary means to be included in the community and making disability an opportunity.

This was mentioned by Dr. Carlos Alberto Baena, ex - senator of the Republic of Colombia in his speech as representative of the Association Miraisme International, showing the work carried out by the María Luisa de Moreno International Foundation in its different programs that have been directed not only to provide people with disabilities with the necessary tools for their daily lives but also to include them in the different spheres of our society, making their many qualities and capacities to be taken into account. In this way, the Foundation guarantees that the conditions of poverty of this group is reduced and that they have higher work and professional expectations.

The AMI believes that it is not possible to speak of sustainable development goals in view of the 2030 goals without integrating people with disabilities, especially if we consider that 4 of the 17 sustainable development goals are related to people with disabilities. and the much-mentioned slogan "Do not leave anyone behind"

"People with disabilities do not have to adapt to our environment, our environment must be adapted to them."