

*Meeting with the New UN WOMEN Executive Director, -Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka:*

*“Make the Circle, Bigger, Bigger, and Bigger”*

*By Kimberly Moloche, Intern at the GSIJPO-NY*



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is the newly appointed Executive Director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women better known as UN Women, which is the United Nations body tasked with promoting women’s rights and their full participation in global affairs. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka is the former first-female deputy president of South Africa (2005 to 2008). She also served as Deputy Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry, Minister of



Minerals and Energy, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology and is naturally a women's advocate. Other accomplishments include the establishment of the Umlambo Foundation in 2008, which was created to provide support to schools in impoverished areas in South Africa through mentorship and coaching for teachers and in Malawi through school improvements with local partners.

A warm and welcoming environment was created by the deputy executive directors of UN Women Ms Lakshmi Puri and Mr John Hendra and the Chief of the Civil Society



Society

Section, Ms Lopa Banerjee between Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka and Civil Society partners in New York. Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka said, *"I am privileged to be of service to the women of the world."* During the meeting all organizations present, among them Good Shepherd, were able to introduce themselves, ask questions, make requests and speak their minds while Ms. Mlambo-



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Ngcuka listened diligently responding to all comments.

Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka's main point was that she would maintain her activist role within her new mandate. She outlined her grass-root level experiences and stated that she is willing to speak about unpopular topics in regards to women's rights and that we can not tread carefully when it comes to women's being violated.

Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka concluded, "Thank you so much for your words of encouragement and your warm welcome... I won't be able to do any of these things without you so you are not getting out of my sight." She is a passionate woman who means what



Sr. Yolanda Sanchez with Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka

she says. We are pleased to see her in her new leadership position because she realizes the need and importance for unity between all organizations. Realizing the importance of partnership is essential to this role and we are pleased she acknowledges that we must make the circle bigger. As UN Women we will strive for women's right around the world and be successful in achieving our goals!

At the end of the meeting we had an opportunity to meet Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka.