

Priests for Life: 2023 Intergovernmental Report

Priest for Life (PFL) enhanced its international presence throughout the year through increased participation in various fora provided by the United Nations, the Organization for American States, Catholic Inspired NGOs and others. We expanded our outreach to a growing number of international prolife coalitions and collaborators in over 98 countries and helped make an impact in ending abortion around the world.

Our Work at Intergovernmental Organizations

- [Our Work at the UN](#) Pro-Life Primetime News interview (09:29min – 16:32 min) (February 24)
- Priests for Life celebrates [20 Years defending life at the United Nations](#).

The United Nations

PFL is in its 20th 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 prepared and submitted our *Quadrennial Report* to ECOSOC and it is currently under review by the NGO Committee. 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 and in person in critical conferences in New York including:

- [61st Session of the Commission on Social Development](#) (CSocD61) 02-06/15
([Posting & pictures](#)) [Frank Pavone Reports](#)
- [67th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women](#) (CSW67) 03-06/17
([Posting](#))
- [56th Session of the Commission on Population and Development](#) (CPD56) 04-10/14
([Posting & pictures](#))

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

Other important UN related meetings we participated in included:

- [High-Level Political Forum SDG Summit](#) in New York marked the beginning of a new phase of accelerated progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals with high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to 2030. (September 18-19)
- [Geneva Consensus Declaration](#) three-year anniversary commemoration sponsored by The Institute for Women's Health. (October 24)
- UN's 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an event sponsored by the [Political Network for Values](#) called *Affirming Universal Human Rights – Uniting Cultures for Life, Family and Fundamental Freedoms*. The event was intended to “rescue the original meaning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)” and was supported by more than 200 political and civic leaders from 40 countries participating in the V Transatlantic Summit. (November 17)
([Posting & pictures](#))

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 2023 we participated in related human rights issue events, including:

- [53rd Regular Session of the General Assembly](#) PFL took part virtually in the OAS 53rd General Assembly held in Washington, D.C. PFL is a member of OAS Civil Society and was invited to attend the high-level assembly. While progressive countries like the USA, Canada, and Chile among others, attempted to get passed resolutions favoring abortion for migrant children and a litany of other woke rights, their efforts were ultimately thwarted by strong conservative countries such as Guatemala and other like-minded Civil Society members. (June 21-23)
- Special meetings of the [Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs](#) discussing "Gender parity and balanced geographic and legal-system representation on the

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights". (March 15)

- [“Dialogue in Support of Freedom of Conscience, Religion or Belief and Pluralism in the Americas”](#) Freedom of religion or belief is multi-dimensional and intersects with other fundamental freedoms, including the freedom to change one’s religion or beliefs or hold no religion at all. OAS member states agreed at the 52nd OAS General Assembly to organize and participate in global, regional, and subregional conferences and events that commemorate or promote respect for the right to freedom of conscience and religion or belief and to share any conclusions and best practices discussed during these events. (September 29)
- [“Human Rights Day”](#) under the theme: “Upholding Human Rights for Future Generations: 75 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man” (December 5) [\(Posting & pictures\)](#)

The Holy See - Permanent Observer Mission to the UN

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

- **Path to Peace Foundation [Gala](#)** celebrated its 30th annual Gala in Manhattan and awarded its Path to Peace Award to Mr. Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (May 17)
- **Catholic Inspired Non-Governmental Organizations ([CINGO](#))**. PFL also took part in the establishment of a new chapter of CINGO at the United Nations and a subsequent meeting. (May 31 & October 13)
- **Annual Prayer Service; [Opening of the 78th Session of the General Assembly](#)**; Annual High-Level General Debate. (September 5)

United States of America

[Virginia Rally and March for Life](#) was held February 1 in Capitol Square, Richmond. By far the biggest pro-life advocacy event in the state's history. Focus was on making a statement in support of life that would be heard loud and clear by state legislators. Message of love for unborn children and their mothers was heard by every member of the legislature as they came to Richmond that day during the legislative session.

[\(Posting & pictures\)](#)

Health & Human Services Office of Global Affairs: [Stakeholder Listening Session on Amendments to the International Health Regulations](#). (June 20th)