

# Pax Romana Global Advocacy Report 2005

*International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA-Pax Romana)  
International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-Pax Romana)*

**Two sister movements working together for justice and peace as an accredited Non Governmental Organization with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1949.**

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## Advocacy in the United Nations System



### 10 Year Review of the World Program of Action for Youth

2005 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Program of Action for Youth, developed by the United Nations. In 2004, the United Nations General Assembly called for two interactive sessions of the 2005 General Assembly to focus on the review and mandated the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to organize a formal consultation with the major global youth organizations.

**Coimbra, Portugal:** From 31 January to 3 February the UN organized a consultation with the 24 major youth organizations and the youth focal points of the various UN agencies. IMCS actively participated in the event and helped in the drafting of the final document which was presented to the General Assembly in October.

**UN Headquarters:** From October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly took up the agenda of reviewing the progress made on the World Program of Action for Youth. During these sessions, several NGOs were invited to actively participate in interactive hearings and as observers during the Assembly. IMCS-Pax Romana was represented at the Assembly by the ten regional coordinators and IT members, making it the largest and most diverse NGO delegation present. During the Assembly, the Holy See asked IMCS President, Kevin Ahern to serve as the official Youth Delegate of the Holy See to the General Assembly.

### Study Session on Peace and Development

**UN Headquarters:** From March 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> over 30 students from North America and Asia participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual IMCS-Pax Romana Study Session on Peace and

Development, with the theme of "Catholic Social Teaching: Women and Development." As part of the session, the students met with different UN officials, the Mission of the Holy See (Vatican) to the UN, and leaders of NGOs to discuss the different dimensions related to women and development.

### Commission on the Status of Women

**UN Headquarters:** In March, Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) joined several other organizations in presenting a written statement at the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The formal written statement addressed the "root factors related to prostitution, trafficking, and other forms of violence against women."

### Commission and Sub Commission on Human Rights 2005

**UN Geneva:** ICMICA-Pax Romana held its annual Human Rights Internship Program in conjunction with the Commission and Sub Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. The internship program was attended by 20 participants coming from 12 countries (India, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Indonesia, Spain, United Kingdom, Benin, France, Madagascar, Uruguay, and South Korea). A numbers of human rights experts from the UN, WCC and other NGOs were invited as resource persons during this program. In the deliberation of the Commission and Sub Commission on Human Rights Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) made several statements on the issues of:

- Human Rights Education and the Right to Education
- Right to Self-determination
- Women's Rights
- Discrimination based on work and descents
- Human rights situation in Indonesia
- United Nations Reform
- Millennium Development Goals

#### Web-Monitoring and Documentation (WMD)

**UN Geneva:** In 2004, ICMICA-Pax Romana created a web monitoring and documentation during the Commission on Human Rights ([www.unchr.info](http://www.unchr.info)). The website provides the necessary information regarding the official documents, speeches of the members of the commission, reports of experts, interventions of NGOs and information regarding parallel events in real time. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the human rights community including the Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights. The website has been visited more than 7000 times. It enabled people and civil society leaders from around the world to follow the debate in the Commission, even if they could not attend. The idea of this service has now been taken up by the official website of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

#### NGO Information and Coordination (NGOIC)

**UN, Geneva:** ICMICA-Pax Romana together with Amnesty International, the International Service for Human Rights, Franciscans International, Lutheran World Federation, CONGO and with the endorsement from the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights has initiated the NGOIC which will serve as a coordination mechanism for NGOs during the final Commission on Human Rights and in preparation for the first Human Rights Council. This initiative is launched to response to the need of having better coordination among the NGOs and civil society as well as the criticism from the member states of the UN on the lack of coordination among the NGOs. The idea has been widely welcomed by different missions of the UN member states in Geneva.



#### Interactive Hearings of the UN General Assembly with Civil Society

**UN, Headquarters:** From June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) was selected by the United Nations to be one of the active participants in the UN General Assembly's Informal Interactive Hearings with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector. Budi Tjahjono, ICMICA Program Coordinator and former IMCS President addressed the General Assembly on the importance of civil society participation in the General Assembly and Security Council and the importance of youth participation in the UN system. In the same occasion, Budi was interviewed by the United Nations Radio.

#### Interfaith Prayer Vigil on the Eve of the Millennium +5 Summit

**UN, Headquarters:** On the eve of the UN Summit on September 13<sup>th</sup>, IMCS organized an inter-faith prayer vigil with Fordham University to pray for a successful Summit. The vigil brought together UN staff and representatives from the Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist faith traditions.

#### Consultation of the UN General Assembly President with the Commission on Human Rights

**UN, Geneva:** In the frame of the UN Reform, in 12 October 2005 in Palais de Nations, Geneva, Pax Romana attended and made a joint statement with other NGOs in the occasion of the consultation between the president of the 62<sup>nd</sup> UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

#### UNESCO

**UNESCO, Paris:** In April, IMCS, represented by Zobel Behal and Julia Koszewska of Poland, took a leading role at the UNESCO Consultations on Higher Education. We followed up our efforts in the Working Group on Higher Education at UNESCO.



In 2005, we spearheaded the creation of a Youth Group at UNESCO. In this role, IMCS took an active role in the UNESCO Youth Form, where we co-organized the International Youth Fair. IMCS was also invited by the Holy See to propose one of the names of students to be official delegates of the Holy See at the International UNESCO Youth Forum in October where we were also present.

In October, we were actively present during the UNESCO General Conference, especially in the commissions on Education and Culture. In December, Zobel represented IMCS at the International Conference of NGOs, where he spoke on the theme "Youth participation at UNESCO." At the Conference, IMCS-Pax Romana was elected as a member of the UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee for the next two years. We were also present during the meeting of the International Youth Network on Peace Building created by the UNESCO Center of Catalonia

#### 6th Ministerial Conference (MC6) of WTO

**Hong Kong:** In December, the Asia Pacific regions of IMCS and ICMICA Pax Romana organized several events in protest to the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. 26 leaders of IMCS from around Asia and the USA participated in the events, which had a special focus to declare education a right and not a privatized good.

#### Youth Employment Network

**ILO, Geneva:** In 2005, IMCS continued our leading role in the Youth Employment Network. Budi Tjahjono former IMCS President and the program coordinator of ICMICA, has been elected as rapporteur and member of the Youth Consultative Group. In May, Budi was present in the YEN meeting in Beijing, China where he was invited to sit at the podium in the opening ceremony, which was broadcasted on Chinese national television. Prior to the Beijing meeting, Budi traveled to Indonesia, one of the lead YEN Countries, to help organize the meeting of the Asia Pacific Coordination of the ILO offices working on the issue of Youth Employment. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, IMCS took an active role at the International Labor Conference, by giving an opening speech during the parallel event attended by 11 ministers of labor coming from, among others, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden as well as in organizing the official side event on youth employment.



#### United Nations Office in Vienna

**UN, Vienna:** Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) has been taking a lead among the NGOs in the discussion of the Crime Prevention in the United Nations Office in Vienna, through the presence of Dr. Elisabeth Pomberger, which include the participation on the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a joint

statement on the 11<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and participating in the Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGO as a resource person.

#### World Bank Youth Development and Peace Network

**Washington, DC:** In June, Zobel represented IMCS at the first official meeting of the World Bank's Youth Development and Peace Network (YDP) in Washington, DC. In conjunction with the YDP meeting, IMCS also took a leading role in the World Bank Forum on Non Formal Education. As a member of the YDP Steering Committee, IMCS has been engaged with the World Bank in several consultations throughout the year.



#### Helsinki Youth Conference

**Helsinki, Finland:** In September, IMCS-Pax Romana was invited to attend the Helsinki Youth Conference and the Helsinki Conference which looked at development issues including youth participation in decision making policies, HIV/ AIDS and youth employment. Zobel represented IMCS at the Conference.



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## Advocacy in Civil Society

CONGO (Conference of NGO with Consultative Relation with United Nations)

Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) has been actively involved in CONGO as the vice president. Pax Romana is also the vice president of CONGO Committees on Human Rights and Social Development in Geneva. It is also the past president of the CONGO NGO Committee on Youth in New York. During the Sub-Commission on Human Rights, Pax Romana and CONGO actively collaborated in organizing parallel events on the issues of the United Nations Reform.



Working Group on Global Governance

Both ICMICA and IMCS have been active participants in the CIDSE Working Group on Global Governance. In September, IMCS President, Kevin Ahern represented IMCS at the first meeting of the Group at the ICO Center in New York.

ICMYO

**Mollina, Spain:** In 2005, IMCS-Pax Romana continued its leadership role as a member of the Taskforce of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO). In July, Pax Romana co-organized the Second ICMYO meeting in Spain where many international and regional youth platforms of Youth organizations were represented. Both IMCS International Team were present at the meeting, where IMCS was reaffirmed as a member of the Taskforce.

World Social Forum

**Porto Alegre:** In January, Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) actively took part in the World Social Forum. Together with members of IMCS and ICMICA from Latin America, the two movements organized several events including an even on "Education and Citizenship."

Working Group on Catholic Involvement on World Social Forum

In 2005, Pax Romana has deepened its involvement as a member of this working group which is looking at the involvement of Catholics in the World Social Forum. Both movements have already begun to plan for the upcoming WSFs in 2006 and 2007.



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## Advocacy in the Church

World Youth Day

**Cologne, Germany:** From August 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, IMCS-Pax Romana took an active leadership role in the 20<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day. In January, IMCS Secretary General, Zobel Behelal represented IMCS at the official preparation meeting.



During the event, IMCS organized a group of over 30 student leaders from our movements from around the world (Canada, USA, Kenya, Senegal, etc). Together with IMCS-Germany (AKH) we helped organize several events for university students, including 4 student centers and an event for chaplains. Together with IYCS, IMCS organized an official event on the theme "**Faith in Action for a Just World**" where many members of our movements from all over the world attended.

Gaudium et Spes Conference

**Vatican City:** In March, IMCS President participated in the "Call to Justice" Conference sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace which celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the historic Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes." As part of the conference, Kevin presented a paper on "The Role of Catholic NGOs in the Community of Nations."

Second World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Foreign Students

**Vatican City:** In December, Kevin represented IMCS at the Second World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Foreign Students sponsored by the Pontifical Council of Migration. IMCS plans on following up on this relevant issue in 2006.

## Conference of International Catholic Organizations (ICOs)

**Jerusalem:** In 2005, Kevin Ahern represented Pax Romana as a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Conference of ICOs. In this role, Pax Romana helped in the preparation of the ICO General Assembly, which took place in November in Jerusalem. In June, IMCS organized the meeting of the ICO Executive Committee in New York and a symposium for all Catholic NGOs working at UN Headquarters.



After the conference, Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) was elected as part of the Working Group in charge of reflecting on the future of the Conference.

Throughout the year, IMCS-Pax Romana was the main organizer of the 10 Youth ICOs in developing the Youth ICO Statement for World Youth Day,.

## International Catholic Centers

**Geneva and New York:** Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) continued its close collaboration with the Catholic Centers in New York and Geneva. This included the preparation of different conferences, mutual visits and strategic reflections on the future of the international organizations.

## Group of Eight

The "group of eight" is a gathering of some ICOs with some CIDSE agencies. The gathering is a strategic partnership both at the financial level and the action level. We had several meetings in Brussels and Paris. Through this group, we were able to increase our relation with CIDSE on advocacy work.

## Funeral of Pope John Paul II

**Vatican City:** Upon the death of Pope John Paul II, Pax Romana was present at the funeral of the Holy Father in a special way. As part of a tradition, members of FUCI (IMCS-Italy) have been invited to stand next to the body of popes as they lie in state in St. Peter's. This year, Kevin Ahern joined several members of FUCI in this important tradition.

## **Major Events of the Movements**

ICMICA Council and Christian Social Advocacy Workshop on "Fighting Against Poverty and Corruption in West Africa: The Role of Catholic Professionals and Intellectuals"

**Porto-Novo, Benin:** 14 members of the ICMICA Council took part in its 92<sup>nd</sup> session and the joined 40 people from 17 countries in a Workshop about Poverty and Corruption in Porto-Novo, Benin, from September 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. The workshop looked at the interrelationship between poverty and corruption and the terrible consequences of impunity. A major focus of the Council was the Strategic Reflection process of ICMICA.

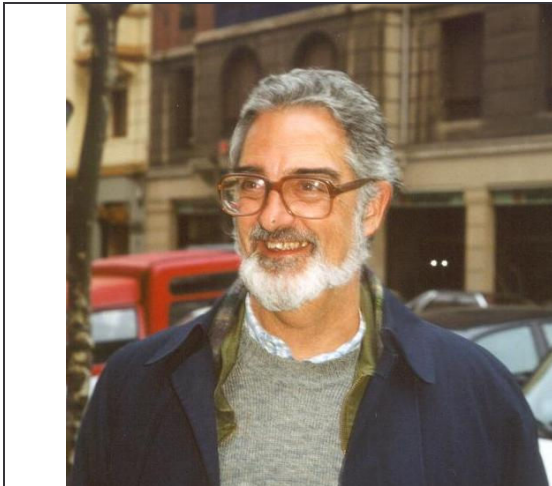
IMCS International Coordination Meeting

**UN, Headquarters:** From October 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, representatives from each of the regional coordinations of IMCS met at Fordham University and the United Nations in New York under the theme of **"Student Action Against Poverty: MDGs +5 Now What?"** This annual session brings together representatives from the regional coordinations from Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America with the IT. It was the opportunity to share what work is done by students to fight poverty and related injustices. More information can be found at [www.imcs-miec.org](http://www.imcs-miec.org).



International Congress on Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue "New Challenges in a World Longing for Peace"

**Bilbao, The Basque Country (Spain):** From December 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Pax Romana ICMICA and BKA (ICMICA- Basque) organized the Congress with the support of UNESCO Etxea, UNESCO, the World Jewish Congress, the World Council of Churches and the United Nations High-Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations. The Congress gathered over 500 people from nearly 40 countries representing 10 major religions and over 20 denominations. The keynote speaker was HE Cardinal Julius Riyadi Darmaatmadja, SJ, Archbishop of Jakarta and Member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The Congress was preceded by a six-day "Intercultural and Interreligious Internship Program for Young People." For more information, visit: [www.paxromana.org](http://www.paxromana.org).



## In Memory

**Emilio José Patricio Rodé**

President, ICMICA-Pax Romana

(1936-2005)

### **ICMICA-Pax Romana International Team**

Mr. Paul Ortega, Secretary General  
Fr. Antoine Sondag, International Chaplain

### **IMCS-Pax Romana International Team**

Mr. Kevin Ahern, President  
Mr. Zobel Behalal, Secretary General  
Fr. Mike Deeb, OP, International Chaplain

### **Global Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) Advocacy Team**

#### **New York Team**

Prof. Dr. Mark J. Wolff  
Prof. Dr. Joe Holland  
Ms. Susannah Bourbeau  
Ms. Helen Stampalia

#### **Vienna Team**

Dr. Elisabeth Pomberger

#### **ECOSOC Regional Teams**

Mr. Jean Lokenga (ECA)  
Mr. Phillippe Le Double (ECE)  
Ms. Irma Lucia Marino Vargas (ECLAC)  
Mr. Anselmo Lee (ESCAAP)

#### **Geneva Team**

Mr. Budi Tjahjono  
Ms. Irune Lecaroz  
Mr. Lordu Savio Mahimaidass  
Ms. Martha Herrera

#### **UNESCO Paris Team**

Ms. Maria Rosaria Le Pechoux  
Mr. Jean Le Pechoux  
Ms. Marguerite Dauny  
Mr. Jean de Tassigny  
Mr. Edy Claude Okalla

Pax Romana (ICMICA-IMCS) would like to thank all the individuals and partners who have made this work possible, especially the CIDSE Agencies and the Pius XII Foundation. To continue this work we need your help. For more information on how you can support and/or partner with Pax Romana in its global advocacy efforts, please contact:

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