

Marianne Johnpillai: Thank you everyone and thank you for the option to be able to speak to you this morning. Before I preside, I just would like to thank you all, especially people of Italy, who open their hearts and given so generously to the people of Sri Lanka, who affected by the reasons Tsunami. Thank you. I belong to an NGO, made up by local people, it's called Hopes, which is "Homes for people, peace and shelter". We are particularly interested in providing housing for the poor. We have talked of poverty: poverty is poverty that is present, and also the preventing of poverty -the two issues I believe here-. Poverty is due to many reasons, and I see as poverty because of lack of education: when people aren't educated, they are unemployed, when they are unemployed they haven't money for proper housing, for proper health, for proper food. So it's a vicious cycle. And I believe, even does we are go out the provision of housing, it is the total being that we have to looking to. Just not giving the house and walking away. We have to look at provision of education for the children, to these families which we provided housing for; their health: we have really doctors checking them and their children. So, as I said, it is an all range of issues here, and we talked about crime, because of poverty, but I believe my own children, an yours children are able to have a good education, is because you have taken the time, and I have taken the time, to drown out the potential that is in these young people. And the young people of the Sri Lanka have equal potential, young people have too much to offer; there is so much creative in young people, and I'm goes out to young people and I say to Governments "what do you do for young people? What have you done for young people? There is so much value in young people... Many of us are of the old generations, but there are a lot of young in the sides, and I'm glade to see them here. What are you going to do for young brothers and sisters? So I believe that the young have a potential, so the education must be given/heard right for the inception, to drown out the potential, to recognize the potential in the young ones. Governments must provide proper education right to the primary level. Resources, we talk of resources, as money, as call, as pictures... We are resources, you, my sisters and my brothers, we are resources, we have got time, we have got talent, and we got treasure, but sometimes we keep treasure very easily but time and talent. So I believe that the members of UN, there are many governments that have many skills, people potential, people who can afford to give time and I believe that if we share our resources, if we come together and share whatever talents we have, with these Nations which are suffering poverty... How much money is been given to armaments? How much money is allocated for education? Sri Lanka has been suffering due to an ethnic war -I don't go into the politics, I'm not into politics either-, all I can say that we are suffering the consequences of that war, not just one ethnic group, all ethnic groups, we have now had worst Tsunami, that have struck us and the truth is that we are suffering and when I Go to these homes where the poor are, when I see those young ones, when I see these families, the mothers, and there is mothers -as Africans sisters have said so clearly and so eloquently-, there is the mothers that suffered a lot, and we find that the medicines that has been given to these people who are affected by the tsunami -or not by the tsunami- by others the poor people, very substandard medicines are coming. Right now syringes given used for the vaccination against meningitis, and they were contaminated, and as a result lives we lost. And then what happens? Government says "We give you new syringes" and the new syringes were the old ones repacked. Who is controlling that? Who is controlling the quality of drugs coming to Third World countries? I'm not a very eminent person or knowing all the facts and figures but I'm speaking with my heart; I don't want to take too much time, so I just want end with one thing: we talk of peace here, we are talking on peace variously and how we can achieve peace. I want to say something from my heart: the word "peace" has five letters and it stands for "People Everywhere Are Calling Everyone their brothers and sisters", that is when we have peace. Thank you.