



INTERNATIONAL
PRESENTATION
ASSOCIATION

Education and Action for Justice

2020-2022 Strategy



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Introduction

From the humble beginnings of a religious congregation being formed in Ireland in the eighteenth century, a global movement known as the Presentation Sisters emerged.

In recent decades a major collaborative undertaking led to the formation of the International Presentation Association (IPA).

Today, the IPA involves more than 1,600 Religious Sisters and Presentation People in over 20 countries across the world.

This is the IPA's strategy for the period 2020-2022.

The title of our new strategy is 'Education and Action for Justice'. It builds on the remarkable progress of the IPA and helps bring about greater focus for a way forwards in an increasingly uncertain and volatile world.

The image of a river on the front cover was chosen to represent the movement and energy of this strategy which will lead the IPA in a direction in keeping with the life and spirit of the Presentation Sisters.

This strategy development process took place at a gathering in Staten Island, New York in October 2019. It stemmed from Commitment 5 from the 2017 IPA Assembly.

The essential elements of our strategy, including our vision, mission and story, are summarised in a clear and compelling graphic on page 6.

Seventh Assembly of the International Presentation Association

September 24-30, 2017
Sydney, Australia

*Our feet
know the way*



*Our hearts
carry the light*

IPA Commitments

We Presentation People will:

1. Respond to the cry of Earth and to people made poor by embracing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a human rights framework, addressing the issues of women and children, care of Earth and indigenous peoples, as is relevant to our local regions.
2. Establish an interim task group to determine the appropriate organisational structure for IPA to achieve its mission.
3. Establish an interim advisory group consisting of the three IPA directors and others with expertise in global work, human rights, development and advocacy that will put into place a new organisational structure for IPA.
4. Review all IPA role descriptions.
5. Develop a strategic plan for IPA.
6. Review the criteria for representation at IPA assemblies.
7. Continue to use current capital from the IPA fund and welcome any extra donations as we identify other sources of fundraising.
8. Continue to have an IPA assembly every five years.
9. Continue to include the IPA justice contacts as part of the IPA assembly.
10. Continue to work toward collaboration and partnership building.

2017 IPA Assembly

IPA Directions

We Presentation People embody the compassion of Jesus and Nano. We practise non-violence of mind and heart as we listen into the chaos and feel the pain of our time. We find strength in connectedness trusting that our feet know the way and our hearts carry the light.

Who We Are

We are Presentation People who share the charism of Nano Nagle. We reach out in faith, in a spirit of hospitality, compassion and simplicity to all of creation. The cry of Earth and people made poor calls us to continue the mission of Jesus to bring forth a sustainable society founded on respect for Earth, universal human rights, economic justice and a culture of peace.

IPA Mission

Our mission is 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.

2017 IPA Assembly

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

To Further God's 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. (Seventh Assembly, 2017)

OUR GOAL

To honour and advance the rights of women and children, indigenous and tribal people and the Earth

OUR CALL TO ACTION

We are impelled to undertake urgent action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and attain Human Rights for all. Our historical roots in education enable us to work towards bringing about transformative change. Nano's work was an act of justice in the face of injustice and exclusion

OUR PRIORITY ACTIONS



To honour and advance the rights of women and children



To honour and advance the rights of the Earth



To honour and advance the rights of indigenous and tribal people



To identify and honour a specific advocacy focus



To develop and honour our structure, capacity and strategy

OUR VALUES

COMPASSION

Being with people, recognising and responding to need

PEACE

Positive and peaceful thinking and action

COLLABORATION

Communion and partnership with one another

SERVICE

Quality of our presence

HOSPITALITY

Receiving all with a welcoming heart, openness and love

OUR BELIEFS



Our Story

The story of the Presentation Sisters emerged 300 years ago, and the International Presentation Association came into existence 30 years ago. It is a very small part of the huge and evolving story of our Universe and the mystery of God.

Nano Nagle

The late 18th Century in Ireland was a time of great hardship, where a largely uneducated population struggled to survive. In this context, Nano Nagle – a woman of wealth, education, social status and courage, having grown up by the Black Water River and surrounded by nature – found herself exposed to this new world in which people felt powerless and endangered.

Inspired by what she encountered, she dedicated herself to reducing poverty. She was committed to educating marginalised children in Ireland. Nano's zeal for the care of people and her compassionate presence guided her "If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would do all in my power (Letter 1)". She encouraged other women to join her in caring for and educating those in need.

Presentation Sisters

Before her death in 1784, Nano founded a religious congregation. In faith and courage, two sisters of this new religious congregation were committed to live in her spirit to bring about her vision.

Over a period of many years, the movement grew very considerably and became established worldwide as the Presentation Sisters. The sisters predominantly focussed their efforts on creating and staffing schools that educate young people, especially girls.

International Presentation Association

During the 200th anniversary year of Nano Nagle's death, a large international gathering took place. The people that attended represented the three global units of Presentation Sisters. In the spirit of contemplative reflection, they were overwhelmingly convinced that they could do more together than alone. This led to the formation of the International Presentation Association in 1988.

The IPA continues to expand in influence. Notably, in 1999, accreditation with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) status at the United Nations, gave the sisters working at community level a global platform to be a more effective 'voice for the voiceless'. A global consciousness expanded to embrace a deeper understanding of the relationship between vulnerable communities and the environment. Since then, three key priorities have emerged: Women and Children, Care of the Earth and indigenous and tribal people. Today, the IPA involves more than 1,600 Religious Sisters and Presentation People in over 20 countries across the world, working together to address Education and Action for Justice.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission To Further God's 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. (Seventh Assembly, 2017)

Our Goal

To honour and advance the rights of women and children, indigenous and tribal people and the Earth.

Our Call to Action

We are impelled to undertake urgent action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and attain Human Rights for all. Our historical roots in education enable us to work towards bringing about transformative change. Nano's work was an act of justice in the face of injustice and exclusion.

Our Values

- **Compassion** – being with people, recognising and responding to need
- **Peace** – positive and peaceful thinking and action
- **Collaboration** – communion and partnership with one another
- **Service** – quality of our presence
- **Hospitality** – receiving all with a welcoming heart, openness and love

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

Our Priority Actions



To honour and advance the rights of women and children

- Capacity building
- Provide support
- Improve access to learning
- Strengthen our partnerships and network
- Encourage information sharing



To honour and advance the rights of the Earth

- Create a forum within IPA
- Develop a Programme of study and reflection
- Build awareness



To honour and advance the rights of indigenous and tribal people

- Enable effective lifelong learning
- Build awareness through partnerships
- Advocate for civic representation

Our Priority Actions



TO HONOUR AND ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

- **Capacity building**
 - **Provide support**
 - **Improve access to learning**
 - **Strengthen our partnerships and network**
 - **Encourage information sharing**
-
- **Provide support:** To support women and children in vulnerable situations, listening to their stories, providing information and referring them to appropriate agencies for support
 - **Build capacity**
 - **Improve access to learning:** To engage people in local communities to provide opportunities for continuous access to schools and ongoing, effective lifelong learning
 - **Strengthen our partnerships and network:** To cooperate with national and local authorities and international partners to strengthen the IPA network by training and workshops
 - **Encourage information sharing:** Disseminating information and resources about the rights of women and children in need
 - **Raise awareness:** To raise awareness of local people about their rights to lifelong learning through regular events such as Nano Nagle day, festivals and so on

Our Priority Actions



TO HONOUR AND ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF THE EARTH

- **Create a forum within IPA**
 - **Develop a Programme of study and reflection**
 - **Build awareness**
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- **Create a forum within IPA:** To create a forum for sharing strategies within the IPA network that addresses issues in relation to the Rights of Earth
 - **Develop a Programme of study and reflection:** To develop a programme of study and reflection, to be shared across the IPA network, about Climate Action, Life below Water and Life on Land
 - **Build awareness:** To collate and disseminate resources and engage people at the UN about Climate Action, Life below Water and Life on Land to support attaining Rights of Earth.

Our Priority Actions



TO HONOUR AND ADVANCE THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL PEOPLE

- **Enable effective lifelong learning**
- **Build awareness through partnerships**
- **Advocate for civic representation**

- **Enable effective lifelong learning:** To engage with schools and communities to provide access to education and ongoing effective lifelong learning to indigenous and tribal people that acknowledges and honours them and their cultural traditions.
- **Build awareness through partnerships:** To engage with organisations and partners to promote and participate in activities that honour the voices of indigenous and tribal people.
- **Advocate for civic representation:** To advocate for indigenous and tribal people to be effectively represented at local and global civic levels.

Our Priority Actions



To identify and honour a specific advocacy focus

- Increase our presence at the UN in New York
- Identify a specific advocacy focus
- Develop an implementation plan



To develop and honour our structure, capacity and strategy

- Remain value led
- Strengthen our engagement
- Encourage reflection and learning
- Develop in an iterative way
- Prepare for 2022 Assembly
- Review criteria for representation at the Assembly

Our Priority Actions



TO IDENTIFY AND HONOUR A SPECIFIC ADVOCACY FOCUS

- **Increase our presence at the UN in New York**
 - **Identify a specific advocacy focus**
 - **Develop an implementation plan**
-
- **Increase our presence at the UN in New York:** To increase presence, engagement and collaboration at the United Nations in New York whilst strengthening awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights Framework across the IPA network.
 - **Identify a specific advocacy focus:** To identify a specific advocacy focus based on a consultative process with Justice Contacts.
 - **Develop an implementation plan:** To develop a plan to take forward advocacy on the specific focus point identified, including through key mechanisms (e.g. participation in Universal Periodic Review Process; lobbying and negotiating with Permanent Mission representatives and other officials).

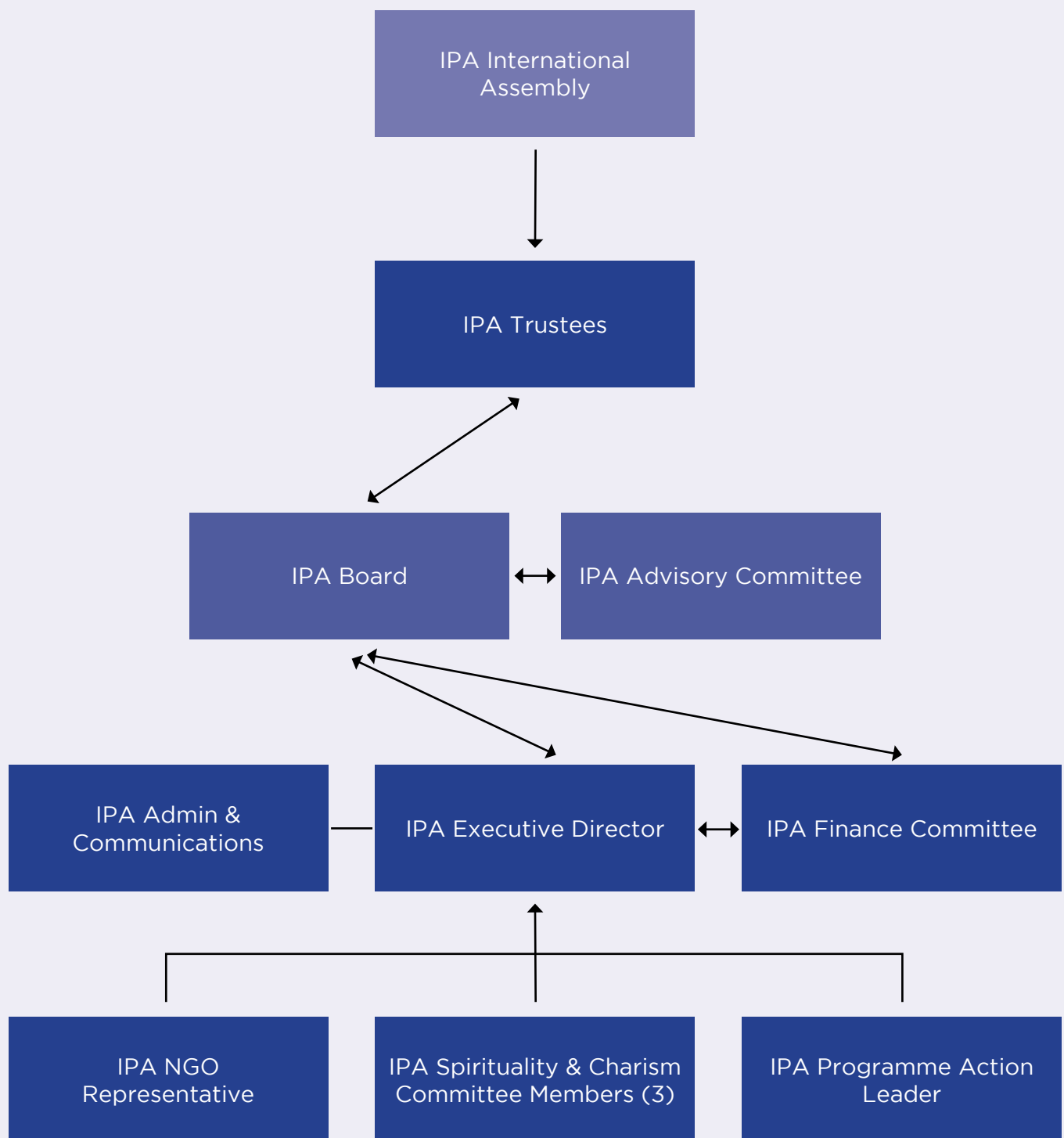
Our Priority Actions



TO DEVELOP AND HONOUR OUR STRUCTURE, CAPACITY AND STRATEGY

- **Remain value led**
 - **Strengthen our engagement**
 - **Encourage reflection and learning**
 - **Develop in an iterative way**
 - **Prepare for 2022 Assembly**
 - **Review criteria for representation at the Assembly**
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- **Remain value led:** To ensure we honour the overall direction of the IPA network and remain true to who we are when delivering the strategy
 - **Strengthen our engagement:** To proactively improve our relationships and partnerships, including strengthened communication, with people in and beyond the IPA network
 - **Encourage reflection and learning:** To assess our effectiveness and to reflect and learn based on this in order to improve our strategy
 - **Develop and Review:** To keep developing and reviewing the strategy to ensure its relevancy
 - **Prepare for the 8th IPA Assembly in 2022**
 - **Review criteria for representation at the 8th Assembly**

Governance and Operations Structure



How we will measure our effectiveness?

By collating and reviewing robust evidence about the degree to which there has been effective...

A Engagement,

B Awareness raising, and

C Advocacy about the rights of women and children, indigenous and tribal people and the Earth

This strategy for Justice is to be considered within the context of being true to the overall direction of the IPA network and contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights for all.

Actions will be broken down into Tasks, with Time Frames, Responsibilities, Indicators of Success, and Monitoring and Reviewing of Dates.



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