

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT

Introduction

We work towards a more just and fair world not out of charity or goodwill, but because we believe it is a necessary response to the Gospel call of Jesus, and a matter of justice. Importantly, if this response is central to our faith, then it is also central to every Catholic school's identity, which should "demonstrate the value it holds for the dignity of the human person, a preferred culture of community and its commitment to social justice and service for the common good."

([Learning Centred Schools: A Sacred Landscape](#)).

Caritas Australia's resources aim to enable individuals to learn about their own worldviews, their essential inter-connectedness with the planet and those living on it, and the global issues that are the root causes of poverty. This equips each of us to engage in positive actions and leadership for a more just and fair world and to make a stand to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

An active and effective social justice group can contribute to the Catholic identity of your school, helping to fulfil the core mission of:

- giving prominence to the Gospel and person of Jesus Christ, as well as the Catholic Social Teaching principles;
- being committed to the Christian vision of the dignity of each human person;
- giving value and meaning to life, by encouraging students to aspire not to have more, but to BE more;
- challenging students to understand and make sense of the world we live in;
- enabling and empowering students to take action for a more just and fair world with direction, meaning, purpose and hope.

“Let us not develop an education that creates in the mind of the student a hope of becoming rich and having the power to dominate. That does not correspond to the time that we live in.

Let us form in the heart of the child and the young person the lofty ideal of loving, of preparing oneself to serve and to give oneself to others. Anything else would be education for selfishness...”

St Oscar Romero

RESOURCES

Please click on the hyperlinks to access the following resources.

- Calendar of Social Justice Days — use this calendar to help plan what social justice days you will acknowledge throughout the year. [Primary school calendar](#) / [Secondary school calendar](#)
- [Prayers, Reflections and Prayer Services](#) — these can be used to begin or conclude social justice group meetings or incorporated into school liturgies.
- Explore Caritas Australia's current Advocacy campaigns. Visit www.caritas.org.au
- [Be More Reflection Guide](#) — A reflection guide to setting your own challenges and taking action to bring lasting change.
- [See, Judge, Act Model](#) (next page)— A guide to assist students in social justice groups learn, reflect and take effective action.
- [Social Justice Action planner](#)— helps guide a comprehensive response to social and ecological injustice.
- [Catholic Social Teaching \(CST\) Toolkit](#)— with videos learning activities and prayers focusing on six CST principles.
- Catholic Social Teaching (PowerPoint) — An introduction to the seven key principles of Catholic Social Teaching. [Primary](#) / [Secondary](#)
- Caring for Creation – A series of 'See, Judge, Act' lessons on the environment/creation through a Catholic lens. [Primary](#) / [Secondary](#)
- [7 Questions to Guide Reflection on Integral Ecology](#) - Seven questions to ask when planning events or activities for individuals or group to consider. Can be used independently or in conjunction with the Laudato Si' Reflection Cards, also included.
- Become a [Catholic Earthcare School](#) Along with the support of Caritas Australia's Earthcare Specialists, Earthcare offers schools tools, resources and events for your whole school community, helping you implement integral ecology.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

THE PROCESS



“There are three stages which should normally be followed in the reduction of social principles into practice. First, one reviews the concrete situation; secondly, one forms a judgement on it in the light of these same principles; thirdly, one decides what the circumstances can and should be done to implement these principles. These are the three stages that are usually expressed in the three terms: observe, judge act.”

Pope John XXIII, *Mater et Magistra*, 1961 (# 236)

See Describe the problem	Judge Reflect on the situation in light of CST	Act Plan a realistic and effective strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the lived experience? • What is happening to people? • Are we listening to the people most directly affected? • What are the causes? • What are the consequences? • How are these linked? • Who are the decision-makers? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are Gospel values being upheld or denied? • How do the Scriptures speak to this issue? • What does the Church have to say about it? 	<p>Does your plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith formation • Service to the most in need • Raising awareness • Advocating for change • Collaboration and coordination (Don't reinvent the wheel. Support existing organisations/networks) • Adequate resourcing