

AUGUST 2025

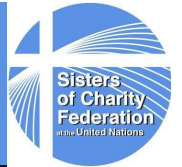
The UN & YOU

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AT A GLANCE

- UN General Assembly & World Social Summit
- US AID
- Nuclear Threat

From the NGO Desk



Calm Before the Storm



It is the calm before the storm at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Come September, the 80th Session of the [General Assembly](#) will begin, followed by the [Second World Summit for Social Development](#) in Qatar in early November.

General Assembly

The General Assembly will be of special interest as we will receive the Secretary General report on homelessness. We have worked closely with UN Habitat in securing this report captures the full picture of global homelessness and offers concrete solutions.

Also notable, which will gain global attention, is when the Heads of States speak at the General Assembly. Their remarks comes at a time of great division and global unrest. With the horrific violence in Gaza, Haiti, Ukraine, Sudan, among other nations, and the US-led effort toward polarization and nationalism instead of multilateralism, this all creates significant and troubling challenges for global politics and ultimately, all of humanity.

It is important that we all are conscious of the rhetoric and the false information that will be used to minimize the effectiveness and motivation of the United Nations. While it is far from perfect, the UN serves a critical role in supporting human rights and dignity. And, when programs like USAID is cut, the humanitarian work of the UN becomes even that more important.

I am recognizing the necessary shift that is required in my own presentations on the UN, and while it is important to lift up the many injustices in the world and to acknowledge the political difficulties in solving them, there is a need to also highlight the good- what is working. Here is just one of many [resources](#) that demonstrate the influence of humanitarian aid that comes from the UN- where would we be without it?

Although the Sustainable Development Goals are a great distance from reaching their expectations by the 2030 deadline, there is some good news to report. You can read more [here](#). The hope is that the Second World Social Summit will accelerate these goals and bring relief, human rights, and human dignity to so many who currently go without.

Second World Social Summit

Following the General Assembly, the focus will shift to the Second World Social Summit. Our advocacy as Civil Society has been dedicated to securing that major issues such as homelessness, rights of women and girls, and care for creation are included.

As documented in previous newsletters, homelessness is the most vulnerable of these issues. Member States are more comfortable focusing on housing, and not addressing the holistic challenges that come with housing insecurity.

As you can see in the most recent [Draft Political Declaration](#) for the Summit, homelessness is included several times, as well as many other important social issues. The difficulty is that this document will be shortened as negotiations continue. The next version will be shared at the end of August.

We will continue to spread our influence and pressure Member States to prioritize homelessness. The fear is that if homelessness is dropped from the Declaration, it will cripple our advocacy moving forward.

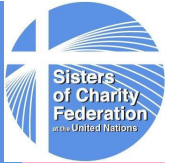
Your Voice is Needed

Do you have 1 minute to share what social progress means to you. In anticipation of the Second World Social Summit, there is an opportunity to offer your feedback. Our hope, as moral and

spiritual voices, is to lift human dignity along with human rights to create a more just and equitable future for all.

Please consider completing this brief [survey](#) by August 31st.

USAID



Impact from Cuts



In the first 8 months of the Trump Administration, there has been a great deal of change on international and domestic policy. Early in this Administration, many significant cuts were made to critical areas like science, medical and health research, and humanitarian relief.

The impact on medical and health research will take time to reveal itself, but the impact on humanitarian aid is already being felt. You can explore the awful impact [here](#). We must ask ourselves, where is the outrage?

In March, the US Congress prepared this [report](#) to assess the role Congress may have in these cuts. For US citizens, as you continue to contact your local legislation, and in preparation for the midterms in 2026, become more familiar with these realities and allow them to inform your advocacy. OXFAM also [generated this letter](#) to Senator Rubio and Members of Congress that you can send.

Nuclear Threat



We Remember- We Fear



On August 6th, the world remembered the 80th anniversary of when the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima during the Second World War. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres offered this [statement](#), delivered by Izumi Nakamitsu, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at a special ceremony.

It is important and timely to recognize the realities of nuclear weapons in the world. By last account, there are 12,331 warheads. According to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Russia has the most confirmed nuclear weapons, with over 5,500 nuclear warheads. The United States follows behind with 5,044 nuclear weapons, hosted in the US and 5 other nations: Turkey, Italy, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Total nuclear warheads owned by these 2 countries alone counts for nearly 90% of nuclear weapons in the world.

Total number of warheads for North Korea and Israel is unconfirmed. However, it has been estimated that North Korea has enough fissile material to develop between 40-50 individual weapons, while Israel has material for up to 200, with an estimated 90 existing warheads.

You can take action with ICAN by joining the movement to ban nuclear weapons. Read more [here](#).

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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