

FEBRUARY 2025

The UN & YOU

BY DR. JIMMY WALTERS
NGO REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SISTERS OF CHARITY FEDERATION

AT A GLANCE

- NGO Liaisons and Communicators Meet in NYC
- CSW
- Federation Internship Team Begins

From the NGO Desk



COME TOGETHER



Our NGO Liaisons, Communicators, Interns, NGO Representative at the UN, and Federation Executive Director gather for a photo at the United Nations. (Photo credit Spalding Hurst)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in one of her final communications with her companions before her death, said the following: "Take good care of the service of the poor. Above all, live together in great union and cordiality, loving one another in imitation of the union and life of Our Lord."

These words echo loudly these days for us as the Sisters of Charity Federation, especially as our world grows in division and suffering. As a Federation, we are committed to never doing alone what we can do better together, and this was once again exhibited last week as the Federation's NGO Liaisons and Communicators gathered in New York for days of community, sharing, and strategic discussions.

The three-day meeting concluded with the Civil Society Forum in the UN Headquarters where we focused on the value of the voice of civil society, especially local voices that are often unheard. The Federation's presence was the largest of the delegations gathered, emphasizing to our colleagues, UN Agencies, and Member States our commitment to advocacy on the global stage.

The Civil Society Forum concluded the 63rd Commission on Social Development, a week-long meeting focusing on social resilience and social development. As we prepare for the Second World Social Summit later this year in Qatar, it was encouraging to hear discussions regarding women and girls, young adults, elderly, and LGBTQI+ communities, as well as the impact of unjust financial structures on developing countries and the need for a standard data collection mechanism on homelessness. You can read more about the CSocD63 [here](#).

As the NGO Liaisons and Communicators gathered, it was clear how important the charism is to our internal partners, and how strong their desire is to contribute to the current futuring process that the larger Federation is partaking in this year. We were fortunate to hear via zoom from Sr. Elizabeth Davis, RSM, who is facilitating the Federation's visioning process. As she shared with Leadership last summer, this is a moment in time where the world needs our charism to courageously serve God's people in charity and advocacy.

It was empowering to sit around the table with these partners who beautifully expressed their love of the Federation, how they share their talents to enhance our mission and vision, and their deep desire to support the Federation and the larger Vincentian Family. Their love for the Sisters was evident and it was remarkable to see how the charism's fire continues to creatively spread and provide warmth and new life.

In our prayer and reflections, we explored how we could better work together to unify our voice in charity and advocacy, especially around the care of earth. Inspired by Laudato Si, and the work we do on our local and global level, we acknowledged that as our planet's temperature only continue to increase, we must urgently act to be a leading voice of change, for both within the Federation and beyond.

This was the first of many future conversations. The Communicators and NGO Liaisons will continue to gather virtually, and we will reunite at the Assembly of the Whole in 2026. Until then, we are excited to contribute to and support the larger visioning of the Federation and to fulfill its mission together.



Outside our NGO Representative Office before the Civil Society Forum.



NGO Liaisons & Communicators meet to build community and strategically discuss future collaboration.

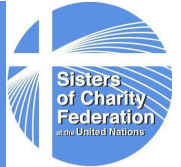


NGO Liaisons and NGO Representative gather at the UN. Other NGO Liaisons virtually attended meetings who could not attend in person.



NGO Communicators and Liaisons in Conference Room 4 in UN Headquarters before start of Civil Society Forum.

CSW 69



Rights of Women Takes Focus at the UN



Opening of the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

In 2025, the global community will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) and adoption of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action \(1995\)](#).

The sixty-ninth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 10-25th, 2025.

Follow us on X and Facebook for more information related to side events and key meetings that the Federation will be participating.

Federation Interns



Spring Semester Welcomes 6 new Interns



Pictured here, NGO Liaison, Sr. Carol DeAngelo, SC, and Antonio Walker, Sophomore, University of Mount St. Vincent meet during the Civil Society Forum.

The Sisters of Charity Federation's new Internship Team begins this Spring semester. Two of its interns, **Antonio Walker**, Sophomore, University of Mount St. Vincent (NY) and **Lucia Moron**, Senior, St. John's University (NY), attended the Civil Society Forum in New York.

The other interns of this year's class include:

Chiyoko Goya, Senior, St. John's University (NY)

Amber Marquez, Sophomore, St. John's University (NY)

Abriana Matos, Sophomore, St. John's University (NY)

Sofia Santos, Junior, St. Elizabeth University (NJ)

Please keep these students in your prayers as they continue to be formed in our charism and to discover how to be a global citizen.

Reach Out

Let's Stay Connected



For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions, email JWalters@sistersofcharityfederation.org and we'll be in touch.

Follow us on **X (formerly Twitter)** and on **Facebook** @ngoscfederation.