

WUCWO



UMOFC

**Union Mondiale des Organisations Féminines Catholiques
World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations
Unión Mundial de las Organizaciones Femeninas Católicas
Weltunion der Katholischen Frauenverbände**

Piazza di S. Calisto 16 - 00153 Roma - Italia - Tel.: +39 0669887260
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Press Release

'Voices and Faces at the Threshold of the Synod'

Webinar meeting of the UMOFC School of Synodality, which asks about the state of play of women's participation and visibility in the synodal journey, a few days before the opening of the second session of the Synod on Synodality.

Thursday, 26 September at 14.30 CEST

"Significant progress has undoubtedly been made, but there is still a long way to go to increase awareness of the fundamental and unique role of women and the need for their full participation and leadership in a synodal Church in mission that can respond to the pastoral needs of our time," declares Mónica Santamarina, President of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations-WUCWO, a few days after the event.

On 26 September, a webinar in 4 languages, entitled **"Voices and Faces at the Threshold of the Synod"** will be held, promoted by the School of Synodality of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations.

The dialogue will include the participation of:

- **Julia Oseka**, Synodal Mother
- **Barbara Dowding**, UMOFC Vice President for North America
- **Elisa Delgado Cabrera**, Commissioner for Formation of the Mexican Catholic Women's Union

Video interviews with some of the women and men participating in the Synod will also be presented on this occasion.

"In n. 57 of the Instrumentum Laboris that was prepared for the second Synod Assembly, They made us a proposal aimed towards formation, to get to know the tasks that women can already carry out in the Church today.

Well, it seems to me to be a good initiative, but I believe that we can run the risk of remaining only in knowledge and what we have to do is to take steps so that these tasks can become a reality, and above all I believe that we have to ensure that they become normality within our Church'.

Says Eva Fernández, special guest at the Synodal Assembly and Coordinator of the International Forum of Catholic Action, protagonist of one of the video interviews to be presented.

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The UMOFC school of synodality, through its activities and projects, has achieved:

- Training more than **250 women synod facilitators in more than 49 countries**
- **5 conversations** in the spirit organised in **90 groups** involving a total of **680 women from 80 different countries**

From these conversations, **seven strategic trajectories** emerged on which we are all invited to focus our attention, also and above all, after the synod session is over:

1. Participation, leadership, and empowerment of women in the Church
2. Formation of women, as well as a change in the formation of priests
3. Expanding, diversifying, and strengthening women's role in the Church
4. Gender injustice in the Church: experiences of women's exclusion
5. Changing certain structures and recognising the work of women in the Church
6. Recognition of the specific gifts of women for the church community
7. Transforming abuses of power into fruitful collaboration between men and women

Mónica Santamarina continues:

*"For the full participation of women in the Church, it is imperative to overcome clericalism, which is still deeply entrenched in some sectors and regions of the world, as well as to strengthen leadership, theological and pastoral formation of women and to democratise power structures through synodality, the inclusion of women in decision-making and the creation and strengthening of ministries for **women.**"*

Journalists wishing to participate may write to: communication@wucwo.org

What is WUCWO

The World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) was founded in 1910 and currently has almost 100 member organisations worldwide, active in more than 50 countries on all continents, representing about 8 million Catholic women of all ages.

WUCWO's aim is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and the Church, in order to enable them to fulfil their mission of evangelisation and to work for human development, in particular by increasing educational opportunities, reducing poverty and promoting rights.

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In 2021, WUCWO created the World Women's Observatory (WWO) with the motto 'Listening to transform lives'. The WWO was created to give visibility to women, especially the most vulnerable ones, who seem “invisible” in order to inspire and generate changes that favour their integral development. In

the projects they promote, they listen to women from different cultures, religions and regions of the world, encouraging dialogue and disseminating their experiences.

www.wucwo.org - www.worldwomensobservatory.org

For information and interview requests (English and Spanish) please contact the Press Office: communication@wucwo.org - m. +39 3516614930