



INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION
ASSOCIATION

JUSTICE CONTACT MANUAL

A GUIDE FOR THOSE LIGHTING THE WAY TOWARD PEACE,
JUSTICE, AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION.



“WELCOME TO THE IPA!”

Dear Justice Contact,

Welcome to this circle of changemakers! You are now part of a global movement of Presentation Sisters & People who believe that justice, dignity, and compassion are not optional - they are essential.

As a Justice Contact, you are one of the beating hearts of the International Presentation Association (IPA). You help bridge the wisdom of our local communities with the global advocacy we carry forward at the United Nations and beyond. This manual is here to walk with you, to offer clarity, support, and a reminder that you are never alone in this work.

We are so grateful for your courage, your voice, and your heart for justice.

Together, we are IPA. Together, we are light in the darkness.





WHO WE ARE:

The **International Presentation Association (IPA)** is a faith-based, non-governmental organization that brings together **Presentation Sisters and Presentation People**—Sisters, Associates, Partners in Mission, and lay collaborators—from around the world in a shared commitment to **justice, peace,** and the **dignity of all creation.**

Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by the life and legacy of **Venerable Nano Nagle**, the founder of the Presentation Sisters, IPA works to address the **causes of systemic injustice** and to **advocate for those made poor and vulnerable.**

We focus particularly on issues related to **Women and Children, Care for the Earth, and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples**, with a special UN advocacy focus on the **Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children.**





WHO WE ARE:

The International Presentation Association (IPA) is a global association of Presentation People and Presentation Sisters who work together to promote justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by the life and legacy of Venerable Nano Nagle, IPA connects local action to global advocacy. Nano's courageous work in 18th century Ireland – educating the poor, challenging systemic injustice, and walking with the most vulnerable – remains at the heart of all we do. Her spirit continues to guide our collective mission.

Our Origins and History

The IPA was officially established in **1988**, when **Presentation Sisters** from around the world gathered in response to a growing desire to unite their efforts in **global advocacy and collaboration**. The founding Assembly recognised the **power of collective voice and action**, particularly in the context of the emerging global social justice agenda.

The first IPA Assembly took place in Perth, Western Australia, and brought together representatives from various congregations of Presentation Sisters. This gathering set the tone for what would become a **vibrant international movement** grounded in the **Presentation charism** and **Nano Nagle's commitment to justice**.

IPA received Consultative Status with the **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations** in 2000, which allows us to participate in international advocacy and influence global policy in alignment with our mission.

Our First Executive Director



The first Executive Director of IPA was **Sister Ann Marie Quinn, PBVM**, who served with dedication and vision. Her leadership helped shape IPA's foundational structures and deepen its identity as both a **spiritual and justice-based global movement**. Under her guidance, the IPA expanded its international advocacy, strengthened communication between congregations, and increased its visibility at the UN.



Where We Are Based

The IPA is a truly global network. Our members are active in over 20 countries across six continents, including Australia, India, Ireland, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the United States, Canada, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, the Philippines, and more.

Our main office is located in New York City (USA), close to the United Nations, where our UN Representative works on behalf of all Presentation People to influence global dialogue and decisions that affect those made poor and the planet.

Our Secretariat Office is located in Cape Town, South Africa, where our Executive Director, Operations and Empowerment Programme staff are based.

We also have staff and team members working remotely in various regions around the world.



IPA Leadership

IPA is governed by an International Board, composed of elected representatives from across the world, and is supported by a small staff team, currently led by Executive Director Jessica Dewhurst, who began her role in October of 2024. IPA also have "Members" who are in charge of safeguarding our mission and purpose.



WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

Rooted in the Gospel and inspired by the life and legacy of Venerable Nano Nagle, IPA connects local action to global advocacy. Nano's courageous work in 18th century Ireland – educating the poor, challenging systemic injustice, and walking with the most vulnerable – remains at the heart of all we do. Her spirit continues to guide our collective mission.

Our Vision:

A world in which the oneness and sacredness of all life is honoured.

Our Mission:

To speak and act in partnership with others for global justice from a contemplative stance in a spirit of oneness with the whole of creation.

Call to Action:

The International Presentation Association believes in and respects the dignity of all. In our advocacy, we will honour and advance the rights of women and children, the Earth and indigenous and tribal people.

Our Beliefs:

- **We believe in the dignity and rights of all beings.**
- **We believe in one sacred community.**
- **We believe in education as a vehicle for transformation.**
- **We believe in the work of transformative justice, consciously living out of an understanding that everything is related and interconnected.**





Our Values:



Compassion: Being fully present with people and creation, responding with empathy, care, and practical action to the needs we encounter. We commit ourselves to service rooted in love and justice, walking alongside those who are vulnerable and marginalised.



Peace: Practicing nonviolence in our thoughts, words, and actions. We seek to be peacemakers in our communities and our world, addressing the roots of injustice and fostering reconciliation, healing, and right relationships.



Partnership: Communion and collaboration with one another. We honour the wisdom and gifts each person brings and work together in mutual respect and shared responsibility for the common good.



Diversity & Inclusivity: Embracing the richness of our cultures, identities, experiences, and diverse ways of thinking and being. We celebrate difference as a gift and actively work to dismantle exclusion, prejudice, and inequality in all their forms.



Hospitality: Receiving all with a welcoming heart and an open mind. We create spaces of belonging where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued, cultivating an environment of safety, warmth, and mutual respect.



VENERABLE NANO NAGLE

Venerable Nano Nagle, founder of the Presentation Sisters, is the enduring inspiration behind IPA's mission.

Known as The Lady with the Lantern, she courageously walked the streets of 18th-century Cork, Ireland, bringing light to those living in darkness — especially the poor, the sick, and children denied education.

In a time of political oppression and religious persecution, Nano risked everything to establish secret schools, an almshouse, and ultimately the Presentation Order, devoted to education and compassionate service.

She gave up a life of privilege to stand with the most vulnerable, guided by a deep faith and a fierce commitment to justice. Her light did not dim with her passing — it continues to burn in the lives of those inspired by her legacy.

In 2013, Pope Francis recognised her extraordinary life of faith, love, and courageous action by declaring her “Venerable” — acknowledging her heroic virtue.

Today, Nano's vision lives on through IPA's global justice work. Her spirit continues to guide us as we respond to the cry of Earth and the cry of those made poor, with courage, compassion, and hope.





PRESENTATION SISTERS.

We are comprised of Sisters from the Presentation Sisters Union, the Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America and the Presentation Society of Australia and Papua New Guinea.



PRESENTATION PEOPLE.

Presentation People refers to individuals connected to the mission and charism of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters. This includes lay associates, partners in mission, educators, advocates, and supporters who embody Nano Nagle's vision of justice, compassion, and service. United by a commitment to education, human rights, environmental sustainability, and social justice, Presentation People work to create a more just and compassionate world.





OUR FOCUS AREAS:

Our advocacy and action are grounded in the real needs of people and Earth. These three areas guide all that we do.



CARE FOR THE EARTH



WOMEN AND CHILDREN



INDIGENOUS & TRIBAL PEOPLES

Care for the Earth – Why this matters:

The Earth is sacred, yet it is under threat. Climate change, deforestation, pollution, and the exploitation of natural resources are destroying ecosystems and harming the most vulnerable—especially Indigenous peoples, women, and children.

Women and Children – Why this matters:

Across the world, women and children are disproportionately impacted by poverty, violence, and systemic injustice. Girls are denied education, women are excluded from decision-making, and gender-based violence remains a global crisis.

Indigenous and Tribal Peoples – Why this matters:

Indigenous and Tribal Peoples hold deep wisdom, land-based knowledge, and cultural heritage that are essential for the future of our planet. Yet, they often face systemic marginalisation, land dispossession, discrimination, and cultural erasure.

Focus Areas...

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME

IPA runs two major programmes, one of which is our UN Programme. This programme connects grassroots justice work with global advocacy through our presence at the United Nations. Having Consultative Status at the UN Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**) since 2000, IPA influences key policies through the voices of the poor and marginalised. Represented by our UN Representative, **Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki** and our Policy Engagement Coordinator, **Christopher Zefting**, our UN focus (2024–2026) is Eliminating Violence against Women and Children. We also have Affiliation Status with the UN Department of Global Communications.

What we do at the United Nations:

UPR Submissions:



The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a United Nations process that reviews each member state's human rights record every 4–5 years. The IPA contributes to this process by submitting written reports (UPR submissions) that share grassroots experiences and justice concerns from our global network. These submissions help ensure that local realities shape global human rights policies, and give our Justice Contacts the opportunity to tell the UN what is happening in their countries directly.

Treaty Body Submissions:



UN Treaty Bodies review how countries uphold international human rights agreements. IPA submits Treaty Body reports (also called shadow reports) to share grassroots evidence and community concerns that may not appear in government reports. These submissions ensure that the lived experiences of marginalised groups - especially those whom we focus on - are represented in global human rights processes.

NGO Subcommittees:



At the UN, NGO Subcommittees bring together civil society groups to collaborate on shared justice issues like women's rights, climate change, and Indigenous Peoples. IPA takes part in these groups to amplify grassroots voices, share knowledge, and shape global policy through joint advocacy and action.

Research:



IPA uses research to inform our advocacy at the United Nations, ensuring that grassroots realities shape global policies. Through data and insights from our network, we highlight justice concerns like violence, poverty, Indigenous rights, and climate change in our UN submissions and campaigns.



EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

Our second program, **The Empowerment Programme**, focuses on the **grassroots justice work of Presentation People around the world**. It was created to build a **strong global network**, connecting Presentation communities across borders and cultures. The programme equips IPA Justice Contacts with the skills, confidence, and support they need to be effective advocates and agents of change. Through **training, mentoring, spiritual grounding**, and opportunities for **collaboration**, the Empowerment Programme aims to nurture a vibrant, global community rooted in the **Presentation charism** and committed to **transformative action**.

What we do in this programme:

- **Bimonthly one-on-one check-ins**



Each Justice Contact is offered personalised support through regular one-on-one check-ins with our Justice Network Coordinator. These sessions provide space for tailored guidance, reflection, problem-solving, and encouragement, helping each individual grow in confidence and clarity in their role.

- **Online & in-person trainings**



We offer a range of training opportunities — both virtual and face-to-face — focused on advocacy, leadership development, and practical skills such as public speaking, campaign planning, community organising, and digital tools for justice work. These sessions are designed to build capacity while staying grounded in IPA's values and charism.

- **Monthly global meetings**



Our monthly Justice Contact meetings bring together Presentation People from across the world to connect, share updates, reflect on our work, and learn from one another. These gatherings foster solidarity, amplify regional voices, and build a sense of collective mission.

- **Educational resources & grassroots projects database**

We provide access to a growing collection of resources — including toolkits, case studies, campaign templates, and multimedia materials — to support education and action. Our database of grassroots justice projects serves as a source of inspiration and a space to highlight the incredible work happening in diverse contexts.





- **Faith gatherings**



Recognising that this work is deeply spiritual, we host regular community sessions and prayer gatherings. These spaces offer spiritual nourishment, opportunities for shared reflection, and a chance to re-center ourselves in the Presentation vision of justice, compassion, and hope.

- **Monthly Wrap-Up Forms**



Justice Contacts are invited to complete brief monthly reports that help us track local efforts, identify emerging trends, and celebrate successes. These reflections help ensure that local actions are seen and valued within the broader global story of IPA's justice work.

JUSTICE CONTACTS

A **Justice Contact** is a key point of **connection** between the International Presentation Association (IPA) and people in their local region or congregation. Justice Contacts are **leaders, listeners, communicators, and mobilisers**. They help bring IPA's global justice mission to life by linking **local realities** with **international advocacy**, and by sharing grassroots stories, actions, and insights with our wider network.

Justice Contacts can be **Presentation Sisters or laypeople**. In some contexts, they are employed by their local Presentation congregation or organisation. However, in most cases, they are **volunteers** who generously offer their time while also working in full-time roles elsewhere — whether in education, ministry, healthcare, advocacy, or other professions.

Their justice work may take different forms depending on their context — from direct service and charity work to community mobilisation and systemic advocacy. While they are not expected to carry out all justice work themselves, they play a crucial role in **coordinating local efforts, facilitating communication, and building connection** between local communities and the global IPA network.

Justice Contacts **amplify** the voices of those at the margins, contribute to shared learning across countries and cultures, and help ensure that **IPA's priorities and programmes** remain rooted in real-life experiences and needs.

Through their commitment, Justice Contacts continue **Nano Nagle's legacy** — lighting the way with courage, compassion, and hope.

Justice Contacts are the grassroots champions of IPA. You are our local eyes, ears, and heart. You bring the voice of your community into the global conversation—and carry global insight back home.

Justice Contacts are invited to:

- Stay informed about IPA's advocacy work at the United Nations and beyond
- Share local justice initiatives and stories from their region
- Participate in monthly meetings, trainings, and prayer gatherings
- Help facilitate communication between IPA and local communities
- Encourage action on IPA's focus areas: Women & Children, Care for the Earth, and Indigenous & Tribal Peoples
- Support campaigns such as the UPR process, International Days, and global calls to action
- Help shape IPA's advocacy work by contributing lived experience
- Collaborate with other Justice Contacts in your region and globally
- Serve as a connector between IPA and your congregation, ministry, or region
- Celebrate Presentation spirituality and animate the justice work of Nano Nagle in your context.

You are not expected to do everything – but you are invited to engage actively and lead thoughtfully. Here's what your role might include:



- ✉ Communicating regularly with the IPA team and responding to shared invitations
- 🗣 Raising local justice issues that need attention or global solidarity
- 📢 Sharing good news stories or initiatives from your country or ministry
- 📅 Attending occasional advocacy training or thematic workshops
- 🔗 Liaising with your congregation's leadership or JPIC team
- ✍ Contributing to IPA's communications: newsletter stories, social media, prayer services
- 🕯 Living the spirit of Nano Nagle through your justice and advocacy work



IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO KNOW:

Our Website: www.ipango.org

You'll find our newsletter, UN updates, program info, resources, and more.

IPA Social Media:

- Instagram: [@ipapresentation](https://www.instagram.com/ipapresentation)
- Facebook: [International Presentation Association](https://www.facebook.com/InternationalPresentationAssociation)
- LinkedIn: [IPA Page](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ipa-page)

Additional Resources

- IPA Advocacy Strategy
- Annual Report
- Nano Nagle Toolkit
- Presentation Prayer & Spirituality Guide
- UN Advocacy Handbook for Faith-Based Orgs (coming soon)
- Media Consent Form



Communication:

- Whatsapp Group:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KbqZLVPfEcB5oiw2WoIZFD>
- Justice Contact Calendar:
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=Y18wZjIOMzFjYTQ1ZTI1ZTY2MjAyMzRjMTMxNjIjMGEOMWYyY2RjNjI4ZmQyNmQyZDFiNTQ4ZGY5ZjViYWY4MWRIQGdyb3VwLmNhbGVuZGFyLmdvb2dsZS5jb20>

Email:

- info@ipango.org

Newsletter:

- Sign up via our website or by emailing info@ipango.org



MEET THE TEAM



JESSICA DEWHURST - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - JESSICA@IPANGO.ORG

Jessica Dewhurst is an award-winning Human Rights Defender, Social Justice Leader, and Pro-Africa Activist from South Africa. Jess founded Justice Desk Africa, a leading human rights organisation that has empowered over two million people across the African continent. With academic training from the University of Cape Town, Cambridge University, and Edmund Rice International, she has worked across the globe—particularly in Africa—to train everyday people to become Human Rights Defenders.



LANÉ FERRERIA - COMMS & ADMIN COORDINATOR - INFO@IPANGO.ORG

Lané Ferreria serves as the Administration and Communications Coordinator for the International Presentation Association (IPA). In this role, she supports IPA's global justice efforts through communication, coordination, and content creation — helping amplify the voices and mission of Presentation People worldwide. She is a spirited and committed team member, known for her reliability, loyalty, and drive to make a meaningful impact.



BANDISWA MLANGENI - JUSTICE NETWORK COORDINATOR - JCGLOBAL@IPANGO.ORG

Bandiswa Mlangeni has a background in International Relations and Environmental Management from the University of Stellenbosch. She is passionate about the spirit of Ubuntu, justice, and equality for marginalised communities. As the Justice Network Coordinator for the International Presentation Association (IPA), Bandiswa supports and unites Justice Contacts across the globe through mentorship, training, and community-building — guided by her faith and a deep commitment to compassion and justice.



DESPOINA AFRODITI MILAKI - UN REPRESENTATIVE - UNREP@IPANGO.ORG

Dr. Despoina Afroditi Milaki has served as the UN Representative for the International Presentation Association (IPA) since 2019. She holds a Ph.D. in International Politics and brings over 12 years of experience in UN-level advocacy, focusing on social justice and sustainable development. She has advised governments, chaired the 2024 Civil Society Forum, and co-chairs the Advocacy Subcommittee of the NGO Committee for Social Development. Despoina is committed to ensuring that people, dignity, and justice remain at the heart of global decision-making.



CHRISTOPHER ZEFTING - POLICY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR - PROGRAMMES@IPANGO.ORG

Christopher Zefting is the Policy Engagement Coordinator for the IPA and has been a member of the IPA Core Team since 2021. He holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Harvard University and has served UN-accredited faith-based organizations for nearly a decade. He is passionate about writing, gardening, and cooking. He lives with his wife and daughter in Walnut Creek, California.



LAUREN KING - FINANCE LEAD

Lauren King is the Finance Lead for the International Presentation Association (IPA), bringing over 23 years of accounting experience, including 20 in the non-profit sector. She has worked with local, national, and international NGOs and previously managed audits with Ernst & Young in France. Lauren holds a degree from the University of Stellenbosch and a National Higher Certificate in Accountancy. Known for her precision and dedication, she oversees IPA's financial reporting, budgeting, and audits. Outside of work, Lauren enjoys cooking, reading, long walks, and serving her community through outreach initiatives.

IN SOLIDARITY & HOPE “WE ARE ALL IPA”



INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATION
ASSOCIATION

We wish you every success, strength, and
inspiration as you begin this journey.

May your work be guided by compassion,
grounded in faith, and filled with hope.

You're not alone — we're walking this path
with you.

