



### Project: International Servas Week

Connecting SERVAS: making connections with the world

**WHAT?:** Celebrate Servas once a year, the week of 21st September.

**HOW?:** Take part in global action to show ourselves to the world and so reinforce our values as an organisation.

**IMPACT?:** As Servas members make new connections among ourselves and with others who share common ground with Servas.

## **PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK**

### ***Report of the activities: 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017***

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## 1. Innovation Group: Project Presentation

**Name and theme:** Connecting SERVAS: making connections with the world

**Aim of the project:**

**What?** Celebrate Servas once a year, during the week of 21st September.

**How?** Take part in global action to show ourselves to the world and so reinforce our values as an organisation.

**Impact:** As Servas members make new connections between us and with others who share common ground with Servas.

**Anual Date:** the week of 21st September, the UN international day of peace, to celebrate Servas values such as: Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, and Understanding.

**First Time of the Project:** the week from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### How can we contribute to this International Servas Week?

**Making Connections:** Servas members reaching out to connect with those in the organisation and those not.

During the Servas week we could organise activities in our neighbourhood, region or country to promote new connections with each other and with others outside of Servas. These activities could be related to Servas values such as: **Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality, Understanding.**

The emphasis is on it being a creative process, each group deciding the activity that is best for them and so choosing how they will celebrate being members of Servas.

#### Some suggestions to make connections:

- With our neighbours and friends not in Servas.
- With other Servas members nearby.
- With different cultures as well as our own within our community.
- With our environment.
- With Servas national groups across nearby borders.
- Through our language, showing others how to improve communication.
- With other organizations
- And a big etcetera.

#### More ideas:

- Linking with others in our community from different backgrounds.
- Connecting with organisations that share common ground with Servas.

- Organising exchange visits between Servas groups in countries further away.
- Spreading the values of Peace, Solidarity Service, Hospitality, Understanding through your activities.

**Some ideas about activities that national or local Servas groups could organize:**

- A shared dinner with other Servas members, meetings in your area, cultural activities together...
- Invite another organization to speak about their projects, to collaborate in some solidarity event, to share voluntary work with another organization...
- Invite other Servas members to explore your environment or your city, do a walk or trek or a bike ride together...
- Plant a tree together...
- Organize a meeting with your neighbouring national group.
- Organize a workshop about peace, languages, Esperanto, communication...
- Organize activities about peace education in a school, storytelling for children, competition about pictures, drawings, videos, films...
- Publicise outside of Servas, eg via a local newspaper article/ TV , a display in libraries/community centres, ...
- Any event that promotes contact with people both within and outside of Servas.

**Practicalities**

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**The Innovation Group:** initiated by Aneris Cao (Servas Chile), María Fernanda Vomero (Servas Brazil), Susana Martínez Duro (Servas Spain), Christina Buynova (Servas Russia) and Michael Wechsler (Servas Norway).

**Promoters of the project:** organisers of a workshop during SICOGA 2015 in New Zealand 2015, together with others who attended and facilitated the discussions.

***This group is intended to put into action the ideas debated during the workshop.***

## **2. Reports from countries that accomplished this project (other countries expressed they were preparing activities but we didn't receive reports)**

Here you will find the reports that we received in different formats and languages. It is possible that other countries celebrated this week but we don't have their reports. There are some countries that expressed their willing to be involved but we didn't receive their outcome afterwards. We are happy because more countries were involved in 2017 activities, and we expect to have more countries participating this year for the 70 th anniversary of SERVAS.

### **2.1. SERVAS BRAZIL**

#### **Semana Internacional do Servas 2017**

**O Servas Brasil** participou da **segunda edição da Semana Internacional do Servas**, comemorada de 16 a 24 de setembro de 2017, com destaque para celebrar o **Dia Mundial da Paz** registrado em 21 de setembro.

Esse ano o tema das comemorações simultâneas pelo mundo afora foi “Preparando a celebração dos 70 anos do Servas que será em 2018”.

O objetivo central do projeto é que os servianos se conectem, realizando atividades em seu grupo e com outras pessoas e organizações afins, com o propósito de difundir os valores do Servas e fomentar a paz.

Vários grupos em nosso país se mobilizaram e realizaram atividades de acordo com as suas possibilidades como podem ver nos relatos a seguir:

**Servianos mineiros** reuniram-se dia 16/09 na casa de Juvenil em **Divinópolis** para um almoço em comemoração à Semana Internacional do Servas.

Além de confraternizar entre servianos e convidados houve uma produtiva conversa sobre o Servas que resultou em quatro novas filiações. Que esses novos companheiros sejam bem vindos à nossa organização e que possam vivenciar boas experiências.



**Na região sul de Minas Gerais**, na localidade de Jaguari de Cima, município de **Camanducaia**, servianos e convidados reuniram-se no dia 17/09 e realizaram uma meditação pela paz. Segundo os participantes foi um momento muito especial em meio a natureza. Que outras iniciativas como essa possam ocorrer em qualquer época em muitos lugares contribuindo assim para a paz no mundo.



**O Servas Bahia** também se fez presente na Semana Internacional do Servas reunindo-se dia 17/09 para um almoço em **Salvador**. O primeiro item da pauta foi lembrar o Dia Mundial da Paz registrado em 21/09, saudando a fraternidade, a tolerância entre os povos e os princípios do Servas comprometidos com a paz universal. Na sequência o grupo conversou sobre a organização do Encontro Nacional e de Jovens que aconteceu em Salvador, de 02 a 05 de novembro de 2017.

Oito servianos estiveram presentes no almoço de confraternização e trabalho em prol do Servas.



**Em Santo Antonio de Jesus na Bahia**, aconteceu uma Caminhada Ecológica+Paz+Floresta. Em registro ao Dia Mundial da Paz e Dia da Árvore, comemorado em 21 de setembro. Cinco servianos da Bahia em parceria com o Colégio Antonio de Jesus e o Grupo Gana realizaram uma caminhada ecológica sobre a paz, quando o Servas foi apresentado, contemplar as árvores, plantar novas mudas e oportunizar a construção de novas amizades.



**Servianos de Petrolina** e convidados reuniram-se em 16/09 para celebrar a Semana Internacional do Servas e Dia Mundial da Paz. Assistiram a um filme relacionado ao tema e a conversa girou em torno dessa questão. A anfitriã Teresa Roberta preparou uma gostosa comida mexicana para os servianos e convidados presentes.



**Servianos de Recife e Olinda** participaram da Semana Internacional do Servas realizando um encontro no litoral sul de Pernambuco, na Praia de A-ver-o-Mar, município de Sirinhaém de 22 a 24 de setembro, com a presença de 11 pessoas.





Foram dias de convívio fraternal, troca de experiências, discussões sobre o Servas e o Encontro Nacional e celebração da amizade.

Após o almoço do dia 22 foram passados informes sobre a organização do Encontro Nacional e de Jovens em Salvador de 02 a 05 de novembro. Algumas pessoas presentes já confirmaram a sua participação.

Na sequência foi apresentado o Programa Making Connections e suas possibilidades de intercâmbio. O assunto suscitou a discussão sobre o que o Servas Pernambuco poderia oferecer para ser incluído.



No sábado, dia 23, após o café da manhã, o grupo se dirigiu para o jardim da casa onde houve uma dinâmica com o objetivo de exercitar a paz interior e também uma forma de expressar a participação no Dia Mundial da Paz.

- 1 – Exercitar a paz interior através da gratidão, do silêncio e da respiração profunda.  
- Agradecer ao universo e a natureza;
- Silenciar a mente, escutando os sons ao redor;
- Inspirar e expirar lentamente;
- Escutar atentamente os sons da natureza ao redor.

2 – Depoimentos (sentimentos e histórias pessoais relacionadas) Esse momento foi muito significativo; todos falaram do seu sentimento e de como a paz se incorporava ao seu cotidiano e como atuar no mundo, tendo um olhar voltado para a Paz que desejamos.

3 - Reflexão sobre a paz no mundo

4 – Dança de energização (utilizando exercício da bioenergética)

Após essa importante dinâmica o grupo fez um passeio de barco, parando nos bancos de areia que se formam quando a maré baixa. Todos tomaram um banho de lama que as pessoas do lugar dizem ser medicinal.



No retorno o grupo degustou um delicioso churrasco no almoço.

À tarde houve nova reunião de trabalho quando o grupo discutiu levar ao Encontro Nacional proposta para que os encontros nacionais aconteçam de 2 em 2 anos. Porém considera importante que a gestão se reúna anualmente para discutir e encaminhar questões internas. Dessa forma o encontro com todos os membros ficaria mais leve, com menos questões burocráticas, que tenha como foco o relato de experiências de viagens, convivência, passeios etc.

Quanto aos programas Making Connections e Projetos pela Paz, o grupo discutiu a possibilidade de desenvolver um trabalho que avance no sentido de não ser meramente assistencialista mas transformador.

Passamos mais uma agradável noite com muita conversa e jogos. No domingo de manhã após o café foi hora das despedidas desse encontro que deixou saudades. Concluímos que esse tipo de encontro é muito importante para fortalecer a amizade e manter o Servas vivo e atuante. Que venham outros!!!



## 2.2. SERVAS CHILE

This year we sent bookmarks made and distributed by Servas Chile. For this bookmark, we took one of the pictures of the Summer Camp in Italy, a drawing by a girl that we liked to share in our bookmarks. Two of our members participated on that Summer Camp. These book marks were distributed among our Servas Chile members to share with their friends during the International Servas Week.

We also have been interviewed in a radio program. Our Peace Secretary have been interviewed about Servas in a radio program during this week, so we contributed to the diffusion of Servas in our community.



## 2.3. SERVAS POLAND

At the end of September Servas Poland organised a small meeting near Krakow, south of Poland. It took place in the house of our Servas hosts – Marzena and Adam Zemojcin.

We had guests from Spain and Albania, discussed serious things and had fun in different languages (see the photos).

We stayed in a wonderful area, close to a nature reserve. The weather was gorgeous so we went for a long walks through the reserve.

### *Regionalne spotkanie krakowskiego Servasu*

Regionalne spotkanie krakowskiego Servasu w Dolinie Kluczowody. Ślicznie dziękujemy Marzenie i Adamowi za udostępnienie swojej Agroturystyki SPA w cudownym miejscu u wrót Jury Krakowsko-Częstochowskiej. Wraz z gościem z Hiszpanii i Albanią bawiliśmy się świetnie.





## 2.4. Servas Guatemala

Aquí incluimos algunas fotos de la reunión que realizamos en la Semana Internacional de Servas, hasta abajo, fotos de la visita que hicimos a el CENTRO EDUCATIVO COMPLEMENTARIO PADRE OTTORINO. de la ciudad de Guatemala, acompañan, miembros de Servas, hemos donado a nombre de SERVAS GUATEMALA 25 kilos de leche, (aprox. 55 libras) esto con los fondos provenientes de los timbres de las cartas de viajero.

Este centro de niños se dedica a reforzar los estudios de los niños, para que las mamas tengan más tiempo de trabajo, y los niños no dejen de hacer sus tareas, hay grupos en la mañana y en la tarde y siempre les dan un tiempo de comida..





## 2.5. Servas Hungary

Servas Hungary also had an event during Servas Week. Two young members (Bogi Kovács and Csaba Tutsek) organized an informal meeting at Csaba's house. We even had guests from the US (a former chairman of US Servas) participate.



## 2.6. Servas Uganda

Servas Uganda Expressed peace solidarity by visiting an orphanage Home located in Mengo Kisenyi a Kampala, Uganda. The home takes care of all categories of vulnerable people, the disabled, the very old as shown in visual expression.

Below are some of the vulnerable groups of people visited at Mengo Kisenyi, Uganda on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to express peace solidarity



*Below are some of the Servas Members with the Management of the Vulnerable group of people above*



## 2.7. Servas Kenya

### SERVAS KENYA ~ INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK 2017

During the peace week in September, the national secretary Philip Olero visited a children's home in Kisumu, where some children lost their parents as a result of post election violence that was in Kenya. He shared with them about peace, friendship and hospitality. He gave out some little money for their upkeep and for buying them clothes.

We also organized a peace game during the week of the world peace day in which the participants were youths in university where one of our member Dalton Otieno studies. Even though we never had awards for the winners, the participants enjoyed the game and we went back united.

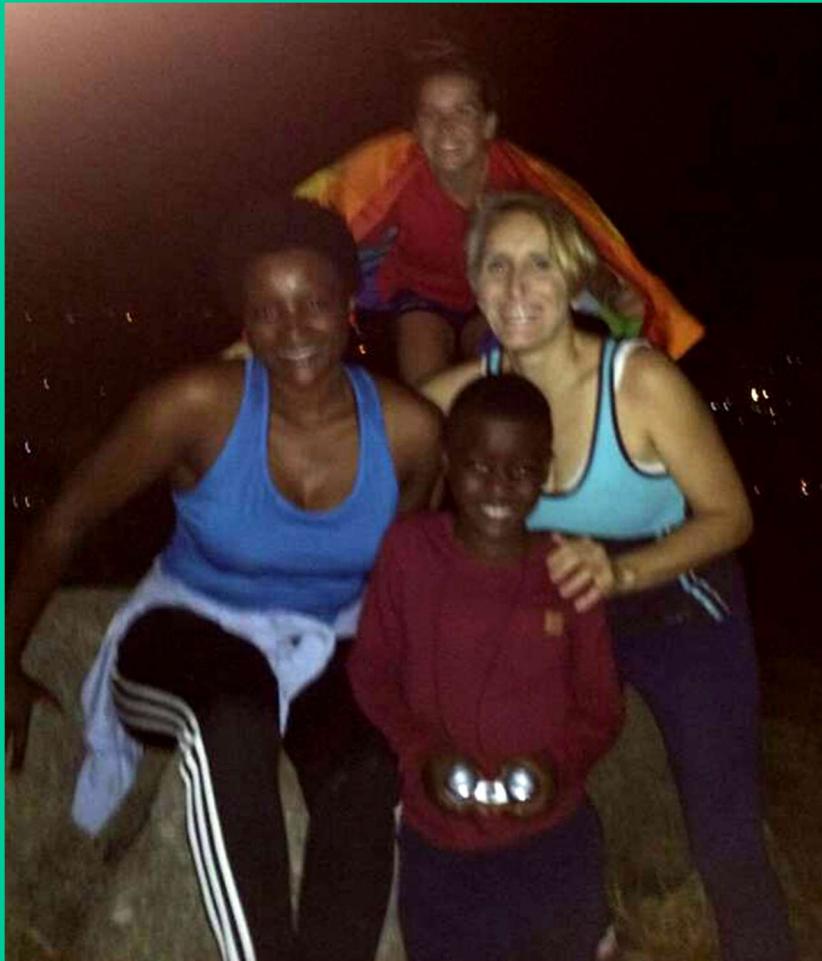


## 2.8. Servas Malawi

# SERVAS MALAWI 2017 World Peace Day

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**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2017**

**'World Peace Day' in Malawi**

**NYAMBADWE HILL, Blantyre.**

Where was everyone? I was rushing from school – still wearing my sports stuff, jumped into mom's car and there we were waiting at Nyambadwe PTC to see which intrepid daring Servas Malawi members would get to the rendez-vous. Would the Servas Travellers from Australia turn up with their hosts and hike with us? Darkness was setting in. Mom was getting agitated and wanted to start hiking. My dad phoned 'I'm done waiting for anyone to arrive at the base – I've been up and down – I'm going home now!' Well at least he went up I guess.

Nyambadwe is a very small hill but a steep climb none the less. Suddenly Aunty Linda appeared. '*I'll go half way up, I'm not used to this*' she bleated out, but before she knew it the two little goats with her had sped up ahead and we all had to scramble to keep up! Suddenly we 'peaked' ....'*oh the top – we've done it! I have done it!!* squeaked Aunty Linda rather pleased with herself I think. It was suddenly dark, with the city lights twinkling below. We gobbled hot chocolate down, (thanks mom!) ate crisps and cheered for a peaceful Malawi while holding our 'Pace' flag. Then 'coz it was dark getting cold we made our way down carefully giggling and ohing, ahing and slipping as we went. We did it!!





**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2017**  
**'World Peace Evening' in Malawi 730**  
**Ultimate Frisbee & social Volleyball**

Servas Members arrived to have a go. Frisbee was hard work but fun and took place outside under flood lite sports fields.



Soyapi and Judith, Linda and Jane – sitting out to catch their breath or worry about getting dragged into play. Volleyball was seriously referred and some of us were a little daunted by the fast rotation and having to serve – and smash that ball from the back over to the next court – not to forget the smashing volleys you had to go for! Holding babies was a good excuse to look, ‘keen but otherwise unable to join in’ .... Fun to watch though.



Friends were invited to come and see what Servas got upto and after sports we met up at new would-be member Tijana and Marco. Luckily we had just had 2 new people join and so I used that membership fee to ask Kulsum to make a rice and chicken curry and salad. It was nice to sit out on their our hosts verandah and eat and we were hungry

# Servas SYLE-Volunteer Experience

Come on think about it! Could '**MALAWI**' be for YOU  
Country: MALAWI -  
Southern Africa area.

- Length: 1 month.
  - Stay with National Sec' x2 days (settle in).
- 1<sup>st</sup>:**Stay 2nights each @ 5/6 Blantyre hosts  
hosts will:- a)Take you to work with them for a day. b) Orientate you to taking minibuses etc. c) Help you study Chichewa.



basics; d) Advise/go help you 'get to know Blantyre' by visiting St Michaels, Carlsberg, Queens Hospital, Thyolo & Zomba.

## **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Longer-stays of 1+1week+volunteer work

Stay 1 week with 1 host & 1 week with a 2<sup>nd</sup> While completing voluntary work with an allocated NGO's which could be:-

- Blood Donation Service – Collect testimonies.
- Queens Hospital – Accountancy, finances.
- Namasimba Day Centre – teaching 3-8yrs.
- Chichiri Prison – Ladies section – English.



Marian Mandeville (Australia-2013) Joschka Bhomer (Germany-2015)

**Evenings:** what is there to do? study, cook, chat: Monday Hash fun run. Choir 7-9pm. Weds: 4-5 Water polo. Volleyball 7pm.

**3<sup>rd</sup>:2 weeks self-funded travel @ lake or around Malawi & back for debrief with N/S**



**Requirements:** YOU MUST BE ABLE TO ✓ be a ‘model-Servas-traveller’, ✓ give a great powerpoint presentation upon a)your life, b)your country; ✓have traveller/hosting experience ✓Buy/pay your own air/insurance ticket to and from your home country.

- ✓ Be +18-80yrs. ✓ Attend x3 chichewa lessons.
- ✓ \$150\* admin fee, ✓ Have travel Insurance. ✓ Pocket money; ✓ Able to communicate well/ok in English.
- ✓ \$ Have funds to buy lunches and or local travel.
- ✓ Funds to shop, make & cook 1 dinner each week at your ‘long-stay’ hosts home. ✓ Up to date L.O.I.



- ✓ Funds to travel in Malawi in your last week.



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## 2.9. Servas Israel

### **Peace Gathering in Iksal Village**

Saturday there was a peace gathering between members of [Marching together to a Shared Future](#) and [Servas Israel](#), in the community center of the Moslem Arab village of [Iksal](#) near Nazareth.

The many participants - almost 100 people - received a warm welcome from representatives and members of the community. The nearby roads were filled with cars, smiles and greetings of Shalom, Salam and happy smiles were shared by all.

After coffee and refreshments, we entered a large hall where representatives of Iksal – Yiad Nagar and Phahim Nadaf Darvasha gave a brief description of their village and its community activities.

Following was a description of Marching Together movement, presented by representatives Asher Ben and Salach Greefat, and a slideshow about Servas's open doors to the world, presented by the organization's National Secretary in Israel, Claudia Sagie.

Servas friend from the Druze village of [Buqata](#) in Golan Heights, Akab Abo-Shaheen, also spoke some greeting and welcoming words.

There was musical show including two village youth who played on an Oud and sang a traditional song in Arabic.

Avner Reshef, Servas youth member, played peace songs on violin and, finally, the community center's dance youth troupe treated us to a performance of a Debka dance.

Servas member, Meir Hayoun, lead the participants in the song Salam.

Later Orit Gelbman, a young singer, inspired the audience with her lovely voice singing arousing songs of peace.

The message of the gathering was to promote tolerance and co-existence between all the inhabitants of our country, Jews and Arabs alike. Peace starts from within ourselves, inner peace and shines outwards to include family, friends and neighbors.

An enjoyable morning was had by all and hopefully a pathway was opened to more interaction and initiatives between the various communities living in Israel.

Many thanks to the village of Iksal, their community center and their representatives for welcoming us in their midst. Thanks to the activists of Marching together to a Shared Future and to Shimon Sneh, Amira Ben-Mordechai and Claudia Sagie from Servas Israel for organizing this event.  
Lesley Hayoun, Servas Israel



## 2.10. Servas Czech Republic

A few photos from a very informal meeting of members of Servas Czech and their friends plus Servas travellers from California and Lorenzo a SYLE guest from Milano. After refreshments and club business a merciless battle in Möllky - a Finnish national sport - took place in a nearby park. This meeting took place in the International Servas Week.



## 2.11. Servas International In UN

33° Sesión del Consejo de Derechos Humanos (CDH), del 13 al 30 de septiembre de 2016.

Servas Internacional (SI) participó en la 33° Sesión del CDH en Ginebra. Los representantes asistieron a las reuniones del CDH y a los eventos paralelos relevantes, participando activamente en nuestra misión de

paz, en particular con respecto a la eliminación de todas las formas de racismo y xenofobia. Con este fin, SI había presentado una declaración escrita sobre el tema “La necesidad urgente de implementar la Declaración y el Programa de Acción de Durban”, el cual forma parte de la documentación de la ONU y se puede encontrar bajo el título A/HRC/33/NGO/144.

Un aspecto a destacar es la posibilidad de que nuestros representantes asistieran a la 4° Edición de los Diálogos de Paz en Ginebra, bajo el tema “¡La paz sucede!”, en el marco del Día Internacional de la Paz el 21 de septiembre, destacando que todos pueden contribuir a la paz. Los ponentes, provenientes de diversos orígenes, compartieron sus experiencias personales, historias e ideas para resaltar que todos podemos contribuir a la paz, ya sea en casa o en una lejana zona de conflicto. Los Diálogos de Paz representan simbólicamente el espíritu de Ginebra para resolver el conflicto a través del diálogo y la negociación.



En la foto, de izquierda a derecha: Daniela Doenges, miembro de Servas Francia y Representante Principal de SI para la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra, Danielle Serres, miembro de Servas Francia y Secretaria de Paz de SI, y Margaret Seeling, ex Secretaria de Paz Nacional de SI Gran Bretaña

En la entrada del pasillo de la ONU, una exposición impresionante de Terre des Hommes sobre “Los derechos de los niños y el medio ambiente” llamó nuestra atención. La exhibición transmitía los puntos de vista de los niños sobre sus derechos y el medio ambiente, con motivo del día de debate general del Comité de la ONU sobre los derechos del niño.



El 23 de septiembre Daniela Doenges y Danielle Serres acompañó Christoph Kuhn, Secretario Nacional de Servas Suiza y representante adicional de SI para la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra.

¡Incluso, nos cruzamos con Evo Morales, de Bolivia, defensor de la Madre Tierra! Además de las sesiones llevadas a cabo en la sala de reuniones del CDH (la famosa Sala XX) sobre el Examen Periódico Universal (EPU), en el que se examina la situación de los derechos humanos, hubo también, como es usual, muchos eventos/paneles paralelos organizados por las Misiones Permanentes de los países y/o por ONGs, incluyendo Civicus, Human Rights Watch, ISMUN, FIDH, entre otras.

Algunos de los temas incluyeron la situación de los Defensores de los Derechos Humanos en los países africanos o en la región del Golfo, el rol de la sociedad civil, la ocupación y el derecho humanitario/derechos humanos, el racismo y la islamofobia. Con respecto a este último, Daniela Doenges fue invitada a presentar en el panel denominado “*Montée de l’islamophobie politique – quels dangers*” (Aumento de la islamofobia política - cuáles son los peligros, en francés); en su presentación advirtió sobre la creciente brecha entre las culturas y enfatizó sobre la necesidad urgente de diálogo y encuentro.

Al ser una organización cuyo objetivo es construir la paz a través del entendimiento entre las personas, Servas Internacional ha sido capaz de hacer escuchar su voz en varias ocasiones. Hemos extendido el mensaje acerca de Servas y conocido personas interesantes en el camino. La participación activa en las sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos es una gran manera de que nuestro mensaje sea escuchado. Las personas interesadas en asistir a las sesiones y/o apoyar a nuestro equipo, favor de comunicarse con Danielle Serres, [peacesecretary@servas.org](mailto:peacesecretary@servas.org).