



## **Declaration of Women Religious Leaders**

We, almost 800 women leaders of one million members  
of Catholic Religious Institutes throughout the world  
reflecting on the theme  
Women Religious: Many Cultures, One Heart:  
Sent to be a living presence of the tenderness and mercy of God  
in our wounded world  
publicly declare our determination to work in solidarity with one another  
within our own religious communities and in the countries in which we are located  
to address insistently at every level  
the abuse and sexual exploitation of women and children  
with particular attention to the trafficking of women  
which has become a lucrative multi-national business.

Drawing on our long tradition as educators we will continue  
to promote the education and formation of women  
within and outside our own organizations  
by committing personnel and financial resources  
to ensure the holistic development of women at every stage of life  
empowering them to develop an inner strength  
and appreciation of their God-given gifts to promote and enhance life.

As women committed to human rights  
we declare once more our solidarity with the poorest countries  
and restate our resolution to work for the cancellation of the International Debt.

As women opposed to the perpetuation of war and violence  
we express our commitment to the creation of a culture of peace  
and we call on heads of governments and multi-national companies  
to stop the sale and purchase of armaments.

As women concerned about the preservation of Mother Earth  
we will take action when and wherever possible  
to end the destructive behaviour that causes global warming and climate change  
and threatens all forms of life on our planet.

We pledge ourselves to implement these resolutions  
through a system of networking  
among ourselves and with other existing organizations with similar concerns  
within Churches and in society.

Attentive to the cries that arise with one voice from many cultures  
we will respond as women disciples of Jesus Christ  
seeing the world with the eyes of the heart  
and with the compassion of a loving God.

members of the UISG (International Union of Superiors General)  
participating at the UISG Plenary held in Rome May 6-10, and ratified by the Assembly of Delegates on May 13,2001