

Priests for Life -- International Report for 2021

The battle to protect the unborn in a worldwide battle, and therefore the work of Priests for Life is worldwide as well. That work is carried out through our international broadcasts, our travels, direct assistance to legislators in other countries, and our participation, as described below, in the work of various key international agencies where the abortion battle comes to the fore.

Part two of this summary is found in the annual report of [the Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues](#), through which our international work done by Marie Smith is carried out.

2021 Intergovernmental Work

Priest for Life (PFL) continued throughout 2021 to enhance its international presence through increased participation in various fora provided by the United Nations and the Organization for American States. We expanded our outreach to a growing number of international prolife coalitions and collaborators in over 97 countries and helped make an impact in ending abortion around the world.

Our Work at Intergovernmental Organizations

The United Nations

PFL is in its 18th year defending unborn children and mothers as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with the [Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC) of the [United Nations](#) (UN). We participated 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. PFL participated virtually in critical conferences in New York including:

- [59th Session of the Commission on Social Development](#) (February 08-17)
- [65th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women](#) (March 15-26)
- [54th Session of the Commission on Population and Development](#) (April 19-23)

In conjunction with the [Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues](#), PFL submitted written statements in defense of women and the unborn for the UN Status of Women and Population and Development conferences. Both statements are available at [Our Work at the United Nations](#) and were published by the UN.

Other important UN meetings we participated in included:

- [Generation Equality Forum from Mexico City](#) (March 29-31)
- [Stakeholder engagement and partnerships during and beyond COVID-19](#) (May 3)
- [Generation Equality from Paris](#) (June 30- July 2)
- [ECOSOC High-level Segment](#) (July 13-16)
- [Geneva Consensus Declaration](#) one-year anniversary commemoration sponsored by The Institute for Women's Health. (October 28) Valerie Huber, President of the IWH was interviewed on the occasion by Janet Morana on [Just Ask Janet](#).

The 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 72 [permanent observers](#) including the Holy See Mission. PFL was [accredited to the OAS](#) Civil Society in March 2020 and have been formally involved since that time. In 2021 we participated in related social issue events, including:

- We joined 27 other international human rights organizations in an important [friend-of-the-court brief](#) against infanticide in a case before the OAS' Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR). (March)
- Eleventh Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas ([REMJA-XI](#)). (May 18-19)
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights event “Combating Discrimination and Violence Against Women and Girls In Latin America and The Caribbean” (August 5-6)
- Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), as part of the preparations for the fifty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly. (September 28)
- [OAS 51st Regular Session of the General Assembly](#) hosted virtually by Guatemala. In particular, we participated in the Dialogue between the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and the Representatives of Civil Society Organizations. During the event, representatives from 30 coalitions of civil society organizations spoke on various themes including adolescence and youth, women, sexual orientation and gender identity, religious freedom, among others. (November 10-12)

The Holy See - Permanent Observer Mission to the UN and the Vatican

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 and Vatican sponsored events*, including

- [Annual Prayer Service](#) for the opening of 76th Session of UN General Assembly (September)
- Path to Peace Foundation [Gala](#). (November 16)
- **Catholic Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations**
PFL also took part in the international work of the Vatican sponsored [Forum for Catholic-inspired NGOs](#), including its various human rights thematic group meetings (January & October). We provide significant assistance in Rome to this Catholic effort.
- **The Pontifical Academy for Life** conference on [“Public health in global perspective. Pandemic, bioethics, future”](#). (September 27-28)

United States of America

PFL took part in several Health and Human Services (HHS) listening sessions, including:

- The HHS was charged with leading the U.S. delegation to the 74th World Health Assembly and held an informal Stakeholder Listening Session. (May 13)
- HHS, with interagency partners held an informal Stakeholder Listening Session to receive suggestions in response to [WHA 74.7](#). (August 18)