



SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH AT THE UN-NGO STATEMENT ENGAGEMENT IN ADVOCACY FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Stimulated by love of God and neighbor without distinction, the Sisters of St Joseph at the Congregations of Saint Joseph United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (CSJ-UN-NGO) and the Justice and Peace International Commission (JPIC) commit to collaborative partnering with our dear neighbor, with a special option for those most negatively impacted by globalization. In mutuality with these neighbors, we work for systemic change that will lead to social and sustainable development.

We recognize that many current models of development are neither social nor sustainable. They are based on power, efficiency, and unsustainable patterns of consumption

Sustainable development requires that we shape an economy that provides all with the basic goods and services that are necessary for human wellbeing while enabling humanity to live in harmony with earth's wider ecosystems. It requires an awareness of the interconnectedness of the whole earth community. It works toward the flourishing of each and every person along with all earth's bioregions, and demands a new imagination with regard to ecological, social and economic relationships

While continuing to minister to those in need, addressing social, health, educational and spiritual needs, we challenge ourselves to more fully understand the underlying issues that lead to extreme poverty and the degradation of our environment. This understanding must come from mutual engagement with those most affected by these injustices.

We commit to collaborative advocacy that builds mutual, respectful relationships with those most vulnerable to injustice, and that works toward systemic change. Concerned for all of God's creation as well as for our sisters and brothers everywhere, and using what gifts we have, we act for social and sustainable development. We recognize that this requires education, practice, and change on our part.

We commit to partnering with our countries' missions at the United Nations, and our national and local governments to find new ways to achieve social and sustainable development.

The way is not easy or clear. The world is full of pain and suffering, injustice and acts of inhumanity. Yet we dream of something different, a better world where people care for each other and all of earth community. The model we propose takes small steps, relies on daily behavior practices, and a discerning spirit to see what more is possible. It requires us to examine our methods of relating, our use of power, and our patterns of consumption.

Like our patron Saint Joseph, we dare to dream, believing that God speaks to us in our dreams and leads us to know how we need to act to be God's transformative presence in the world.

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