



Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus

ENG April 2015

...to exchange social justice and ecology news, stimulate contacts, share spirituality and promote networking...

Narrative

No more bars

Leo De Weerd SJ (BSE)



Fourteen years ago, I took as a Jesuit my first steps into the prison, and I entered in the history of the lives of those who live there. I had not realized how delicate the situation was until I found myself for the first time at the door of the prison in Bruges, neither did I understand then how rich an experience it would be. With one of our pastoral activities in prison 'No more bars' we are nominated for an official award from the Dutch organisation Huub Oosterhuis Fonds in Amsterdam."

Male and female Christians from parishes of the diocese of Bruges (Belgium) on the one hand and detainees from west-Flemish prisons on the other who are willing to become fellow travellers and maybe one day even friends. [Read more...](#)

Flashnews

Global - Launch of edujesuit.org



The Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) on the Right to Education has launched on 13 April the website edujesuit.org (also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) as a workspace where Jesuits along with collaborators engaged in the defense and promotion of the Right to Education share their experiences and work together to encourage awareness-raising actions, advocacy relations, dialogue with decision makers, etc...in the

education field regarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. You can also see a [video](#) presenting this initiative.

India - Climate Change and Water disasters



The **St. Xavier's (Kolkata) Global Earth Summit IV**, having the subject "**Global Climate Change and Water Disasters**" took place on March 27-29, 2015 in Dhyan Ahram, Konchowki. The event, in correspondence with Pope Francis' call for a spirit of solidarity, was organized by the Department of Environmental Science, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, in cooperation with the [Global Ignatian Advocacy Network \(GIAN\) on Ecology](#), for South Asia. Many Jesuit Fathers engaged in teaching and fighting the ill effects of Climate Change from around the world, attended the conference, together with teachers and students of the St. Xavier's College. [Read more...](#)

Global - GNMR report on the impacts of mining



The Global Ignatian Advocacy Network on Mining (GNMR) has distributed a report prepared by Esade University authors Clara Tora, Laura Tora and Josep F. Maria Serrano, in cooperation with Sister Sheila Kinsey, coordinator of the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office of the Wheaton Franciscans. The report analyses data gathered by Sr Sheila and examines the scope for an international network to support and strengthen the relationship between advocates at different levels (local, national, continental, global) and persons working on mining issues at the local level. [To read the report...](#)

USA - Climate Change & Jesuit Higher Education



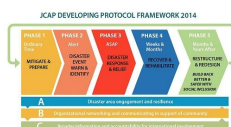
The second annual Climate Change Conference, organized by Loyola University in Chicago, took place on 19 March at Mundelein Center Auditorium. The conference focused on the implications of paying attention to earth and safeguarding creation ("tending earth") through an interdisciplinary reflection on the ethical principles, policies, and actions, needed to combat the crisis of global climate change. [Read more...](#)

India - Document "Weaving hopes after disasters"



The Indian Social Institute in New Delhi has published an extensive document on the rehabilitation and emergency relief programs, carried out in response to the natural disasters that have occurred in India during the last twenty years. The publication "Weaving hopes after disasters" is a study from the perspective of the beneficiaries, a summary of reflections and suggestions of the persons affected by disasters, with the aim to provide valuable material for humanitarian and emergency intervention agencies. [Download the document.](#)

Asia Pacific - Increasing collaboration responding to natural disasters



The Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific is developing a protocol that outlines steps for Jesuits in responding to disasters in this part of the world. Responses to catastrophic events are collaborative in nature, joining local efforts and guiding important international support. This is an ongoing process with other organisations and there is much learning from the experiences of Jesuits on the ground. The effort is also to find ways to

collaborate across different phases in disaster risk reduction and management that demand a wider range of coordination beyond disaster. [Read more...](#)

Honduras - The Voice of the People



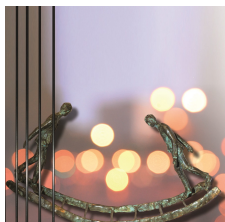
La Voz Del Pueblo (Voice of the People) is an 18-minute documentary exploring violence and injustice in Honduras through the perspective of journalists at a Jesuit-run radio station, Radio Progreso. It was released last March. The release coincided with the thirty-fifth anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Romero's murder in neighboring El Salvador. The release is a collaborative effort of America Media, Ignatian Solidarity Network, and the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States. [Read more...](#)

Lisbon - Social assembly in Portugal



The Social Assembly of the Portuguese Jesuit Province works, took place on February 20th and 21st in Lisbon. The initiative gathered more than 70 collaborators and volunteers of the several social institutions and movements of the Province, such as the social area of the colleges and of the parishes, JRS, a community center for refugees, an association of prison visitors, holiday camps movements, the foundation for the missionary projects, etc.. This Social Assembly had a triple goal: to grow in sharing experiences and good practices; to improve the sense of community; and to deepen the know-how on Ignatian spirituality, that is the common ground for all our work. [Read more...](#)

Europe - Migrations in Europe



On 25 February CeiMigra social centre presented in Valencia the 7th Annual Report on Migration and Integration: "Towards a Europe of inclusion and hospitality". It's a picture of the reality of immigration in Spain and Valencia. The report also provides an analysis on racism and xenophobia in Europe, and specifically on the new radical populism. It finally analyzes the current boom in citizen participation processes through three good practices worldwide: institutions of higher education in Mexico, the Take Part initiative in UK, or Time banks in many countries. [Read more...](#)

USA and Canada - Standing against irresponsible mining



At a historic hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, last 19 March, bishops representing the Latin American Episcopal Conference, CELAM, testified on the effects of exploitative practices of mining and extractive industries on communities and the environment in Latin America. The bishops urged that U.S. and Canadian mining companies be held accountable to laws and standards that protect local economies, the environment, indigenous communities and vulnerable groups even when operating outside of the country. [To learn more...](#)

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