

2019 International Outreach - Priests for Life (PFL)

Through global television programming, social media, travel and our ministries, such as [Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues](#), [Silent No More Awareness Campaign](#), [Civil Rights for the Unborn](#), [Youth Outreach](#), [Rachel's Vineyard](#) and our collaborators in over 95 countries, PFL continued to make a significant global impact throughout 2019.

United Nations

Priests for Life is in its 16th year as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We participate in meetings at the United Nations and collaborate with the Holy See and numerous pro-family NGOs to foster international policies protecting the dignity of human life at all stages.

In its NGO role, Priests for Life participated in critical conferences in New York including the [57th Session of the Commission on Social Development](#) (February), the [63rd Session of the Commission of the Status of Women](#) (March), and the [52nd Session of the Commission on Population and Development](#) (April). In conjunction with the [Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues](#), PFL contributed written statements available at [Our Work at the United Nations](#) and published in several languages by each of the three aforementioned UN conferences.

Other critical UN meetings included the [High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage for the Multi-stakeholder Hearing](#) (April), the [Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations](#) (May), the [12th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (June), [The High-level Political Forum](#), central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (June), the [High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#) (September), [The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (September). PFL also delivered a [formal submission regarding the United States](#) to The Human Rights Council (HRC) for its 2020 [Universal Periodic Review](#) (October).

[The Holy See - Permanent Observer Mission](#)

In its activities at the United Nations, the Holy See Mission works to advance freedom of religion and respect for the sanctity of all human life - from conception to natural death - and thus all aspects of authentic human development including, for example, marriage and family, the primary role of parents, adequate employment, solidarity with the poor and suffering, ending violence against women and children, poverty eradication, food, basic healthcare and education.

PFL took part in various [Holy See Mission sponsored events](#), including [“No Room in Rural Villages, Cities or Homes for the Disabled? Are Boys and Girls with Down](#)

[Syndrome Being Left Behind?](#)” (March), [“International Religious Freedom: A New Era for Advocacy in Response to a New Age of Challenges and Threats.”](#) (March), [“Valuing Unpaid Work and Caregiving.”](#) (March), the annual [Path to Peace Foundation award ceremony](#) honoring Aid to the Church in Need for its outstanding service to the international community (May), [“Good Parenting Builds Society: The Importance of Motherhood and Fatherhood](#) (June), the [Annual Prayer Service](#) on the occasion of the opening of the *74nd Session of the UN General Assembly* (September).

Catholic Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations

Priests for Life also helped organize and participated in the international work of [The Forum for Catholic-inspired NGOs](#), including its IV Forum Assembly at The Vatican (December).

Organization of American States

The [Organization of American States](#) (OAS) brings together all 35 [independent states](#) of the Americas and constitutes the main political, juridical, and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere. In addition, it has granted [permanent observer](#) status to 69 states, as well as to the [European Union](#) (EU).

Priests for Life completed its formal application to join Civil Society at the OAS in this 49th Regular Session of the General Assembly (November).

United States of America

Priests for Life was part of the Secretary of State’s [2019 International Women of Courage Awards](#) event (March).

Likewise, Priests for Life was present for the White House *Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s First Pilgrimage to Poland* and a screening of the film *The Divine Plan* followed by a policy panel discussion (June).

International

Priests for Life provided international aid and support for mission trips, conducted legal research (civil and canonical), wrote, and published on Pro Life themes.

In particular, our team was invited to visit Jamaica in May to help stop the advance of abortion there. We conducted various public events and private meetings, and distributed much educational and pastoral material. These efforts combined with the work of many others succeeded in stopping the advance of abortion in that country.