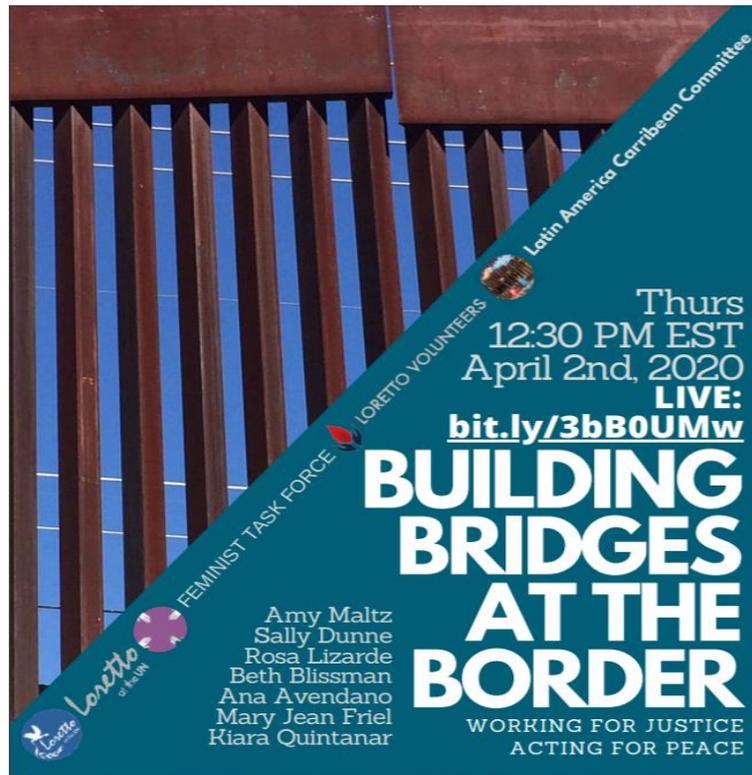


Building Bridges at the Border: Working for Justice, Acting for Peace



(To watch, click the video link: <https://youtu.be/K9vcRpSta7o>)

Introduction:

The Building Bridges at the Border: Working for Justice, Acting for Peace event was to take place at the annual Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Forum (March 9-20, 2020) of the 64th Commission on the Status of Women which had as its theme the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its outcome documents, the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). The 25th Anniversary of Beijing is being marked by UN Women with a campaign called, Generation Equality: Realizing women's right for an equal future, bringing together the next generations of women's rights activists and gender advocates, and those who helped develop the BPfA twenty-five years ago in a series of meetings throughout 2020 beginning with the CSW. Mexico and France are acting as co-sponsors of Generation Equality events.

Due to the threat of the coronavirus and COVID19, the CSW in its usual form never took place. Because of the cancellation of the CSW, most parallel events, such as this one, were held on online platforms. Our event aired on April 2, 2020. What follows is an edited version of the Building Bridges: Working for Justice, Acting for Peace recording.

Background:

The situation at the Mexico/USA border has reached critical proportions in the past several years, particularly for women and children getting detained in detention camps, waiting for asylum and held in

limbo at the border or in camps. Women, men and families are fleeing due to violence, impoverishment, environmental devastation, ecological destruction, economic instability or political upheaval in their home countries and headed to the United States (U.S.) seeking asylum, economic opportunities or refuge in a new way of life. The political situation in the U.S., Mexico, Central American and other countries is constantly shifting causing the border dynamics and political landscape at the border to continually change. This presentation will provide information and updates specific to the current situation.

The Latin America Caribbean Committee of the Loretto Community organizes Border Trip Experiences where citizens of the U.S. are guided by LACC members to volunteer, participate and act as witnesses at service and humanitarian organizations at the Nogales, Mexico / Nogales AZ, area. There also have many Border Trip Experiences by community members to the El Paso, TX, / Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, area to support migrants and refugees.

Both the Feminist Task Force and the Loretto Community have long been focused on empowering women and girls, as well as transforming patriarchy, in pursuit of a more just and peaceful societies. In this parallel event, we have brought together local and global efforts to showcase the needs and work done for migrants and refugees from Mexico and Central America to the U.S. Through hands-on border trips for over a decade, the Loretto Community has brought solidarity, support and service.

The panel begins by informing on the global links to the Beijing Commemoration and the BPfA and international human rights instruments. Bringing it to the local, the panel will then provide first-hand knowledge and analysis from the border, including what a border trip experience entails, how support is provided and how donations can be funneled to humanitarian organizations supporting migrants on the ground.

Expected actions from this event include:

- Disseminating information and raising awareness on the different elements and support at the U.S./Mexico border;
- Information about the Border Trips Experience and partner organizations;
- Sharing resources about those doing border education;
- Increasing support for migrant service organizations;
- Lobbying / direct action with U.S. government, local officials and global efforts on migration.

Speakers:

Rosa Lizarde – Global Director, Feminist Task Force; Latin America Caribbean Committee, Member

- Introduction and moderator
- Introduction and overview; connection with the CSW64, the Beijing+25 Commemoration and background to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA); women's rights connection to the international human rights framework;

Sally Dunne, Latin America Caribbean Committee, Member

- Background and history of Loretto at the border and in Nogales and El Paso;
- Information on partner organizations at the border.

Mary Jean Friel – Latin America Caribbean Committee, Member

- Update of the U.S. - Mexico border at Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora;
- LACC initiatives on detention center visits and bonding out detainees.

Ana Avendano – Loretto volunteer at Las Americas Community Advocacy Center in El Paso, TX.

- Detention centers update and personal narrative as a youth activist at border

Kiara Quintanar – Loretto Volunteer at Annunciation House in El Paso, TX.

- Border update on El Paso, detainee situation and personal narrative as a youth activist at border

Amy Maltz – Volunteer, Loretto at the UN

- Moderator - Q & A discussion

Beth Blissman – UN Representative, Loretto at the UN

- Call to Action; policy recommendations and actions at local, state, national and global

Speaker Bios:

Rosa Lizarde is a Mexican-American feminist advocating for economic, environmental, gender and racial justice. She is the Global Director of the Feminist Task Force (FTF), a global women's rights coalition calling for the centrality of gender equality to end poverty. Her advocacy, policy and campaigning experience has been honed at the United Nations. She is a Loretto Co-member, a Latin American Caribbean Committee member and in that role has attended numerous Border Trip Experiences.

Mary Jean Friel is a life-long immigrant and peace activist who began her work with the United Farm Workers and Cesar Chavez. She is a Loretto Co-member and the longest current member of the Latin American Caribbean Committee. She organizes and conducts LACC Border Trips Experiences to Nogales, AZ & Mexico and El Paso, TX, and has been instrumental in extending the LACC work to include detention center visits and providing bonds for release of detainees from detentions centers.

Amy Maltz (she/her) was raised in Salem, Oregon but moved to Southern California to attend college at the University of San Diego where she graduated with a BA in Ethnic Studies in 2018. Amy was a part of the first cohort of Loretto Volunteers in El Paso, TX and is currently a second year Loretto Volunteer in New York City at the UN.

Beth Blissman Ph.D., (she, her, hers) currently serves as the Loretto Community's NGO Representative to the UN. She has been a Loretto co-member for nearly 25 years and enjoyed working in higher education with an emphasis in community engagement for several decades before coming to New York. A certified permaculturist, Beth's passions include addressing both social and environmental justice challenges simultaneously through experiential education opportunities, multilateral diplomacy, and biomimicry.

Sally Dunne served as Loretto's UN Representative from 2008 through 2016. Her advocacy focused on human rights including the rights of women and girls and the rights of migrants. Since leaving the UN position, she has been an active member of Loretto's Latin America Caribbean Committee, helping to organize and lead Loretto's Border Experience Trips to the U.S./Mexico border. She is also a founding member and a current board member of Loretto Link, a non-profit organization connected to the Loretto Community.

Ana Avandano is a Mexican-American youth activist from Chicago, Illinois working as a Loretto volunteer at Las Americas Community Advocacy Center in El Paso, Texas. She studied Political Science and Economics at Loyola University in Illinois.

Kiara Quintanar is a Mexican-American youth activist from San Francisco, California working at the Kelly Center for Hunger Relief which provides services to migrants in the El Paso area. She studied Justice, Community and Leadership and Sociology at St. Mary's College of California.

Three actions to take:

1. **Donate to one of the partner organizations below**
2. **Support the [#FreeThemAll initiative](#) and bonding out detainees during COVID-19**
3. **Forward this video!**

Partner organizations:

No More Deaths/No Mas Muertes <https://nomoredeaths.org/en/>

People Helping People (in the Border Zone) <http://phparivaca.org/>

Cruzando Fronteras <https://fronteras.azdiocese.org/>

Kino Border Initiative <https://www.kinoborderinitiative.org/>

Freedom Fund (of Arizona)– Bond fund for Eloy and La Palma detention centers - lorettolacc@gmail.com

Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project <https://firrp.org/>

RAICES – Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services
<https://www.raicestexas.org/?ms=actionnetwork>

Immigrant Freedom Fund of Colorado <https://immigrantfreedomfund.org/>

Tucson Samaritans <http://www.tucsonsamaritans.org/>

Southside Presbyterian Church <http://www.southsidepresbyterian.org/>

Organizers:

Loretto Community www.lorettocommunity.org T: @LorettoNews

Latin America Caribbean Committee – [LACC Facebook](#) lorettolacc@gmail.com

Feminist Task Force – www.feministtaskforce.org T: @FemTaskForce info@feministtaskforce.org

Loretto at the United Nations - www.lorettoattheun.org I: @loretto_un FB: @LorettoUN

T: @lorettoattheUN

Loretto Volunteers: www.lorettovolunteers.org @lorettovols (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook)

Referenced resources:

- 64th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
 - Political Declaration: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/outcomes>
 - General Information: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020>
 - 25th Anniversary of the 4th Women Conference on Women, Beijing, China 1995
- Beijing Declaration, Beijing Platform for Action, 4th Women Conference on Women, Beijing
 - “The most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women’s rights, gender equality, and women’s empowerment”
 - https://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/pdfs/Beijing_Declaration_and_Platform_for_Action.pdf
 - UN Women +5 Review of Progress: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/01/beijing-declaration>
 - Notes: “*Highlighted migrant women in their 12 Critical Areas for Concern*”

- 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
 - Also known as the 1951 Refugee Convention OR the Geneva Convention of 28 July, 1951
 - Overview w/ link to text: <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/1951-refugee-convention.html>
- 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees
 - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolStatusOfRefugees.aspx>
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 - Text: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>
 - Notes: *signed but not ratified*
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
 - Text: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
 - Overview w/ links to text: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>
 - Optional Protocol: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/>
 - Notes: *signed but not ratified*
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with mention of Migrant Women
 - Overview: <https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-0>
 - UN Presentation: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/events/coordination/16/documents/presentations/6b%20-%20Chen%20SDG%20indicators.pdf>
 - UN SDGs Page: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
 - 10 out of 17 goals mention migrants (1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 17)
- Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)
 - US Department of Homeland Security Briefing: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2019/01/24/migrant-protection-protocols>
 - American Immigration Council Review of the Protocol: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/policies-affecting-asylum-seekers-border>
- Generation Equality
 - UN Women Generation Equality Page: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/beijing-plus-25/about>
 - The Generation Equality campaign demands equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women and girls, health-care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and decision-making in all areas of life.
- Building Bridges at the Border: Working for Justice, Acting for Peace Concept Note link – [here](#).

