



Famvin Homeless Alliance  
Vincentian Family Global Initiative on Homelessness

Our vision is that everyone has a place to call home  
and a stake in their community

## Editorial: Our Strategic Plan 2019 - 2021

*“Go then, courageously advancing moment by moment along the path on which God has placed you in order to reach Him.”* Louise de Marillac

When the Famvin Homeless Alliance was created in 2017, we could not have imagined where we would be only two years later. By 2019, we had developed a website and social media platforms, published materials on Vincentian spirituality, started a process to collect information on global Vincentian homelessness engagement, brought together over 100 people for a conference in Rome and launched a global campaign to end homelessness in all of the 156 countries in which the Vincentian Family works.

As exciting as these development were; they also taught us a lot. And so we used the beginning of 2019 to reflect about what had been achieved, the feedback we had received and what we would want to focus on moving forward. These reflections were brought together in the FHA's Strategic Plan 2019-2021 and will thus shape our work over the next few years.

The Strategic Plan is built on our paramount commitment to the Vincentian values – they are the main driver of our

work and we are committed to transfer them into all of our activities. We believe that the Vincentian dedication towards the poorest of the poor and the devotion, perseverance and creativity with which work is carried out are not only a great source of inspiration but also a source of knowledge. The Strategy therefore explicitly focuses on local expertise and local solutions and their application to the global stage through collaboration.

This commitment to local knowledge and solutions is reflected in all of the three key activities that the FHA is carrying out to support the Vincentian Family's service to homeless people:

- Sharing of knowledge, both practical and spiritual, within the Family
- Aiding the growth of new services for homeless people through collaboration
- Advocacy, both globally and locally, to promote systemic change

The Strategic Plan 2019-2021 aims to multiply the impact of these activities by focusing on actions that will help us to better understand what is currently done across the Vin-

centian Family - including the development of a network of Ambassadors to increase our reach; provide opportunities to learn about “homelessness in its many guises”; improve and transform the lives of homeless people across the world; and encourage structural changes both locally and globally.

We are excited about the journey that lies ahead and encouraged by the many Vincentians who have already joined us. We invite you to become a member of the Famvin Homeless Alliance; to let us know what you are doing in your country; to talk to us about what we could do to

help you; and to become part of this global movement to end homelessness. The poor are our masters. If we listen, and if we make their voice heard, we will change lives.



**Anja Bohnsack**

Research and Development Manager

## The FHA around the world

Since our last newsletter, the FHA team has been travelling around the world presenting the initiative and getting to know the “13 Houses” Campaign projects on the ground.

In March, our coordinator Mark McGreevy was in the south of **India**, getting to know the projects run by the [Congregation of the Mission](#), [the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Daughters of Charity](#), and the [Vincentian Congregation](#).

The following month Anja Bohnsack, our Research and Development Manager, [joined him in Un Untermarchtal, Germany](#), where the German-speaking Vincentians gathered for their annual meeting, to talk about the FHA and the Campaign. Mark has also visited **Chile**, where in addition to presenting about the initiative to the local Vincen-

tian Family, he also signed the agreement with the capital Santiago de Chile to join the *A place to call home* initiative run by the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH).

Natalie Monteza, the new “13 Houses Campaign” coordinator, also visited the [Vincentian Family projects in Seville, Spain](#) with Mark. They support homeless people and migrant women.

All the staff and the Commission also gathered at the beginning of June in **New York** for the biannual meeting and to take part in the [advocacy activities in the United Nations](#). At the end of the same month, Mark spoke at the conference organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society in **England and Wales** to present the Campaign to British Vincentians.



*The FHA Commission and team during the New York meeting*



## The Vincentian Advocacy in the United Nations

The United Nations is including homelessness in its vocabulary for the first time in its 74 years history. This has been achieved thanks to the Vincentian political advocacy alongside other civil society organisations through the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness (WGEH).

Because the UN has never considered homelessness, there is no agreed definition of what it is. The WGEH is making the case to adopt a definition in line with the Institute of Global Homeless (IGH, our strategic partner in De Paul University in Chicago) proposal. The work began in May, with a first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, of a group of experts. Among them was Dame Louise Casey, from IGH.

The WGEH is a coalition of organisations with the common goal of achieving global measurement of street homelessness, put an end to it and to spread effective strategies across member states.

In 2019, after many efforts by the Working Group members, the Commission for Social Development of the UN (CSoD) decided to focus its next session on homelessness. This commission advises other UN bodies, and at the end of the session the Secretary General will present a report on the issue.

As part of the political advocacy, the WGEH organised an Open Dialogue at the beginning of June in which the UN Director of Inclusive Social Development, Daniela Bas, and FHA staff took part.



Our group, deeply influenced by the Vincentian NGO leadership, is calling on UN member states to take initial measures to counter the exclusion of people to an affordable and dignified home. The global discussion is beginning, and the issue is entering, little by little, into the broader conversation around social protection floors for everybody. At the same time, the challenges that homelessness represents to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are being explored in a structural way.

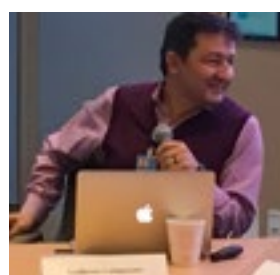


The WGEH's identity and mission has evolved. Today we are a working group deeply connected with the NGOs in the CSoD. We, alongside the IGH, are setting up a global coalition of NGOs united by the aim of a world in which everybody has a home.

We believe that in order to achieve real progress on this issue, it is key to identify opportunities, starting with clear global measurement of the problem; to develop shared goals to reduce or eliminate homelessness; and to support a global movement to spread the most effective strategies in every member state.

From the coalition of Vincentian NGOs at the UN, we believe the Vincentian Family option to create a world where everybody has a house is also today a specific tool of discernment and decision-making inside the Family's interpretation of the Charism. With this option the VF has identified a group that Saint Vincent would have called "the most abandoned" and has decided to pull together to assist in their integral liberation as a common option.

The 13 Houses metaphor has an unsuspected reach. Recently, the Orthodox Archdioceses of New York asked me about the Campaign because they would also like to implement it. The creativity of our Charism has not run out; the option for the homeless and the global movements it is generating around the issue are a true sign of this. Accomplices of the Spirit make sure it happens wherever we carry out our mission!



**Father Memo Campuzano**

Representative of the  
Congregation of the Mission  
in the UN

## The “13 Houses” Advances

Last December we asked you to join the “13 Houses” campaign, aimed at changing the lives of 10,000 homeless people worldwide. Here we bring you the map with the 32 countries that have already joined with at least one project, but we want to reach 150 by 2021!

We will update the map as more countries join the Campaign and we will tell you more about them and about the people whose lives have been changed.




*In India there are three projects and in Spain two*

---

*“I ask Our Lord to continue to grant you His graces and to increase them so that you may go on growing from strength to strength”  
Saint Vincent de Paul*

---


 [vfhomelessalliance.org](http://vfhomelessalliance.org)

 [@vfhomelessalliance](https://www.facebook.com/vfhomelessalliance)

 [@famvinalliance](https://twitter.com/famvinalliance)

 [fha.info@famvin.org](mailto:fha.info@famvin.org)

 [@famvinalliance](https://www.instagram.com/famvinalliance)

 [famvin-homeless-alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/famvin-homeless-alliance)