



WHEC Update

Briefing of worldwide activity of the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

December 2018; Vol. 13. No. 12

A Grand Collaboration

Happy Holidays from all @ the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

As 2018 ends, we @ WHEC turn our attention to those who contribute to the uniqueness of our community and our initiatives with the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO). On that note, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you and your family for a happy, safe and peaceful holiday season.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are a basic form of popular participations and representation in the present-day world. Their participation in international organizations (IGOs) is, in a way, proof of this. It is therefore not surprising that in a short time we have witnessed the emergence of so many new NGOs, which continue to increase in number on every continent. Today, we understand that the international community, must address a human community, that is transnational in every way.

For a long time, the international order was regarded as political and firmly established. Now we must learn to accept and to deal with a world that is both social and mobile. The movement of people, information, capital, and ideas is as important today as the control of territory in the past. We therefore must build a framework that considers not only political issues, but economic behavior, social and cultural aspirations as well.

The NGO community is extremely varied. Many legitimate – and sometimes contradictory – objectives are being pursued by the galaxy of non-state actors. New ideas and approaches are being tested all the time. Change is a constant factor in our lives. I welcome this. However, in the arena of peace, education-for-all, health-for-all, and fair development-for-all, it is essential that the activities of The State, NGOs and the UN should be complementary, or at least compatible. I believe that the time has now come to tackle these problems so that we – international civil servants and NGO personnel – together can act still more effectively to promote our common agenda. This is WHEC's sincere expectation.

NGOs with economic and social council (ECOSOC) and associated with United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI) have a crucial role to play in this area. They can help develop effective ways of spreading the ideas exchange of our common agenda.

We the peoples of the United Nations!

The UN system provides a convenient, accessible vantage point to observe some of the most active, persuasive NGOs in the world. During the last 50 years, various UN organizations have felt the direct and indirect impact of NGOs. In their own ways, NGOs and IGOs group, sometimes cooperatively, sometimes competitively, sometimes in parallel towards a measure of 'global governance.' We define global governance as efforts to bring more orderly and reliable responses to social, economic and political issues that go beyond capacities of states to address individually.

Share your thoughts on <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> and **WHEC Global Health Line**

Partners in Development: The State, NGOs, and the UN

Rita Luthra, MD



Your Questions, Our Reply

How can nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations (IGOs) shape policy agenda? What is the role of UN? How can UN help third world NGOs?

Shaping the Policy Agenda: We believe, if the UN System is to become an effective advocate for people's participation in the decisions that affect their lives and in government respectively, it will need to reposition itself with respect to the state. To play a role as arbiter successfully, the UN System should become less of an extension of government and more an extension of civil society within governments; it should be less tied to the provision of sectoral technical assistance and more capable and adept at influencing the creations and shape of policy environments encouraging and guaranteeing the participation of all development actors.

Today, we are all searching for an international order that is acceptable to all. Nevertheless, we also know how profoundly ambiguous the very notion of an international order is. For the concept of an international order – if there is one at all - fulfills various functions in the lives of states and peoples. It has a political and an ideological dimension, as well as an economic and a cultural one. It can be used by the powerful to buttress a legal argument, and it can also be used by the weak in support of a militant speech. In short, what we call the international order is both the expression of the present-day balance of power and an idealization of a society in evolution. For every woman, every child and every man in the world to perceive a true stake in the great ideals of the world organizations, it is necessary to continue to build NGOs and to understand their contribution to global governance. It is also essential to pursue first-rate research and analysis, to understand the complex interactions among states, non-states, and the United Nations.

Governance dimensions: Most NGOs probably exist to influence, to set direction for, or to maintain functions of governance or to operate where government authority does not. Consequently, governance dimensions would be a strong presence in any inquiry about them. This is, in fact, the case in most of the studies. Informational transnational relationships between NGO personnel and that of governments and IGOs is implicitly or explicitly demonstrated in most of the studies.

Strategic dimensions: This supplements the data about governance dimensions by emphasizing what is sought and what techniques are employed by NGOs in their relationships with various authorities engaged in governance processes. As for goals, many and probably most of the NGOs in the case studies either concentrate on a single issue or a set of issues grouped around a subject.

An important United Nations Development Program (UNDP) contribution lies in mobilizing donor support for strengthening NGO representational and advocacy capacity and in supporting the creation of frameworks for coordination between NGOs as well as between them and government. With its permanent in-country presence, UNDP could also play an important monitoring role reporting to donors on the broad trends affecting their specific NGO funding. Such roles would demand that UNDP builds adequate capacity with respect to its understanding of NGO roles in governance.

The extreme diversity that characterizes the NGOs and IGOs world, which is both its greatest strength and its greatest weakness, carries through to the policy and operational coalitions that these international systems create and in which they participate. Almost every country, certainly every continent, has many NGOs and consequently constellations of NGO-coalitions. Coordinate – Cooperate – Harmonize.

Implementation: Implementation is the role favored by the summit in its relations with the grass roots. In the last decade or so, all UN resolutions urge governments to associate NGOs in the implementation of international programs. The World Bank publishes a list of "World Bank-financed projects with potential for NGO involvement." However, this is usually limited to using community workers for information, and in-kind or financial contributions by grass root organizations.

Two trends are slowly reshaping the international development system. They hold the promise of democratizing and reforming the international system and the international practice of development. One is the process of ‘scaling up,’ in which grassroots organizations and local grass-root NGOs seek to expand their impact and move beyond the local level. In doing so, they are becoming players, often reluctantly, at the national and international levels. ‘Scaling down’ refers to processes whereby IGOs change their structures and modes of functioning to allow for meaningful interaction and cooperation with grassroots organizations and NGOs.

If the UN system can be a vehicle for strengthening the diverse voices of NGOs and IGOs without homogenizing them, it will have greater impact on global governance and policies.



THE WHITE HOUSE; President Donald J. Trump’s Acknowledgment & Support

It is indeed our pleasure to share with you the support and acknowledgment of THE WHITE HOUSE; President Trump’s response to the follow-up and review of the Women’s Health and Education Center ‘s (WHEC’s) initiatives with the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Working with peace-loving peoples and peace-loving nations will grow everyone’s economy and we @ WHEC wish, The Congress supports THE WHITE HOUSE’s projects and programs, to achieve national and international policies. Going forward, I strongly believe, working with the United Nations (UN) lead peace-processes and development agenda, will be of mutual benefit and mutual respect, in making various national and international projects and programs successful and efficient.

http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/documents/President_Trump_13_November_2018.pdf

The Continuing Medical Education Initiatives on **WHEC Global Health Line**, are planned and developed with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH), Reproductive Health Research Division of the World Health Organization, and these universities and university hospitals in the United States of America (USA). *Please visit our CME Page...*

The purpose of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) is to provide challenging curricula to assist healthcare professionals to raise their levels of expertise while fulfilling their continuing education requirements, thereby improving the quality of healthcare. The philosophy behind this purpose is based on the belief that continuing education is a life time commitment requiring knowledge of current trends and developments in the science, technology and economics of healthcare. We invite the visitors of <http://www.WomensHealthSection.com> to enjoy these courses for their personal development or share this publication with other healthcare providers and general public.

We @ WHEC hope you all find it intriguing and help us to plan and develop: “ This Big Picture” – Imagine, sitting in your office or home and teaching obstetrics, gynecology, newborn care, adolescent health, focus on good mental health and healthcare to the whole world and learning from their perspectives too. This is just a beginning ... All over USA, in Europe and in other developed and developing countries, we all deal with and provide care to a multicultural society. By interacting with different cultures, we will be able to understand different customs and faiths and learn to respect: THE DIVERSITY.

All over the world people have one common and strongest wish and desire – that their children are educated by finest teachers and universities to achieve a prosperous future. This is a timeless & ageless wish and desire. **We all are linked with this common goal and pursuit.**

Thank you for your friendship and support!



United Nations at a Glance

Permanent Mission of Germany at the United Nations

Germany became UN Member State on 18 September 1973



Germany, officially the **Federal Republic of Germany**, is a sovereign state in central-western Europe. The English word *Germany* derives from the Latin *Germania*, which came into use after Julius Caesar adopted it for the peoples east of the Rhine. East and West Germany unification occurred on 3 October 1990, with the accession of the five re-established states of the former GDR (German Democratic

Republic).

It includes 16 constitute states, covers an area of 357,021 square kilometers (137,847 sq. miles) and has a largely temperate seasonal climate. With about 85 million inhabitants, Germany is the most populous member state of the European Union (EU). Germany's capital and largest metropolis is Berlin, while its largest conurbation is the Ruhr, with its main centers of Dortmund and Essen.

In the 21st century, Germany is a great power with a strong economy; it has the world's 4th largest economy by nominal GDP, and the 5th largest by PPP. As a global leader in several industrial and technological sectors, it is both the world's third-largest exporter and importer of goods. A developed country with a very high standard of living, it upholds a social security and universal health care system, environmental protection, and a tuition-free university education. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the G7, the G20, and the OECD.

Known for its rich cultural history, Germany has continuously the home of influential and successful artists, philosophers, musicians, sports-people, entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, and inventors. Germany has a civil law system based on Roman Law with some references to Germanic law.

Germany's Role in the United Nations

Security and non-proliferation, environment and climate change, sustainable development and human rights – the central challenges of our time – require global solutions, and for many of them, the UN is indispensable. The United Nations in Germany: The UN is not only to be found overlooking the East River (New York, USA) or onto Lake Geneva (Geneva, Switzerland); it is also located in Germany – mainly in Bonn, where over 1,000 UN staff members are active especially in development and environmental policies.

On 8 June 2018, Germany was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2019-20 term. This is the sixth time that the country has assumed major responsibility for peace and security in this function.



Partnership

Germany is a reliable partner in the world. Partnership is about working together as equals. Moreover, Germany wishes to draw on its experiences to support development. Development policy is an investment in the future to create structures, share knowledge and ideas and help people to help themselves.

Germany wants and can help to give the world a more humane face. This also includes treating refugees justly and humanely. The causes of flight must be dealt with in the countries of origin. Germany is therefore making a substantial contribution to relief organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme.

Details: <https://new-york-un.diplo.de/un-en>

Collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO | Germany



association.

Germany is a densely populated and highly industrialized country with more than 82 million inhabitants. The life expectancy at birth is 77.6 years for males and 82.8 years for females. The percentage of the population aged 65 years, or more is rising. Germany does not have a national health care system. The health care system is administered through several autonomous bodies and associations such as the statutory health insurance system (GKV), the association of physicians under contract with the GKV, and the hospitals

Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions in Germany (2015)

In the context of a multi-country study on ambulatory care sensitive conditions (ACSCs) in the WHO European Region, this study seeks to contribute to strengthening health services delivery by identifying possible improvements to effectively prevent, diagnose and treat ACSCs in primary health care settings, and by deriving contextualized and actionable policy recommendations for health services delivery transformation.

Strengthening journalists' understanding of the social context of environment and health inequalities.

Three United Nations agencies used the occasion of the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum (GMF) in Bonn, Germany, to engage with journalists on different perspectives of inequalities in society. Their objective was to strengthen journalists' understanding of the technical themes and challenges being presented, and of how to better investigate and communicate these. They also sought feedback on how the United Nations can better engage the media on these topics.

The annual GMF is the only international media conference that brings together decision-makers and influences from the worlds of journalism, digital media, politics, business, civil society and academia. Every year, it offers a unique, interdisciplinary approach to tackling one of the defining challenges of our time; this year the discussions and presentations focused on the theme of global inequalities.

Shaping A Sustainable Future - <https://www.unbonn.org/>

WHO applauds the growing engagement of European Region countries in protecting their people from epidemics, natural disasters, and environmental and humanitarian crises. A 3-day high-level meeting, hosted and financially supported by Germany concluded in Munich, making a milestone in preparing for and responding to the ever more complex and demanding health emergencies of our times. Over 150 representatives from 43 countries – all of which are signatories of the International Health Regulations (IHR) – and international organizations debated effective ways to accelerate the implementation of IHR as a means to better equip countries to deal with emergencies. In particular, they discussed synergies among 3 major areas: IHR core capacities, health systems and public health functions, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

- Preparedness: building, maintaining and strengthening IHR core capabilities;
- Response: enhancing event management according to IHR requirement;
- Monitoring and evaluation: measuring progress and promoting accountability on IHR implementation.

Providing a platform for improved collaboration – the IHR provide an international legal framework for countries worldwide to protect people from health emergencies.

Details: <http://www.who.int/countries/deu/en/>

Bulletin Board

...Continued

WHEC Data Protection Policy

III. Users' Access to Accounts and Data

10. Accounts, whether for single access or shared-access or group-access, may only be used for the purpose for which they have been allocated to the user.

11. All accounts must have appropriate access protection, such as account codes or passwords.

12. The user shall take the necessary precautions to protect his personal computer or work station against unauthorized access. The user shall also protect details of his/her personal account, particularly by avoiding obvious passwords and shall not divulge his/her passwords to any third party, unless expressly authorized by his/her Division Leader. Upon request from the WHEC Computer and Network Security Officer or the service manager concerned, the user shall select a new password.

13. If the user has been given an account with privileged access in connection with specific professional duties, he/she must advise the service manager concerned as soon as those duties no longer require privileged access.

14. The user must keep confidential all information obtained from access to WHEC Computing and Network Facilities that the user may reasonably be expected to understand is confidential or sensitive in nature.

15. The user shall not seek unauthorized access to accounts which have access protection and shall not, except provided in the contract hereunder, look for, disclose or exploit any security weakness in the WHEC Computing and Network Facilities or use these facilities to do so with respect to any other computing and network facilities.

16. The user must report any unauthorized use of his personal computer, work station or accounts to the WHEC Computer and Network Security Officer or the service manager concerned.

17. User shall respect the proprietary rights related to WHEC Computing and Network Facilities, including software copyrights. Infringement of this obligation may constitute a breach of contracts concluded by the WHEC with outside suppliers of computers, networks, software and services.

To be continued...



Collaboration with UN University (UNU)

*UNU-WIDER (World Institute for Development Economics
Research)*

Expert Series on Health Economics

Invisible, Successful and Divided

Vietnamese in Germany since the late 1970s

Until the 1970s, only 1,000 Vietnamese lived in West and East Germany, most of them international students. West Germany, in particular, had not yet been confronted with non-European refugees. This changed after 1978 with the influx of around 35,000 "boat people" from Viet Nam and other countries in South East Asia, who arrived as part of a contingent quota admission. Their entry led to new strategies

for integration, including obligatory language classes and a host of measures resembling those in other countries of refugee resettlement.

Yet, the German case differs from other countries because of the simultaneous arrival of non-refugee Vietnamese, who came on temporary labor contracts to socialist East Germany starting in 1980s. These two migration streams would converge when Germany reunified in 1990. Drawing on mixed qualitative methods, this paper offers a strategic case for understanding factors that shaped the arrival and resettlement experiences of Vietnamese refugees and contract workers in Germany. By comparing two migration streams from the same country of origin that experienced varied contexts of reception (government, labor market, and ethnic community), we suggest that a context of reception need not be uniformly positive for immigrants and refugees to have an integration experience deemed successful.

Divided in unity: Vietnamese in present-day Berlin. The level of segregation of Vietnamese is highest among migrant group – and even higher than among Turkish, who are very concentrated in quarters like Kreuzberg and Wedding. If we look at social data on the children of Vietnamese in Berlin, slight differences from other regions are visible. They attend highest form of education, the *Gymnasium*, less often than Vietnamese in all other parts of Germany. This point to persisting integration difficulties for the children of former contract workers. Still, the Vietnamese second generation in Berlin achieve educationally on par with those without a migration background.

While refugees experience a positive government, public, and labor market reception, contract workers drew on the strengths of a pre-existing community. Those contract workers who have gone on to socioeconomic success were catapulted by exogenous shock: the fall of GDR and reunification of Germany, which meant a sudden loss of jobs, but also a new opportunity to start private businesses. This study suggests the presence of a strong welfare state, as well as the resources of an ethnic community, may in time offset the initial disadvantages of a hostile context of reception.

Publisher: UNU-WIDER; Authors: Frank Bösch and Phi Hong Su; Sponsors: The Institute is funded through income from an endowment fund with additional contributions to its work program from Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Details of the paper can be accessed from the link of UNU-WIDER on CME Page
<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com/content/CME>



United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)
The Effort to Advance the Global Strategy (continued)

Policy Paper 31

Aid to education is stagnating and not going to countries most in need



Total global official development assistance (ODA) rose from US \$145 billion in 2014 to US \$152 billion in 2015 and increase of 5% in real terms. The increase is partly explained by the migration and refugee crisis in Europe, which peaked in 2015: A 1988 Development Assistance Committee (DAC) rule on aid reporting allows donor countries to categorize certain expenses related to refugees as ODA for the first year after their arrival. Germany, Greece and Italy reported that over 20% of their ODA in 2015 was spent on refugee costs (OECD, 2016).

The cumulative increase of ODA between 2010 and 2015 is 24%. However, even as overall aid increases, aid to education is stagnating. In 2010, aid to education reached its highest level since records on disbursement were established in 2002. It decreased in 2011/12 in the aftermath of the financial crisis and has only slowly recovered since then. Between 2014 and 2015, aid to education grew by US \$500

million, or 4%, to reach US \$12 billion. But it is still 4% below its 2010 level – significantly less than the amount needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.

In 2015, the share going to basic education, which includes support to pre-primary and primary education as well as adult education and literacy programs, was 1% point below its 2010 peak. By contrast, the share going to secondary education has increased over the past decade: It has risen from 12% in 2005 to 19% in 2015, reaching its highest share of 21% in 2014.

Donors do not target basic education aid sufficiently to countries most in need

There are different ways to monitor the share of total aid to education allocated to low income countries, which is a thematic indicator for SDG 4.5, the target that aims at ensuring equal access to education. One approach is to focus on the 32 countries classified as low income by the World Bank, all but 5 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. By this measure, low income countries received 19% of total aid to education and 23% of aid to basic education in 2015.

Details: http://www.ungei.org/aid_stagnating_.pdf

To be continued....

Two Articles of Highest Impact, November 2018

Editors' Choice – Journal Club Discussions

Our friendship has no boundaries. We welcome your contributions.

1. The Apgar Score: <http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/obsnc/obsnc002.php3>
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor.
2. Ending Child Marriage: A Call for Global Action;
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/heal/heal025.php3>
WHEC Publications. Funding: WHEC Global Initiatives are funded by a grant from an anonymous donor.



From Editor's Desk

A Perception Change Project

Are poor and disadvantaged children that of a lesser-god?

How can we empower the poor and the next generation of disadvantaged children?

The UN (one organization was created to address world affairs) – is it plagued by its own problems?



Over the years, we have seen tremendous changes and efforts of the United Nations to improve all aspects of our lives. For those of us fortunate to represent our NGO as its representative and get involved in United Nations General Assembly – this is an honor to express our views.

We @ WHEC welcome the efforts of the UN and WHO and are prepared to strengthen its projects and programs worldwide. We @ WHEC believe, the UN can give practical shape to the vision of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our contemporary world is trapped in a deluge of troubles of which, surely, the most dangerous is the relentless rise in violence. Terrorism, the ideas that engineer this evil, are spreading at the peace of a conflagration. Economic and social unrest stares us in the face and threatens us with its dimension.

There is a growing question mark over human, peace and security. For a mix of reasons, provocative and inflammatory agenda, people are leaving the psychological, cultural and economic comfort of their traditional home space to seek refuge on distant shores causing global anxiety. A large part of the globe's population is still tortured by hunger and poverty. The young are beginning to lose hope as they confront unemployment. Women, victims of historic discrimination, are demanding what they must get: gender empowerment. Nuclear proliferation is back in the zone of dangerous headlines.

And **Cyber-security** has become a source of deep insecurity.

In 2015, we set ourselves a target of 2030 to find solutions to many challenges on this Agenda. Three of these years have already passed. Surely it is already time to ask how much has happened. If complacency defines the next 12 years, then we are in danger of losing control. We need a sense of urgency as well as unshakeable fortitude to take decisions that can avert catastrophe.

All Global Initiatives of WHEC have a principle purpose: THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR.

Those listening has only one observation: "Look who's talking"! An International Movement (UN) who has not figured out the "magic-bullet" or "magic-pill" to fix all the world's problems – a champion of hypocrisy by preaching about humanity and human rights from this podium Terrorism is at the very top of problems for which the United Nations is searching for solutions.

We all are the victims of some terrible traumatic incidences.

The question is: what can we do about it? Who is really, really, really - Our Enemy? How to define an enemy? Where to go from here?

When we talk of world peace, we mean not only among human beings but also peace with nature. We understand that human nature is sometimes hostile in nature, but we would like to amend human nature when it inclines in the wrong directions. When we inflict our greed upon nature, nature sometimes explodes. We must learn to live with the imperatives, cycles and creative urges of nature; in that lies, our own salvation.

There is no shortage of issues; there is even less shortage of problems which should be recognized and dealt with, from the Agenda of ECOSOC and the United Nations. But time is not always on the side of those who would like to raise issues and problems in the interests of a better, more peaceful and progressive future. These issues are relevant to the UN Charter as well as to the ancient traditions of my-birth-country (India).

Join our efforts – we welcome everyone.

May be time has come for – Global Citizenship.



War & Peace in 2018

“War is never inevitable. It is always a matter of choice: the choice to exclude, to discriminate, to marginalize, to resort to violence. By restoring trust between governments and their citizens and amongst Member States, we can prevent and void conflict.

But peace, too, is never inevitable. It is the result of difficult decisions, hard work and compromise. We should prize and nurture it in every country, at every time.”

- Remarks to Security Council 10 January 2017 by Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres



High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism

Secretary-General António Guterres chairs the opening of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. On the left is Vladimir Voronknov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and on the right is Movses Abelian, Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management.

Promoting message of lasting peace, UN to mark 100 years since start of World War I

Commemorating the 100th year anniversary of the beginning of First World War, the United Nations is holding an event at its Headquarters today remembering the devastating catastrophe of the “war to end all wars” and its seminal lessons for promoting building peace and reconciliation.

Organized by the Permanent Missions of France and Germany with the cooperation of the UN Department of Public Information, the event “Learning from War to Build Peace” will bring together UN Member States highlighting the importance of reconciliation through diplomacy and dialogue.

World War I, with a total number to casualties, both military and civilian, of an estimated 37 million, harshly revealed the need for just dialogue – led by an international organization gathering all countries to ensure peace. It first led to the creation of the League of Nations, and ultimately, learning from its flaws, to the United Nations.

Accountability must be cornerstone of post-2015 development agenda – UN expert

A United Nations independent expert today stressed accountability must be a key element of the post-2015 development agenda, making governments responsible for their commitments and obligations under human rights law.

The report, entitled *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*, sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and deliver on the promise of sustainable development. It also emphasizes that the new development agenda must be universal – applying to countries in the global North and South alike – and be infused with a spirit of partnership.

Children's voices critical to sustainable future, says UNICEF study

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/06/443082-childrens-voices-critical-sustainable-future-says-unicef-study>

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict affected countries and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda.

The PBC is composed by 31 Member States, elected from the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council. The top financial contributing countries and the top troop contributing countries to the United Nations system are also members. The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) serves as a facilitator to enhance coherence and collaboration across the peace and security pillar and wider UN system in support of efforts to build and sustain peace drawing together expertise to advance coherent system-wide action, policies and guidance and an integrated approach to prevention and sustaining peace.



Several initiatives the Commission has undertaken over the last couple of years and this work plan reflects 5 priorities that are identified are:

1. The PBC regional approach;
2. Partnerships;
3. Implementing peacebuilding and sustaining peace;
4. The relationship between PBC and Peacebuilding Fund (PBF);
5. Visibility and communication.

As I grew up, I realized that there was more to a religion than fear. The Word of THE GOD has shaped the history of our culture. We have to decide whether the word "God" has any meaning for us today. The Editors at WHEC wish to ask: What is THE TRUTH?

One of our readers sent us an answer, which is worth mentioning: "Since I am looking at the history of God from the Jewish, and the Muslim, and the Christian and the Hindu perspective, the terms "BC" and "AD" which are conventionally used in the West, are not appropriate. I have therefore had recourse to the alternatives "BCE" (Before the Common Era) and "CE" (Common Era)" – Karen Armstrong.

It is possible to acquire some of the mystical attitudes. Even if we are incapable of the higher states of consciousness achieved by a mystic, we can learn that God is only a symbol of a reality that ineffably transcends it.

In the United States, we have seen that 99% of population claim to believe in God, yet the prevalence of fundamentalism, apocalypticism and "instant" charismatic forms of religiosity in America is not reassuring. Human beings cannot endure emptiness and desolation; they will fill the vacuum by creating a new focus of meaning.

The idols of fundamentalism are not good substitutes for God; if we are to create a vibrant new faith for the 21st century. We should perhaps, ponder the history of God, for some lessons and warnings.

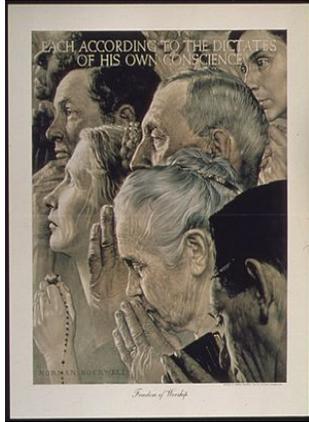
Join us to make this Commission's efforts successful.

<https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/programme-of-work>

Art & Science

Art that touches our soul

Four Freedoms by Norman Rockwell



Freedom of Worship or **Freedom to Worship** is the second of the four freedoms oil paintings produced by the American artist Norman Rockwell. The series was based on the goals known as the Four Freedoms enunciated by the 32nd President of the United States, in his State of Union Address delivered on January 6, 1941.

The painting shows the profiles of eight heads in a modest space. The various figures represent people of different faiths in a moment of prayer. Particularly, three figures on the bottom row (right to left): a man with his head covered carrying a religious book who is Jewish, an older woman who is Protestant, and a younger woman with a well-lit face holding rosary beads who is Catholic. Freedom of Worship was published on the 27th February 1943, issue of The Saturday Evening Post alongside an essay by philosopher Will Durant.

“The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world” – Franklin D. Roosevelt’s January 6, 1941 State of the Union Address introducing the theme of the Four Freedoms.

Medium: oil on canvas; Year: 1943; Dimensions: 116.8 cm X 90 cm (46 in X 35.5 in); Location: Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts, United States.

*Monthly newsletter of WHEC designed to keep you informed on
The latest UN and NGO activity*

<http://www.WomensHealthSection.com>

