



COMMUNICATING THROUGH AN EVENT

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SISTERS ADVOCATING GLOBALLY

- Launched in 2020 by the International Union of Superiors General, in partnership with the Global Solidarity Fund
- Harnessing the potential of UISG as an umbrella organisation, representing over 600.000 Sisters engaged in tackling global development challenges
- Empowering Sisters to advocate on social and environmental justice, for and with communities on the margins
- Enhancing visibility and recognition of the work of Sisters in order to foster sustainable, systemic change

ADVOCACY AT UISG

- To advocate: to publicly support a particular cause or policy
- The Gospel of John describes the Holy Spirit as *the Advocate*, or in other translations *the Helper*
- We seek to embody the spiritual dimension of advocacy, understood as a powerful force to help others in creating positive change

ADVOCACY IN CONTEXT

- Our advocacy is rooted in the vision that has underpinned the work of Sisters for centuries – a vision based on the intrinsic dignity of all people and on the sacredness of our common home
- Yet we are also responsive to the urgency and challenges of our time: Sisters and their allies are part of a global movement to shape development conversations around the needs of local communities

ADVOCACY: COMMUNICATING FOR CHANGE

- **Systemic**

Finding safe accommodation for migrant families vs. meeting with local authorities to discuss legal housing provision for all migrants

- **Empowering**

A hand up, not a hand-out: building the capacity of vulnerable communities to access services, stand up for their rights, advocate for themselves

- **Integral**

From a place of integrity: congregations supporting the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and reviewing their own options for divestment

- **Integrative**

Building bridges, bringing people together, focusing on our shared humanity and future

- **Inclusive**

Leaving no one behind, embracing vulnerability as an essential value of leadership, knowing communities on the margins can teach the resilience we all need

ADVOCACY: EVENTS

- **Create spaces for dialogue** on development issues convened by women religious, with participation from Catholic, interreligious and secular partners
- **Improve recognition** for the work of women religious and **enhance the public perception** of Sisters as key players in realising the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
- **Build the capacity** of Sisters in advocacy and communication, enabling them to become stronger advocates for the communities they serve



PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

A case study: UISG's Sister-led dialogues

HOSTING AN EVENT

- Bring new partners into the UISG network on an institutional level
- Engage global representatives in learning about the impact of Sisters at a local level
- Create a space convened, led and shaped by Sisters on their own terms
- Demonstrate the potential of Sisters to transcend boundaries and build bridges

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

- Create a space that feels professional, purposeful and impactful
- Hold space for interactions that are sincere, accessible and unpretentious
- Recognise the value of each participant and their contribution to the dialogue
- Ensure fair and equal representation of diverse and diverging views

POLICY AND CREDIBILITY

- **UISG statement: Sisters for the Environment 2022**
[https://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/files/shftp_uploads/2023/1/Sisters for the Environment EN compressed.pdf](https://www.sowinghopefortheplanet.org/files/shftp_uploads/2023/1/Sisters%20for%20the%20Environment%20EN%20compressed.pdf)
- **Sister Maamalifar M. Poreku: Implementing outcomes of COP15**
<https://advocacy.uisg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UISG-Sister-Maamalifa-Poreku-Letter.pdf>
- **Policy brief 2023: Nine recommendations for environmental sustainability**
<https://advocacy.uisg.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UISG-Environment-Brief.pdf>
- **Sisters in dialogue: Holy See coalition towards COP28**

PUBLIC AND PRESS

- Earth Day: April 22nd
- Laudato Si' Week: May 21st

- Osservatore Romano
<https://www.osservatoreromano.va/it/news/2023-05/quo-117/sorelle-in-dialogo-e-in-azione.html>
- Vatican News
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2023-04/sisters-religious-uisg-sowing-seeds-hope-planet-climate-change.html>
- TV2000 *In Cammino*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA9z6hDdUJQ>
- Rai Radio 2 *Caterpillar*

FOSTERING RECIPROCITY

- Panel event with John Cabot University summer school, 9th June
- Event with Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), 16th June
- Training through UN Environment Programme, Faith for Earth initiative
- Ongoing collaboration with IOM towards second Sister-led dialogue and annual Advocacy Forum
- Potential collaboration with Italian Special Envoy for Freedom of Religious Belief and Interreligious Dialogue

CLOSING THE CIRCLE

- Exploring global spaces, regional platforms, national impact
- Maximising potential for continued involvement of trained cohort
- Defining and refining a long-term calendar of hosted events
- Prioritising opportunities for participation as part of a partnership strategy
- Assessing potential of institutionalisation and accreditation

THANK YOU!

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