

68th NGO /DGC Conference 2019 Brief Report

Title of Workshop: Integrating Migrants into Inclusive, Sustainable and Peaceful Communities

Date: 28 August 2019, 10:00 to 11:15 AM

Venue: Room 252, Salt Palace Convention Center. Salt Lake City, Utah

Name of Organizing NGO: VIVAT International

Person from NGO responsible for Organization: Helen Saldanha, SSpS is Executive Co-director of VIVAT International's Central Office in New York.

Moderator of Session: Florence Deacon OSF is a member of VIVAT International and Congregation Justice Coordinator for the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Speakers:

1. Florence Deacon OSF is a member of VIVAT International and Congregation Justice Coordinator for the Sisters of the Holy Cross. She began with an overview of migration worldwide showing that migration has increased over the last years - over 258 million migrants around the world, the reasons why people make these desperate journeys and that the migrants contribute wherever they go. She presented information on VIVAT International (Life, Dignity, Human Rights) and how we relate to them. She then introduced the speakers which gave a global view down to the state-local level.
2. **Helen Saldanha, SSpS** is Executive co-director of VIVAT International's Central Office in New York. She provided a global context by introducing the UN Global Compact on Migration (GCM) the role of the Civil Society came together through the Civil Society Action Committee. GCM is the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. GCM was adopted in December 2019 and comprises 23 objectives for better managing migration at local, national, regional and global levels.
3. **Myrna Tordillo, MSCS**, is a Scalabrinian missionary, a VIVAT International member. She serves as assistant director for the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Myrna discussed how a national organization, the USCCB, provides care to migrants and collaborates with local entities, dioceses and like-minded people. She presented some best practices of this national organization which has serves a diverse population.
4. **Emmie Gardner** is CEO for Holy Cross Ministries (HCM), a non-profit social service organization in Salt Lake City Utah. She shared how their group meets the needs of immigrants and other vulnerable people that enhances to inclusivity, self-confidence and

empowerment. She highlighted and gave examples of the services of education, justice and health and shared the outreach efforts of their local agency via a PowerPoint.

5. **Veronica A. Fajardo, CSC** is a Bilingual Therapist at Peace House and works with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. She highlighted services, outreach and collaboration with local agencies. A PowerPoint showed her ministry to help immigrants through individual therapy, support groups and groups for incarcerated men and women who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse.

Summary of Session:

Presented first was an overview of the international and global situation of migrants which summarized root causes and the dangers, then about the NGO VIVAT International vision of life and action. A brief outline of the UN Global Compact on Migration was given highlighting the interconnectedness between global and local dimensions.

On a national level there was a sharing of how the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) works with a diverse population. Concrete examples of collaboration and partnership include leadership development and empowerment of young people were given. Snapshots of outreach to immigrant farmworkers and sheep herders showed how the USCCB advocates for, serves, provides pastoral care, supports and communicates on behalf of the migrant population.

A presentation was given about HCM services on a local level to migrants and vulnerable people. Many good practices in education, services to victims of crime, U-Visas/ VAWAs, Community Health Programs and counseling program were provided. Collaborations with others in the community and success stories were shared.

The Peace House, a local organization, is dedicated to ending family violence and abuse in the community through education, outreach, support services and shelter. Prevention is through education in schools and community awareness and services are free and bi-lingual.

Suggested actions and strategies:

Intercultural competence . . .

Highlighted were three keys (curiosity, cognitive complexity and empathy) to working with intercultural competence. The group named the importance of being present; sensitivity, the significance of wording, and empathy.

Interconnectedness and collaboration: Essential to get to the level of those left behind for integration of migrants into inclusive communities. There is a need to focus on collaboration locally and UN level, sharing stories and working with others and the governments.

Approximate number of Attendees: about 30

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