HURRICANE MARÍA THREE YEARS LATER

On September 20, 2017 Hurricane María made landfall in Puerto Rico. Thousands lost their lives, the country's electrical grid was severely compromised, and the island's economy was crippled. The damage to property was so extensive that it will take years for the island to recover. Puerto Rico has also, like the rest of the world, suffered the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Three years later, Puerto Rico is still rebuilding. The Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore once wrote: "Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers but to be fearless when facing them." Puerto Rico is fearless facing the dangers created by María. The resilience, bravery, and determination of its citizens is truly inspiring.

Hostos has a deep and lasting connection with Puerto Rico: the man for whom the school is named, Eugenio María de Hostos, was born there, and the College's student body has long included a significant number of students from Puerto Rico or of Puerto Rican heritage.

We cherish that connection and will continue to play a role in the country's recovery. In the aftermath of María, Hostos Helping created a list of governmental and non-governmental organizations and coalitions working toward the restoration of Puerto Rico and other countries devastated by the hurricane: http://www.hostos.cuny.edu/hostoshelping

I hope you will take a look and do what you can. Disasters such as Hurricane María leave havoc in their wake, but they also offer us the chance to reaffirm our sense of a shared humanity. When one suffers, all suffer; when one helps, others join in. It truly is one world, and we must embody the loving and generous spirit we ourselves wish to be shown in our own times of trouble.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,

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