

International Outreach - Priests for Life (PFL) - 2017

Whether through our global media outreach, our international travels for pro-life events, our people on the ground in some 70 countries through our ministries such as Rachel's Vineyard and Silent No More, our work with legislators through the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues, or our participation in international pro-life events and at the United Nations, Priests for Life is an international ministry and is having a global impact.

In 2017, Priests for Life continued its international outreach ministry at the *United Nations* as a Non-Governmental Organization(NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council by participating in key annual conferences in New York including the *55th Session of the Commission on Social Development* (February), the *61st Session of the Commission of the Status of Women* (March), and the *50th Session of the Commission on Population and Development* (April).

In conjunction with the *Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues*, PFL contributed written statements that were published by each of the three aforementioned conferences and another for the UN's Human Rights Committee - a draft General Comment No.36 Article 6 of the ICCPR – Right to Life.

PFL took part in the *16th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues* (April), the *10th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (June), the *High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Partnership Exchange* (July), and the *Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations Intergenerational Dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals*.

PFL took part in various *Holy See Mission at the United Nations in New York* sponsored events throughout the year, including the annual *Path to Peace Foundation* award ceremony (May) honoring outstanding service to the international community, the *Annual Prayer Service* marking the occasion of the opening of the *72nd Session of the UN General Assembly* (September), and the UN conference on the *Protection of Religious Minorities* (September). PFL also participated in the Vatican Secretary of State's sponsored *Catholic Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations Forum* in Rome (December).

PFL attended various US government sponsored events including the Secretary of State's *2017 International Women of Courage Awards Ceremony* honoring women from around the world (March), the Department of Health and Human Services *70th World Health Assembly informal Stakeholder Listening Session* (May), and submitted a joint statement regarding the Secretary of State's *Civil Society Recommendations for the 6-month Review of the Mexico City Policy* (October).

PFL provided aid and support to groups from around the world and helped coordinate the outreach of our various ministries around the world. PFL conducted international legal research and consultation (civil and canonical), writing, and publication on Pro Life themes.

Through Rachel's Vineyard, founder Dr. Theresa Burke conducted international training conferences in London, UK; Tasmania, Australia; and Sydney, Australia.

Our Associate Director, Fr. Denis G. Wilde, OSA, served as spiritual director for a tour that visited Portugal, Spain and France, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima.

Our coordinator of International Activities, Bob Lalonde, and our Director of African-American Outreach, Alveda King, also took part in the meeting of Catholic-inspired NGOs in Rome at the end of the year.

For additional details about our international activity, see also the [2017 annual report](#) from Marie Smith, Director of the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues.