



Shalom News North America

An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.



June 2009



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“Alert to rapidly evolving conditions in a changing society, we discern which world conditions we are called to address. . . . and what the urgent educational needs of our times are.”

- School Sisters of Notre Dame YAS General Directory #37

Economic Justice

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Global Monitoring Report



The global financial crisis is rapidly turning into a human and development crisis, and could prevent many vulnerable countries from attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), according to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Global Monitoring Report* for 2009. "The triple jeopardy of the food, fuel, and financial crises is pushing many poor countries into a danger zone" it noted.

Regarding the MDGs, the report warns that risks abound, although the first goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015 from its 1990 level is still reachable, based on current projections. "School enrollments will suffer, especially for girls," the report noted. "We need strong and urgent actions to counter the impact of the crisis on developing countries by helping them to boost growth while protecting the poor," the two institutions said. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Education

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Child Marriage

"We promote education for all, especially those who are marginalized and forgotten. (*Call to Solidarity*) With this in mind, we are invited to respond to the call to advocate on behalf of girls around the world who are being forced to marry before the age of eighteen and miss any opportunity of completing their education.

Legislation to prevent child marriage around the globe was just introduced in both the U.S. House of

Representatives ([H.R. 2103](#)) and U.S. Senate ([S. 987](#)). Most young people who are married under age 18 are girls, and in some countries, as many as 76% of girls are married before age 18. If you are in the U.S. (or Guam), please ask Congress to act on this important piece of legislation.

[Click here](#) to learn more about child marriage from UNICEF. [Click here](#) to view *Child Brides: Stolen Lives*, a PBS special on this issue.

Human Dignity

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Give Girls a Chance: End Child Labour



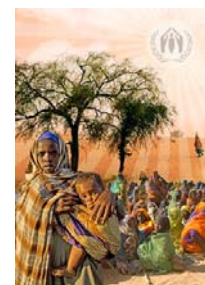
The World Day Against Child Labour is June 12. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark [ILO Convention No. 182](#), which addresses the need for action to tackle the worst forms of child labour.

Around the world, an estimated 100 million girls are involved in child labour. Girls are all too often exposed

to some of the worst forms of child labour, often in hidden work situations. [Click here](#) to take action.

World Refugee Day – June 20

The needs of refugees worldwide are far from being met. Behind the unmet needs are not just numbers but real people with real stories. [World Refugee Day is June 20](#). Advocates are encouraged to take some time this month to learn more about the real people and real stories behind the numbers. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Blue Heart Campaign – Human Trafficking



The Blue Heart represents the sadness of those who are trafficked while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of

those who buy and sell fellow human beings. The use of the blue UN colour also demonstrates the commitment of the United Nations to combating this crime against human dignity.

By "wearing" the Blue Heart you will raise awareness of human trafficking and join the campaign to fight this crime. [Click here](#) to learn more.

The **UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking** is a dialogue that is intended to serve as a catalyst for a global plan of action to combat this heinous crime. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Torture is Morally Intolerable

Torture is a moral issue. It violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved -- policy-makers, perpetrators, and victims.

June 26 is the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. A few years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the U.S. declared the month of June to be Torture Awareness Month to provide greater visibility and opportunities for coordinated action.

Now that President Obama has issued an executive order halting torture, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) is working to build the moral consensus that torture is always wrong. Check out www.nrcat.org for worship and study resources as well as outreach and advocacy opportunities.

Integrity of Creation

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World Environment Day – June 5

“Your Planet Needs You! Unite to Combat Climate Change” is the theme of the 2009 World Environment Day on June 5, one of the UN days marked by the entire SSND congregation. This year’s theme expresses the urgency of acting together for climate justice and of calling world leaders to forge a strong and just agreement for effective action at the December *Climate Change Conference* in Copenhagen.

Please encourage sisters and colleagues in our schools, parishes, ministries, and *Shalom* Clubs to join us in commemorating this day. Suggestions for study, action, and prayer are posted [here](#). More information and a prayer prepared by the JPIC Commission in Rome are available [here](#).

What is sustainable agriculture?

Sustainable agriculture is a way of raising food that is healthy for consumers and animals, does not harm the

environment, is humane for workers, respects animals, provides a fair wage to the farmer, and supports and enhances rural communities. [Click here](#) to read the *Ten Steps to Eating Sustainable*.

Pledge Urges Care for Creation

Supported by the USCCB and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, the [Catholic Coalition on Climate Change](#) has sent all U.S. parishes and Catholic elementary schools educational materials about the *Catholic Climate Covenant* with its *St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor*. The pledge urges individuals and institutions to reflect on their duty to care for creation and the poor, learn about and educate others on the moral dimensions of climate change, assess their patterns of consumption which contribute to the climate crisis, and change their destructive choices and behaviours. [Click here](#) for more information.



Shalom News North America is an e-publication of the Shalom North America Coordinating Committee (SNACC) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame— Judy Bourg (DA), Tim Dewane (ML), Eileen Reilly (AM), Rose Mary Sander (CA), Jeanne Wingenter (MK) and Paulette Zimmerman (SL). Your comments, suggestions, and feedback are always welcomed. Email us at justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org

