

What are the challenges confronting women and how can we promote the dignity of all women?

Articles during 2010 included the following excerpts:

Poverty is not just a matter of a lack of material wealth... No access to medicine, healthcare or education, so their years of healthy life are diminished. People living in poverty are vulnerable, and they are voiceless. They easily fall prey to crime and violence. (Jessica Williams, 50 Facts that should change the world)

Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. Fairtrade requires companies to pay sustainable prices which enables producers to improve their position and have more control over their lives’.

Violence is simply unacceptable. Globally, around 30 per cent of women and girls experience violence. Empowering and protecting women requires strong, coordinated action by the international community.

Trafficking in Humans is a crime against humanity... Federal Government funding for Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)
"This funding will support important anti-people trafficking activities, including community education and awareness programs and direct support for victims of trafficking." November 2010

Housing and Homelessness

The Housing Problem that won't go away

*...three single mothers... each came to the door of our Community's house within a few weeks of each other. Each one's story was shocking and similar. All were experiencing homelessness due to the huge shortage of public housing stock. I was enraged. I knew these women well. They were good Mums. They were desperate. I heard Catherine McAuley's urgent appeal echo in my heart: **The poor need help today not next week.** So, began my crusade in earnest to 'tackle' this issue of basic human rights and to work for systemic change.*

The Needs of Women in Poverty

reducing violence against women and their children and reducing homelessness ...

Did you know?

Nationally more than 100,000 people are homeless. Across Australia there are more than 200,000 people on public housing waiting lists.

Hear the Voices

We must look beyond the statistics and hear the voices... to understand... then we must take action.

The stories shared are grand examples of how we continue to do the 'ordinary' thing – yet it is extraordinary to bring about such welcome and hospitality, to give hope and a new chance through the acceptance of women no matter what the circumstance.

"..we would soon have a vacant house we did not need for our Sisters... to offer the house to a family who were homeless... we welcomed to the house a couple with four young children."

Theological Reflection

“Catherine’s compassionate response was immediate, practical ... enabling the poor to help themselves and to find new dignity.” (M. Carmel Bourke RSM)

What response and prayer stirs in you?
In what ways do I actively live to ‘make poverty history’?

Listening , Watching and Responding

UN DPI/NGO Conference

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4IBg15fYiA&feature=relate>

Make Poverty History Movement 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKHIUIJe1Uc&feature=related>

Make Poverty History Wentworth Forum

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJQeL8hhh2I>

My Story, My Goal

<http://mdg.globalstories.org/poverty.php>

Compass, ABC TV **Sold: Fighting the New Global Slave Trade**

<http://www.abc.net.au/compass/>

Read the 2010 articles

http://www.mercy.org.au/ourfocus/list_blogposts.cfm?blog_id=4&loadref=4