

COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWS

Justice and peace-related news, actions, and resources from the Comboni Missionaries, North American Province

October 2025



SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS

Archbishop McElroy, Sisters Denounce Assault of Migrants at the Hands of the US Government



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Youth from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart gather at the entrance of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington after a procession to observe the World Day of Migrants and Refugees Sept. 28, 2025. (Image Courtesy of Global Sisters Report/Rhina Guidos)

Cardinal Robert McElroy wasted no time pointing out that this year's *World Day for Migrants and Refugees* is not like the others — at least not in the U.S.

"For this year we are confronting — both as a nation and as a church — an unprecedented assault upon millions of immigrant men and women and families in our midst," McElroy said during a Sept. 28 homily at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, as the archdiocese in the nation's capital observed the church event that celebrates, on Oct. 4-5 this year, the resilience of displaced people around the world. [Read more.](#)

New Climate Action Plans Still Mean Too Much Warming



Scores of world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to limiting human-caused global warming at Wednesday's Climate Week summit during the United Nations General Assembly. [Read more.](#)



Catholic Clergy Launch Initiative Against Genocide in Gaza

A growing number of Catholic priests and bishops, most of them in Italy, have signed a petition denouncing what they describe as Israel's ongoing "genocide" in Gaza, charging the government with war crimes and ethnic cleansing. The initiative, launched under the banner "Christ Died in Gaza," was presented during a virtual press conference on September 15 by a coalition calling itself «Priests Against Genocide». Its spokesmen framed the campaign not in political terms but as a pastoral response to human suffering. [Read more.](#)



How Uruguay Ditched Fossil Fuels for Renewable Energy

Ramón Méndez Galain helped Uruguay decarbonize its grid in just five years, with 98 percent of its energy coming from renewable sources.

"We proved that yes, it is possible to manage a power system with almost 100 percent renewables," said Galain, 64, who was Uruguay's energy secretary from 2008 to 2015 and now runs a nonprofit organization focused on helping governments achieve a similar transition away from fossil fuels.

[Read more.](#)

MORE TOPICS TO EXPLORE

[*Archbishop Wester "Get rid of Nuclear Weapons"*](#)

[*Warm Ocean "Blob" is Back*](#)

[*Cardinal Dolan, Can an Unrepentant Racist Really be a Saint?*](#)

[*'Never Again' - A Promise the World Keeps Breaking*](#)

[*Trump's Actions are Making Groceries More Expensive*](#)

[*US Taxpayers to Pay Billions to Fossil Fuel Subsidies Thanks to Big Beautiful Bill*](#)

[*Indigenous 'Man of the Hole' Wasn't Last of Member of His Group*](#)

[*California's First Solar-Covered Canal is Now Fully Online*](#)

TAKE ACTION

World Food Day (Oct. 16, 2025)

Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future

[World Food Day 2025](#) is calling for global collaboration in creating a peaceful, sustainable, prosperous, and food-secure future. By working together, across governments, organizations, sectors, and communities, we can transform agri-food systems to ensure that everyone has access to a healthy diet, living in harmony with the planet.

- Get creative and join us in raising awareness about World Food Day and #FAO80 by organizing events, including marches and marathons,
 - Explore the hundreds of events taking place around the world in the lead up to #FAO80! Find an event [here](#).
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Global Goals for Sustainable Development

Goal 2: Zero Hunger



WHAT IS GOAL 2 - ZERO HUNGER

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY HUNGRY PEOPLE?

Shockingly, the world is back at hunger levels not seen since 2005, and food prices remain higher in more countries than in the period 2015–2019. Along with conflict, climate shocks, and rising cost of living, civil insecurity and declining food production have all contributed to food scarcity and high food prices.

Investment in the agriculture sector is critical for reducing hunger and poverty, improving food security, creating employment and building resilience to disasters and shocks.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

We all want our families to have enough food to eat what is safe and nutritious. A world with zero hunger can positively impact our economies, health, education, equality and social development.

It's a key piece of building a better future for everyone. Additionally, with hunger limiting human development, we will not be able to achieve the other sustainable development goals such as education, health and gender equality.

HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER?

Food security requires a multi-dimensional approach – from social protection to safeguard safe and nutritious food especially for children to transforming food systems to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable world. There will need to be investments in rural and urban areas and in social protection so poor people have access to food and can improve their livelihoods.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

You can make changes in your own life—at home, at work and in the community—by supporting local farmers or markets and making sustainable food choices, supporting good nutrition for all, and fighting food waste.

You can also use your power as a consumer and voter, demanding businesses and governments make the choices and changes that will make Zero Hunger a reality. Join the conversation, whether on social media platforms or in your local communities.

To find out more about Goal #2 and other Sustainable Development Goals, visit www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment



Goal 2 is about creating a world free of hunger by 2030. The global issue of hunger and food insecurity has shown an alarming increase since 2015, a trend exacerbated by a combination of factors including the pandemic, conflict, climate change, and deepening inequalities.

By 2023, nearly 1 in 11 people worldwide faced hunger while more than 2 billion experienced moderate to severe food insecurity. Global hunger levels, measured by the prevalence of undernourishment, remained at the same

level for three consecutive years after a sharp rise during the pandemic. This data underscores the severity of the situation, revealing a growing crisis.

In addition, an estimated 2.33 billion people faced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2023. This classification signifies their lack of access to sufficient nourishment. This number escalated by an alarming 383 million people compared to 2019.

The persistent surge in hunger and food insecurity, fueled by a complex interplay of factors, demands immediate attention and coordinated global efforts to alleviate this critical humanitarian challenge. [Read more.](#)

U.N. International Days

2025

October 2

International Day of Non-Violence

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence. The principle of non-violence — also known as non-violent resistance — rejects the use of physical violence in order to achieve social or political change. Often described as "the politics of ordinary people", this form of social struggle has been adopted by mass populations all over the world in campaigns for social justice. [Learn more.](#)

October 5

World Teachers' Day

World Teachers' Day is held annually on October 5 to celebrate all teachers around the globe. It commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the [1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers](#), which sets benchmarks regarding the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, and teaching and learning conditions. The [Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel](#) was adopted in 1997 to complement the 1966 Recommendation by covering teaching personnel in higher education. World Teachers' Day has been celebrated since 1994. [Learn more.](#)

October 9

World Post Day

World Post Day is celebrated each year on October 9, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Since then, countries across the world participate annually in the celebrations. The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services. [Learn more.](#)

October 10

World Mental Health Day

The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide. [Learn more.](#)

October 11

International Day of the Girl Child

Shaped through consultations with girls organizations, UN partners and, most

importantly, girls themselves, the 2025 International Day of the Girl theme is 'The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the front lines of crisis'. All around the world, girls are stepping up to meet today's biggest challenges. They are organizing in their communities, fighting for climate justice, demanding an end to violence and re-imagining their futures. Girls are asking to be seen not only for the challenges they face, but for who they are and the solutions they bring. Yet, too often, their voices go unheard, their actions ignored, their needs and rights pushed aside. [Learn more.](#)

October 15

International Day of Rural Women

Achieving gender equality and empowering women is not only the right thing to do but is a critical ingredient in the fight against extreme poverty, hunger and climate change. Women are responsible for *half of the world's food production* while working as environmental and biodiversity stewards. As *farmers*, women have learned how to cope with and adapt to climate change, for example, by practicing sustainable agriculture in harmony with nature, switching to drought-resistant seeds, employing low-impact or organic soil management techniques, or leading community-based reforestation and restoration efforts. [Learn more.](#)

October 16

World Food Day

World Food Day 2025 is calling for global collaboration in creating a peaceful, sustainable, prosperous, and food-secure future. By working together, across governments, organizations, sectors, and communities, we can transform agrifood systems to ensure that everyone has access to a healthy diet, living in harmony with the planet. [Learn more.](#)

October 17

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment by Ensuring Respect and Effective Support for Families: The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October) underscores that ending poverty is about dignity, justice, and belonging, not just income. This year's theme focuses on ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families, with a clear goal: put the furthest behind first and build institutions that help families stay together, thrive, and shape their own futures. [Learn more.](#)

October 24

United Nations Day

United Nations Day, on October 24, marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. No other global organization gives hope to so many people for a better world and can deliver the future we want. Today, the urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfill the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater. UN Day, celebrated every year, offers the opportunity to amplify our *common agenda* and reaffirm the purposes and principles of the UN Charter that have guided us for the past 79 years. [Learn more.](#)

October 31

World Cities Day

World Cities Day brings Urban October to an end on October 31 each year and was first celebrated in 2014. As with World Habitat Day, a global observance is held in a different city each year and the day focuses on a specific theme. It aims to raise international awareness of urbanization trends, challenges, and visions for sustainable urban development, promote international cooperation, and contribute to global efforts to build equitable, prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive cities that provide their communities with better living environments and quality of life. [Learn more.](#)

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