



 SIGNIS

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

Editorial

Austin, Texas, December 2023

The year 2023 has been a transformative period for SIGNIS. As we continue to adapt our structures and organization to rapid changes in our Church and world, we have found our unwavering commitment to our mission to promote human dignity, social justice and peace through media to be a touchstone for us. A highlight of the year was the announcement in May of the SIGNIS mandate, a new and important way for us to live our mission. In brief, the mandate has three focuses: professional and spiritual formation; engaging youth and women as active protagonists; and a renewed emphasis on advocacy and awareness. Through this mandate, we intend to be synodal, welcoming those who share our desire for a world where all people can use their God-given talents for the common good.

In April, a seminar for journalists in Uganda brought together officials from the Holy See, the United Nations, local collaborators and journalists from throughout Africa to consider ethical approaches to reporting on migration issues. The seminar underscored our role in supporting journalism that fosters empathy and informed public discourse.

In the framework of the World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, a team of graduates of the SIGNIS-XUB Global Fellowship program, which was held in India in 2020, played a significant role during the Magis Meeting that brought together young people from around the world and in which SIGNIS in collaboration with the collective Take me back, facilitated a creative camp and at least one workshop on various communication and storytelling content, from a spiritual perspective.

Throughout 2023, we intensified our focus on youth engagement. Initiatives like 'Cine Mundo Chico' and 'Radio Lio' provide platforms for children and young voices, enabling them to express their perspectives on faith, culture, and social issues through various media formats. These programs have been pivotal in nurturing a new wave of creative and conscientious communicators. We introduced a new safeguarding protocol in January, reinforcing our dedication to protecting vulnerable populations.

Regional assembly in Asia, addressed regional challenges and opportunities in Catholic communication. Notably, the announcement of the next SIGNIS World Congress in Rwanda in 2026 highlights Africa's growing importance in the global media community.

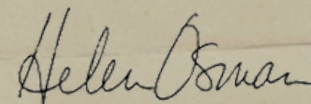
Human rights advocacy remained a cornerstone of our work. We supported campaigns to release journalists and stood in solidarity with communities facing oppression. In April, we joined forces with SIGNIS Costa Rica to demand the release of Nicaraguan journalist Victor Ticay. Earlier in the year, we expressed solidarity with the people of Brazil during political turmoil. These actions reinforced our commitment to defending freedom of expression and human rights.

Our cinema juries and our participation in ecumenical and interreligious cinema juries continue to provide a witness in the film industry of the value of story-telling that highlights human dignity and spiritual values. In the more than 30 film festivals where SIGNIS is present, we bring a witness to the power of synodal listening and accompaniment of the vulnerable and marginalized.

An extraordinary assembly determined the need to consolidate our administrative office to Rome and leveraging the opportunities of having a global network of competent professionals, aiming to enhance operational efficiency and strengthen ties with the Holy See. This strategic move is expected to bolster our influence and resources in the coming years.

The 'Inspiring Hope' initiative showcases the transformative power of media in post-conflict societies. Stories of resilience and recovery serve as part of our mission to inspire hope through communication.

As we reflect on these 12 months, I hold a profound sense of hope and gratitude. The dedication and passion of our members continues to edify me. Their tireless work demonstrates that media can be a powerful force for good, bridging divides and fostering a more compassionate and just world. As we look toward the future, let us continue to harness the power of communication to inspire, heal, and advocate for a better world.

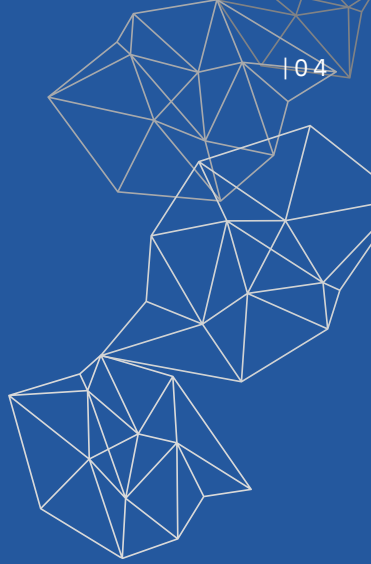


President of SIGNIS

Mandate 2023

Shaping the future of global communications





The three pillars of the roadmap that will inform SIGNIS actions in the next few years.

The mandate, to be actioned through 2026, was developed by an ad hoc committee to establish a strategic direction for the organization, taking into account the key points of the synodal process done in the regions and the Mission of SIGNIS.



Formation - It is considered crucial at all levels of the organization, especially professional and spiritual formation, tailored to address the diverse realities of SIGNIS regions worldwide. It concerns "developing projects and concrete actions that have an impact on public policies, particularly benefiting marginalized communities" and implementing "a safeguarding protocol for all members, prioritizing the protection of the most vulnerable, including the elderly, women, and the young".



Engaging youth and women as active protagonists - Recognizing the significance of young professionals in driving organizational renewal, the mandate emphasizes the need to equip them with the necessary skills to succeed as professionals. The emancipation of women at a grassroots level is crucial to promote equal integration and ensure leadership roles are distributed fairly, leading to a prosperous and sustainable future.



Advocacy and Awareness - The goal is to let all media professionals know that SIGNIS is a place they can come to for collaboration, promotion, and strengthening of their own media plans. Inclusivity is a key word related to the importance of incorporating professionals who identify with SIGNIS' mission and vision, independently from their background.

SIGNIS Publishes Safeguarding Protocol



The SIGNIS Safeguarding Protocol governs the practices of employees, volunteers, and elected officials in fulfillment of the guidelines provided by the Holy Father through the Holy See's Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. The primary goal of these policies is to ensure a safe environment for children by preventing opportunities for the abuse of minors. This protocol offers a framework for SIGNIS world officers and staff to collaborate with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to create and maintain a safe environment for children and vulnerable individuals. This protocol was adopted by the Board of Directors in Bangkok on November 27, 2023, alongside a renewed code of conduct signed by the SIGNIS Board and staff members. The individual regions are currently working on developing their own protocols.



Youth Engagement Around the World

The commitment to accompany and collaborate with new generations of communicators has led to the establishment of an institutional structure within SIGNIS by creating the Youth Desk, whose first president is Ms. Majo Centurión. This new department provides a space for young communicators from all SIGNIS regions worldwide.

In addition to this historic and symbolic decision, our members worked with young communicators to develop various training projects across five continents.

One significant effort was the creative camp organized by graduates of SIGNIS programs during World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.



Through collaboration with lay and Church organizations, more than 20 young people from Africa, Europe, and Latin America participated in days of reflection and action focused on communication, creativity, and spirituality.

In Latin America, the Radio Lío continental project continued, linking training with the production of an online radio station that supports social movements, the consolidation of democracies, and the spiritual journeys of young Latin Americans.





During Magis Lisbon 2023, a transformative experience led by Jesuits ahead of World Youth Day, SIGNIS and TMB Lab organized a creative workshop on the outskirts of Coimbra, Portugal. 27 young people from 12 countries, including Ukraine, Zimbabwe, Mexico, Argentina and Paraguay, immersed themselves in workshops focused on communication, art, and Ignatian spirituality, guided by Solange Didiego, Sandra Estrada Real, and Luis Enrique Delgado, graduates of various SIGNIS formation programs.

This gathering, accompanied by Father Michael Rossmann SJ, highlighted artistic creation as a means of self-knowledge and spiritual exploration. Participants developed storyboards, performances, and illustrations, integrating creativity with transcendence.



During World Youth Day at the São Roque Museum in Lisbon, Dr. Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Dicastery of Communication for the Holy See, emphasized the importance of young voices in the Church. 'Communication is communion. We want to be at your side. Please tell us what you need and how we can improve our communications to create a global network where everyone is heard,' Ruffini said, encouraging the young people to share their ideas and hopes for strengthening communication worldwide. The meeting concluded with a gathering, celebrating togetherness and hope in youth as agents of change. SIGNIS' presence at World Youth Day in Magis Lisbon 2023 not only prepared our youth for the main event but also planted seeds of creativity and spirituality that will continue to enrich their lives and communities.



Faith Communication in action



My participation in the Faith Communications program was a profoundly enriching experience that exceeded my expectations. As a Catholic journalist and communications enthusiast, I gained valuable insights into the latest digital developments and the need for a more inclusive and synodal approach to communications. The session from experts including SIGNIS President Helen Osman were invaluable.

That experience inspired me to contribute to enhancing our communications systems and processes in Zimbabwe. I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Talitha Kum, developing a communication strategy to promote a mobile application combating human trafficking, and committed to empowering young people and digital missionaries in Africa, striving towards a truly synodal communications approach that amplifies media evangelization.

Kudakwashe Martin Matambo (Zimbabwe)
Member of SIGNIS Africa and, Tutor of the 2020 SIGNIS Africa' Citizens Journalists of Hope' training.



In the Faith Communication Program, I experienced the real meaning of communications. We reflect deeply on its own means through the lecture, group work, sharing and praying. And I found out the beauty of communications through art and any medium and through that communications God is working.

San May Nwe (Myanmar)
Still and Motion Storyteller (SIGNIS Comm Lab Fellow)

I was selected by the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication to participate in the first generation of the Faith Communication in the Digital World program; since then, I know that creativity and communication are a vocation that makes me part of something much bigger than myself. It was a school of new communication that passes first through trust, honesty, friendship, and hope and thus bears fruit in concrete, realistic, and not idealized projects, I learned to read my story as part of the history of the Church, to value the process more than the results, but intentionally welcoming the lessons we got, I learned to savor the community more than my development. Thanks to this safe environment of fruitful communication, I have felt confirmed in my mission of Apostolic Creativity and have been privileged to be invited to mentor the next 3 generations to date, for a fire that is lit only makes sense if it lights other fires.

Kike Delgado (México)
SIGNIS Fellowship Programme Graduate



This program helped me to understand the important role of Communicator of the church as a mission in my work and daily life. Technology is growing very fast, the media is a tool and it is a gift from God which we can use to change the World in peace, give hope to people and connect people from the ground to the top line. We, the communicator of the Church, have to look forward, adapt, learn and use it properly in order to preach the Good News.

Kagnha Keo (Cambodia)
Catholic Social Communications Officer,
for the National office in Cambodia.
Secretary of SIGNIS Cambodia and SIGNIS Asia.



With an audience in 14 countries, Radio Lío has had a significant year in 2023, marked by various important activities. Notably, the planning and execution of the training program "La Chispa de la Palabra II" (The Spark of the Word II) culminated in a face-to-face meeting in Quito, Ecuador, in July. This event not only trained new members of the Executive Committee but also empowered young people to take on decisive roles in content creation, ensuring a fresh and youthful perspective in programming.



Radio Lío: The Young Voice Revolutionizing Communication

Radio Lío serves as a platform for participation, bringing together diverse perspectives with a shared purpose: to generate narratives from young people that promote rights, equality, and inclusion. It provides a continuous space for reflection and training to tackle new communication challenges." — Yorman Galviz, Producer of Radio Lío





Seminar for Journalists in Uganda

Helen Osman, SIGNIS President, acknowledged that most people on the move today are young individuals, and the consequences of migration disproportionately affect women and youth seeking opportunities and safety in different regions. She highlighted the urgent need for women to be storytellers of women's experiences, drawing parallels to the Blessed Mother Mary's journey as a displaced person. Osman also emphasized the importance of having women journalists who can tell stories that resonate with the unique challenges faced by women on the move.



In July 2023, SIGNIS Africa, in collaboration with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, organized a conference for journalists in Uganda under the theme “Effective and Efficient Reporting on Migrants and Refugees” at St. Mary’s National Seminary in Ggaba, Kampala.

The conference aimed to empower voices and promote human dignity, justice, and reconciliation. It also sought to address the issue of migration and its impact on communities, harnessing the power of modern media to bring these crucial discussions to the forefront.

Cinema through eyes of children and young people



SIGNIS Argentina has been implementing the Cine Mundo Chico Program (CMCH) for over twenty years. Initially, this media literacy program was inspired by the tradition of cinema and spirituality, including film forums and debates, as well as the writings of the esteemed Luis García Orso, SJ. From there, teams led by Ricardo Yáñez and Father Guillermo Russo emerged to bring this practice to young people and adolescents in schools throughout Buenos Aires and its surrounding areas.



One of CMCH's objectives is to 'promote the critical judgment of young people, helping them discern between human values and anti-values, and, fundamentally, to reflect on the culture of peace among individuals and communities.' Over the years, thousands of children and adolescents, along with hundreds of teachers and pastoral agents, have participated in these experiences in various parts of the country, from Córdoba to Bahía Blanca.

Like any other program, CMCH has updated its practices and incorporated new modalities. Among these are film and audiovisual workshops for children and adolescents, generally held in the outlying neighborhoods of large cities where social vulnerability prevails.

In these spaces, during several meetings, the children watch and analyze short films, invent their own stories, and learn the fundamentals of audiovisual language. They create short films that reflect their ways of speaking, themes, and cultures. Their faces express the joy of learning and sharing unique moments where they can create, have fun, and discover their identities while envisioning a kinder and more humane world.

After Asia (Seoul, South Korea, 2022), North America (Canada, Quebec, 2017), Europe (Italy, Rome, 2014), Africa will host the SIGNIS World Congress in 2026 in the City of Kigali, Rwanda.

The decision was made during the SIGNIS Board of Directors meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in November, 2023. SIGNIS, in its commitment to foster international collaboration among its members, associates and affiliates, organizes a quadrennial global event. This assembly provides a platform for participants to engage in substantive discussions, exchange ideas and contemplate the future trajectory of media and communication.



“Our local Church will be honored to host the SIGNIS World Congress and support the development of communications in the Church” - Cardinal Antoine Kambanda, Archbishop of Kigali and Chairperson of the Rwandan Episcopal Conference.



“In Africa, Rwanda and its capital city serve as symbols of hope, embodying a renaissance from the ashes of adversity towards a brighter future. Rwanda, home to a population of over 13 million, with approximately 60% identifying as Catholic, has undergone a remarkable transformation since the tragic events of the 1994 genocide.” - Fr. Bertrand Webb Amouzou, General Director of Ecclesia TV, Ivory Coast, representing SIGNIS Africa.

TIME LINE

SIGNIS WORLD CONGRESS

2026

AFRICA

Kigali City, Rwanda



2022

ASIA

Seoul, South Korea



2017

AMERICA

Québec City, Canada



2014

EUROPE

Rome, Italy





Reflecting in AI

The SIGNIS Asia Assembly 2023, held from October 23-27 at the Baan Phu Waan Pastoral Training Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, gathered 70 members from 12 countries. The theme was "Communicating the Gospel with the Heart in the Digital World," inspired by Pope Francis's message for the 57th World Communications Day, "Speaking with the Heart: The Truth in Love."

This assembly provided a platform for diverse cultures to share wisdom and explore ways to convey love and truth in the digital age. Discussions emphasized the importance of dynamic dialogue while considering the roles of communication technologies and AI. Pope Francis's focus on active listening and observation was central, reflecting the theme of "Speaking with the Heart."

SIGNIS Condemns the Arrest of Nicaraguan Journalist Victor Ticay

SIGNIS, in solidarity with SIGNIS Costa Rica, strongly condemns the arrest of Nicaraguan journalist Victor Ticay, who was detained for broadcasting a Holy Week procession. This incident highlights the ongoing suppression faced by the press and Christian community in Nicaragua under the Sandinista regime, which stifles free expression and the right to information.

Nicaragua, a nation with deep Catholic roots, witnessed heightened police repression during Holy Week, with public religious expressions being banned. Despite these restrictions, the community of Nandaime in Granada proceeded with their traditional Holy Wednesday activity, "La Reseña," commemorating Jesus' journey to Calvary. Victor Ticay, a local journalist, covered this event on his Facebook news page "La Portada." The following day, without any legal justification, he was arrested and imprisoned at "El Chipote," a facility notorious for detaining Catholics, including priests.

The Journalists and Independent Communicators of Nicaragua (PCIN) have labeled Ticay's arrest as "arbitrary and illegal," demanding his immediate release. He was not the only one targeted; during Holy Week, at least 15 Nicaraguans, primarily opposition members and devout Catholics, were detained by the police. Among those affected was Catholic priest Donaciano Alarcón, who was expelled to the Honduran border.

SIGNIS, along with international advocates for free expression, continues to denounce these violations and calls for global attention to the plight of journalists and the faithful in Nicaragua.

Human Rights



© Committee to Protect Journalists



SIGNIS.WORLD connecting a global network of communicators

In 2023, SIGNIS proudly launched its new website, signis.world, marking a significant advancement in our digital presence. The revamped site features a user-friendly interface available in three languages —English, French, and Spanish— designed to enhance accessibility and engagement for members and visitors alike. Key features include streamlined navigation, comprehensive sections on our mission and activities, up-to-date news, and resources for media professionals. Additionally, the site offers detailed information about our projects, events, and partnerships, reflecting our commitment to promoting human dignity, justice, and reconciliation through media. A forthcoming section dedicated to members will offer exclusive benefits, reflecting our commitment to supporting and connecting our global network. This new platform underscores our dedication to effective communication and global outreach ([SIGNIS World](https://signis.world)).



Inspiring Hope



Inspiring hope: a SIGNIS project empowering new voices is a campaign sponsored by SIGNIS with support from the Catholic Communication Campaign. It aims to share stories of hope that inspire and generate social transformation from new communication resources—a journey through Burundi, Liberia, Belize, Tanzania and Latin America.

The “Inspiring Hope” communication campaign launched by SIGNIS and supported by the CCC has resonated powerfully across various regions, igniting a beacon of optimism and empowerment using the power of the media. Radio stations like Radio Lio in Latin America and the Caribbean, Radio Hekima in Tanzania, Radio Voix de la Reconciliation in Burundi and Radio Paraclete in Liberia, have emerged as vital platforms for fostering hope and reconciliation within their communities. These stations have effectively leveraged their influence to promote peace and dialogue, empower youth and women, and advocate for human rights, demonstrating the transformative potential of media in driving positive change.

[YouTube Playlist](#)





Each day of recording in Liberia was an encounter with youth volunteers who built a real communication project: with their feet and voices, they asked for peace for their country and became the music of the heart for their neighbors and friends.

Amid so many economic and political adversities, Radio Paraclete in Gbarnga City is an example to the world of how an idea, assumed from unwavering commitment and faith, can sow hope in the Liberian people's lives.

Through its broadcasts, it addresses crucial health, education, and justice issues, connecting the community. Most importantly, it provides a platform for young voices aspiring for positive change, instilling hope in the hearts of the listeners. Due to electrical instability, the radio operates on solar power, demonstrating a commitment to sustainability and journalist independence.

*Edgar Rubio
Filmmaker*



A new impetus to our film tradition

SIGNIS' relationship with the world of cinema continued as part of a tradition that dates back to the birth of our Association almost one hundred years ago.

Participation in SIGNIS juries, ecumenical juries, and interfaith juries remains one of our Association's most striking and celebrated tasks.



In this updating environment, Adriana Răcășan took over as president of the new SIGNIS film and television department; the new agenda seeks to attract more professionals and reach out to new festivals to promote the SIGNIS mandate.

Within the array of festivals and films we highlight the words of Win Wenders upon receiving the Ecumenical Jury Prize at the 76th edition of the Cannes Film Festival for his film "Perfect Days".

Wenders expressed his deep gratitude and reflected on the inspiration behind the film. He highlighted the humility and dignity of the protagonist, played by Kôji Yakusho, who cleans public toilets in Tokyo. He emphasized how the film captures the beauty and grace in everyday routines and how these simple elements can reveal deep human values, such as respect for nature and compassion for others.



A torch that inspires us

The torch of leadership as Ecclesiastical Assistant has been passed from the Mexican Jesuit priest Luis García Orso, SJ, to the Spanish priest Peio Sánchez. We wish to pay tribute to Luis's invaluable contributions and the legacy he has created while warmly welcoming Peio into this vital role. Both share a deep passion for cinema, which will continue to inspire and guide our Association's mission.

Fr. Pedro (Peio) Sánchez Rodríguez, a member of ADSIS, holds degrees in Pedagogy and Social Psychology, as well as a doctorate in Theology. He teaches at the Faculty of Theology of Catalonia and supports the homeless through Barcelona's Hospital de Campaña. He promotes cinema as a tool for evangelization and interreligious dialogue, organizing the Spiritual Film Week and Exhibition. A film critic for various publications, he has served as Vice President of SIGNIS Spain and Counselor of SIGNIS Catalunya since 2011. In August 2023, he was appointed SIGNIS Ecclesiastical Assistant, succeeding Fr. Luis García Orso, SJ.

Father Peio, how did you receive the news of your appointment by Cardinal Farrell as the Ecclesiastical Assistant of SIGNIS?

It was unexpected and a new challenge. The Ecclesiastical Assistant in an association like SIGNIS serves as an advisor to its members, who are Christian communicators, as well as to the governing bodies. My mission is to provide support in the background, encouraging spiritual dynamism and promoting the paths to synodality. For me, it is a challenge that broadens my perspective to encompass the issues, challenges, and hopes of communicators throughout the Church.

What are three words to define SIGNIS' mission today?

UNIVERSALITY: We are a global association of communicators, present on all continents and embracing a variety of churches and circumstances. As heirs to a long history of encounters among communicators across different media, we are called to broaden our perspective, with a special focus on the most vulnerable. **REGENERATION:** We must train, accompany, and support the new generations of Christian communicators, and many of our initiatives and proposals are focused on this goal. **CONVERSION:** It is necessary to reform our dynamics by seeking greater economic independence, strengthening our communication networks with other realities within the Church, and reinterpreting our responsibilities.



Luis García Orso, SJ, is an emblematic figure in the union of cinema and spirituality. He has left an indelible mark on SIGNIS-Mexico, SIGNIS-Latin America and the Caribbean, and SIGNIS World. Since joining the Society of Jesus in 1961, he has dedicated his life to bridging the gap between cinematic art and spiritual reflection.

As Ecclesiastical Advisor of SIGNIS, first appointed in 2015 and ratified for a second term in 2019, he has illuminated the path of communication by promoting human and Christian values within our Association and the media in Mexico. García Orso holds a doctorate in theology and is a professor at the Universidad Iberoamericana and the Pontifical University of Mexico. He emphasizes that cinema is a powerful tool for evangelization; his book *How to Harness the Spirituality of Cinema* guides readers through films that serve as mirrors of life and windows to other worlds.

A tireless mentor, he inspires young film critics to reflect a deep spirituality and social commitment in their work. His voice resonates in every invitation to watch films that contemplate the human condition and in every communicator who dreams of a better world.



*“Once again, Tatiana Huevo focuses the narrative on women's ability to resist barbarism, achieving this through contemplative photography that avoids graphic violence and speeches. Instead, she conveys great sensitivity, with all the senses open, and with enormous empathy and compassion, fostering a sense of community spirit in the village as they defend their lives in the night of fire.” — Luis García Orso, SJ, on the film *Noche de Fuego*.*



From Brussels to Rome - an important decision from the Extraordinary Assembly of Delegates

Gathered online on September 1st, the Assembly of Delegates accepted the proposal to close the Brussels office and relocate the administrative office to Rome. This decision aligns with our strategic goals and addresses financial challenges, ensuring long-term stability. The delegates also approved the amendment of the Statute (art. 2.2) to reflect this change, officially designating Rome as our administrative hub.

The amendment to the Canonical Statutes has been approved by the Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life. Additionally, the "museum" from the SIGNIS Brussels office, featuring objects from around the world, prizes, awards, and historical pictures, is now stored at Media Animation, our Belgian member. All archives are diligently stored in KADOC, the Documentation and Research Center on Religion, Culture and Society, in Leuven, Belgium. This move consolidates our operations, reduces expenses, and better represents the global nature of our organization. The swift and decisive action by the Assembly underscores our commitment to adapting and thriving in a changing financial landscape.



Meeting of the Board of Directors in Bangkok

The SIGNIS Board of Directors met from November 25th to 28th in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand. Being the first in-person meeting since the members were elected in 2022, it was an opportunity to share the latest updates from each region and make important decisions to ensure that the Association and its members have the most significant impact on communications around the world.





Former SIGNIS Vice President Lawrence (Eljay) John Sinniah received the title of Knight of the Pontifical Equestrian Order of St. Sylvester, Pope and Martyr—one of the five Orders of Knighthood awarded directly by the Pope—for his contributions to social communication. The title was conferred by Pope Francis and presented to him by Dr. Paolo Ruffini, Prefect of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Communication.

'I am deeply honored to receive this title from Pope Francis. I would like to share this recognition with my fellow social communicators, especially our young leaders, who promote unity and development through communications and media,' Eljay said.



Dr. Paolo Ruffini’s speech centered on the importance of communication not only for the Church but also for fostering communion among peoples. 'What was SIGNIS meant to be if not exactly this? Not an ecclesial bureaucracy or a power, but a communion of servants called to be workers, weavers of a different culture from the one that dominates today, which is based on division.

As you know, communication is not merely the sharing of information. Weaving communion among journalists, film directors, graphic designers, writers, novelists, actors, and performers from different cultures is the most powerful means of communication. This is the challenging and unique task for the men and women of SIGNIS: to be a network that unites and liberates.'



Read the full speech:

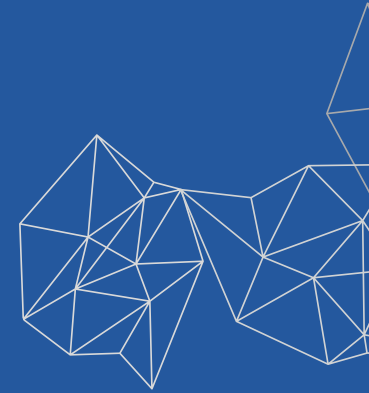


Becoming a working board of directors

SIGNIS President, Helen Osman, presented a proposal to evolve towards a working board of directors. A working board is a group of directors actively participating in the organization's daily activities. The working board will be composed of committees, presided over by the Board members themselves, to best channel the needs of the Association and tackle different areas effectively.

Committees and elected chairs:

- Fundraising, Development & Finance Committee: Mrs. Helen Osman (SIGNIS President).
- Membership Committee: to be nominated.
- Production Content Development and Research Committee: Ms. Pam Aleman (SIGNIS North America).
- Awareness Education and Advocacy Committee: Ms. Agatha Maria Ferei Furivai (SIGNIS Pacific).
- Governance Committee: to be nominated.



SIGNIS desks

The SIGNIS Desks embody various media and communication fields, promote the work of members around the world, and assist in coordinating global projects, meetings and training sessions. During the Board of Directors meeting in Bangkok, the structure and relevance of the Desks were reviewed, resulting in the following Desks and chairpersons:

- Digital desk: Ms. Pamela Aleman (SIGNIS North America).
- Journalism desk: Ms. Adeline James (SIGNIS Asia).
- Media education desk: Mr. Carlos Ferraro (SIGNIS Latin America and Caribbean).
- Radio desk: Ms. Agatha Furivai Furivai (SIGNIS Pacific, ad interim).
- Cinema and television desk: Ms. Adriana Răcășan (SIGNIS Europe). This Desk is now merging the original Cinema Desk and Television Desk into a single department, which will combine the SIGNIS initiatives in both areas like the Association's presence in international film festivals around the world and the development of television seminars and activities.
- Youth Empowerment desk: Ms. María José Centurión (SIGNIS Vice-President). This brand-new desk is a response to SIGNIS' intention to involve young people in the Association and its activities. In line with this, the Board approved the program "SIGNIS Talent+".



SIGNIS is a non-governmental organization that includes members from over 100 countries. As the “World Catholic Association for Communication”, it brings together radio, television, cinema, video, media education, and digital communications



To engage with media professionals and support Catholic communicators to help transform our cultures in the light of the Gospel by promoting human dignity, justice and reconciliation.





Pontifical
Mission
Societies



INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIATS



UNESCO
(International Council for
Film Television and Audiovi-
sual Communication)

PARTNERS



adveniat
für die Menschen
in Lateinamerika

interfilm
international interchurch
film organisation



The World Association for
Christian Communication



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



C A M E C O

CATHOLIC MEDIA COUNCIL



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COMUNICAZIONE



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A big thank you to the staff who diligently worked at SIGNIS for years and who in 2023 ended their collaboration.

Alejandro Hernandez (projects team)
Marc Bourgois (members department)
Fabienne Deseau (members department)
Nadia Tekal (projects team)

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA (ENGLISH)	ARCCC, Association of Roman Catholic Communicators of Canada
USA	CNS, Catholic News Service
USA	SCCF, SIGNIS Catholic Communicators Forum
USA	USCCB, Department of Communications - CCC

EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

AUSTRIA	Medienreferat der Österreichischen Bishopskonferenz
BELGIUM	Média Animation, Communication & Education
CZECH REPUBLIC	TV Noe
FRANCE	FMC, Fédération des Médias Catholiques
GERMANY	Deutsche Bischofskonferenz
GERMANY	Katholischer Medienverband
HUNGARY	MAKÚSZ - Hungarian Catholic Association of the Press
IRELAND	The Radharc Trust
ITALY	CEI, Ufficio Nazionale per le Comunicazioni Sociali
LEBANON	CCI, Centre Catholique d'Information
LUXEMBOURG	Communication & Presse de l'Archidiocèse de Luxembourg
MALTA	Beacon Media Group
NETHERLANDS	KFA Filmbeschouwing
POLAND	SIGNIS Polska
PORTUGAL	Secretariado Nacional da Pastoral da Cultura
ROMANIA	SIGNIS Roumanie
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	LUX Communication
SLOVENIA	SŠK, Slovenian Bishops' Conference, Commission for mass media
SPAIN	UCIPE - Unión Católica de Informadores y Periodistas de España
SPAIN	SIGNIS España
SWITZERLAND (FRENCH)	CES - Conférence des évêques suisse
SWITZERLAND (GERMAN)	Katholisches Medienzentrum
SWITZERLAND (ITALIAN)	ComEc Centro Cattolico Media della svizzera italiana (Associazione ComEc)
UNITED KINGDOM	Southworld WebMag

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA	SIGNIS-Argentina, Asociación Católica Argentina para la Comunicación
BRAZIL	SIGNIS-Brasil, Associação Católica de Comunicação
CHILE	SIGNIS-Chile
COLOMBIA	SIGNIS-Colombia, Asociación Católica de Comunicación
COSTA RICA	SIGNIS-Costa Rica, Asociación Católica Costarricense de Comunicación
CUBA	SIGNIS-Cuba, Organización Católica Cubana para la Comunicación
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	SIGNIS-República Dominicana
ECUADOR	SIGNIS-Ecuador, Asociación Católica de Comunicación
GRENADA	AECRC Antilles Episcopal Conference Communication, Communications Commission
MEXICO	SIGNIS de México AC
PANAMA	CCPanamá SIGNIS
PARAGUAY	ACCP, Asociación de Comunicadores Católicos de Paraguay
PERU	APC, SIGNIS-Peru
SURINAM	Diocese of Paramaribo, Media Coordination
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	AEC Antilles Episcopal Conference
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	TCN, Trinity Communications Network
URUGUAY	SIGNIS-Uruguay
URUGUAY	Departamento de Comunicación Social (DECOS) de la Iglesia Católica de Montevideo
VENEZUELA	SIGNIS-Venezuela

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

ECUADOR	ALER, Asociación Latinoamericana de Educación Blagovest Media
FRANCE	Association CREC International
BELGIUM	Blagovest Media International
THAILAND	LiCAS.news
ITALY	PCN, Paulines Communications Network
ITALY	Salesians of Don Bosco International

AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

ANGOLA	CEA, Social Communications Commission
BURKINA FASO	CEBEN, Commission des Moyens de Communication
CONGO REP.	CCC, Commision Episcopale des MCS
DEM. REP. CONGO	SIGNIS RDC
ETHIOPIA	CBCE, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia
GAMBIA	Gambia Pastoral Institute
GHANA	DEPSOCOM, NSC, National Catholic Secretariat
IVORY COAST	CEMCSCL, Commission Episcopale des MCS de Côte d'Ivoire
KENYA	KCCB, Social Communications Department
MADAGASCAR	Radio Don Bosco
MALAWI	ECM, Social Communications Department
MALI	CEM, Commission Nationale des MCS
MAURITIUS	CAPAV, Compagnie d'Animation et de Production Audiovisuelle
MOZAMBIQUE	CEM, Comisión Episcopal de MCS
NIGERIA	SIGNIS Nigeria
REUNION	Radio Arc en Ciel
SENEGAL	CES, Commission des MCS
SEYHELLES	Diocèse de Port-Victoria, Service Audio-visuel
SOUTH AFRICA	SACBC, Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
TOGO	SIGNIS-Togo
UGANDA	UEC, Social Communications Department
ZAMBIA	ZEC, Catholic Media Services
ZIMBABWE	ZCBC, Social Communications Commission

ASIA

BANGLADESH	Christian Communications Centre
CAMBODIA	Catholic Social Communication
EAST TIMOR	CPA, Casa de Produção Audiovisual
HONG KONG	SIGNIS Hong Kong
INDIA	SIGNIS India
INDONESIA	SIGNIS Indonesia
JAPAN	SIGNIS Japan - Catholic Media Council
KOREA	SIGNIS Korea
MACAU	Macau Diocesan Social Communication Center
MALAYSIA	SIGNIS Malaysia
MYANMAR	CBCM, Episcopal Commission for Social Communications
PAKISTAN	Rabita Manzil
PHILIPPINES	SIGNIS Philippines
SRI LANKA	SIGNIS Sri Lanka
TAIWAN	RBCT, Regional Bishops' Conference of Taiwan, Social Communications
THAILAND	CSCT, Catholic Social Communications of Thailand
VIETNAM	CBCV, SCC, Social Communications Commission

PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA	Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC)
FIJI	IPA Learning Centre
GUAM/OCEANIA	Archdiocese of Agaña, Office of Social Communication
KIRIBATI	SPCC, St. Paul's Communication Centre
MICRONESIA	KTVP, Kaselehlie Television Productions
NEW CALEDONIA	Archevêché de Nouméa - Médias et communications
NORTHERN MARIANAS	Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Diocesan Publications Office
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Catholic Commission for Social Communications PNG SOCOM
SOLOMON ISLANDS	Catholic Communications Solomon Islands
TAHITI	Studio Tepano Jaussen
TONGA	Toutaimana Catholic Centre
VANUATU	Diocèse de Port-Vila, Katolik Media Senta
WALLIS AND FUTUNA	Diocèse de Wallis & Futuna

ASSOCIATE INSTITUTIONS

CROATIA REPUBLIC	Laudato TV
ITALY	Religion Today Festival
ITALY	COE, Centro Orientamento Educativo
SPAIN	Kinema siete, Asociación Cultural
SPAIN	Think1.tv

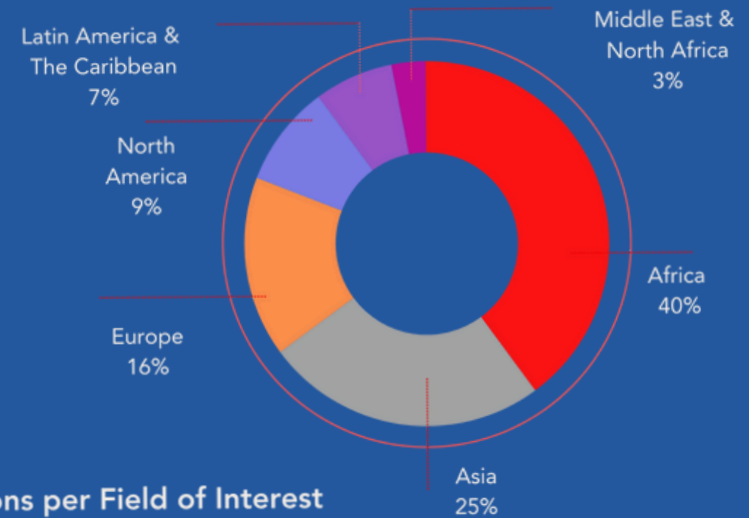
SIGNIS individual members request

SIGNIS members with voting rights consist of National Catholic associations for communication duly recognized by the Bishops' Conference, typically one per country, as well as international Catholic organizations for communication that are active in several countries and pursue goals similar to those of SIGNIS.

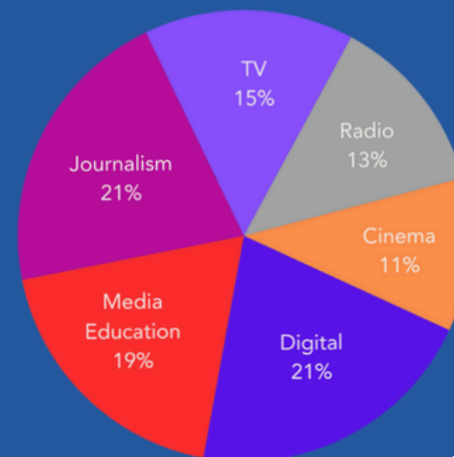
In 2023, we received 44 requests from individuals wishing to join SIGNIS at the individual level, out of more than 200 received over the past four years.

The distribution of these requests is as follows:

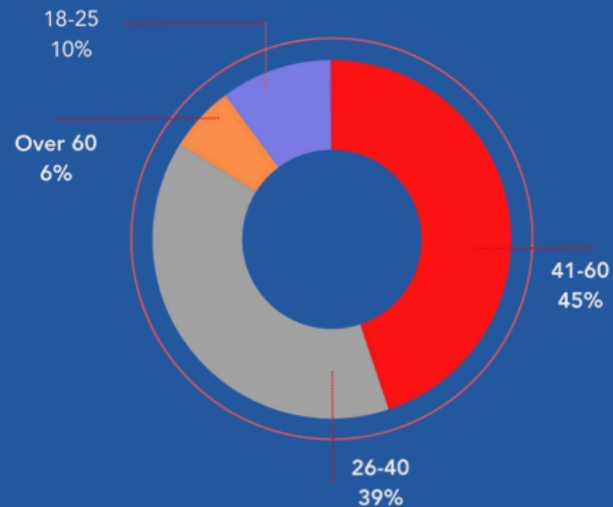
Join SIGNIS Applications per Continent



Join SIGNIS Applications per Field of Interest



SIGNIS Applications per age group distribution



All requests are directed to the local SIGNIS representatives. When it is not possible to integrate candidates at the local level, they have been associated at the global level through the competent Desk.

Save the date!

YOUTH

2025 WORLD FORUM
Social transformation & Sustainability

October 1, 2&3, 2025



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