**Fr. Thomas Pallithanam**

Fr. Thomas Pallithanam is a priest of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

From September 2017 to date, Thomas Pallithanam is the UN representative of Salesian Missions Inc, an NGO with Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC since 2007. He is the Vice-Chair of NGO Committee on Financing for Development at NY.

Prior to moving to New York, he was the National Convener of WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN (WNTA) – Keep Your Promise Campaign – India’s largest civil society coalition for Advocacy Lobbying and Governance Accountability. The Coalition has a membership of over 1500 NGOs, community- based organizations, activists, academics, and professional social workers. He was also the India representative of Global Call To Action Against Poverty (GCAP), which is a network of over 11,000 civil society organizations (CSOs) organized in 58 National Coalitions and in constituency groups of women, youth and socially-excluded people, among others.

He led the Indian Civil Society’s 2017 Voluntary National Review and represented WNTA at the 2017 VNR during the HLPF in New York.

He has over 30 years’ experience as an activist working for the rights of agricultural laborer’s, women, and children. He was the organizing secretary of Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Laborer’s Union with a membership of over 100,000 men and women. He was a member of the National Core Committee of Institute of Human Rights Education, a pre-eminent Human Rights Education Organization in India. He was also a member of the India Team of Gender At Work, founded in 2001 by the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID), World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, now UN Women), and Women’s Learning Partnership (WLP).

He has a Post-graduate degree in Human Rights and a Special Graduate Diploma from the Institute of Social Studies, Den Haag. He is also a registered advocate at the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh.

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