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**Catholic Extension joins United Nations Alliance of Civilizations**

**in #forSafeWorship communications campaign**

*The global call to action aims to create personal, emotional connections with religious sites*

CHICAGO (February 1, 2021) – [Catholic Extension](http://www.catholicextension.org/) has joined the [UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)](https://www.unaoc.org/) to engage global youth in raising awareness of religious freedom and cultivating inter-religious respect, in a campaign called [#forSafeWorship](https://catholicextension.wufoo.com/forms/z730yph0bvf3r1/). The communications plan is part of a global call to action to foster solidarity and protect religious sites and worshippers.  
  
Catholic Extension’s collaboration with the UNAOC consists of a special storytelling project designed to celebrate the universality of religious sites as symbols of our shared humanity, history and traditions.

“For more than a century, it has been central to our mission to build churches and church facilities to ensure that people are able to worship as part of a vibrant faith community regardless of their circumstances,” said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension. “We are honored to collaborate with the United Nations on the #forSafeWorship campaign to shine a light on the sacred spaces that are so central to our lives.”  
  
Participants are asked to film a short, amateur video (in any format) about a sacred space, big or small, and describe its beauty or particular significance or history in the local community.

All participants will be invited to a special discussion with UN staff that will be arranged by Catholic Extension in March. One participant will be selected to attend a UN forum on religious tolerance in another country in the coming year.

In the video submission, participants are invited to identify a religious site and answer these questions:

* What does this religious site mean to you?
* Why is it important to you to ensure that this site is protected?
* What can you do about it?

To submit a video and to view example videos, please visit <http://catholicextension.org/united-nations-plan-of-action-to-safeguard-religious-sites>.

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**About Catholic Extension:**Founded in 1905, Catholic Extension works in solidarity with people in America’s poorest regions to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities. For more information visit [www.catholicextension.org](http://www.catholicextension.org/); follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/catholicextension](http://www.facebook.com/catholicextension) or on twitter at [@CathExtension](http://www.twitter.com/cathextension).