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The UN & YOU

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AT A GLANCE

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From the NGO Desk



Wintering



I read recently about the concept of “wintering,” which marks this natural time of rest and retreat during the season of winter.

I am reminded that during winter, when all seems to be still in the natural world, life is beginning once again in the silence and the darkness. We might ponder, how can we better use this season to reflect prayerfully on what God is doing within us? We might even ask, “What is preparing to be born in our lives,” no matter our age or circumstance.

This is a time of inward focus, essential for nature to produce its beauty in the spring and for all of us committed to animating the Gospel.

The cries of God’s creation are great, and the idea of resting may feel selfish or counterproductive in these urgent times. As you will read later in this newsletter, there are complex and horrifying conflicts all across the globe. Resting and retreating feels like it is the wrong way to proceed.

However, as the cold of this winter slows us down, might it present an opportunity to pause, pray, and breathe.

Soon enough, nature will spring into life, and we will be comforted by the warming sun and beauty all around us. The needs of the world, especially the most vulnerable, will certainly be awaiting our response.

For now, we are called to find time to rest and to refocus. Take a break, even just for a day, from the challenging realities of our time. As Jesus would go to the desert to pray or to Bethany to be with his close friends, embrace this time of slowing down and you may even find comfort in your closest companions.

As you fully experience this wintering experience, you may reflect further on this question:

What lessons are to be learned during this time of rest and even limitations? In other words, what does God desire to teach us right now?

Especially for those of us who are fully immersed in charity and advocacy, and for those of us who are overwhelmed by the injustices of our times, do not let winter pass you by without pausing. Seek the gifts of this season that are waiting to be received.

World Leaders Gather for Social Development



As we enter a new calendar year, we, in Civil Society at the United Nations, turn our attention to the 64th Commission for Social Development. The theme this year is “Advancing Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies.”

Occurring from February 2nd to 10th at the United Nations Headquarters, the emerging issues of the Commission will focus on “Eradicating Poverty and Ensuring Dignity through Resilient Care and Support Systems.”

The Commission is one of the biggest events for us in Civil Society. It is an opportunity to meet with Member States, better developing our relationships with colleagues as we highlight our advocacy priorities. Coming off the progress made at the Second World Social Summit (WSS) last Fall, there are great expectations for this Commission. As a reminder, [here](#) is the Doha Political Declaration, the final document from the WSS. As noted at the conclusion of the declaration, Member States are “committed with united efforts, political will and firm actions to advance concrete, integrated and targeted policies and actions to implement the Doha Political Declaration (44).”

The main event, other than the forming and approval of the Commissions’ political declaration is the annual Civil Society Forum which occurs on Friday, February 6th at the UN Headquarters.

Consistent with the Commission's overall theme and emerging issues, we will highlight the voice of those with lived-experiences through interventions and panels.

Our Working Group to End Homelessness will also host a side event on February 5th to connect the current issues and trends of global homelessness with the Commission's theme. More information will be shared with your NGO Liaisons as this program and other events are currently being prepared.

As noted earlier, this is also a time to share our advocacy priorities with Member States. In the coming weeks, your endorsement will be requested to join Civil Society in demanding change and action in upholding human rights and human dignity. This document is also still being developed. Once it is available for your endorsement, it will be shared with you via your NGO Liaison and on our social media channels. Thank you for your support.

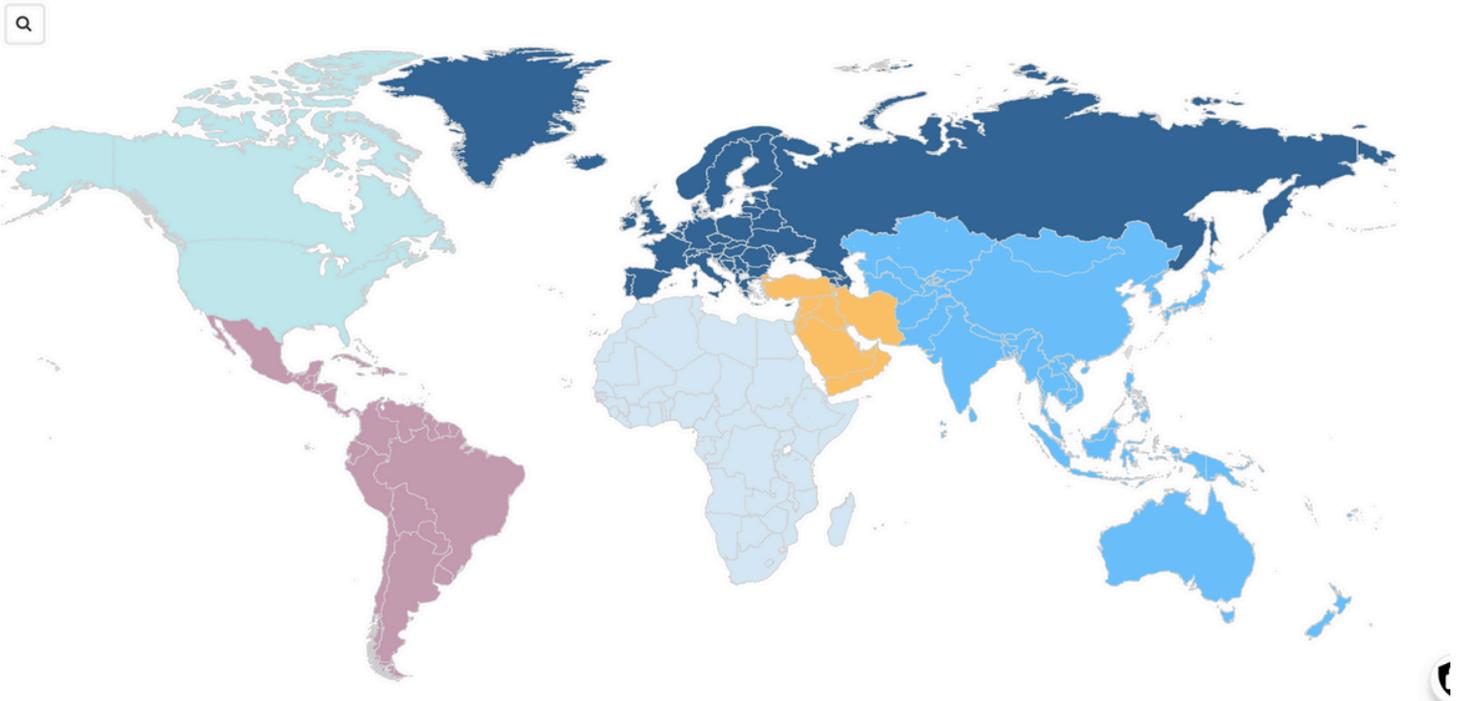
GLOBAL CONFLICTS



Resources to Stay Informed

Explore by country

Learn more of ACLED's global coverage by clicking on the country you are interested in to access the information.



We continue to pray for peace and to advocate for justice in the many places of conflict in our world. I am sharing two resources to keep updated and informed.

The first is from the **Council on Foreign Relations**, a nonpartisan, independent national membership organization, think tank, educator, and publisher. They produce a Global Conflict Tracker that allows you to scan a map of the world to learn and discover the realities of the conflict. The map offers a status on the conflict, its impact on the United States, and a comprehensive review of the history behind the turmoil.

It does not capture all of the 100-plus conflicts worldwide, but it is impressive given the amount of timely information it provides for the areas of the world it covers. You can view the map [here](#).

The second resource is the **Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project** (ACLED), a non-profit organization that provides real-time, global data and analysis on political violence and protest. Similar to the previous resource, it offers a global map that monitors conflicts and protests. You can view the map [here](#). This resource also provides timely data and articles offering an in-depth look at the conflicts.

Our national news continues to fall short in capturing the full extent of global conflicts, so it is critical that we stay informed. While there are other resources available, I pray these two resources provide you with the most current and accurate information to inform your prayer and advocacy.

Reach Out



Let's Stay Connected

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

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