



14 May 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in St. Francis,

I would first like to introduce myself to you, as the Franciscan Liaison Officer of Franciscans International. My name is Jim Donegan, a brother of the Capuchin Province of New York-New England. During the last six years, I have served on the board of FI, and have now become a part of the staff at FI's New York office at the beginning of March of this year.

Franciscans International, founded thirty-five years ago, is a non-governmental organization whose mandate is to represent the Franciscan Family at the United Nations. Its mission is to bring the experiences of our Franciscan brothers and sisters from many parts of the world to the diplomatic discourses at the United Nations, focusing on the areas of human rights and the care of our common home.

As a part of this work, Franciscans International hosted a group of Franciscan women earlier this year for the UN's annual Commission on the Status of Women, during the two weeks of March 11-22. A diverse group of Franciscans, including five sisters from three different congregations, a Secular Franciscan and an Anglican Third Order Franciscan came to participate, giving them the opportunity to hear from and engage with those working on such issues as the right to an education, the efforts to end the practices of female genital mutilation, and the right for women to own land in countries where this is restricted. As many of our Franciscan provinces and congregations have a rich history of working with and accompanying the poor and the marginalized, this moment served as an excellent opportunity to see how we as Franciscans also do this work together at the United Nations.

There is still much more work to be done by Franciscans International toward the restoration of human dignity and the integrity of our common home, and as brothers and sisters in the Franciscan journey we all can be a part of it! Kindly take a moment to visit our website at <http://www.franciscansinternational.org>, at the bottom of which you can subscribe to our newsletter. Additionally, you can write to me at [j.donegan@franciscansinternational.org](mailto:j.donegan@franciscansinternational.org) for further information.

Pax et bonum!

Br. James Donegan, OFM Cap.  
Franciscan Liaison Officer