

# *Dominican Call to Justice 2015-2017*

## **NORTH AMERICAN DOMINICAN PROMOTERS OF JUSTICE, PEACE, AND CARE OF CREATION**



The North American Dominican Justice Promoters respond to the call for justice in our world today. Engaging in issues using the pastoral model of see–judge–act, we address injustice in a spirit of respect, compassion, and solidarity with the whole Earth community.

We support the proposed United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the universal set of targets that follow and expand on the Millennium Development Goals expiring at the end of 2015. Like its predecessor, the all-encompassing goal of the SDGs is to end poverty. To achieve this goal we must recognize and challenge the underlying bias regarding culture, race, and women, as well as the overarching issue of climate change and its impact on all justice issues.

In solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world, we commit to study, advocate, and act in the following areas:

**CLIMATE JUSTICE  
ECONOMIC JUSTICE  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
MIGRATION/IMMIGRATION  
PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL LIFE**

As members of the world-wide Dominican Family, we advocate for justice through our ministries, through our preaching, through our presence at the United Nations, and through our corporate socially responsible investing. We collaborate with all who seek a more just and sustainable world.

## **C L I M A T E   J U S T I C E**

*We stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. It is imperative that we declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life—especially those who are poor and vulnerable—and to future generations.*

*(adapted from the **Earth Charter**)*

### **We commit to:**

1. Educate on the interconnecting dynamics of climate change and all other justice issues.
2. Embrace the reality of our oneness with the whole of life, allowing that deepening awareness to transform our prayer, study, preaching, ministry, and common life.

3. Advocate for policy and legislation to promote the use of alternative energy, capping emissions, energy efficiency, diminishing use of fossil fuels, and other issues that directly impact climate.
4. Educate and encourage discussion on and engagement in climate solutions investment and fossil fuel divestment/investment.
5. Promote efforts that encourage the United States to sign and uphold global climate agreements.

**Resources:**

350.org	<a href="http://www.350.org">www.350.org</a>
Catholic Climate Covenant	<a href="http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org">www.catholicclimatecovenant.org</a>
Earth Charter Initiative	<a href="http://www.earthcharterinaction.org">www.earthcharterinaction.org</a>
Friends Committee on National Legislation	<a href="http://www.fcnl.org">www.fcnl.org</a>
Global Catholic Climate Movement	<a href="http://www.catholicclimatemovement.global">www.catholicclimatemovement.global</a>
UN Conference on Sustainable Development	<a href="http://www.uncsd2012.org">www.uncsd2012.org</a>

# E C O N O M I C J U S T I C E

*We see that the gap between the haves and the have-nots is growing in our country and in our world. The forces of individual and corporate power and greed cause many persons to lack the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, shelter, security, jobs, health care, and education.*

*There is a profound need to uncover and address the root causes of poverty and inequality. We believe that the economy, both local and global, has moral dimensions and consequences for humanity and the greater Earth community.*

**We commit to:**

1. Educate about free market economic systems and how they affect humanity and Earth that sustains us.
2. Support efforts to repeal Citizens United through such efforts as the *Move to Amend Campaign*.
3. Work toward a just, living wage in our institutions and beyond.
4. Protect the rights of workers at home and abroad.
5. Support the Faithful Budget concept that advocates serving the common good, funding support for impoverished and vulnerable people throughout our world, reducing reliance on tools of violent conflict, and exercising proper care of Earth.
6. Raise awareness, challenge, and call for regulation of National and Multinational Corporations whose business practices cause devastation to livelihoods, to indigenous peoples, and to the ecosystems which sustain us all.

**Resources:**

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice	<a href="http://www.catholicsscholarsforworkerjustice.org">www.catholicsscholarsforworkerjustice.org</a>
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good	<a href="http://www.catholicsinalliance.org">www.catholicsinalliance.org</a>
Coalition on Human Needs	<a href="http://www.chn.org">www.chn.org</a>
Faithful Budget Campaign	<a href="http://www.advocacydays.org/advocacy/faithful-budget-campaign">www.advocacydays.org/advocacy/faithful-budget-campaign</a>
Interfaith Worker Justice	<a href="http://www.iwj.org">www.iwj.org</a>
NETWORK: A National Catholic Justice Lobby	<a href="http://www.networklobby.org">www.networklobby.org</a>
US Catholic Conference of Bishops	<a href="http://www.usccb.org">www.usccb.org</a>

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Worldwide migration and the rising number of climate refugees today expose more and more people to becoming victims of human trafficking. Called by the Gospel mandate and our Catholic social teaching on the dignity of all persons, we are compelled to take action against human trafficking, modern day slavery.*

## **We commit to:**

1. Expose the truth about modern-day slavery in its many forms, including exploitation through the internet and social media.
2. Advocate for substantive laws that protect victims and hold accountable all who facilitate and enable human trafficking.
3. Call for our institutions to purchase Fair Trade products in response to the reality of slave labor in the supply chain.
4. Encourage education and training of hotel, airline and airport personnel, and other relevant groups to identify those who may be victims of trafficking and to make the necessary contacts to help them.
5. Support existing organizations such as Polaris, ECPAT, and SOAP that are engaged in combating human trafficking, which rises significantly before and during sporting and other major events.
6. Identify and make known local agencies that give protection and support to survivors. Encourage the use of the national hotline # 888-3737-888 if human trafficking is suspected.

## **Resources**

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking

[www.ecpatusa.org](http://www.ecpatusa.org)

Polaris Project

[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

Stop the Demand Campaign

[www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org)

*Stop Trafficking!* Newsletter

[www.stopenslavement.org](http://www.stopenslavement.org)

UNODC

[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuaside](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html?ref=menuaside)

USCCB

[www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/index.cfm)

US State Department *Trafficking in Persons (TIP)* Yearly Report

[www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt)

# MIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

*We are aware of the many significant causes for migration. We support compassionate and comprehensive immigration legislation, practice, and policy that provide for the following:*

- *processes for undocumented persons to expeditiously achieve permanent residency and citizenship without leaving the United States*
- *creation of legal avenues for the migration of people of all economic backgrounds*
- *assurance of family unity for all immigrant families*
- *guaranteed human rights and labor protections for ALL workers*
- *acknowledging and addressing the root causes of migration*

## **We commit to:**

1. Respond compassionately with direct service and advocacy for migrants and immigrants.
2. Support immigrants in detention and advocate for reform of detention centers.

3. Educate and advocate for compassionate immigration reform.
4. Contact local and federal legislators to support a just reform of immigration law.
5. Educate ourselves to the emerging realities of climate refugees.

**Resources:**

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)	<a href="http://www.cliniclegal.org">www.cliniclegal.org</a>
Interfaith Immigration Coalition	<a href="http://www.interfaithimmigration.org">www.interfaithimmigration.org</a>
Leadership Conference of Women Religious	<a href="http://www.lcwr.org/social-justice/immigration-policy-reform">www.lcwr.org/social-justice/immigration-policy-reform</a>
National Immigration Forum	<a href="http://www.immigrationforum.org">www.immigrationforum.org</a>
NETWORK: A National Catholic Justice Lobby	<a href="http://www.networklobby.org">www.networklobby.org</a>
US Bishops Campaign: Justice for Immigrants	<a href="http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org">www.justiceforimmigrants.org</a>
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement	<a href="http://www.ice.gov">www.ice.gov</a>

# PEACE AND SECURITY FOR ALL LIFE

*We see the violence in our world and the insecurity and fear that it spawns. We believe in the sacredness of the whole of life and the right to live and flourish in a peaceful, secure world. Our efforts are focused on that which promotes just, inclusive, and mutually-beneficial relationships.*

**We commit to:**

1. Advocate for U.S. acknowledgement of our country’s role in the destruction of Iraq and for the provision of appropriate resources for rebuilding people’s lives and the country’s infrastructure.
2. Advocate for U.S. recognition of Palestine and support the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) Campaign to pressure Israel to end its occupation of Palestine.
3. Join networks that advocate for the eradication of all forms of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological).
4. Work toward policy reforms regarding the use of conventional weapons.
5. Engage in dialogue and advocacy with federal and state representatives for the abolition of the death penalty.
6. Take a public stand opposing all forms of torture.
7. Challenge corporations producing media that portray violent and demeaning behaviors.

**Resources:**

Catholic Mobilizing Network	<a href="http://www.catholicmobilizing.org">www.catholicmobilizing.org</a>
End the Occupation	<a href="http://www.endtheoccupation.org">www.endtheoccupation.org</a>
Friends Committee on National Legislation	<a href="http://www.fcnl.org">www.fcnl.org</a>
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	<a href="http://www.ncadp.org">www.ncadp.org</a>
Nuclear Information & Resource Service	<a href="http://www.nirs.org">www.nirs.org</a>
Pax Christi USA	<a href="http://www.paxchristiusa.org">www.paxchristiusa.org</a>