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## Opting for Poor People Through the United Nations

Nick Mele

**b**read for the World, one of the many faith-based organizations supporting the eight goals agreed upon by world leaders at the United Nation's September 2000 Millennium Summit, has often used a musical drama version of Jesus' story about Lazarus and the rich man to remind us that we in the United States are rich. We often are unaware of the hunger and poverty around us and that our spiritual well-being, our redemption, hinges on what we do to alleviate the suffering of all those who live in poverty. These are points Jesus makes in many of the

the poor are often interpreted as matters of personal attitudes and actions. While that is certainly true, we need to pay more attention to the challenge Jesus presented to the conventional wisdom and the political and economic systems of his time.

At the Millennium Summit, the political leaders of the world, for the first time in decades, turned their collective attention to the poor people of the world and offered a concrete program to alleviate their suffering and lift millions out of poverty.

Like the parables, the Millennium Goals derive from deep sources at the root of the Abrahamic faiths: justice for those on the margins, mercy for the weak, generosity to all.

These same sources well up in Christian traditions of service to the poor, the sick, the outcast; and they inspire Catholic Social Teaching, such as its principles of respect for the dignity of every human being, solidarity with all humankind and the preferential option for the poor. The Scriptural roots of these teachings are seeded in the creation story in Genesis and developed through-

out the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus affirms and extends the tradition in the Gospels and his followers continue to develop these themes

throughout the rest of the New Testament.

Even so, it is difficult to hear the call and translate the prophetic verses and Church teachings into the reality of

our world. Like the rich man in Luke's story, we do not see the poor people at our door. When we do, we can block them from our view. Once, my work as a diplomat resulted in an assignment to a country experiencing serious food problems, near-famine conditions. My wife and I caught ourselves eating voraciously of the food we, privileged as we were, were able to buy; it was as if we were trying to construct a wall of body fat to protect ourselves from the hunger all around us. Too often, we Americans rest within walls of ignorance about how our choices affect the bulk of our brothers and sisters around the world.

Most Americans, for example, believe that the US government spends far more on foreign aid than is the case. In one survey conducted by the University of

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A woman with her baby leaves work at a market in Xai-Xai, Mozambique.

other stories he tells, including the story of the Good Samaritan and his account of the last judgment in Matthew. Jesus' teachings on the obligations of the rich toward

Maryland, Americans thought almost a quarter of federal spending went to foreign aid. The reality is that less than one percent of the federal budget is spent on foreign economic assistance. Ironically, President Bush responded to the Millennium Goals with the Millennium Challenge Initiative, which, if funded as originally proposed, would have increased US foreign economic assistance by a substantial amount. But Congress has never funded the program in the amounts requested by the Bush Administration. That is why a number of faith-based and other organizations have joined together in the **ONE Campaign** so that we, as citizens, can pool our votes and our influence to lobby Congress on behalf of the world's poor.

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, did not lay out a system of personal piety but rather outlined a vision of the reign of God,

the antithesis of the political, economic and social structures of his time and of ours. So, in addition to whatever personal practices

and donations we may undertake to alleviate poverty, we are called by Jesus also to move the structures of our world in the direction of a more just economic and political framework. When Jesus tells his followers that faith can move mountains, he is speaking as much of the inertia of social structures as of large geographic features. When Jesus feeds the

multitudes, in stories recounted in all four gospels, he first urges his disciples to feed the hungry crowds. Surely we are expected to do the same. Catholic tradition affirms that people of faith must take the side of the poor and protect those on the margins. One

***Jesus might have proclaimed these goals...Religious communities from every faith have embraced them...***

of the first actions of Pope Benedict XVI was to organize a conference on financing the Millennium Development Goals.

"The Lord hears the cry of the poor!" At the close of the last century, the world's political leaders seem also to have heard that cry. The Millennium Summit and its resulting Development Goals and Program were intended to focus the attention of the world's elite on the suffering of the poorest in the world. Seven of the goals address hunger, thirst, disease, education, inequality of women, infant mortality and environmental degradation. The eighth goal calls for the global community to interact economically to achieve a just world. Jesus might have proclaimed these goals, had he attended the Millennium Summit. Religious communities from every faith tradition have embraced them and promote them. Many faith-based organizations and people of faith are working together to achieve the goals and to hold the United States government to the commitment it made to increase spending on foreign development assistance with the eventual goal of devoting 0.7 of one percent of the Gross National

Product to foreign economic assistance.

The effort to move governments, through lobbying our elected representatives, or through the United Nations and similar mechanisms, seems a far cry from the gospel accounts of individual healings and conversions. However, the Bible, and Jesus in particular, frequently focuses on the problems of poverty. All the prophets speak about social structures and the sins of society. Isaiah

speaks for God to the nation: "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own."

In *Everyday Christianity*, their 1999 pastoral reflection on Catholic faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the US bishops note that "the pursuit of justice is an essential part of the Catholic call to holiness." They also call our attention to our civic responsibilities: "As citizens in the world's leading democracy, Catholics in the United States have special responsibilities to protect human life and dignity and to stand with those who are poor and vulnerable." As citizens, we are obliged to make every effort to ensure that our government stands with the poor and vulnerable, wherever they are in the world. We must influence our political leaders to fulfill the US commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. The ONE Campaign is a good place to start. ~

Bread for the World and IPJC are collaborating on The Power of ONE: Faith and Global Justice Conference on November 19th at Seattle U. See [www.bread.org/seattle](http://www.bread.org/seattle) or page 11 for more details.

# United Nations and the Millennium Development Goals



Joanne Dufour is an education field supervisor at Heritage University, and member of the Seattle UN Association.

## The Vision

We the Peoples of the United Nations determined:

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

And for these ends:

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
- to ensure by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed forces shall not be used, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples

Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

—Charter of the UN—Preamble

*Joanne Dufour*

## History and Purpose of the United Nations

This was the vision of a “better world” drafted by the 50 countries that met in San Francisco in June of 1945. The representatives were building on the legacy of various efforts at creating international organizations, like the League of Nations and the International Labor Organization, which were created by the Treaty of Versailles after World War I. On June 25, 1945 The United Nations Charter was signed and distributed to sovereign governments for ratification as is the procedure for international conventions. By October 24, 1945, the charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States [the permanent five at that time] and a majority of the other [now 46] signatories officially bringing the organization into existence.

October 24, 2005 is the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of this organization.

The purposes of the UN, as set forth in the Charter, are:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
- to cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these common ends.

## Carrying Out the Vision

Over the course of its sixty years the United Nations has grown considerably, not only in membership from 50 to 191 sovereign nations all participating in the General Assembly, but also in the expansion of the Security Coun-

cil from nine to fifteen members with the same five nations cited as initial signatories still maintaining the veto. The Economic and Social Council now has thirty-two specialized agencies, including the International Labor Organization; the World Food Programme; UNICEF—the UN Children’s Fund; the UN High Commission for Refugees; the World Health Organization; the UN Development Program which works on election monitoring; AIDS; arms control; environment; and peacekeeping. Entities like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are part of this family helping one to realize the breadth and depth of the United Nations System.

## Current Successes and Challenges

In the year 2000 at the start of the new Millennium, the Secretary General issued a Millennium Report outlining a list of goals for the organization.

While the document highlights work needed in a variety of areas, focus is made on eight specific ones in most need of attention.

Efforts were made to have all countries pledge their government's intention to meet these goals. A tracking system was established to measure

progress towards defined benchmarks. At the half-way mark of 2005, while some goals did show improvement in areas for some countries, the hope of achieving marked progress was again postponed. It is for this reason that the conference on November 19, scheduled for the Pacific Northwest region designed to educate and advocate on behalf of these goals, is of paramount importance. As more Americans begin to realize some realities of life in the "third world" as a consequence of Katrina, our role as "the world's only superpower" is in dire need of reassessment.

#### Areas of the UN In Need of Reform

Over the many years of its existence, the UN has grown and achieved successes in countless areas, including the creation of international law and an International Criminal Court, and the successes in nation building through peacekeeping. There have also been calls for reform. While there has never been consensus around what to reform and how, attention has often been called to the composition of the Security Council; the use of the veto; making the work of the bureaucracy more transparent;

curbing arms manufacturers through an international tariff; and alternative ways of financing the organization. There are those

reformers with intentions to enlarge its mandate, power and efficiency and make it a stronger actor in world affairs, and those who wish to confine

it only to humanitarian efforts or eliminate the UN altogether. More recently allegations about the Oil for Food Programme under Saddam Hussein and the release of the Volker Report have stimulated more attention to the issue of reform.

#### US Relationship to the UN

The US relationship with the UN has waxed and waned over the years. With the headquarters located in New York, each and every US President—whether a supporter or critic of the organization—appears annually to address the body in the opening days of the General Assembly in September. The US Mission to the UN, with immediate access to all the world's governments through UN channels, is headed by an Ambassador who over the years has sat on the President's Cabinet or not. That position is a Presidential appointment generally confirmed by the US Senate, though the current appointee does not serve with that distinction.

The UN has always had problems with member nations refusing to pay the assessment levied upon them in compliance

with the Charter. For the first 40 years the US modeled responsible payment. That changed with the Reagan administration when the US refused to pay until some reforms were made, like a percentage reduction in assessments to certain programs. According to some sources the US arrears to the UN currently total over \$1.3 billion. HR bill 1146 seeks an end to all US participation in the UN.

Since 1991, when the US assumed the role of the "single superpower," there have been tensions created over what some perceive as US unilateral demands on the organization. Our country's use of the veto in the Security Council has seen a dramatic change since the time when the Soviet Union was #1. The issue of using force in 2003 to make Iraq comply with UN resolutions was not one endorsed by all members of the Security Council.

In September 2005, at the conclusion of the 2005 World Summit, more than 150 heads of state reaffirmed their commitment to realizing the Millennium

***Our role as  
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Development Goals with the key benchmarks for measuring progress toward eradicating poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and combating HIV/AIDS. ~

# Art Engaging Us to Action

Susan Pyburn

He stood in the shadows and leaned into the brick building holding a sax between his legs. *Amazing Grace* floated over the dark and empty street. His saxophone shone in the ambient light that drifted down from the noisy end of Bourbon Street.

It had been eight months since my mother had died. Now, a stranger's song fell on me like a blessing. It is what I remember best from that time in New Orleans so many seasons past.

Art wakes us up. Art rises from fetid waters in a vapor of hope. Music, poetry, essays, photo documentaries soothe the soul. Art

is the bird on the wire, the wing of a prayer, the minor key in the song. The rhythm in the dance that eases the pain, for the work to go on.

Swamped by a tidal wave of suffering rushing in from the gulf, I am swept up in the television coverage, transfixed by ghastly images. Powerless. Scenes of chaos and loss cascade over the screen in a repeating loop. My heart cries out for resolution, for order, for relief.

In time, we turn away, back to the comfort of our private rituals. The collective sorrow builds, cloaked in shame, outrage, and disgust, which we ought to feel all the time at the sight of children starving in a mother's arms, haunted eyes stunned by

loss whether in Louisiana or around the world.

Five nights later Aaron Neville cradles a mike, wailing out a mourning—*Loueezeeana.... Loueezeeana—they're trying to wash us away.*

*They're trying to wash us away.* The lyrics are eerily current. I have heard his song before. But it never rang so true.

My heart opens into the relief of grief. Bodies float on toxic brown water where only last week streets defined neighborhoods of homes, families and schools.

A friend from Maine calls with a poem she has written. Watching the horror unfold, her words poured out in a requiem. I am reminded that action is *always* possible. Through the balm of words, a song composed in a minor key, a photograph searing a moment onto paper, we are transformed into community.

Oprah takes her crew into the dying city. Brushing away tears she looks into the lens and tells us how it feels to enter the Super Dome, into the grey light, the blinding stench where thousands lived for five long days and nights. Her gritty montage of pictures and words galvanizes me. I pick up the phone and call the Red Cross. I must act.

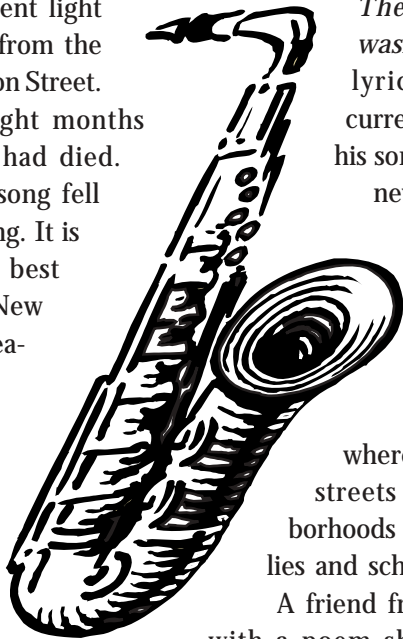
Ernest Becker says: "The artist's gift is always to creation itself, to the ultimate meaning of life, to God." Thank God for the artists. It is Her voice that moves us to tears, to dance, to give and speak out; standing together in the misery and the mystery as we climb over the bodies and into the boat to dry land. Artists engage us at the impasse, transforming it into something numinous and healing. We are lifted from the swamp of fear.

Inspired and affirmed, we set out again to empower women, protect the mothers and babies, and end HIV and AIDS. The Millennium Development Goals call us to remake our world in the image of God where no one goes to bed hungry. We must consecrate the earth in a true global partnership so that future generations will flourish. To remain stuck is to die.

The notes from Wynton's horn fly straight to my heart touching a part I didn't know was aching, a sweet part that remembers that trip to New Orleans years ago. Without art, we die of a

broken heart. With so much left to do.

*Precious Lord, take my hand...* the waters move, spirit stirs, tears fall, and there is action. The pond is turning, the anthem burning, echoing over the airwaves. I sit down to listen to the *amazing grace*. And get ready. 🐸



Susan Pyburn is a writer and photographer living in San Luis Obispo, CA.

**Art wakes us up.  
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vapor of hope.**



Maureen Finneran is on staff at IPJC.

# The Millennium Development Goals and Targets

By 2015 all the United Nations member states have pledged to:

## Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger

- Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.
- Current Reality:** Global poverty rates are falling. In Asia the number of people living on less than \$1 US a day dropped by nearly a quarter of a billion. However, one out of six people in the world still live on less than a \$1 a day. Hunger continues to be a daily reality for 850 billion people, a majority of whom live in China, India and Africa.

## Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that all children complete a full course of primary schooling.
- Current Reality:** Close to 115 million children do not attend school and more than one out of four adults in the world cannot read or write. Ensuring universal primary education is within reach. Five developing regions, including India, are approaching 100% enrollment. Sending every child in the world to school would cost \$10 billion a year, half of what Americans spend on ice cream.

## Goal 3: Promote gender equality & empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.
- Current Reality:** Seventy-five percent of illiterate people are women. However, women work two-thirds of the world's working hours; produce half of the world's food; earn only 10% of the world's income; and own less than 1% of the world's property. More than eighty countries are taking specific actions to guarantee women's political participation. The proportion of higher government positions held by women is increasing, albeit slowly, with women holding only 16% of parliamentary seats worldwide.

## Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate of children under five.
- Current Reality:** Eleven million children, 30,000 a day, die each year before age five from preventable or treatable causes. This number is down from fifteen million in 1980 and should continue to decrease as countries expand existing programs that promote simple, low-cost solutions.

## Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.
- Current Reality:** More than half a million women die each year during pregnancy or childbirth. Twenty times that number suffer serious injury or disability. Bangladesh and Egypt drastically reduced maternal mortality rates by creating more comprehensive medical care paired with education and outreach to women.

## Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
- Current Reality:** Forty million people are living with HIV, including 4.9 million infected in 2004. AIDS is the fourth largest killer worldwide and has become the leading cause of premature death in sub-Saharan Africa. Together malaria and TB claim the lives of almost three million people each year. Countries like Brazil, Senegal, Thailand and Uganda have shown that the spread of HIV can be stemmed through education prevention and treatment.

## Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.



© Sandy Nelson, Water 1st

Girl enjoys new water station in Lempira, Honduras.

**Current Reality (Goal 7):** More than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than two billion lack sanitation. One out of six people in the world reside in urban slums. During the 1990's, however, nearly one billion people gained access to safe water and the same number to sanitation. Action to prevent further deterioration of the ozone layer and a demonstrated global commitment to sustainable development shows that progress toward environmental sustainability is possible.

## Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction—nationally and internationally.
- Address the least developed countries' special needs including enhanced, comprehensive debt relief and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction.
- Develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential pharmaceuticals.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies.

**Current Reality:** Official aid to developing countries reached a record high of \$79 billion in 2004. Only five countries' contributions currently meet or exceed the United Nations target of 0.7 percent of national income. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals increased aid and debt relief must be accompanied by further opening of trade, accelerated transfer of technology, and improved employment opportunities for the growing ranks of young people in the developing world. ~

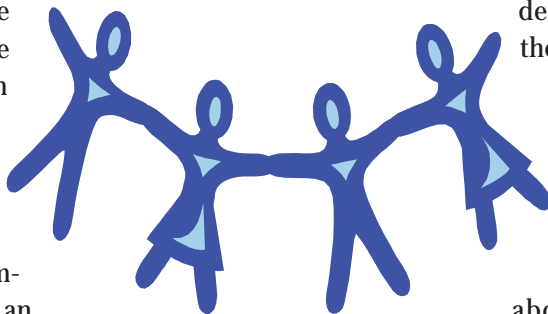
## Education: Send a "Friend" to School

They are simple paper dolls, some small enough to be folded into a schoolbook, others taller than the school children who made them. Some have colorful button eyes, or crayoned hair, or pleated fabric skirts. Many carry written messages to government leaders. There are more than 3.5 million of them: the handiwork of school children from 110 countries, made on behalf of their counterparts who can't attend school.

Creating paper "friends" is a project of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), an international network of development organizations and teachers' unions. GCE members lobby the world's governments to achieve universal primary education. The idea of the *Send a Friend to School* campaign is that each paper "friend" represents one

child who is not in school. In reality, each of those 3.5 million paper dolls represents at least 28 children denied an education. But GCE and children worldwide are working to change that.

This past April, when school children presented their



"friends" to the Presidents of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, each of the statesmen signed pledges to send more of their nations' children to school.

After months of lobbying by the Irish GCE coalition and deliveries of many paper "friends,"

Ireland's Development Minister signed a pledge to ensure that the country meets its commitment to increase Overseas Development Aid to 0.7% of its gross national product—in line with UN recommendations.

On September 13th, children delivered 100,000 "friends" to the UN World Summit in New York, accompanied by Kimani Ng'ang'a, the world's oldest primary school student. He was finally able to enroll last year, at the age of 84, after the Kenyan government abolished public school fees. David Archer, of ActionAid International in London, notes, "Whilst Mr. Kimani is an inspiration to us all, we can't allow 100 million children to wait until they are 85 years old... to go to school." [www.campaignforeducation.org](http://www.campaignforeducation.org) ~

## Hunger: Goats Bring Hope to Village

“It was one of the happiest days of our lives,” says Servete Ramadani of the day that the families in her village received a donation of 42 goats from Heifer Project International (HPI), an anti-hunger and agricultural development organization.

Like many of the world’s hungry people, Servete’s crisis was triggered by war. She lives with her mother-in-law and four children in Krusha E Madhe, an ethnic Albanian village in Kosovo. More than 200 of her village’s 5,000 residents—including her husband and her brother—were killed during the 1999 war. Servete was one of 900,000 Kosovans who fled the

violence. When they returned home, they found disaster: family members killed, homes burned and bombed, farms destroyed.

Soon, though, the seemingly smaller losses led to ongoing crisis in Krusha E Madhe. Over 70 percent of the animals in Kosovo had been killed, stolen or slaughtered. “When we returned to our village,” said Ilmije Hiseni, who lives in a small Roma community near Krusha E Madhe, “This is when we understood what poor means. We heard someone was giving away biscuits. We took

© Darcy Kiefer/Heifer International



Girl with goat from HPI.

what we could and that is how we survived for weeks;”

HPI began working in Kosovo immediately after the war, focusing on agricultural and animal husbandry training. The donations of cows and goats—coupled with the training—has

helped Krusha E Madhe’s residents fend off hunger, and begin to rebuild their community. “Before, we only ate bread and tea,” Servete said. “Now we have milk from the goats, and the health of our children is tremendous. These goats have changed our lives... We have an opportunity to face the future.” [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)



## Environmental Sustainability: Water

Last May, people in El Socorro, Honduras, gave speeches of appreciation, sang songs they had composed, and shared a meal of handmade tamales—all to celebrate their new water system. Still, it was a bittersweet occasion for some of

El Socorro’s residents, like Soylochica Cerran, whose 19-month-old son had died after contracting a sudden fever—the kind of illness often caused by lack

of access to clean water.

Water 1st, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization, provided funding for the water project. “A completed water project is trans-

forming for individuals and communities,” says Marla Smith Nilson, Water 1st’s Executive Director, who attended the May celebration. “I remember my very first visit to a completed water project 15 years ago in another community in Honduras. A villager, Maria Chicas, told me she felt like she ‘had more hands’ now that she wasn’t having to spend so much time every day collecting water.”

Access to water gives the community more hands, too. In El Socorro, they have already chosen their next development project: building a road. “The water project in El Socorro shows that water is the foundation on which strong communities are built,” explains Marla.

People all over the world—usually women and children—are

forced to make daily treks for water—sapping their energy and stealing long hours from other economic and social activities. Successful water projects can lead to real social change. “I’ve seen women empowered by these projects actually run for political office, and win—things that were absolutely unheard of in these communities before the water project,” says Marla.

Working in communities in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Honduras and India, Water 1st supports community-run projects that integrate access to safe water, sanitation, and health education. Water 1st operates on the firm belief that the global community has the resources to provide safe drinking water to everyone in the world—if those in wealthy countries make it a priority. [www.water1st.org](http://www.water1st.org)

© Sandy Nelson, Water 1st



Tomas family enjoys new water station in Lempira, Honduras.



# UN's NGOs: A Ministry of NW Religious Congregations

Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) at the United Nations are being formed and influenced by many religious congregations as part of their justice ministry. A strong network of over 1,000 NGOs work at the UN, bringing a range of global issues to the attention of world leaders. The following are highlights of the NGOs with connections to our northwest communities.

## UNANIMA

A coalition of 13 congregations of women religious. Founded in 2002.

**Focus:** Women and children, human trafficking, immigrants and refugees, and the welfare of the Earth.

**Progress:** UNANIMA recently brought women with personal experiences of being trafficked to testify at the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination against Women. Testimony included a Guinean woman's story of being sold by her family to an older male in order to pay off debt. As a result of the women's testimony, governments were publicly chastised and further held accountable for their trafficking practices.

## FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

Established in 1989 to serve all Franciscans and the global community by bringing spiritual, ethical, and Franciscan values to United Nations forums and agendas.

**Focus:** Development, human rights, peace, and the environment.

**Progress:** Over 200 Franciscans have participated in human rights training, equipping grassroots Franciscans with procedures to address injustice in their own communities. FI has also traveled to eight countries to give programs on human trafficking and modern day slavery. At the UN level, progress has been made by amending the language of international standards to be more inclusive of women, children and the economically disadvantaged.

***"Justice work at a local level is interconnected with justice work at a global level."***

***—Eileen Gannon, Dominican NGO at UN***

## SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF PEACE

Began their NGO status in 1996. The congregation promotes social justice as a path to peace.

**Focus:** Women, violence and exploitation, environment with emphasis on water

**Progress:** This fall the United States representative to the UN, John Bolton planned to propose 750 objections to the draft agreement on the changes that are needed to make the UN relevant to the challenges of the 21st century, including the MDGs. The community mobilized its members and constituencies to respond. Bolton changed his recommendations.

## DOMINICANS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE AT THE UN

Created in 1998 by the Order of Preachers as a permanent presence at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

**Focus:** Peace, Iraq, women, human trafficking and HIV/AIDS.

**Progress:** The relationship built over time with the UN Secretary's office, has been critical to the success of the Dominicans. This year, representatives from the Dominicans were invited to sit-in on round-table discussions with UN leaders and give input on global issues, specifically the situation in Iraq.

***"NGOs are the leaven and conscience of the UN."***

***—Kitty Parisi, CSJP Justice & Peace Coordinator***



## Justice for Women

**Come Join a Movement!**  
Our Women's Justice Circles recently:

- Increased shelter funding
- Changed transportation systems
- Met with Governor Gregoire's Executive Policy advisor, Antonio Ginatta, concerning the *Real ID Act*
- Educated about the *Safe Harbors Project*
- Improved access to emergency services for victims of domestic violence
- Met with Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Education, and are acting on behalf of Latino students



Members of the Women's Health Justice Circle meet with Sen. Brown

### Fall Circles in Spanish

Bellevue	Seattle
Mabton	Toppenish
Mount Vernon	Vancouver
Sunnyside	

### Fall Circles in English

Renton  
Seattle  
Spokane

## Sisters Participate in DC Peace March



Thanks to a generous donor, our IPJC community was represented at the Peace March and Lobby Day in Washington, DC, September 24-26 by Charlene Hudon, SP and Mary Ellen Robinson, SNJM. They met people from all over the world. From the woman who is a Eucharistic minister at the hospital caring for our wounded troops to the Vietnam vet to the many who had been on buses all night, they all came because they want a world at peace. Charlene and Mary Ellen were among 1000 citizen lobbyists who went to Capitol Hill to meet with over 300 members of Congress and/or their staff. Their message: End the war in Iraq.

## NWCRI Takes Millennium Development Goal 6 to Corporate Boardrooms

The UN Millennium Development Goals Progress Report recognized that the HIV situation had become so grave that the achievement of all the other Goals hinges on keeping the pandemic in check and providing treatment for those already infected.

### Facts

- AIDS is the leading cause of premature deaths in sub-Saharan Africa and the fourth largest killer world wide. HIV is spreading fastest in Central Europe and Asia.
- An estimated 39 million people are living with HIV, which translates into incalculable human suffering and a reversal of decades of development progress in the affected countries.

**2005:** The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy increased from 440,000 to 700,000—only 12% of those who would benefit from therapy.

**Fact:** Malaria claims the lives of a million people a year, mostly young children, and is estimated to have slowed economic growth in African countries by 1.3% a year.

**2005:** Among the most effective tools for prevention are insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Distribution has increased tenfold since 2000.

The Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, in collaboration with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, is engaged in dialogue or shareholder resolutions with 8 major pharmaceutical companies and numerous corporations doing business in countries affected by the HIV/AIDS and malaria pandemics. We are addressing areas of drug research, pediatric needs, accessibility, and healthcare for employees.

### Action

- Request a copy of our 2005 NWCRI Annual Report. See Resources.
- Observe World AIDS Day on December 1. Resources: [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

For details call IPJC: 206.223.1138  
[ipjc@ipjc.org](mailto:ipjc@ipjc.org) or [www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org)

# peace & justice center

## United Way

### Designate IPJC with United Way

This year please consider writing in IPJC on your United Way Pledge. This is one more important way for us to receive



support for doing the work of peace and justice that is so needed in our world.

### Matching program

When you designate IPJC also let us know if your company has a matching program that will donate to IPJC.

If your company participates in a matching program, please let us know so that we can double your donation.

### Wish List

- Air miles for our Corporate Social Responsibility work
- In-kind printing
- Professional carpenters, gardeners, and maintenance workers for facility repairs

## Events

### “Woman of Spirit” Luncheon

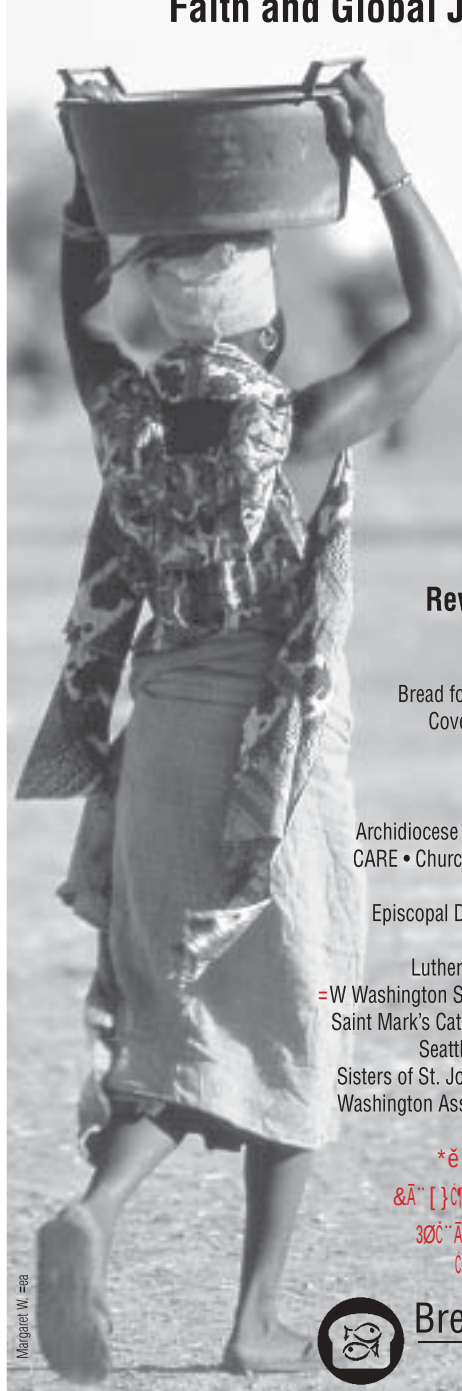
Benefiting Woman Spirit Center and honoring Karen Moyer at Salty’s on Alki Beach on **November 3, Noon—2 pm**. Call: 425.641.1527

### Jose “Chencho” Alas Speaks at St. Leo Church, Tacoma

Archbishop Romero’s advisor and friend speaks on the current situation in El Salvador and other issues, **Sunday, October 23rd**. Contact (253) 627-2857 or million@eskimo.com.

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Throughout history, people have played a significant role in social changes. Today, we find ourselves at a vital point in time: we and hunger cut in half

throughout the world. We are at a vital point in time: we and hunger cut in half

### Keynote Speakers

Rev. Mpho Tutu and Rick Warren

#### Workshops by:

Bread for the World • Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Covenant World Relief • Millennium Campaign  
O=E Campaign • Water First!

#### Sponsored by:

Archdiocese of Seattle, Missions Office, Catholic Charities  
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Episcopal Relief and Development  
Lutheran Peace Fellowship • Millennium Campaign  
Northwest Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches  
Saint Mark's Cathedral • Seattle University Mission  
Seattle University School of Theology  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace • United Methodist Church  
Washington Association of Churches • World Council of Churches

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Bread for the World Institute



THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

## The Power of ONE: Faith and Global Justice Conference

IPJC and Bread for the World are convening this free offering event on the Millennium Development Goals on **Saturday, November 19th**. See invitation above for details or call IPJC at (206) 223-1138.

# Millennium Development Goals Resources

## Websites

United Nations Millennium Development Goals  
[www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

The Millennium Project  
[www.unmillenniumproject.org](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org)

Bread for the World  
[www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)

Debt Relief  
[www.50years.org](http://www.50years.org)

Center of Concern  
[www.coc.org](http://www.coc.org)

The One Campaign  
[www.one.org](http://www.one.org)

UN Millennium Campaign  
[www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org)

## Books & Reports

Gold, Lorna. "More than a Numbers Game? Ensuring that the Millennium Development Goals Address Structural Injustice." Center Focus, Issue #168, September 2005.

Caroline Sweetman, Gender and the Millennium Development Goals. Oxfam, 2005

NWCRI 2005 Annual Report  
[www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org)

Sachs, Jeffrey. The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time. Penguin Press, 2005.

United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005. UN Dept. of Public Information, 2005.  
<http://millenniumindicators.un.org>

## Eight Millennium Development Goals, Eight Actions

**Goal 1:** For one day, experience living on just \$1.

**Goal 2:** When reading and watching the news, examine the links between war and conflict and lack of access to education.

**Goal 3:** Read one article or book as a family or community group and identify ways that you will support and promote gender equity.

**Goal 4:** Sign the ONE declaration to lend your voice to the fight against global AIDS and extreme poverty. Wear a ONE Campaign wristband.

**Goal 5:** On November 19<sup>th</sup> attend The Power of ONE: Faith and Global Justice Conference at Seattle University (see page 10 for details).

**Goal 6:** Write to a pharmaceutical company—Abbott, Bristol Myers-Squibb, Merck—to request that generic and pediatric HIV/AIDS drugs be developed and accessible to the poor.

**Goal 7:** Identify one environmental organization in your region and find out one action you can participate in related to the issue of water.

**Goal 8:** Write to Paul Wolfowitz, the President of the World Bank, and thank him for the debt cancellation of the 18 global south countries. Ask him to extend the debt cancellation to the additional countries that are in significant economic crisis.  
[wolfowitzday@yahoo.com](mailto:wolfowitzday@yahoo.com)

Take Action! →

*A Matter of Spirit* is a publication of the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center

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