

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**



**CONTENTS**

**Executive and Secretariat 3**

**COR Mission 4**

**Report for the year 5**

**Annual General Meeting and General Meeting 5**

**Mixed Commission 6**

**Points Based System 7**

**Vocations Promotion 7 - 8**

**Religious Life Institute – No report submitted 9**

**Association of Provincial Bursars 9**

**Healthcare Committee 10 - 11**

**Safeguarding including Executive Advisory Safeguarding Group 12 - 13**

**Medaille Trust 14 - 15**

**Social Action and the Environment 15**

**Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) 16 - 17**

**JPIC Links 18 - 19**

**CAFOD 20 - 21**

**Housing Justice 22 - 23**

**Catholic Missionary Union of England and Wales (CMU) 24**

**Sisters Mission Committee (SMC) 25**

**Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) 26**

**Association of Senior Religious (ASR) 26 - 27**

**Association of British Contemplatives (ABC) 27**

**Conference of Leaders of Anglican Religious Communities (CLARC) 28 - 29**

**Union of the European Conferences of Major Superiors (UCESM) 29 - 30**

**International Union of Superiors General (UISG) 31**

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**VICE PRESIDENT: Sister Sheila Burke RSM**

**Father Martin Coyle SDB**

**Sister Mary-Rose Fitzsimmons HHS**

**Brother Aidan Kilty FSC**

**Sister Patricia O’Brien SND**

**Sister Marie Raw DC**

**Father Aidan Rossiter CJ**

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**THE CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS IN ENGLAND AND WALES CYNHADLEDD CREFYDDWYR LLOEGR A CHYMRU**

**Our Mission**

The Conference of Religious seeks to be a dynamic and proactive presence of Church, particularly with those on the margins of society.

It aims:

* To unite its membership in collaborative initiatives translating gospel vision into reality
* To offer support to those in positions of leadership.

**Our Purpose**

The purpose of the Conference of Religious in England and Wales is to represent the leaders of religious life.

This representation happens in two main ways:

1. **Supporting our Leaders**

We encourage collaboration among leaders on major issues facing religious today and promote programmes for future formation.

2. **Speaking to Society**

We aim to address current issues from a Catholic perspective, acting as a prophetic voice on behalf of religious.

**Our Members**

The Conference of Religious in England and Wales exists for the benefit of all religious in these countries. Its formal membership however is limited to the Major Superiors of each institute or in the case of his/her temporary absence, to an officially appointed delegate.

**Report for the Year 2013**

We are pleased to present the Annual Report to the members of the conference of Religious (COR). Many of the articles may seem familiar; however I commend you to read them as they afford us a glimpse of the rich tapestry of the works of religious and related bodies in England, Wales and further afield. I say only a glimpse, because we know that many of the ministries of the religious congregations in our countries go unannounced and unheralded. The ministries that religious are involved with are multifarious and diverse from the sister working in a parish to the administration of universities and healthcare facilities. These are all to be commended. The reports contained herein are those groups that the Executive, Secretariat or members are involved in. Some have very close cooperative stances with the membership; others are engaged in ministry that members are interested in through their charisms or affiliated organisations.

**Re- structuring Religious Life for the New Millennium**

The ‘Strategic Plan’ occupied much of the time and resources of the Executive in 2013. The members were presented with the plan at the AGM 2013 and further discussion took place at the General Meeting held at Heythrop in October 2013. The document is now the instrument that will form the template for a way forward for the conference in the coming year. The plan covered areas of: vision; mission; values; objectives; personnel; finance; fundraising; risk and monitoring.

**The Secretariat Information Service (SIS)**

The SIS is primarily used to disseminate information and requests amongst the membership of the conference. It is also an important sounding board for current issues that are relevant to our ministry and life. They include good news stories, requests for assistance and information; Healthcare issues; Academies; Charity Commission; SORP consultation. You will have noticed in the last few issues that the format has altered and it is hoped that we will use this as a way to further the implementation of the strategic plan. To further engage the membership, we will use Google forms or Survey monkey to gather information so that the needs of the membership is fully represented on the committees and commissions of which we are members.

**General Secretary**

At the last AGM, Connie Burke announced her intention of stepping down as General Secretary; she graciously remained in post (as consultant) until a new general secretary was appointed by the Executive. This took place in February 2014, with a transition of one month. The Executive would like to pay tribute to Connie’s contribution and commitment to the conference during her time and wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

Sincere thanks to the members of COR Executive and those that represent the conference on Healthcare, Safeguarding, EASG & NSCS to name but a few, for their support, vision and unstinting commitment to the future of the Conference of Religious.

**Annual General Meeting May 2013**

The Annual General Meeting was entitled **“Re-structuring Religious Life for the New Millennium**

The Keynote speaker was Bishop Kevin Dowling CSsR of Rustenburg, South Africa

***General Meeting, October 2013***

The General Meeting of the Conference was held on Thursday, 31 October

**Re-structuring Religious Life for the New Millennium**

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**Mixed Commission**

The following members represent each group:



**CBCEW** **COREW**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Archbishop Bernard Longley  Birmingham  Bishop Kieran Conry  Arundel And Brighton | Abbot Martin Shipperlee OSB  Abbot Joseph Delargy OSB  Union of Monastic Superiors  Sister Patricia Bell RSM UISG |
| Bishop Pat Lynch  Southwark  Monsignor Marcus Stock  General Secretary – CBCEW  Lorraine Welsh | Abbess Joanna Jamison OSB  Association of British Contemplatives  Connie Burke  General Secretary - COR  PA to General Secretary - CBCEW |

The Mixed Commission is the name given to the group of representatives from the Bishops’ Conference and the Conference of Religious who meet twice a year in order to further the links and collaboration between the Bishops and their conference and the Religious and their conference.

The Commission is made up of five members from the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) and five members from the Conference of Religious (COR). It co-ordinates the discussion of significant matters in the Church between Religious and the Bishops in England and Wales and in its meetings has discussed issues of common concern including the role of Vicars for Religious, identifying religious congregations not part of the safeguarding network, migrants and counter-trafficking policies and measures.

With regard to Religious not aligned to Safeguarding Commissions - CBCEW undertook a review of this through the Vicars for Religious, particularly with regard to new orders entering the country.

New Orders on arrival in England are encouraged by their area Bishop to join COR.

The Mixed Commission worked closely throughout 2012/2013 on the proposal for ‘joint’ safeguarding commissions. These commissions are now established and are constantly under review by CSAS.

The Mixed Commission has also worked jointly on the Points Based System of Migration; this area of interest has been a major topic for many members of the conference. Since many members are directly involved in healthcare provision or procurement this was also an area of development for the commission.

Given the present government coalition’s preoccupation with education and more especially Academies the commission believes that there will be further developments and co-operation between the religious and dioceses. It should be noted that dioceses are taking various approaches to academy trusts. Some have opted for umbrella trust others have not allowed any diocesan school to convert to academy status.

The provision for living wage was discussed in the past year; by adopting this policy you are committed to certain provisions. Therefore, before agreeing to apply the living wage to your organisation it is prudent to take advice. A good source is a leaflet produced by the auditors Buzzaccott. <http://www.buzzacott.co.uk>.

# [https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/static/gov.uk_logotype_crown-c09acb07e4d1d5d558f5a0bc53e9e36d.png](https://www.gov.uk/)**Points Based System of Migration**

The Conference has continued to monitor the development of the Points Based System and its effects on the movement of religious from overseas undertaking ministry in England and Wales. These changes have had an impact on the capacity for religious to bring in non–EEA nationals. *The Secretariat has been able to provide guidance and support to members on this significant change in the law on immigration throughout the year. The Conference also has a role as Verifier to demonstrate that applicants for sponsorship are ‘bona fide’ Roman Catholic Congregations of Religious, and a letter of authorisation from COR is sent to the Home Office to this effect. The office also has details/checklist as to what is needed when applying for sponsorship.*

A list of requirements for making application can be obtained from the COR office which is also able to offer level one administrative support and advice to leaders when they are making application to become sponsors. Some guidelines for religious on what the ‘Points Based System of Immigration’ is about are contained in detail on the website.

This is a briefing note on how the new Points Based System (PBS) for immigration will affect church organisations. Only a scheme outline is set out; full guidance is available on the UK Border Agency website ([www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)) to which reference must be made before you take any action. Old style work permits will not be issued after November 2008 for religious workers

[www.corew.org/leaders/legal](http://www.corew.org/leaders/legal) and [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

As reported, the Mixed Commission is monitoring the changes and developments in this arena. We (COR) are planning to set up a small committee to represent the needs of religious to the UKBA in the forthcoming year.

**Vocations Promotion**

COR sponsored the appointment of Sr. Cathy Jones RA as the Vocations Promoter for Religious Life in 2010 for a period of three years. Sr. Cathy while working on behalf of the Religious is based at the National Office for Vocation on a part time basis. She aims to keep COR membership informed through the monthly mailing and the website.

**Religious Life Promoter with the National Office for Vocation**

**May 2013 – May 2014**

This year has seen both the consolidation of existing means of vocational outreach and the development of new initiatives. The website [www.ukreligiouslife.com](http://www.ukreligiouslife.com) continues to be central to my work and is increasingly visited by both discerners and vocations personnel. As more discerners get in touch through the website, and as the number of discernment groups grow, it has been necessary to set in place systems and training to help address the growing demand for vocational guidance. Similarly, as more religious work together, local groups for religious in vocations ministry are being created.

The highlight of this past year was undoubtedly the annual conference for religious in vocations ministry which took place in Birmingham in October 2013. All three of the speakers captivated the ninety religious present as they addressed the theme ‘Entering religious life today’. The only complaint was that we wanted to hear each of them speak for much longer! Sr Mary Hinde RSCJ spoke from her experience as novice mistress, Fr Lawrence Lew OP described his use of social media to promote vocations and Sr Gabriel Davidson OSC shared from the perspective of an enclosed religious.

*Fr Lawrence Lew OP, Sr Mary Hinde RSCJ & Sr Gabriel Davidson OSC*

Following this meeting religious in the Birmingham diocese have met to plan the establishment of discernment groups and those able to travel to the London area have met for HORIZON[[1]](#footnote-1) reading groups. These local groups, along with those already taking place in the North West of England and within the Lancaster diocese, are both a support for religious in vocations ministry and a source of creative collaboration for outreach to discerners.

A new initiative begun during this year is a programme to train vocation guides, run by the National Office for Vocation in conjunction with the English Benedictine Congregation, with a team of lay and religious leaders from a variety of backgrounds. Vocation guides journey with a discerner for a limited time period (6 months renewable to 12 months) and unlike ongoing spiritual direction, vocation guidance is focused on addressing the specific question being discerned. After an initial pilot training programme and a successful second programme, we are now at the stage of wanting to invite more people to take part in this training (2 x 48 hour sessions). Three more training sessions will take place in Douai, Belmont and Ampleforth abbeys in the coming year; if you would like to nominate someone

from your congregation to take part, please get in contact for further details.

As the number of discernment groups grow, more religious are requesting training in how to lead a group and over eighty religious have now taken part in a two day training session on how to lead a Samuel group. Samuel groups are a structured discernment process over an academic year based on *lectio divina* and individual spiritual guidance and the vast majority of leaders of these groups are religious. There are currently four Samuel groups in London, as well as groups in Bristol, Matlock and Manchester and successful groups have also been run in York and Oxford. For the first time this year there was a mid-year optional retreat day for Samuel group leaders and those who are spiritual guides to discerners, and in June there will be an end of year weekend retreat open to anyone who has just completed a Samuel group (*see photo below showing a recent training session* Groups in several new locations are planned for the coming academic year, and if anyone would like to know more about running a discernment group, please get in touch; now is a perfect time to begin planning for the autumn.

  
Another part of my work continues to be vocational outreach at various youth events. Two new initiatives took place this past year, the first was in July at ‘Brightlights / World Youth Day at Home’ at Aylesford Priory where the National Office for Vocation ran a popular vocations internet café, which twenty religious from a variety of congregations helped to run alongside diocesan vocations directors. By offering the only free wi-fi onsite we guaranteed that many of the hundreds of young adults taking part would come to visit us! Directly after this I travelled to Lourdes and spent a week working with a French team at the Vocations Pavilion at Lourdes, planning for an English speaking presence at the Vocations Pavilion in the summer of 2014. We are currently seeking English speaking religious with a reasonable knowledge of French and who are comfortable working with teenagers to give a fortnight of their time this July or August to welcome groups and individuals at the vocations pavilion in Lourdes. Please get in touch if anyone in your congregation might be able to offer this service.

   
*At the vocations pavilion*

Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of COR for your support and encouragement, and to say how excited I am that we are now preparing for the Year of Consecrated Life, beginning in October 2014. If you have any ideas about how this year could be celebrated or if you are interested in finding out more about any of the vocational initiatives mentioned above please get in touch with me: [cathy.jones@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:cathy.jones@cbcew.org.uk)

**Religious Life Institute**

COR supported the Religious Life Institute based at Heythrop College, London financially during the first three years of its development. This was a fixed term agreement to enable it to get set up and underway. The mission of the RLI is to foster through study and research a better theological understanding of Christian religious life. The courses are well established now and the RLI has changed the mode of delivery of the module on the ‘Theology of Religious Life’ from being a ‘stand alone’ course to being delivered one Saturday a month, to make it as accessible for as many as possible and to enable religious to enrich their thought and reflection about religious life.

**Religious Life Institute – no report submitted**

[](http://www.apbursars.org.uk/) **Association of Provincial Bursars**

The Association continues to provide support and Networking for Bursars of Religious Orders and their colleagues. We have had another busy year, with healthy membership which continues to widen, with an increasing number of lay Bursars being involved as well as professional firms who are “Friends” of the Association.

At our annual conference in October we launched our new web site, with a much improved members’ area (available to members only) where documents can be found and a forum for the exchange of views and ideas and confidential requests for help and advice from the wider membership. Despite a few (usual!) teething troubles it is now up and running and we hope this will prove to be a useful resource for bursars and their teams. Most of the conference presentations are available on the web site.

A new departure for the conference was a group of investment managers who were subject to a “Question Time” style panel debate, with questions from the delegates. This was lively and (at times) controversial but, with an excellent chair, managed to remain good humoured, despite the serious content and challenges to poor practice. For 2014 we hope to arrange something similar with a group of Bankers; so that could be interesting!

With the challenges of decreasing numbers and increasing age of members, the opportunity to discuss “downsizing”, amalgamations and how to ensure the spirit of individual Institutes continue, there is a great deal that be learnt and shared amongst us without having to re-invent the wheel!

The new Executive was elected at the AGM and details of those now serving can be found on our web site. We are especially grateful to Sr Kathryn Lennon who completed her term of office. We were delighted that Br James Boner OFM Cap. was elected to our Executive and (following his appointment as General Secretary of COR) this is a positive way in which our two “sister” organisations can ensure we work together for the benefit of Religious in England & Wales.

Any members of COR who are not also members of APB are welcome to join by filling in the form on our web site: [www.apbursars.org.uk](http://www.apbursars.org.uk) for a cost of £50. This also gives access to the members’ only area of the web site and ensures advance notice about the conference and access to other matters that impact on the governance of their charitable entities.

**Michael Barwick (General Secretary)**

**Fsmc**

**Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales**

**Department for Christian Responsibility & Citizenship**

**Health and Social Care Advisory Group**

**The Story so far**

The Bishops’ Conference Healthcare Reference Group was created in 2003 following a new initiative of the Bishops to give pastoral support to those working in healthcare in England and Wales.

Part of the Bishops' Conference Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship, the Healthcare Reference Group was created to advise the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales on a range of matters concerning healthcare - including chaplaincy, health policy and the development of pastoral care strategies.

Working with existing groups like the [Catholic Medical Association](http://www.catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk/) and the [Anscombe Bioethics Centre](http://www.bioethics.org.uk/), it supports the Church in England and Wales, and each of the Dioceses, in fulfilling the Church’s mission in health and social care.

The work of the Healthcare Reference Group aims to help health and social care workers and chaplains alike to engage in the formation necessary to exercise its vocation to the ministry of healing and wholeness.

Where appropriate, this includes influencing public policy - including policy on inequalities in health outcomes and access to healthcare. All of which is underpinned by the key values of Catholic Social Teaching.

**What has the Healthcare Reference Group achieved?**

To date the Healthcare Reference Group has:

* created and connected networks in the field of health and social care
* organised a series of conferences entitled *Catholics in Healthcare* that brought together diverse audiences with high-profile Catholics working in the field
* positively raised the profile of *Catholics in Healthcare* through exhibition stands at the NHS Confederation Conference
* influenced the Government and regulators on a variety of issues such as: ensuring acceptable approaches to appointment and recognition of chaplaincy; changing proposals on Care Quality Commission registration requirements in partnership with the Conference of Religious; and contributing to the work of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).
* published a variety of documents providing practical ways to bring the Christian perspective to bear on a series of health and social care issues

The work has largely been done through volunteer effort.

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# Healthcare Downloads

The following link connects you to where you can download a series of healthcare resources produced by the 'Catholics in Healthcare' project.

<http://www.cbcew.org.uk/CBCEW-Home/Departments/Christian-Responsibility-and-Citizenship/Healthcare/Downloads>

[Catholic Chaplaincy For NHS Managers Trusts](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/34948/259435/file/catholic-chaplaincy-for-NHS-managers-trusts.pdf) 717.78 kB   
For NHS Trusts and healthcare professionals. The guide focuses on achieving best practice in caring for Catholics.

[Guide Spiritual Care Dying Person](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/34950/259447/file/guide-spiritual-care-dying-person.pdf) 735.29 kB   
This guide examines the psychosocial and spiritual distress of the dying.

[Pastoral needs Catholic Patients](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/34951/259453/file/pastoral-needs-catholic-patients.pdf) 320.52 kB   
Advice for clinicians, carers and patients on meeting the spiritual needs of Catholic patients.

[Mental Capacity Act and Living Wills A5](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/34952/259459/file/mental-capacity-act-and-living-wills-A5.pdf) 288.84 kB   
A short guide to the 2007 Mental Capacity Act and 'Living Wills' providing practical and accessible guidance.

[Mental Capacity Act and Living Wills A4](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/content/download/34949/259441/file/mental-capacity-act-and-living-wills-A4.pdf) 308.75 kB   
A short guide to the 2007 Mental Capacity Act and 'Living Wills' providing practical and accessible guidance.

**The last 4 months**

Nicholas Johnson and Gail Sainsbury were appointed as project officers in Dec 2013 and a management group has been formed to support them and ensure progress on the strategic plan approved at the March meeting.

The name of the group has been changed at the recent departmental meeting from *Healthcare Reference Group* to reflect the integration of healthcare and social care in recent years. Henceforth it will be called the *‘****Health and Social Care Advisory Group****’*.

The work of the **Mental Health Reference Group** becomes part of this new advisory group and Bishop Richard Moth will be joining the group as a member.

To avoid an overlap with the work of Caritas Social Action Network it was agreed that CSAN would continue looking after social policy and those who use or are affected by services whilst the Health and Social Care Advisory Group would focus more on the pastoral element of social care and in particular addressing its work to those who have vocations in health and social care roles. Helen O’Brien, the CEO of CSAN will also be joining the group as a member.

The work plan includes: -

* Building networks with chaplains
* Developing networks with the wider group of health and social care workers
* Mental Health Project
* Conferences and seminars
* Publications
* Social media development to support the work
* Policy/influencing
* Small grants programme

**A look ahead at planned activity**

**April 26** Contemporary Challenges in Mental Health Ministry. Day Conference at St Mary’s University, Twickenham

**May 28** Multi-faith chaplaincy seminar at the Nishkam Centre, Birmingham

**June 30 – July 1** Residential Retreat at Douai Abbey for those involved in mental health pastoral care

**Oct 10** ‘No health without mental health’ Day Conference, Southwark on World Mental Health Day

**Nov 1** National Day Conference for the HSCAG with Gerry Arbuckle and James Hanvey at Heythrop

**Nov 8** Practical theology of mental health. A day with academics and practitioners, Birmingham

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**SAFEGUARDING**

**For the Annual Report 2013 – Safeguarding**

The Conference of Religious (COR) continued to devote a significant amount of time and energy to the issue of Safeguarding during the past year. COR, along with the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, is committed to a “One Church” approach to Safeguarding in the Catholic Church. The elaboration of the strategic direction for this “One Church” approach is entrusted to the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC), with its independent Chair, which was established by the [Bishops Conference of England and Wales](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/) (CBCEW) and the [Conference of Religious of England and Wales](http://www.corew.org/) in July 2008 following the acceptance, by both bodies, of the recommendations in the [Cumberlege Commission](http://www.cumberlegecommission.org.uk/) Report, “Safeguarding with Confidence” (July 2007). At the same time, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) was established to support the work of the NCSC at an operational level by taking responsibility for driving and supporting improvements in practice. This is done primarily through its role of co-ordination, advice and support in all matters with regard to Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Conference of Religious works closely with these bodies. Three of its representatives, including one as Vice Chair, sit on the NCSC and liaise closely with CSAS, particularly through the work of the COR Executive Advisory Safeguarding Group (COR EASG). Recognising the serious implications of Safeguarding, along with the time and energy required to distil Safeguarding developments for implementation by Religious Congregations, the COR Executive delegated to this group responsibility for keeping up-to-date with Safeguarding developments and directives from the national bodies and advising the Executive on the implementation of these policies by Religious Congregations. This is in recognition of the fact that, while the Executive has responsibility for promoting Safeguarding policies and encouraging their application locally, the responsibility for implementing national Safeguarding policies ultimately lies with each Congregation and its Trustees.

The COR EASG meets three times a year, usually immediately after a meeting of the NCSC, and tables a report at the subsequent meeting of the COR Executive. The present membership of the EASG is as follows:

Fr. Matthew Blake OCD (Chair) – to March 2014 – and member of NCSC to March 2014

Br Tom Campbell FSC

Sr Daryll Candy RLR

Sr Catherine McGovern OSF

Abbot Richard Yeo OSB

Br Aidan Kilty FSC – member of NCSC

Sr Clare Smith

Mrs Eileen Campling

Sr Jane Bertelsen – member and Vice Chair of NCSC

Sr Frances Cullen

Br James Boner (Gen Sec COR) – member of NCSC - from March 2014

Connie Burke (Gen Sec COR) – to March 2014

Much of the work of the COR EASG during the last year was concerned with monitoring, in the interests of Religious, the implementation of the new Safeguarding Commission structure that incorporates Religious Congregations into Safeguarding Commissions in Dioceses. This structure, piloted by CSAS, came into being in April of 2014 and, despite initial misgivings on the part of many Religious, has been very well-received. Almost 320 Congregations have aligned with the new structure while 10 Congregations are associated with their own independent Commissions. All

Commissions will be subject to an audit carried out by CSAS to ensure compliance with national policies. Among the issues that caused most initial concern to the Religious was the cost to individual Congregations of the new Safeguarding framework and the process by which Religious would be integrated into Safeguarding Commissions in the Dioceses. To help deal with some of these concerns, CSAS has already launched a preliminary evaluation to identify areas for on-going discussion and development.

Other issues to which the COR EASG devoted time and energy over the last year included:

* A study day with the Bishops to reflect on issues of mutual concern with regard to Safeguarding
* The development of a document outlining responsibility with regard to Safeguarding for Independent Schools run by a Religious Congregation
* The elaboration of terms of reference for the COR EASG for approval by the COR Executive
* The implications of the transfer of the CSAS offices to Eccleston Square particularly with regard to the public perception of the independence of CSAS
* The development of a Safeguarding Curriculum for the formation of Religious based on the Seminary Curriculum presently being developed
* A reflection on the ways in which the following Safeguarding documents may be more widely disseminated among Religious Congregations:
  + *Towards a Culture of Safeguarding*
  + *Integrity in Ministry* (for use by Religious)
  + *Hurt by Abuse* Leaflet

**Counter Signatory Office for the Conference of Religious**

**as Part of the Safeguarding restructuring closed in March 2013**

**STAFF**

There were two National Counter Signatories employed by the Conference of Religious until March 2013:

Ray Wilson Full Time (Since 2003)

Caroline Power Part time (Since the opening of the CSO Office in 2002)

**Criminal Records Bureau Figures for the review year Jan 2013 – March 2013**

Total number of CRB Disclosure Applications sent to CRB Jan & Feb 2013 139

(38 Volunteers – 101 Paid)

Results received from CRB Jan – March 2013 157

Total number of Blemished Disclosures 0

ISA first checks Formerly POVA 5

**Report from the Project Director**



The period April 2013 to March 2014 has been one of great success, great challenges and deep gratitude to our donors and supporters.

We have been able to expand our provision and currently operate four Services – Northern, Southern, London and Coastal. Together these Services provide six safe houses offering a total of some 50 bed spaces. One of these properties is extremely large and being opened in stages so by the end of this calendar year we hope our capacity will have been increased to 70 spaces. We now deal with men, women and families who have been victims of human trafficking although it is true to say that our major emphasis remains on supporting female victims who have been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Of these properties three (including the very large one) have been provided by Religious Congregations, a fourth by a Catholic lay couple and the other two are rented.

Over the course of the year we have found the Government constraints around the commissioning of victim support services increasingly challenging so we have developed a mixed portfolio of projects designed to fill the gaps in the Government approach to the issue. An example of this is the opening of 8 beds of ‘move on accommodation’ for sexually exploited girls who require somewhat longer in support than the Government seems to be prepared to resource. Whilst we remain grateful for the limited (but always insufficient) funding from the Government we have remained far from passive actors in this matter. As an example of this we met privately, face to face, with the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to advocate for better support for victims. There has been no loss of independence in the Trust and we remain a strong and clear voice for the rights of the victims we serve.

It is therefore that we would wish to record our very sincere gratitude to the Religious Congregations, Orders and individuals who have supported us by (most generous) donations, volunteering, prayer, support and in our work to raise awareness of the evils of this vile trade. Our work is, sadly, far from complete and we humbly ask for continued support.

A further development this year has been our increased liaison and partnering with Religious abroad. I am pleased to be able to report that the Trust has very clear and effective links now with RENATE, Mary Ward Loreto (in Albania) and the Salesian Sisters (in Kenya).

The Board of Trustees remains largely constituent of Priests and Religious.

Of your mercy pray for the victims of human trafficking.

**Mike Emberson - Project Director**

**Report from the Chair of the Medaille Trust**

At present we have seven properties which are full of trafficked men, women and their children when there are children in our safe houses they are always accompanied by their mothers. We recently had a birth of a little girl in one of our houses.

When we began providing safe houses for trafficking victims in 2006, the police were only looking for women whom had been trafficked for sexual exploitation. Now, however they look for men, women and children and for trafficked families.

The first man that came to England was enslaved for nearly twenty years by travellers. He was kept in a horse-box and only given food sporadically. When he first came to us he needed a special diet because he was so unaccustomed to having normal meals. Even when he moved to a more independent life style he needed to be reminded to eat.

Since 2006 people from all the poorest countries have passes through our house. Various parts of Africa and Central and Eastern Europe, and people of all ages. We had one woman who was promised a respectable job in a hotel; but found herself forced to become a madam in a brothel!

Religious Congregations continue to be very generous to us with finance and four of our houses have been given to us rent-free from different Congregations. Another house has been given by a Catholic couple.

Some Congregations provide volunteers for our houses. We rent the other houses.

We are indebted to all the Religious Congregations who help us in one way or another. We ask your continued prayers for the victims of human trafficking, for the traffickers and those who use and abuse these people.

**Sister Margaret Herrity - Chair of the Medaille Trust**

**SOCIAL ACTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Conference continues to be involved with the Urban Network and Round Table Ecumenical movement which actively promotes the work of the ‘Live Simply’ Campaign sponsored also by CAFOD and JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation). We have been co-sponsors with CAFOD for annual days of reflection for the Religious. COR are foundation sponsors to Housing Justice and we have revived our association with ‘Progressio’.

COR has close links with CARJ (Catholic Association for Racial Justice) which was established to give a voice to racial minority groups in order to work together for racial justice and the common good.

In the area of Social Action members undertake important advocacy work, actively engaging in addressing: poverty, homelessness, literacy for migrants/asylum seekers in the UK as well as migration generally, services to the frail and elderly and environmental issues. More detailed social justice reports can be found individually later in the Report.

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**CSAN: Review of the Year 2013**

The work of developing the Caritas network, particularly enabling the ‘grassroots’ in the Dioceses; of offering advocacy and lobbying in Westminster and Whitehall on behalf of the vulnerable ; and of raising the profile of the work of the network and its expert commentary and critique through communications and media work has continued in 2013.

The advocacy team worked on 6 bills and draft bills; made submissions to 3 government consultations; worked with MPS and Peers on 2 debates; made submissions to 2 select committees; and made detailed response to the budget statements. These were supported by media work, notably ten live BBC Radio debates. We also hosted 6 advocacy-based events for our members, including a major Parliamentary Reception.

We have developed a social media presence, featuring re-tweets from various MPs as well as George Monbiot and David Cameron’s official account! We have worked closely with the Catholic Press, including now a regular column for our Members. Relationships are developing with the National Press and joint letters on social issues from member, and from our bishops have been a feature.

The team supported 8 network events, including a major conference on poverty, 3 Diocesan roadshows, fringe debates at party conferences and the launch of the new Criminal Justice forum. Other services for members include a developing training and formation resource; brokering of partnerships for funding; and development of the member forums.

In summary, CSAN has had a successful year of consistent growth in both the support offered to an increasing number of CSAN members, and also the profile and influence of the network in the public sphere. The issue of poverty in the UK in its various aspects, in-work poverty, housing insecurity and child poverty, are the issues which we must face in our objective to achieve human flourishing for all – each person valued and valuable in his or her community.

**Helen O’Brien**

**CEO**

**CSAN’s Achievements 2013**

**In 2013 CSAN achieved the following in working to create a**

**society where everyone is valuable and valued...**

**We worked with**

**40 Members**

**Organisations**

**providing services to children**

**and families, older**

**people, disabled people**

**prisoners, refugees and homeless people**

CSAN spoke out on 6

pieces of legislation,

working with over 100

MPs and Peers on

issues affecting the

vulnerable and

marginalised

CSAN played a key

role in protecting

Legal Aid for

victims of trafficking

and domestic

violence

Our Poverty Crisis

Conference in June was

attended by over 200

people, including Most

Rev Vincent Nichols,

the Minister of State for

Employment and the TUC General Secretary

We held 12 special interest

Member forums throughout the

year attended by 144 CSAN

member representatives

CSAN held 3 Caritas Roadshows with

over 300 attendees. Over 70 charities

were represented in the social action

Marketplaces

CSAN’s recommendations on

mothers in custody were included in

the Justice Select Committee Report

on Women Offender

More than 25 charities met with

more than 35 MPs and Peers at

our annual

parliamentary event

to discuss issues affecting the

most vulnerable in our society

CSAN produced over 100

press articles throughout the year

and took part in 10 BBC Radio

debates

**Justice and Peace Links Report for 2013**

The committee have continued to meet approximately 6 times in the year to plan and coordinate events and have continued to be involved with a variety of Justice organisations, networking with others who share our values. Individual religious have continued to coordinate Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation activities in their own Congregations. In our Conference and Linking Days we have appreciated looking at some of the theology underpinning why we do what we do.

We value the opportunity to come together as religious and take the words of Pope Francis on Easter Sunday 2014 to heart

*“Let us become channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish,”*

Year Diary

\*January 2013 – Members of JPIC Links attended the IF launch at Somerset House. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, ‘Its time the world’s decision-makers came to the right decision on hunger. It’s time to end the unnecessary suffering caused by the failure of the current food system. We can make hunger a thing of the past if we act now.”

26 - 28 April 2013 Conference and AGM – Mary Colwell

The world is charged with the grandeur of God

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire

On her last session Mary suggested that we need a paradigm shift. We have to stop seeing the earth as a basket of resources and see it as imbued with the face of God, or as St Benedict said, ‘to listen with the heart’. But Nature can be ruthless and scary and it can be hard to see the face of God in it all. So we were left with the question, “where is God in all this”?

Members wanted to explore this further so we asked Sr Nellie McLoughlin to facilitate our 2014 Conference with the title,

‘‘The evolving story of the Universe’ (The Spirituality of Creation) (2 – 4 May 2014)

15 May 2013 – religious lobby of parliament for IF campaign – 350 religious and associates took part in the religious lobby of parliament – many were able to meet with their MP’s and their researchers to express their concerns about food poverty in the UK and the developing world. Following this replies were received from MPs and articles were placed in religious and local newspapers.

8 June 2013 – I F rally in Hyde park attended by an estimated 40,000 people and preceded by service in Methodist Central Hall

Nutrition – since 2 m children die of malnutrition each year, we ask our MPs to call on the PM to prioritise nutrition at the G8 hunger summit. A religious service was held before the rally and members of religious orders and associates processed behind the JPIC links banner to Hyde Park

Generation nutrition - Note: religious are still involved in the follow up to the IF campaign – Generation Nutrition – We can be the generation that stops children dying of hunger. [http://bit.ly/1gT6abc](http://t.co/8BnD9bCrWq)

28 September 2013 - Linking Day at Crestfield Street Methodist Church, Kings Cross, 28 Rev Paul Reilly from Housing Justice – Attendance 30 members

**Making a difference**

***(Empowering, Equipping and energising us***

***in making a difference in the UK poverty crisis)***

We looked at some of the causes of homelessness and poverty in the UK and what we can do about it.

Practical issues: - We need to challenge the orthodoxy about fairness and tell stories about how government cuts are impacting on people see [www.tellmystory.org.uk](http://www.tellmystory.org.uk) for more stories.

We shared some of the stories and experiences that we bring with us that demonstrate this. It’s the most vulnerable who are being put into an impossible situation. We looked at some solutions and the ways that religious are already working to support the vulnerable.

We agreed that we would take part in the ‘Stop the Bedroom tax’ campaign of Housing Justice. A letter was sent to Kris Hopkins MP expressing our concerns and a photo montage of photos of members urging the government to ‘Stop the bedroom tax’ and ‘Invest in the poor’ was made. (See COR web site for text of letter)

\*\*Autumn 2013 – See through fashion campaign – action taken by committee members

\* The IF campaign – There is enough food for everyone ÍF…

The biggest charity coalition of its kind since ‘Make Poverty History’ came together to call on governments to take action on global hunger.

Summary of IF campaign

The IF campaign ended in October 2013 after nine months of incredible activity. Over that time we brought together more than 200 UK charities, faith organisations and social enterprises and campaigners in the tens of thousands to call for the beginning of the end for global hunger. As a result, we’ve seen truly life-saving pledges on nutrition and truly historic breakthroughs on aid; the public argument on cracking down on tax dodging has been won; and land grabbing made it onto the G8 agenda.

Our achievements include thousands of campaigners calling on the Chancellor to meet the UK’s aid pledge ahead of the UK budget, leading to an historic commitment to **spend 0.7% national income on life changing aid** for the first time since this promise was made in 1970. Then ahead of the G8 an additional $4.1 billion was pledged to tackle malnutrition which **could save the lives of almost 2 million children by 2020**. At the Trade, Transparency, and Tax summit in June, **all UK tax havens committed to sign a convention which would help improve transparency**. IF campaigners ensured that the issue of land grabbing in developing countries was discussed at the G8 and then acknowledged by world leaders in the summit’s final declaration. World leaders, as well as UK Department for International Development are keen to build on this and develop land rights as a wider area of UK expertise. **The key win in this area was getting the issue on to the G8 agenda at all – this wouldn’t have happened without the IF campaign**. And the G8 repeated the commitment to find $100 billion a year to help developing countries adapt to climate change, as we asked them to do. For the organisations involved in the campaign, the experience has helped increase our campaigns skills and expertise which will increase our impact as a sector going forward.

\*\*Autumn 2013 See through fashion campaign

See Through Fashion - On 24th April 2013, 1100 men and women died in a factory collapse in Bangladesh. One tragic incident of many in recent years that has highlighted the need for action on safety and rights for garment workers in Bangladesh.  In the autumn committee members took part in this campaign to encourage British garment firms to sign the Bangladeshi Fire and Safety Accord by adding their names and pictures to a photo petition.

Article placed in Independent Catholic News

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=23325>

CAFOD_logo**…REport to the Conference of Religious**

**CAFOD Report to the Conference of Religious (March 2014)**

*Our full Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the year ending March 2013 can be found on:* [www.cafod.org.uk/About-Us/Open-information-resources/Annual-reviews](http://www.cafod.org.uk/About-Us/Open-information-resources/Annual-reviews).

*A hard copy is available from* [*labbott@cafod.org.uk*](mailto:labbott@cafod.org.uk)

**Financial results for 2012/13**

* **Income**: In 2012/13, CAFOD raised **£48.8 million** – with over **two-thirds** received from CAFOD supporters who donated a total of **£33.6 million**. This hugely generous support in tough financial times from the Catholic community of England and Wales was supplemented by a further **£3.7 million** received from Caritas and other Catholic agencies and **£11.1 million** received as grants from governments and other institutional donors.
* **Expenditure:** CAFOD spent **£51 million** – more than the amount raised in the year because it continued to spend appeal funds raised in the prior years. Just over **12%** of total spend related to the costs of generating funds and governance, leaving **88%** to be spent on CAFOD’s charitable activities. Expenditure of **£38.5 million** (**75%** **of total expenditure**) was spent on international development and disaster relief programmes and **£6.3 million** (just over **12% of total expenditure**) on development education, advocacy and campaigning programmes, seeking to address the root causes of poverty.
* The majority of our grant spend is in **Africa (59%);** with **22% in Latin America & the Caribbean**; **16% in Asia & the Middle East;** and **globally/across continents (3%)**.

**Headlines from our work to increase power and influence of women and men in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities**

* **Campaigning on food:** As a founding member of the ‘IF’ campaign, CAFOD was at the forefront of the biggest charity coalition of its kind since Make Poverty History. The campaign called on Prime Minister David Cameron to use the UK’s G8 presidency in 2013 to take action on four areas that contribute to the hunger crisis: land, tax, transparency and aid. In May 2013, CAFOD hosted the IF Campaign Religious Lobby, where 250 religious, clergy and lay associates of religious orders lobbied 62 Members of Parliament on these issues (including a DFID minister and Labour leader, Ed Miliband), successfully persuading many of their MPs to write to the Prime Minister to take action. The campaign culminated with a public rally in Hyde Park with an ecumenical service by CAFOD and others, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. The results included a commitment to 0.7% of gross national income to international aid; £4.1 billion pledged to tackle malnutrition, which could save the lives of almost 2 million children by 2020; and UK tax havens committed to sign a convention which would help improve transparency.
* **‘Publish what you pay’:** After more than 10 years of campaigning by the Publish What you Pay Campaign, of which CAFOD is a member, the European Parliament approved the new EU Accounting and Transparency Directives, requiring oil, gas and mining companies to publish their books, including the payments they make to governments and officials in poor countries. For the first time communities will have meaningful, detailed information about the money their governments receive from extractives companies and will be better equipped than ever before to ensure that the benefits of the resources beneath their feet are fairly shared.
* **Post 2015:** The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expire in 2015. CAFOD is determined that whatever framework follows has eradicating extreme poverty at its heart and, crucially, is born out of the perspectives, opinions, and wants of people living in poverty. As co-chair of the Beyond 2015 coalition – which has grown to over 600 participating organisations in 100 countries – CAFOD continues to help shape what happens next. We have been working hard to influence the UN systems, specifically the ‘High Level Panel,’ established by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and co-chaired by Prime Minister David Cameron, to work on what should succeed the MDGs. CAFOD commissioned ‘COMPASS’, a piece of participatory research with four CAFOD partners to allow the people who know the most about living in

poverty to tell decision-makers what they think about the current MDGs and where they think change is possible.

**Headlines from promoting sustainable development to enable access to essential services and resources for the poorest and most disadvantaged**

* **Water:** Every day, thousands of children die from diarrhoea because of dirty drinking water, and thousands of women and girls travel long distances to fetch water, risking injury and missing out on school, work and community life. In **Guatemala, 2,385 indigenous families** will have toilets in their village for the first time, and clean water from a tap installed in every house. **24 people** – including at least five women – will have been trained as plumbers so they can operate and repair the water system. In **Sri Lanka**, Caritas Sri Lanka began work digging wells, building filtering and pipeline systems and providing rainwater harvesting tanks. By the end of the project, more than **10,000 people**, in communities whose water infrastructure has been badly damaged or destroyed, will have benefitted. **993 women** members of self-help groups will be trained to manage their own water resources. 194 women will have be decision-makers on water management committees.
* **Gender equality:** Inequality is one of the root causes of poverty, and one of the most damaging inequalities is that between women and men. In **Guatemala**, thanks to the UK Aid Match scheme, our partner Social Pastoral–Caritas Verapaz is working with indigenous communities in Verapaz on the issue of violence against women, including workshops and training so that women and girls are more confident in demanding their rights. By the end of the project at least **200 women and girls** will have participated in activities designed to increase opportunities for decision-making. **500 men and 650 women** will have a better understanding of women’s values, abilities and the need for their participation in decision-making.

**Headlines from our work to achieve peace, security and recovery from crises for the poorest and most disadvantaged**

* **Response to major emergencies:** CAFOD’s work – and the lives of thousands of people living in poverty – has been affected this year by conflict (including DRC, Syria, South Sudan), natural disasters including flooding (Mozambique, Malawi, and Nigeria) and a cholera outbreak (Sierra Leone). CAFOD has met these demands in a range of ways, including sending staff who are specialist in emergency response to Turkey, Mozambique, DRC and South Sudan. As well as directly implementing part of the humanitarian response in camps in South Sudan, CAFOD has committed to deeper engagement with our partner Norwegian Church Aid in the Darfur, one of the biggest humanitarian responses in the region, supporting approximately 500,000 refugees.

**Headlines from building our partnerships in the Catholic community in England and Wales**

* **Engaging with schools:** After months of resource development, working alongside advisers, promotion and ‘test’ training with more than **350 teachers** in four dioceses, CAFOD’s ‘Universal Church Units’ were published as part of the new RE Scheme for Catholic primary schools in England and Wales, ‘Come and See.’ Catholic children aged 5 to 11 will now be able to learn about global justice through stories, interactive online games and classroom activities. **635 schools** are registered on our website to access Universal Church Units. A minimum of **127,000 children** will learn about global justice through the eyes of CAFOD in their core curriculum.
* **Developing young influencers:** A central part of our mission with the Catholic community is to inspire the next generation to take up our work. **576 young people** have taken a leadership role with us this year – from organising fundraising events at school or college, to speaking about CAFOD and global poverty at youth conferences. **17,300 people** took action in response to these young leader initiatives. **30 young leaders** took part in a residential conference, including a day in Parliament and meeting MPs on the Hungry for Change campaign.
* The stalwart commitment of individuals, parishes, schools and religious communities to give, learn, pray and take action is the bedrock of all CAFOD’s work and much of this activity is sustained by our network of dedicated volunteers. Once again, we are grateful for the generosity of the Catholic community.

**Libby Abbott**

[**labbott@cafod.org.uk**](mailto:labbott@cafod.org.uk)

 **Housing justice report**

The last year has seen increases in both rough sleeping and statutory homelessness. At the same time changes to the welfare system and the failure of the house building sector to keep pace with the growth in households have combined to make the housing crisis and housing conditions worse. Housing Justice has responded to this challenge by re-focusing the project support we offer to parishes and by increasing the training, speaking engagements and workshops we offer.

Our aim remains that everyone should have a home that truly meets their needs and that Christians play their part in bringing this about. We remain extremely grateful for the donations and especially the prayer support of religious orders for our work – without this our task would be so much more difficult.

**Church and Community Night Shelters**

The number of joint church and community shelters continues to grow in response to need. Housing Justice provide introductory and advanced training for shelter volunteers and convene Shelter Forums (meeting quarterly to share information and good practice) We launched a new forum in Wales in addition to our established London gathering. We coordinated the shelter in Birmingham (you can watch a video report here: <http://goo.gl/TZR5p7>), ran a holiday for shelter guests, held the first national night shelter conference and, thanks to funding from the Government’s Homelessness Transition Fund, we have begun to pilot a quality mark for night shelters. For more information contact Paul Reily: [p.reily@housingjustice.org.uk](mailto:p.reily@housingjustice.org.uk).

**Mentoring and Befriending Project**

Following a year of fundraising we have been able to appoint a new project coordinator, Arooj Khan, and re-start this very worthwhile project. Arooj has trained a squad of volunteer mentors and befrienders who are now engaged in supporting newly housed homeless people in London. Our Mentoring and Befriending Toolkit has been revamped and a regular forum set up where project workers can find peer support as well as sharing good practice. For more information contact Arooj Khan: [a.khan@housingjustice.org.uk](mailto:a.khan@housingjustice.org.uk).

**Faith in Affordable Housing**

This project to transform redundant churches and other church property into social housing has had an exciting year with a conference in Wales, lots of new sites under discussion and the completion of a development to house young people in Gloucester. For more information contact Sharon Lee: [s.lee@housingjustice.org.uk](mailto:s.lee@housingjustice.org.uk).

**Poverty & Homelessness Action Week (and Homelessness Sunday)**

The seventh and final poverty & homelessness action week (PHAW) ran from 25th January to 2nd February 2014. The theme was standing with people in crisis and the daily prayer diary focussed on the work of the PHAW partners: Housing Justice, Church Action on Poverty and Scottish Churches Housing Action. We thank everyone who has contributed to the work - supporters, churches, friends and sponsors. Poverty & Homelessness Action Week was established in 2008, linking Homelessness Sunday and Poverty Action Sunday. Over the seven exciting years of activity, there have been significant achievements; however, it has proved impossible to cover the costs of coordinating Action Week and the partners are no longer in a position to continue subsidising this activity. Through the themes adopted, we have successfully:

* Linked the issues of homelessness and poverty
* Delivered worship materials and children's resources
* Developed a model prayer calendar, with a daily reflection through the week
* Engaged grassroots churches and community organisations
* Raised the public profile of poverty and homelessness issues
* Opened hearts and minds to people experiencing exclusion through these issues.

All this has been done on a shoestring, and the three organisations have decided to continue to focus on their own fundraising. Relationships remain strong, and joint work will continue as appropriate. In **2015 Homelessness Sunday will be on 18th January** and Poverty Action Sunday on 15th February. We hope as many PHAW participants as possible will take part in both. The PHAW worship resources will remain online for use by anyone who wishes to use them – sadly, it looks as if they will remain relevant for some years to come.

**UK Common Rights**

Thanks to funding from the Trust for London we have worked with people experiencing homelessness on the streets of London to make four films about the struggle they have to access their human rights to shelter, food, water and sanitation. The report on their plight, the films and a *Lectio Divina* reflection on each topic can be found on our website: <http://goo.gl/qJcSeN>. The reflections also appear in the Lent edition of Housing Justice News.

**Events**

Our high profile events included a summer conference in Bradford addressed by the Minister for Housing and a round table designed to engage the Church in solutions to London’s housing crisis. In **addition we support regular prayer and action forums for Christians involved in homelessness work in London and Birmingham, as well co-organising the annual service of commemoration for people who have died homeless at St Martin in the Fields in November. Our London Christian Homelessness Forum now meets monthly, alternating between late mornings in our office and evenings at Mount St Jesuit Centre.**

**Advocacy**

We have been gathering information about the impact of welfare changes and government cuts on people who are homeless or in housing need. Much of our work in this area has been centred on the spare room subsidy/bedroom tax and we have supported many people to write to their MPs about this. We continue to brief parliamentarians and to speak at conferences, justice and peace assemblies and in parishes on this topic and on other issues to do with homelessness and housing need and with Catholic Social Teaching. (This has included a day for the JPIC Links of the Conference facilitated by Paul Reily.) We are active members of the “Who Benefits” campaign ([www.whobenefits.org.uk](http://www.whobenefits.org.uk)) and have worked with the Joint Public Issues team of the Free Churches to draw attention to myths and untruths promulgated about people who are benefit claimants.

As the 2015 General Election approaches our focus is turning towards the promotion of the idea of housing as a public good and thus that genuinely affordable housing is a key part of the Common Good.

**Further information from Alison Gelder:** [**a.gelder@housingjustice.org.uk**](mailto:a.gelder@housingjustice.org.uk)**, or on our website:** [**www.housingjustice.org.uk**](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)**, or call 020 3544 8094.**

# C:\Users\connie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\CMU Logo Black (3).jpg Catholic Missionary Union of England and Wales

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**Annual Report**

2013 – a year to celebrate overseas mission

*The CMU was formed in 1998 as a forum for all missionary activity in England & Wales. There are 34 members with a range of charisms and ministries – working across all 5 continents. It comprises 3 missionary committees (Mens, Sisters and Combined) and it also coordinates the annual mission appeal programme in parishes across the country which raised almost £1million in 2013 for the missionary organisations in the CMU.*

The CMU’s President is Fr Rob Morland SMA. Its Vice President is Sr Natalia Gomes CMS and the chairperson of the appeals committee is Sr Daphne Norden. There are Executive elections in 2014 as Fr Rob has reached the end of his term of office. He has been an inspiring leader of the CMU over recent years and has contributed greatly to our stability and credibility.

The focus for 2013/14 has been:

* To investigate and ‘pilot’ a schools missionary vocations awareness visits
* To have a series of ‘Missionaries Connecting’ events to allow Members to network in between AGM
* To make contact with the seminaries to put overseas mission on the syllabus
* To find a way to engage with and energise missionary societies which are not eligible to join the appeal committees. The constitution was changed to welcome these societies more actively.
* To continue to develop the CMU as a distinct voice for mission in England & Wales complementing the work of friends in Missio, COR, Bishops committees and the non-mission agencies such as CAFOD.

Standard membership of the CMU is open to any congregation/society with an interest in overseas mission. Call 01704 533708

**CMU Annual Gatherings**

World Mission Conference 2014

15th October 2014

*The Evangelii Gaudium Effect: New Directions for Mission Today*

Fr Stephen Bevans SVD

Heythrop College University of London 10.15 to 4pm

Places are free but booking is essential. Contact the Heythrop Conference Office 020 7795 4163

Conference sponsored by: *CMU, Missio, Heythrop College and the Mill Hill Missionaries*

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The CMU AGM with a talk from Fr Christopher Jamieson OSB is the following morning also at Heythrop (16th October 10am)

SISTERS MISSION COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2013

The committee is composed of major superiors or representatives of the Institutes of Religious Sisters having many members overseas, especially in developing countries. We have two members on the executive of the Catholic Missionary Union: Natalia F-Gomez and myself. Those of us who attend meetings of any groups of interest to our work in the promotion of mission continue to report appropriately to the committee.

In 2013 thirteen societies of missionary sisters gave the annual mission appeals in parishes in the dioceses of Portsmouth, Shrewsbury, Wrexham and Lancaster and the Archdiocese of Liverpool, as allocated to us by arrangement with the bishops. The appeals enable us to raise awareness of the importance of “mission” and the need for all baptised Christians to be in mission as members of the world wide as well as of the local church. We see mission as our responsibility to work for the establishment of God’s reign in our world and to take the good news of Jesus to all who either have not heard it or have not seen it as relevant to them. Mission is clearly not only “overseas” but here at home also. In the parishes visited we offer ideas of ways in which parishioners can be involved in mission themselves in their own parish. Examples are: concern for lonely and sick people, advocacy on behalf of marginalised people, ethical investments, using our purchasing power to challenge unjust structures by raising questions with suppliers and buying fairly traded goods. We also use our experience of the Church in other parts of the world to highlight needs in those areas and give ideas of how people can promote change. In 2013 we continued to emphasise the need to cancel unjust debt and to oppose emissions causing climate change. In 2013 a number of us attended various justice campaign rallies and meetings.

The mission appeals are an important source of funding for us since we have traditionally

worked mostly overseas with people who are very poor and therefore cannot support us. In our appeal for funds we all work together, combining the money raised and sharing it out at the end of the year according to the number of appeals given by each congregation. In this way it makes no difference whether we visit large or small parishes, or even if the collection does not cover our costs if the parish is very small. We are happy to have the privilege of sharing our first hand experience of the Church in different parts of the world.

The committee met twice this year to look together at issues encountered in our overseas work or in our work here, but we are also in contact with each other via email.

DAPHNE NORDEN MMS (chair)

**Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI)**

The Annual General Assembly took place on 4th and 5th of June 2013 in Dublin. The keynote address was delivered in two parts by Paul Murray O.P. Entitled “Anxious Hearts, Wounded Lives: the Place of the New Sacred”, and “Poetry in a Time of Affliction”, the talks set the tone for the Assembly.

Sr. Marianne O’Connor, Director General of CORI for five years had stepped aside in December 2012 and was succeeded by Sr. Pat O’Donovan RSM, acting Director until June 2013 when Fr. Peter Rodgers OFM Cap took up the position.

A number of meetings have taken place to explore the possibility of creating a new entity to incorporate the best elements of CORI and the Irish Missionary Union (IMU). The emphasis is on creating something new together which could give renewed energy to both organisations, rather than simply merging for practical reasons (duplication, finances, diminishing numbers etc).More recently a facilitator was employed jointly to manage the change which will be necessary. There have also been a number of joint initiatives on foot of an agreement between both executives to employ a person to oversee and animate justice issues in both CORI and IMU.

Although the number of religious in formation is small, a weekend in October drew a sizeable group composed of formators and those in formation, both from Ireland and Britain. Another such meeting will take place before the end of March, aimed more specifically at formators, and will reflect on the topic: “What are young adults seeking from life today?” For the third time, CORI is organising a walking retreat along part of the camino to Compostella from 7-14 June.

The present Government in Ireland has plans to introduce widespread structural changes in healthcare and education and so there is much activity in these areas. A new Catholic Healthcare Council has been formed by the Bishops, with Sr. Pat O’Donovan of CORI leading the charge on many fronts. The recent Catholic Schools Week had as its theme: Catholic Schools – Places of Faith and Learning, provoking much-needed reflection on the place of faith-based education in a changing Ireland.

Final preparation is underway for two major events in the near future. On 25th April the annual CORI conference will take place with input from Sandra Schneiders and Pat Farrell on the topic: Religious Life Evolving – Faithful and Free. This conference is already fully booked out. The other major event is the Annual General Assembly, due to take place on 3-4 June.

**ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR RELIGIOUS**

Association of Senior Religious Report on the 2013 Activities for COR

The Annual General Conference took place in Bournemouth as in previous in previous years. This year the speaker was Denis McBride CSsR and his theme was “Hopes and Dreams”. He gave us much to reflect on and the members were once more happy with the content of the talks and the general interaction.

Unfortunately Sister Pauline Clarke was obliged to resign from the Presidency due to ill health. We are grateful for her leadership in the past few years and hope to have the opportunity to show our appreciation at the 2014 Conference in April. In the meantime the Deputy President Sister Agnes O’Shea DMJ, is attending to the President’s duties.

The Newsletter has been published as usual twice in the year. Sadly Sister Monica Barudi RSCJ can no longer deal with future editions, so we shall be looking for a volunteer before or at the Conference. We have to thank Sister for her hard work over the past six years in creating a colourful and artistic journal, a powerful means of communication appreciated by us all. We also thank the Society of the Sacred Heart who have supported her and the Association and have contributed valuable practical help in the production of the Newsletter.

The London and Home Counties Branch continues to flourish and as usual has provided a stimulating and enjoyable programme for the year. We have had two excellent days of prayer and Reflection at St Peter’s home Vauxhall, which were both well attended. The very capable committee have also steered the members in several cultural activities. In December a group of members went to the Royal Albert Hall to enjoy an afternoon of carol’s and carol singing with the audience. As this was the “year of Faith” several sisters joined the ASR Pilgrimage to Canterbury. In June London members set out for Bognor Regis for the day. Most of the sisters took advantage of a fish and chip lunch by the sea. In the afternoon we were entertained along with sisters from Brighton and Worthing in the Servite Sisters’ Care Home. We hope to have many more such experiences in the current year.

There has been some attempt to reactivate a Northern Branch of the Association. There has been much enthusiasm on the part of the Sisters but so far the difficulties of distance and communication have proved complex. We shall learn more of the developments at our AGM.

At this year’s AGM, which is from 7th to the 10th in Bournemouth, Timothy Radcliff OP will be the speaker. All available places have been filled

**Sister Ann Heaney (Secretary to the National Committee)**

**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH CONTEMPLATIVES 2013**

The usual business of the ABC must be quite familiar to you all by now, and apart from that, our statutes which were experimental for a 7-year period, was revised and sent to Rome.

During 2013 we did not have a General Meeting. But, as usual, the Executive met and picked up any outstanding business. meeting with those groups with whom we keep in touch – sending delegates to the Joint Commission of Bishops and Religious, Vicars for Religious etc. We are grateful that we have a presence at these meetings.

There has been a deal of re-organisation of our contacts with the Holy Rood Trust. Nothing takes place quickly when legalities are involved, but the end is in sight now. The slimmed down administration should be in full swing in a few weeks time.

We have been rejoicing, as I am sure you have, at the fresh approach of our Holy Father, and studying with joy *Evangelii Gaudium.* Truly inspiring ! We hope to make a feature of 2015, as it is dedicated to Consecrated Life.

This would be a fitting place to acknowledge our appreciation of all Connie has done for ABC. We have used the newsletters to keep up to date, particularly when safeguarding was a national issue.

And always the Executive felt welcomed when we dropped in on her if we were meeting at Ealing Abbey. Great memories - and very best wishe,s with our love and prayers, for a well deserved rest.

We are grateful for all our contacts with COR - as a Body, and with individuals. We are grateful for the companionship and support of the members of COR. We are grateful for all you do to safeguard and further Religious Life in our country, and we are aware that much of this work is carried out unobtrusively – we are grateful!

**It is our privilege to remain united in prayer with you all.**

**Sr. Mary of the Holy Spirit**

**Chairperson - Association of British Contemplatives**

**Conference of Leaders of Anglican Religious Communities (CLARC)**

2013 REPORT ON CLARC

A day meeting was held for the Conference of Leaders of Anglican Religious Communities (CLARC) hosted by the Society of the Sacred Mission at Willen, Milton Keynes.

A presentation was given by Sr. Cathy Jones, Religious Life Promoter of the Catholic National Office for Vocation. She described their efforts to encourage a culture of vocation amongst all Catholics with a specific programme helping people discover discipleship through 3 aims - Understanding Vocation, Communicating Vocation and Discerning Vocation. Opportunities offered through different groups and training programmes are resourced through the National Vocations Framework – all of which is funded by the Church. There was much that suggested to us ideas for our own use and possibilities for co-operation between the 2 denominations. The use of social media was also explored, which some Communities use extensively and others do not use at all.

Thursday March 21st was the date of the enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Leaders of many communities were invited to attend, reflecting the Archbishop’s keen interest in the vowed Religious Life.

The annual conference this year was held at the House of Resurrection, Mirfield. Most of the Leaders attended as well as the RC observer representing the Conference of Religious, Abbot Richard Yeo and the Revd. Dr. Roger Paul.

Abbot Yeo was welcomed as the new COR representative to CLARC.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Roger Paul. He works for The Council for Christian Unity (CCU) which supports the Church of England in seeking the unity of the Christian Church through ecumenical conversations, local unity initiatives, theological research and reflection. He told us that it is a Biblical imperative that we should relate and we are in no position to preach a gospel of reconciliation and unity if we are not at least attempting to be One.

A question was asked about Receptive Ecumenism and this was explained as an initiative which says ‘Don’t think about what your church and tradition can give to the other but about what you can learn from the other. Do not think about an exchange of strength but a sharing of weakness and vulnerability and the joining of wounded hands’. Dr. Paul then went on to talk about the position of ecumenical relationships in Britain and in Europe. Intercommunion does not require from either Communion the acceptance of all doctrinal opinion, sacramental devotion or liturgical practice characteristic of the other, but implies that each believes the other to hold all the essentials of the Christian Faith.

Abbot Yeo was asked to contribute to the session and he observed that whilst formerly there was interest, albeit fairly superficial, in ecumenism between communities. During the 80’s things moved into the area of personal interests and project collaboration and currently there is a gathering weariness in Communities which results in insufficient energy for ecumenism although it is not the interest that is insufficient. Recognising our fragility and vulnerability as a shared experience ecumenically collaboration in activities may well be one way forward for monastic communities.

Mother Rita-Elizabeth was re-elected for a further term representing CLARC on COR.

Archbishop Justin Welby called a meeting at Lambeth Palace for a Conference on Religious Life and Renewal: exploring Roots and Shoots for Religious from traditional communities and new monastics and fresh expressions – 127 attended representing 60 communities.  The day started with Morning Prayer followed by a keynote address by Archbishop Justin in which he emphasized his belief in the importance of the Religious Life for the sustaining and renewal of the church. He inspired us to recognise that because the Religious Life makes no sense if God does not exist we must be engaged in activities that make no sense to a world that denies the existence of God – flourishing Religious Communities are the engine rooms of renewal.  The decline in Religious Communities mirrors the decline in Church attendance and as such is an alarm call to the whole Church.  A wild burst of enthusiasm is needed and we were invited to suggest how the churches are obstructing this. A second keynote address was given by Dr. Étienne Vetö of the Chemin Neuf Community [www.**chemin**-**neuf**.org.uk](http://www.chemin-neuf.org.uk)– he challenged us by asserting that the only way to renew Religious Life was “to become better Christians” and “sometimes, we have to accept that a Community is not going to live,” and “sometimes beautiful things happen” when those who were dying passed the baton to the new. He admitted that many communities were in crisis, but argued: “We have to be able to present Religious Life as an adventure.”

This challenging and inspirational day concluded with a Contemplative Eucharist celebrated by Bishop David Walker and a homily from Archbishop Justin.

**UNION OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCES**

**OF MAJOR SUPERIORS**

**UCESM**, a Church association of Canonical Right and also an International Non-Profit-Making Association of Belgian Right (AISBL), is a union at the service of Religious Life in Europe. At present UCESM gathers **38**national Conferences of **27** European countries for a total of about 260.000 religious men and women.

<http://www.ucesm.net/EN/index.html>

**ACTIVITIES IN 2013**

***Meetings at which members of the Committee / members of the General Secretary took part***

*(reports/proceedings were sent to all the Conferences in due course)*

***On January 23rd,*** in Brussels (Belgium):evening of reflection in the framework of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Across the Frontiers “Challenges and Opportunities of Catholic-Anglican Dialogue”. It took place in the Chapel of the Resurrection, a Catholic church with an ecumenical orientation in the heart of Brussels’ European quarter. Sr Josyane Cluzel and Mrs Nicole Jacqué attended this meeting.

***On 14th March,*** in Brussels, Sr. Josyane CLUZEL attended the induction of Fr. Patrick Daly as General Secretary of COMECE (Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Community).

***During the first days of April***, Fr. Giovanni Peragine joined Sr. Viviana BALLARIN, Vice-President of UCESM, who presided the 60th Assembly of USMI in Rome (Italy). The theme of this meeting, *“Christ, origin and completion of our faith: Conversion and witness”* followed the reflection line of the previous meetings. Sr. Regina Cesarato of the Disciples of the Divine Master was elected as the new President, and Sr. Marta Finotelli of the Good Shepherd Sisters as the new vice-President.

***Still in April (15th–18th) 2013***, Fr. Mariano SEDANO SIERRA, UCESM-councillor, spoke at a meeting of 35 Major Superiors of the Conference of Roman-Catholic Religious women (CORU) in Khmelnytskyi (Ukraine) as keynote speaker.

***On the 24th April***, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network (AEFJN), Sr. Josyane attended a Round table on the “Future Challenges for Africa-EU Relations” at the Chapel of the Resurrection.

***From 3rd to 7th May 2013***, Sr. Viviana Ballarin participated in the Plenary Assembly of UISG​​, a meeting that takes place every three years and brings together about 800 Superiors General from 87 countries. The theme was: “*It will not be so among you (Mt 20:26) – The Service of Leadership according to the Gospel”*. A new President, Sr. Carmen Sammut (Malta), was elected.

***By mid-May***, in Swanwick (UK), Fr. Giovanni had the opportunity to meet the new Board of COR and to reflect with the participants gathered together for their annual meeting around the topic of *“Faith and Authority”*.

***On 23rd May 2013***, Sr. Josyane was delegated by the EC to represent UCESM at the General Assembly of COREB (French-Speaking Conference of Belgium) in Ciney (Belgium). There was emphasis on the importance of relationships and of collaboration, the visible sign of God-Communion that must animate our religious consecration. The meeting elected a new Board, with Fr. Franck Janin sj as the new President.

***From 3rd to 7th June 2013***, the Executive Committee gathered in Kiev (Ukraine) with a view to preparing the General Assembly due to take place in Kiev in March 2014. The meetings, exchanges and visits to religious sites belonging to different Christian confessions enlarged the horizons of the CE members and immersed them in the cultures and challenges of the countries close to the borders of East and West.

***On 14th and 15th June***, in Sejnt Gjin-Lesha (Albania), Fr. Giovanni PERAGINE, President of the Conference of Religious of Albania, chaired the national Assembly of the Conference with the topic “Consecrated Life and New Evangelization: directions and routes”. The debates emphasised the call of Pope Francis to live “the spirituality of tenderness that will win so many hearts to Christ, because they will be attracted by genuine Love”.

***On July 1-4,* 2013,** Fr. Mariano SEDANO was present at the Annual Congress of the European Vocations Service (EVS) in Rome on the theme “*The priest, joyful witness to a flourishing of vocations”.* The reflection led to an emphasis on the fact that calls to priesthood or consecrated life cannot be perceived without the universal Christian awareness of a call already received in baptism, and if one does not meet “priests who are happy to be priests”.

***On August 28th-30th***, in Freising (Germany), Sr. Ivanka Mihaljevic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Councillor of UCESM, took part in the yearly Congress of RENOVABIS (the solidarity initiative of the German Catholics with the people in Central and Eastern Europe) on the topic “*Free and in solidarity – Christians in responsibility for Europe*”. 350 participants from 30 countries attended. The theme was related:

* to the 20th anniversary of the foundation of RENOVABIS, celebrated in November 2013, and
* to the anniversary (in 2014) of the social and political upheaval of 1989, which, 25 years ago, freed Eastern European states from the communist regime.

***From October 18th to 20th,*** approximately 1300 participants (lay people, priests, deacons, religious men and women coming from approximately 160 institutes) met in Lourdes (France) for a national gathering of the “spiritual lay families” which have come into being within religious congregations. Its theme was «*When the Spirit breathes … live the Gospel together in the wake of the founders, at the service of the mission of the Church*». Fr. Giovanni had delegated Sr Josyane to represent UCESM on this occasion.

***From 31st October to 4th November,*** the last meeting of the EC of the year 2013 was held in Milot (Albania). Fr. Giovanni Peragine had carefully prepared the programme for these days with his colleagues. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to get to know the “young” Church in Albania, which, only 20 years ago, took new root in the blood of its martyrs.

***On 7th November 2013***, in Berlin, Mrs. Nicole Jacqué of the General Secretariat in Brussels represented UCESM at the 20th Anniversary celebration of Renovabis.

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL (UISG)** - REPORT For COR AGM 2014

UISG is the International Union of Superiors General – for women’s orders. It was established in 1965, inspired by the 2nd Vatican Council, to promote deeper collaboration between female congregations of Apostolic Religious Life. (USG is a separate Union for male religious.)

UISG has a membership of approximately 2,000 members worldwide. While expressing the diversity of charisms and cultures, UISG promotes the common identity of those who follow Christ in the Apostolic Religious Life in order to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, the Risen Lord.

Plenary meetings take place in Rome every three years with an attendance of 850 – 950 women leaders. The focus of the last Plenary session in Rome in May 2013 was: *‘It will not be so among you’ – Mt. 20:26 - The Service of Leadership according to the Gospel.* This was an excellent Conference with input from a variety of speakers on authority and leadership. The talks were enriching and hopefully challenged us to deepen our commitment to the service of leadership which has been entrusted to us by our congregations. Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Consecrated Life joined us for a questions and answers session during which he spoke with great openness and sometimes with humour, on a number of issues and confirmed his dedication and support to the role of religious in the church. Pope Frances addressed the assembled group, using the title of the Conference and leaving us with three simple thoughts for reflection which he summed up as: “the centrality of Christ and his gospel; authority as loving service, and ‘feeling in and with’ the Church. Be joyful, because it is a beautiful thing to follow Jesus.”

The Union is divided into a number of Constellations. The UK belongs to one of two Northern European Constellations. Other countries in our English-speaking Constellation are Norway, Ireland, Netherlands and Malta.

The Constellation meets once in the three year cycle. Ireland is host for the next Constellation meeting which takes place from 6th – 9th May 2014 at All Hallows College, Dublin. During this time Sr. Gemma Simmonds CJ, will introduce us to the *Vitality in Religious Life Research Project* which she is currently working with and will share some of the outcomes of the project to date. We will have opportunity to reflect on signs of vitality in our congregations and relate them to th*e project.*

The UK group has a membership of approx. 20 Congregation Leaders who meet twice a year to discuss issues of common interest and to provide mutual support for members. Meetings generally take place in March and October and are held at St. Philomena’s Convent, Euston Square.

Mary Whelan SMG is currently the Delegate for the UK Constellation having taken over from Patricia Bell RSM who finished her term of office as Delegate in June 2013. I would recommend membership of the UISG to any Congregation Leader as it is a very positive means of support in the fulfilling of one’s role as Superior General.

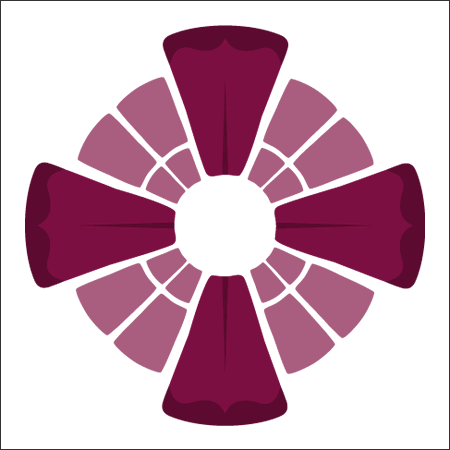
**UISG Initiatives - internationally:**

* Solidarity with South Sudan – an inter-congregational project.
* Talitha kum is an Anti-trafficking project of UISG which co-ordinates, at international level, networks of women religious.
* UISG and USG collaborate in commissions as follows:

Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation; Education; Health and Interreligious Dialogue.

If you would like further information on UISG membership please contact me on email: [mary.whelan@psmgs.org.uk](mailto:mary.whelan@psmgs.org.uk)

**Mary Whelan SMG**

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“I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation”.

*The Joy of the Gospel. Pope Francis*

1. HORIZON is a journal for religious in vocations ministry published in America with an increasing international readership. For more information visit <http://www.nrvc.net/> and click the link to ‘Horizon’ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)