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The Carmelite NGO’s new intern in New York City is Diana Balaj, a senior at Manhattan College. She is majoring in International Studies with a concentration in Global Issues and is minoring in Spanish.

Diana grew up in the New York area and currently lives in the Bronx. She says she “always had an interest in human rights and specifically human trafficking. This is why I chose this internship as the best fit for me.” Following her graduation from Manhattan College, she plans to attend an international law program and to continue her studies in the human rights field. She hopes to one day work with organizations that fight against human trafficking and, in general, promote human rights globally. She also has an interest in the environment and sustainable development.

Diana says, so far “the highlight of the internship experience has definitely been sitting in on events and presentations at the United Nations. It has been a great experience to see firsthand diplomats and organizations talk about issues and find solutions for them. It has been a privilege to see what goes on at the UN and what my future may look like.”



Diana, and Carmelite NGO representative in NY, Dennis Kalob, recently attended portions of the 56th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD56), which took place at the United Nations Headquarters from 29 January to 7 February.

At CSocD, government representatives and NGO activists together discussed a range of issues pertaining to global human development. The theme of this year’s gathering was “strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all.” Indeed, many of the talks and discussions—both at the formal level and in the “side events”—focused on various aspects of poverty and the need to help empower those on the margins of society.

To read the official press release that followed the conclusion of the Commission’s work, click this link: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2018/02/07/csocd56-concluded/>

