**About Franciscans International**

**WHO WE ARE**

We are a Franciscan voice at the United Nations. Founded in 1989 by a group of friars, sisters, and lay Franciscans, we envision a world in which the dignity of every person is respected, the environment is sustained, and nations and peoples live in peace. Franciscans International is sponsored by the Conference of the Franciscan Family, in which different Franciscan branches are represented. Our staff is made up of a small team of human rights lawyers, support staff, and volunteers who are intimately familiar with the processes at the United Nations, and who work closely with the Franciscan Family – both Roman Catholic and Anglican.

**OUR MISSION**

Using a rights-based approach, FI advocates at the UN for the protection of human dignity and environmental justice

**OUR VALUES**

* Humility: We strive for a simple way of life, recognizing our interdependence with all creation.
* Reconciliation: We want to be in harmony with the world around us and promote peace.
* Fraternity: We have a profound concern for the marginalized and the oppressed, and maintain a radical openness to “the other”.
* Justice: We respect the dignity of every person and all creation, and work for equality.

**OUR WORK**

We work with Franciscans and other local partners around the world to bring grassroots experiences to the United Nations. Our organization provides a platform to advocate for concrete and positive change in national and international policies.

Our organization provides a platform to advocate for concrete and positive change in national and international policies.

* **Defends** victims of human rights abuses and makes their voices heard at the United Nations.
* **Influences** policies to reflect both Franciscan values and the promises enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights;
* **Connects** those marginalized by the powerful to United Nations human rights mechanisms and monitoring bodies.

**Our Focus**

Franciscans International implements an effective, coherent, and integrated advocacy agenda in regional and thematic areas, reflecting our three core pillars.

* **Human Dignity:** Ensuring that development and human rights go hand in hand.
* **Integrity of Creation**: Protecting the environment and communities by fostering human rights integration in relevant national and international laws and policies.
* **Peace and Reconciliation**: Defending rights in the context of conflicts, crises, and crime prevention

**OUR OFFICES**

Geneva

37-39 rue de Vermont, P.O. Box 104,

CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

+41 22 779 40 10 | geneva@fiop.org

New York

246 East 46th Street #1F, New York

NY 10017-2937, United States of America

+1 (917) 331 0242 | b.ayodi@franciscansinternational.org

**FOLLOW US**

For more information, donations, or to subscribe to our newsletter, please visit

**Website:** [www.franciscansinternational.org](http://www.franciscansinternational.org)

**Facebook:** /FranciscansInternational

**Twiter:** @FranciscansIntl

***Br. Benedict Ayodi, OFMCap***

***Outreach Officer.***