

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate and Red Dot Foundation
61st Session of the Commission on Social Development
Side Event Concept Note

Priority theme: Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Title: Decent work for all: Ending vulnerability through education and economic empowerment

Date and time: 8 February at 9:45 am EST

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate (IBVM/CJ NGO) and Red Dot Foundation (RDF) work in 43 countries in partnership with local groups and communities to promote a more sustainable development and human rights centered working conditions for all at international and local levels. As civil society organizations with ECOSOC status at the UN, we are at the forefront in creating an inclusive society and working towards a holistic development for all, especially the marginalized sections of the society. Our members have collaborated with local organizations, national governments and other stakeholders to offer quality education, livelihood training for youth and women from marginalized sections of society to support them in creating jobs and livelihoods for themselves.

This side event will highlight the engagement of civil society organizations with local communities, youth and women's groups in providing quality education, economic empowerment through various micro-financing activities, and skill development programmes. When young women and men have access to decent and productive work, they are able to lift themselves from poverty and reduce their vulnerabilities to child labour, human trafficking, and other forms of exploitation.

Education, upskilling and re-skilling – especially to keep pace with rapid technological and digital transformations affecting jobs — are critical for women's and girl's health and wellbeing, their income-generation opportunities and participation in the formal labor market. Gender inequalities in employment and job quality result in gaps in access to social protection, such as pensions, unemployment benefits or maternity protection. Without access to these benefits, they could end below the poverty line, increasing their vulnerability to all forms of labor exploitation.

Successful engagement of young people in the labor market and society is crucial not only for their own personal economic prospects and well-being, but also for overall economic growth and social cohesion. Through adequate skills, employment, social and broader policy settings, young people have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and maintain confidence in their future prospects.

We will share stories of: -

- Young women and girls from rural communities rebuilding their lives: socio economic perspective
- Working towards ending vulnerability
- Lived experience of youth participants

Keynote address:

Ambassador Allie Kabba, the Permanent Representative of the UN Mission of Sierra Leone

Panelists:

- **Ancy Thomas CJ**, Director, Mary Ward Development Centre - Micro financing program in Bihar (India)
- **Ms Elsa Marie D'Silva** Founder and CEO, Red Dot Foundation (Women entrepreneurship Tourism business creation program (West & South India)
- **Jackline Mwikali Mwongela IBVM**, Coordinator, Religious Against Human Trafficking (RAHT) - Kenya
- **Silvia Zábavová, CJ:** Activist/professor working among the Roma community in Slovakia
- **Anjali Singh:** success story of lived experience of a youth using a program to gain employment.

Opening and welcome: Janet Palafox

Closing and vote of thank : Gillian Dsouza

Moderators: Youth Representatives - Sofia from RDF and Prateeksha from IBVM

Co-Sponsor Organizations: The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, NGO Committee on the Status of Women (TBC)