

ADVOCACY ADVISOR SISTERS ADVOCATING GLOBALLY, UISG

THE ORGANISATION

The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) is a membership organisation for the leaders of Catholic women's congregations worldwide. Founded in 1965, UISG brings together over 1,900 congregations, representing around 650,000 women.

Alongside its core mission of training, supporting and connecting members, UISG acts as an umbrella organisation for Catholic Sisters engaged in tackling some of the world's most pressing development challenges. One example is its work to end human trafficking through Talitha Kum, an alliance of networks in over 90 countries. Another is its ecological campaign Sowing Hope for the Planet, which has created a global community committed to caring for our common home.

THE CONTEXT

Catholic Sisters are on the frontlines of humanitarian crises everywhere, and play a key role in helping to realise the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite their experience and expertise, however, the voices of Sisters are not often heard. They have limited access to key advocacy platforms, meaning limited opportunities to share the lessons they have learned from distinctive perspectives. Few have benefitted from training or support to tell their own stories, and empower those they serve to speak up for themselves.

In response to this challenge, and in partnership with the Global Solidarity Fund (GSF), UISG has launched a new project: Religious Sisters Advocating Globally for Human Dignity and the Earth. This is our response to Pope Francis' invitation, when he said: "Let us return to promoting the good, for ourselves and for the whole human family, and thus advance together towards an authentic and integral growth" (*Fratelli Tutti* n. 113).

THE PROJECT

This project's coordination is cohesively driven by three overarching objectives: creating spaces for dialogue on development convened by women religious; enhancing the public perception of women religious as key SDG players; and building capacity for women religious in communications and advocacy. In its day-to-day organisation, four main strands have organically emerged.

Throughout 2021, Sisters Advocating Globally collaborated closely with Talitha Kum, UISG's anti-trafficking initiative. We coordinated an ambitious programme to gather information, establish priorities and define powerful messaging, in order to outline a global advocacy vision. Involving over a hundred Sisters in total, this collaboration culminated on November 25th with the launch of a Call To Action to end human trafficking. Our aim for 2022 is to implement this Call To Action at national, regional and global levels.

Meanwhile, we have aligned operations with Sowing Hope for the Planet, UISG's ecological campaign. Following a global mapping exercise, the aim in 2022 is to develop the advocacy capacity of the Sowing Hope community through different types of training, with special attention to those who are feeling "left ahead", i.e. ready and eager to take their advocacy to a more challenging level.

Thirdly, we work with the UISG Communications Office to foster open dialogue with its member audiences, strengthening their understanding of advocacy as a key pillar of religious mission. With core meetings of the UISG plenary assembly coming up in May, this will be a pivotal time to work with congregational leaders on embedding the value of advocating for and with the communities they serve.

Finally, this project has developed its own stream of work, independent from other UISG initiatives. Under this heading, we have delivered campaigns highlighting the impact of Sisters during the COVID pandemic, provided Sisters with tailored support on media relations, and developed our online presence, with work ongoing to define a new set of branding and communication tools. The key aim of 2022 is to deliver an ambitious calendar of events, using strategic communications and training to enhance the visibility of Sisters on the global development stage.

THE ROLE

Initial contract: 1st April 2022 – 31st December 2022

Contract type: Consultant (self-employed)

Location: Rome office preferred, remote working possible

Job summary

The Advocacy Advisor will support the design, development, delivery and evaluation of advocacy activities, and particularly events, under the supervision of the Project Coordinator

Key responsibilities

- Planning advocacy activities, building internal and external consensus around proposals
- Personally delivering and executing activities and follow-up
- Liaising with allies and mentors, including their own contacts, to ensure successful activities with broad participation
- Liaising with UISG offices for human trafficking, ecology and communications
- Liaising with the grant-maker as appropriate
- Evaluating impact of activities and learnings
- Supporting project coordination as needed

Role requirements

- Significant experience in advocacy on global development is essential
- Experience working with Catholic Sisters or on UISG issues of focus is an asset
- Native-level English language is required; Spanish/French/Italian are also valued

Please send your CV to Giulia: advocacy.comms.coordinator@uisg.org