



**CCIG**  
INTERNATIONAL  
CATHOLIC  
CENTER  
OF GENEVA

# REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2018

[www.ccig-iccg.org](http://www.ccig-iccg.org)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CINGO</b>	Catholic-inspired Non-governmental Organization
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review

« Open to the world,  
at the very heart  
of International  
Institutions »



## EDITORIAL

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE CCIG,

I arrived in Geneva 20 years ago to undertake my studies at the university. Coming from a small town in the German part of Switzerland, I enjoyed discovering this city, learning French and getting in touch with this part of the Swiss culture. I left Geneva a few years later and came back about 6 years ago to work in the Swiss Mission. And while I obviously knew before that Geneva plays a role in the UN system and that this international Geneva exists, I only got to know it well at this stage. I learned about the impressive number of organizations and initiatives based in Geneva and through various contacts, International Geneva ceased to be an abstract construct but became something concrete and familiar. It is something unique for Switzerland and Geneva to host many international organisations and I would hope that the exchange between the international and the local in Geneva is strengthened. It made me therefore particularly happy that we had the chance, to offer a concert at the Victoria Hall for the second time thanks to the tremendous work of the Parish St. Clotilde. Through the vision to promote equality, it brought

together people from different backgrounds and with the review “equality – so far so to go”, we had the chance produce a document with further analysis and views on this important topic.

A second highlight was the successful closure of the project in Togo. The successful cooperation with FIACAT and ACAT Togo and financial support from the City and Canton of Geneva allowed the work of human rights defenders in Togo and relevant recommendations from the UPR to be translated into three local languages and presented in an easily understandable way. The reports of the project have been completed and approved by the donors. I am also happy to report that the sails are set for the next adventure, that will bring us to Bolivia in support of child rights defenders.

I would like to thank all members, partners, stakeholders, board members and the secretariat for their efforts in 2018 and we are looking forward to continuing the work in 2019!

Sincerely,

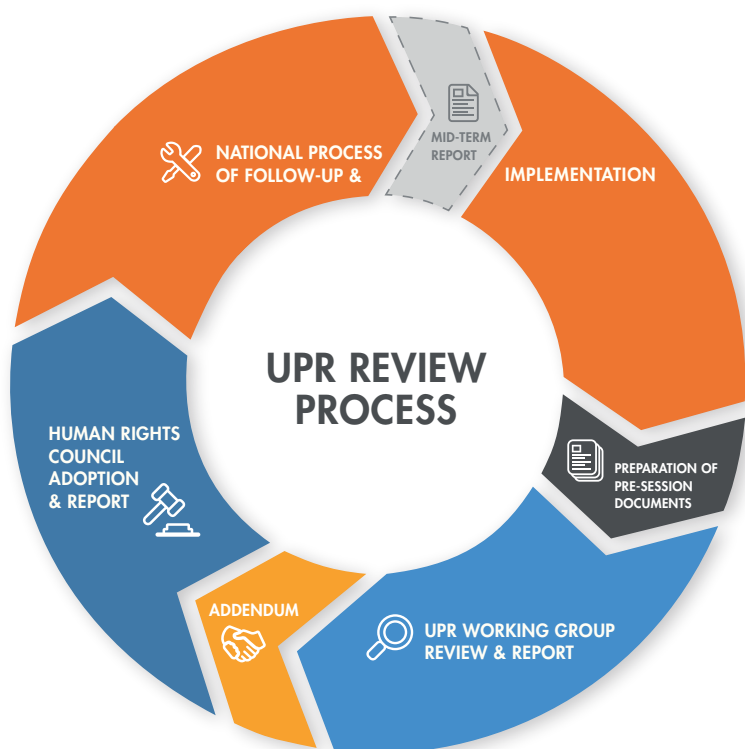
**Felix Werthli, President of CCIG Board**



## SERVICE TO NGOs

### UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) PLATFORM

Since its establishment in 2011, the CCIG's UPR platform has expanded its initiatives and collaboration among its partners. In 2018, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle proved to be a window of opportunity to call attention to human rights related issues, in particular the implementation of UPR recommendations at the domestic level. Despite increased challenges due to local and global political tensions and the resulting restrictions on financial resources, Civil Society actors have continued to engage with this specific UN mechanism, providing high quality, punctual and coordinated contributions. The CCIG was happy to join those efforts through continuing its work in its UPR Platform aimed at supporting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), with the ultimate goal of generating more effective States' action to prevent and address human rights violations.



<https://www.ohchr.org>



During 2018, two plenary meetings of the Platform took place to facilitate the joint work of NGOs between the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> sessions of the UPR.<sup>1</sup> Eight joint written reports were submitted to the High Commissioner for Human Rights by members of the CCIG Platform and eight oral statements were delivered under item 6 of the Human Rights Council.<sup>2</sup> These reports and statements, when compared to the number of sessions and countries addressed by the UPR Platform in 2016 (14 joint written reports and 4 oral statements) and 2017 (13 joint written reports and 5 oral statements) demonstrate a significant and steady contribution resulting from the work of the Platform. With the support of CCIG, NGOs also developed common strategies to collect information from their own members in the field, draft joint UPR submissions, and carry out joint lobbying activities with States Representatives in order to prioritize members' concerns during the review.

In addition to the oral statements concerning specific countries, two joint oral statements concerning the functioning of the UPR were submitted by CCIG at the Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming and under Item 6 (General Debate) of the 37<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) respectively. Co-signed by 16 NGOs, the first oral statement<sup>3</sup> welcomed the initiative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to address letters to each Member State reviewed during the UPR, calling on the State under Review to “develop a national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results” regarding UPR recommendations, and to strengthen “the national mechanism for



comprehensive follow up.” Based on the direct experience of local human rights defenders in over one hundred countries and with the support of 14 NGOs, the second statement<sup>4</sup> reiterated that the establishment of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow Up (NMRFs) would greatly advance not only the implementation of UPR recommendations, but also the work of other human rights bodies, such as the Special Procedures and Treaty bodies. In both statements, the **NGO coalition led by CCIG** called upon Member States to establish, by the time of the mid-term review of the current cycle, a permanent governmental mechanism to liaise with relevant ministries and consult with Civil Society, NHRI's, and all relevant stakeholders. The aim of the mechanism was to follow-up the implementation of UPR and other UN bodies' recommendations at the national level and specifically to translate those

recommendations into concrete positive interventions on the ground.

A database on the CCIG website, providing links to all Joint UPR Submissions by members, as well as Oral Statements has been regularly updated throughout 2018.<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, in line with the previous years, the CCIG UPR Platform has continued to find new forms of collaboration with other NGO partners especially UPR-info, in order to help the realization of joint advocacy priorities. In addition to formal meetings, targeted and specific counselling was provided at the request of CCIG members with regard to the organization of side events as well as in the drafting of submissions in the framework of the UPR.



## PROJECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN TOGO

In the framework of the project for Human Rights Defenders in Togo, carried out together with FIACAT and ACAT Togo, a publication providing a translation of UPR recommendations on torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, arbitrary execution and enforced disappearance was made available in the three national languages of Togo. The publication included a graphic representation of the relevant UPR recommendations through cartoons realized by a Togolese artist. Moreover, the content of the publication is also available as **a multimedia tool** to be used by local civil society to raise awareness about the commitments made by Togo to fight against torture and ill-treatment. This activity was realized thanks to the support of the City of Geneva and of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.<sup>6</sup>



## 37<sup>TH</sup> UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSION – SIDE EVENT: ARTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION AS A RIGHT



Since 2011, UNESCO Extea, together with the International Catholic Center of Geneva, has organized training sessions on the UN Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. The 2018 training also provided the occasion to organize the present side event.

Organized by UNESCO Extea (UNESCO Center Basque Country) and the Permanent

Mission of Spain, the side event “Arts and Cultural Education as a Right”, took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2018 in conjunction with the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council. This event was organized with the support of Interreg POCTEFA – MIGAP (EU) and the Agencia Vasca de Cooperación para el Desarrollo, and was co-sponsored by the International Catholic Center of Geneva (CCIG), the Instituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA), and International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, and Development (VIDES International). Ms. Arantzazu Acha de la Presa, Director of UNESCO Extea, moderated the event.

During the last few years, international organizations have showed a growing interest in the role of the diversity of culture and cultural expression in the field of education aimed at social transformation. The first World Conference on Arts Education was held in Lisbon in 2006. The main outcome of the conference was the Road Map for Arts Education, a policy-guiding document aimed at raising awareness among all concerned stakeholders on the importance of Arts Education and



«Arts education is a right of all, but even more importantly it is a right for all. It not only contributes to the full and integral development of students as direct beneficiaries, but it also produces a positive impact on society at large. Arts education is the ‘educational weapon’ that opens up the souls and allows emotions to flow, overcoming barriers and unifying us all as humankind. »

*Ms. Toledo, Speaker at the side event*

its crucial role for improving the quality of education. Four years later, in 2010, a second edition of the World Conference on Arts Education took place in Seoul. In the Closing Session, the “Seoul Agenda: Goals for the Development of Arts Education” was presented which affirmed that arts education has an important role to play in the constructive transformation of educational systems. The Seoul Agenda calls upon UNESCO Member States, civil society, professional organizations, and communities to realize the full potential of high quality arts education to positively renew educational systems, to achieve crucial social and cultural objectives, and ultimately to benefit children, youth and life-long learners of all ages.

The presentations by the speakers, Ms Arantzazu Acha de la Presa (Director of UNESCO Extea), Ms Gemma Carbó (Director of ConArte Internacional), Ms Aranzazu Toledo (Primary School Director – IIMA Spain), and Mr Emilio Pin Godós (Human Rights Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Spain), offered concrete inputs on how Arts Education can become a means for social transformation both in formal and informal education. By bringing together members of civil society, experts and State representatives, this event created a space for dialogue and the sharing of information in order to identify the different ways of dealing with the issues identified.<sup>7</sup>

1. Please see official UPR calendar at: [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR\\_3rd\\_cycle.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_3rd_cycle.pdf)
2. [http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page\\_id=457](http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457)
3. The full text of the oral statement is available at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/short-CCIG-joint-statement-37HRC-Annual-HL-Panel-on-HR-Mainstreaming.pdf>
4. The full text of the oral statement is available at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CCIG-joint-statement-39HRC-Item-6-Gd.pdf>
5. [http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page\\_id=457](http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457)
6. The publications in the 3 languages is available at:  
<http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Livret-FR-Kabye-final.pdf>  
<http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Livret-FR-lfe-final.pdf>  
<http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Livret-FR-EWE-final.pdf>  
 The multimedia support in French, Ewe, kabye and Ifé is available at:  
[http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU\\_TOGO\\_KABYE.mov](http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU_TOGO_KABYE.mov)  
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[http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU\\_TOGO\\_IFE.mov](http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU_TOGO_IFE.mov)
7. The executive summary of the event is available at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Executive-summary-Side-event-UNESCO-Extea-with-cover.pdf>



## TRAINING

CCIG continued its efforts to carry out several training activities for local human rights defenders and international NGO representatives. In accordance with its 2018 – 2022 Strategy and Action Plan, CCIG intends to foster quality contributions by NGOs in the UN system through a complete and successful exercise of their consultative status. Accordingly, CCIG offers training courses and theoretical-practical seminars for NGO members as well as other attendees interested in receiving specified training on United Nations mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, such as the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review.

In 2018 CCIG offered several trainings tailored to thematic priorities and expertise for beneficiaries from all continents.

In February, upon request of the **Fondation Apprentis d'Auteuil**, one-day training was addressed to the advocacy officers of the Foundation, aiming to stimulate a reflection on concrete actions to implement its Strategic Advocacy Plan.

Furthermore, in March, a three-days training session was organized for 12 NGO representatives of **El Foro de entidades de derechos humanos y paz del País Vasco**, fostering opportunities for meeting experts in the field of human rights and Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the OHCHR UPR Branch and other stakeholders.

Finally, in the framework of its collaboration with the **UNESCO Extea Center for Basque Country**, CCIG facilitated two trainings on United Nations mechanisms for the promotion and protection of Human Rights, which took place in Geneva in March and September 2018, in conjunction with the 37<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Human Rights Council. Both training sessions were addressed to professionals working in the field of Arts education and cultural rights.



« We wish to truly thank [CCIG] for the quality of the training provided. It has been very enriching and truly useful for us. You managed to personalize and adapt the training to reply to our needs and expectations. This allowed us to consolidate our ideas as well as open new perspectives for the implementation of our new strategy of international advocacy in the upcoming years »

*A Participant in CCIG Training*

## EXCHANGES AND AWARENESS-RAISING

### TRIPARTISM PLUS – RETHINKING SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN TIMES OF GLOBALISATION AND INFORMALIZATION – CCIG WORKSHOP



The NGO workshop entitled “Tripartism plus – Rethinking Social Dialogue in times of globalisation and informalization” was jointly organized by the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (CCIG), Kolping International / the German Commission for Justice and Peace (GCJP), the International Coordination of Young Christians Workers (ICYCW), International Young Christian Workers (IYCOW), and the World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW), with the collaboration of Women in Informal Economy: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). Furthermore, the event was made possible with the support of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Social Dialogue can act as a mortar to keep society together. Nevertheless we see critical and increasing deficits in the commitment to social dialogue at all levels. Government structures are often weak and lack resources. In many countries the private sector refuses to recognize its importance. Labour movements are often too fragmented and weak to participate effectively. In conjunction with the 107<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference, this event intended to raise awareness about opportunities

and challenges associated with social dialogue, highlighting its potential and limits in our societies, as well as to facilitate a creative discussion on the different positions and approaches to reinforcing Social Dialogue within and beyond the ILO, at the national and local level.

The coalition of organizing NGOs believes social dialogue is a critical instrument for advancing the rights and protections of workers in the informal economy that should be at the forefront of advocacy efforts on the issue. This workshop convened prominent members of civil society, the ILO, and actors in the field, to create a space for dialogue among concerned stakeholders and advocates.

Speakers, H.E. Mgr. Ivan Jurkovič (Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the UN), Ms. Jane Hodges (Former Director, Gender Equality, ILO), Ms. Leizyl Salem (Asia Pacific Coordinator, IYCOW), Ms. Floriane Rodier (National Secretary, YCW France), Ms. Lorraine Simbanda (President of StreetNet, ZIMBABWE – partner of WIEGO), Ms. Odile Frank (Representative, Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors), Ms. Anna Biondi (Deputy Director, Bureau for Workers’ Activities, ILO), and Ms. Sarah Prenger (International President, IYCOW) provided inputs and testimonies regarding the challenges of social dialogue based on their experience at the local and international level, eventually opening up the discussion to members of the audience. Ms. Hildegard Hagemann (Kolping International / GCJP) moderated the event. For further details, please consult the executive summary<sup>8</sup> on the event.





## THE “GRAND CONCERT” FOR EQUALITY AND PUBLICATION “EQUALITY – SO FAR TO GO”

The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Clotilde (Geneva) and the International Catholic Center of Geneva organized a “Grand Concert” for equality, which took place at the Victoria Hall in Geneva on Sunday, 23 September 2018 (5 pm).

Under the musical direction of Stanislava Nankova, with performances by soprano Danaila Dimitrova, Bass Seok-gill Choi, the Orchestre symphonique de Gala, and La Chorale de Brassus played the work of Mozart, Beethoven, Bellini, Rossini and Verdi.

With the participation of representatives from the Ville de Genève and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), the concert aimed at raising awareness on the challenges that women still experience nowadays in Geneva.

In conjunction with the concert, the publication “Equality – So far to go” was prepared to outline current gender equality challenges. In his foreword to the publication, Mr. Jean-Claude Huot (Member



of CCIG Executive Board) reiterated the need to recognize women’s unpaid work – domestic, caregiving, agricultural, volunteering, etc – as valuable to society. He argued that recognizing women’s contributions is instrumental in promoting human rights and called upon States to conduct gender-specific analyses of public budgets, in order to assess concrete steps being taken to reduce inequality. Messages from Mrs. Sandra Golay (President of the Council of the Parish of Saint Clotilde, Geneva), Reverend Pascal Desthieux (Bishop’s Vicar for the Canton of Geneva), Mrs. Nathalie Fontanet (State Councillor, Finances and Human Resources Department, Republic and Canton of Geneva), Mrs. Esther Alder (Administrative Advisor for the City of Geneva), Mr. Michael Möller (Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva), Mrs. Valérie Berset Bircher (Federal Department of the Economy, Education and Research, Switzerland) and Mrs. Franceline James (President of the Association for Parents of Encephalopathic Children, Burkina Faso), were included.

The publication also contains reports on the issue of gender equality from the International Labour Organization and the Federal Bureau of Gender Equality in Switzerland.

Further information about the event and the full text of the publication can be found on CCIG’s website. The publication is available in English<sup>9</sup> and French.<sup>10</sup>

8. The Executive Summary is available on the CCIG website at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/CCIG-Executive-summary-Social-Dialogue.pdf>

9. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Equality.pdf>

10. <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Egalite%C3%A9.pdf>



## ADMINISTRATION

### STRUCTURE OF CCIG ACTIVITIES

In 2018 the Board has held five meetings at CCIG headquarters in order to ensure coherence and adequate realization of all activities as well as the development of fundraising efforts. During the past year, Jean-Claude Huot resigned from the Board after many years of valuable collaboration. We greatly thank him for his irreplaceable contributions to make CCIG a more effective and dynamic organization aimed to achieve the greatest good for its members and partners locally and internationally.

Finally, as with every year, several meetings were held between the Secretariat and members wishing to receive assistance in the development of their activities. The work of the Secretariat was supported by Silvia Palomba as a Consultant for Projects Management and Fund-raising for the first trimester 2018.



#### MEMBERS OF CCIG BOARD (UPDATED ON DECEMBER 31, 2017)

- Felix Wertli — President
- Budi Tjahjono — Vice-President
- Brian Bond — Treasurer
- Larry Kohler — Member
- Guillermo Kerber — Member
- Diana Duarte Rizzolio — Member
- Alvaro Sepúlveda — Member



#### KEY POINTS RELATED TO FUNDRAISING

- The Project for Children's Rights Defenders in Bolivia was approved by Adveniat.
- In 2018, CCIG has obtained a contribution to the UPR Platform from Trócaire.
- Fundraising in German-speaking Switzerland has resulted in donations from the Interior Mission of Zug.
- Other activities such as the consultation on social dialogue were financed by respective partners.
- We also thank all those who made a donation to CCIG in 2018, and in particular the Association Rivage.

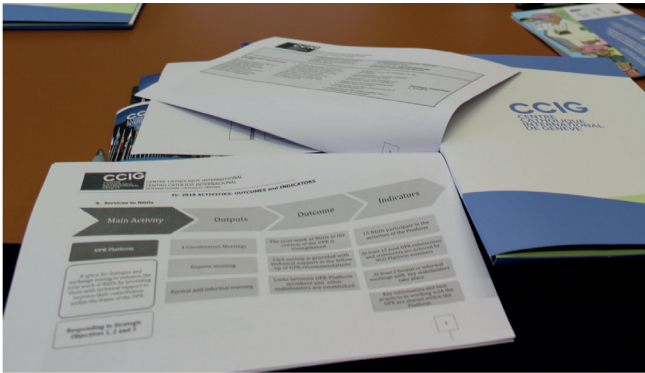
### FINANCIAL STRATEGY

In 2018 CCIG continued its efforts to shape and secure the future of the organization vis-à-vis its traditional donors as well as the more recent donors.

In addition to the continued and appreciated support of Action de Carême (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund), CCIG has, in 2018, reinforced its partnership with the "UNESCO Extea" and opened new collaborations with other partners especially with regard to capacity building activities.

Moreover, the approval by Adveniat for a new project for children's rights defenders in Bolivia, have been important outcomes of CCIG fundraising efforts.





**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2018**

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