

WUCWO



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

WUCWO Secretariat - 37, rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs 75006 Paris - France
Tel.: +33.1.45442765 • Fax: +33.1.42840480 • wucwoparis@wanadoo.fr- www.wucwo.org

Karen M. Hurley, WUCWO President General – 643 Frances Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17109 – USA
Tel/Fax : +1.717.652.9470 - wucwopres@gmail.com

July 3, 2009

Hon. Stephen Joseph Harper
Prime Minister, Canada

Hon. Taro Aso
Prime Minister, Japan

Hon. Nicolas Sarkozy
President, French Republic

Hon. Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev
President, Russian Federation

Hon. Angela Merkel
Chancellor, Federal Republic of Germany

Hon. Gordon Brown
Prime Minister, United Kingdom

Hon. Silvio Berlusconi
President, Council of Ministers, Italy

Hon. Barack Obama
President, United States of America

Your Excellencies,

We are writing to you, leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) Nations, regarding the Summit to be held in Italy from July 8-10, 2009. Founded in 1910, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO), a *public international association of the faithful* with a membership of almost 100 organizations, active in 66 countries including all continents and some island states, represents millions of Catholic women of every walk of life. WUCWO has held consultative status with United Nations ECOSOC since 1947; UNESCO, 1948; UNICEF, 1952; FAO, 1953, and HRC. WUCWO has representatives at United Nations including New York, Paris, Rome and Geneva, is a member of CONGO, and is present at the Council of Europe.

The WUCWO Priority for 2006-2010 is *Building a Culture of Peace with a special attention to education and the alleviation of poverty*. As we are committed to protecting human life and dignity, especially of the poorest, most vulnerable members of the human family, so we urge you to take concrete actions to protect women and children, usually the first victims of poverty and hunger.

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Whilst poor women and children have contributed the least to the economic crisis facing our world, they are likely to suffer the most as they struggle to survive in abject poverty. We call on G-8 nations to meet their responsibility to help prevent further economic crises, and to increase development aid in order to reduce global poverty by assuring the right to food, availability of water and adequate health care for mothers and babies.

We urge you to make decisions and take concrete action for sustainable progress in order to eradicate poverty with full respect for human life and dignity. Be assured of our prayers and support for a good outcome of the summit.

Sincerely yours,

Karen M. Hurley
President General