

## **Important Announcement**

Application forms for the *Workshop on Stopping the Demand for Trafficking in Women and Children* to be held in New York on 28-30 May are now available on UNANIMA website: [www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org). Please encourage English-speaking youth between the ages of 18 and 25 to consider applying. We are looking for 15 young men and 15 young women interested in working towards ending trafficking by stopping demand to participate in this event. All expenses will be covered.

## **Protect the Children of Haiti**

The UNANIMA website features updates about the situation of our members in Haiti and on 28 January, 2010, the Executive Director of UNICEF, Hilde Johnson, the Haitian Ambassador to the UN, Leo Mérorès, briefed us on the situation of Haiti's children.

Before the earthquake there were 40,000 orphans (missing both parents) in Haiti. Since the earthquake, UNICEF and the government estimate there are 380,000 children who are orphans.

In his own extended family, a cousin and his wife had been away at the time of the earthquake. When they returned their house was in rubble and their two children missing. As the rubble was eventually cleared they found only one body so they began to search for their three year old daughter.

Finally they heard of a lady who was taking care of a little girl who might be their daughter and they went to see the lady.

She told them, "After the earthquake this little girl was standing alone on an empty soccer field as if she were waiting for someone to come and pick her up. I brought her home to take care of her. Several days ago a man and a woman came in a red car. The woman told me this was her daughter and she wanted to take her home.

Fortunately the lady asked the girl, "Do your parents have a red car?" The girl was very clear. "No." she said, "My family only has a white car. We don't have a red car." So the lady kept the little girl with her.

The Ambassador finished by telling us that there were many traffickers preying on the orphans and that he had heard of whole planeloads of children being taken to Europe. Many of them were children with legitimate adoption papers but many had no papers at all.

Donating to those already on the ground can help provide resources for the protection of Haiti's children. We suggest donations through our religious congregations on the ground (see [www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org)), through Catholic Relief Services or through Maryknoll.

## **Upcoming Commission Meetings**

The 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Social Development begins for NGOs on 2 February 2010, with a civil society forum where NGOs will be briefed on the commission's theme of social integration and finalize a civil society declaration to be delivered the first day of the commission. Louise Cleary worked with the collation of an NGO survey on good practices of social integration. The executive summary of this survey has been printed and will be distributed to the governments at the commission.

Coalition Coordinator, Catherine Ferguson, will be one of the persons assisting with NGO orientation on the first day of the commission and will be speaking on a panel on 10 February to discuss how NGO grassroots projects have been affected by the global economic crisis.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place from 1 – 12 March 2010. Because the UNANIMA International board meeting occurs from 4-6 March many of the board members will also participate in part of the commission meetings. UNANIMA International is the lead sponsor of a panel discussion entitled "If there is no demand there would be no supply." Catherine will be one of the speakers and will discuss UNANIMA's "Stop the Demand" campaign.

## **UNANIMA Website**

Look for our new website, which will go live later in February.