

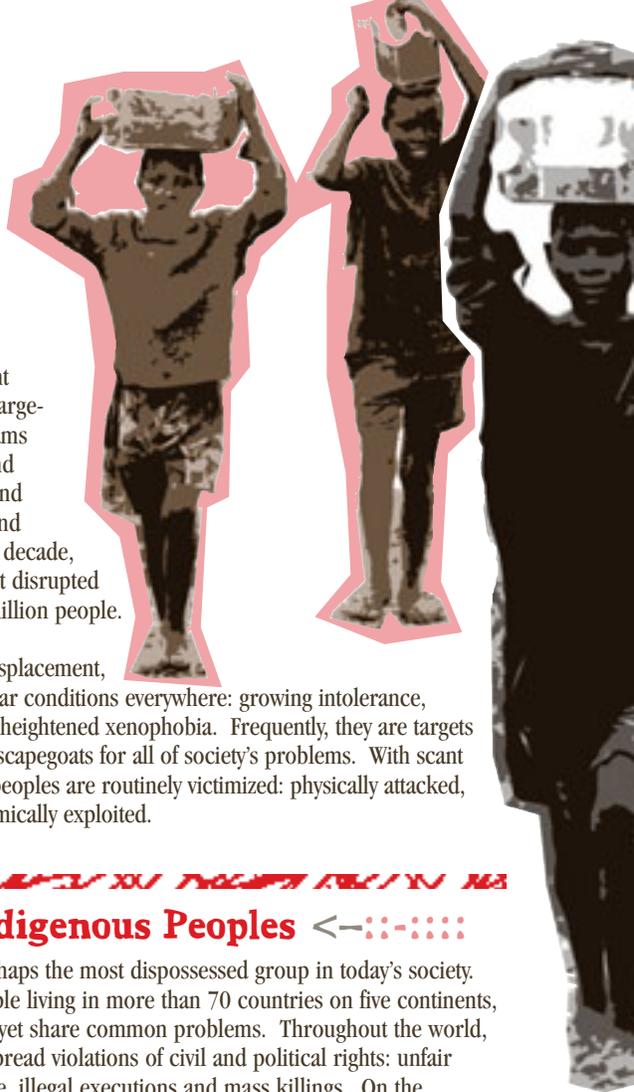


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FROM THE HOLY CROSS INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE OFFICE

- ★ Globally, the leading cause of displacement is “development”—large-scale projects like dams and roads, mining and logging operations, and conservation parks and reserves. In the past decade, such maldevelopment disrupted the lives of 90-100 million people.



Regardless of reasons for displacement, migrating peoples face similar conditions everywhere: growing intolerance, discrimination, racism, and heightened xenophobia. Frequently, they are targets of suspicion and hostility—scapegoats for all of society’s problems. With scant legal protection, displaced peoples are routinely victimized: physically attacked, sexually abused, and economically exploited.

.....-:-> Indigenous Peoples <-:-:.....

Indigenous peoples are perhaps the most dispossessed group in today’s society. More than 300 million people living in more than 70 countries on five continents, the indigenous are diverse, yet share common problems. Throughout the world, they suffer grave and widespread violations of civil and political rights: unfair detentions and trials, torture, illegal executions and mass killings. On the frontlines of globalization, indigenous peoples are also systematically exploited by governments and corporations: their ancestral lands and natural resources stolen, their languages and cultures suppressed, their traditional knowledge pirated.

- ★ In Bangladesh, 25,000 forest-dwelling Garo and Koch peoples face disruption of their lives and livelihoods due to construction of a recreational “eco-park” inside the ancient Madhupur forest. In January 2004, police opened fire on Garos peacefully protesting the park, killing one man and injuring 25 others.
- ★ Once the acknowledged owners of Uganda’s high forest, the Batwa “pygmies” were expelled from their lands to create game parks and nature reserves. Eviction disrupted tribal hunting practices, which undermined tribal health. Used to treating illness with traditional medicines from forest materials, the Batwa are now unable to access their natural medicines or pay for conventional medical treatment.
- ★ In Alberta, Canada, logging and large-scale oil and gas extraction are steadily eroding the land, health, and way of life of the Lubicon Cree. The Lubicon never surrendered the rights to their ancestral lands or consented to resource extraction as international human rights instruments require.
- ★ Throughout Brazil, there is widespread organized violence against indigenous people motivated by racial prejudice and struggles over land. In 2003, 24 indigenous leaders were brutally murdered, topping levels of the past ten years.





❖❖ ASSURING HUMAN RIGHTS ❖❖

Securing the rights of marginalized people and, ultimately, *ending* marginalization will involve both personal and societal transformation. Diverse, multi-faceted strategies will be necessary, including the following.



❖❖-:-> **Enhancing Legal Protections** <-:-:❖❖

Though numerous international Declarations and Conventions defending human rights already exist, there is still a need to amplify legal protection by

- * crafting stronger legal instruments and policies,
- * designing mechanisms to ensure implementation of laws and accountability of officials,
- * creating independent monitoring bodies to enforce legislation and respond to human rights violations, and
- * mustering political will to ensure legal systems work fairly for all.



❖❖:-:-> **Forming Global Citizens** <-:-:❖❖

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once compared humankind to a widely separated family which has inherited a vast “world house” where they must learn to live together in peace. This challenge can only be met, said King, by expanding loyalties and commitments to humanity as a whole—beyond concern for one’s own race, tribe, class, nation, or religion.

Among the most crucial strategies for assuring *all* people’s rights is forming such “global citizens”—persons who

- * respect the innate dignity of all human beings,
- * recognize humanity’s interrelatedness and interdependence,
- * embrace multiplicity and difference as sources of growth,
- * discover common ground and shared vision, and
- * insist on social and political inclusion for all.

Only global citizens, who can affirm the essential oneness of the human family as they honor its many differences, will be prepared to practice the virtue of solidarity.



❖❖:-:-> **Globalizing Solidarity** <-:-:❖❖

Solidarity is the moral response to human unity and interdependence. As John Paul II asserts, solidarity is no vague compassion or shallow distress at others’ misfortunes. It is a firm, persevering “determination to commit oneself to the common good... to the good of all and of each individual because we are all really responsible for all” (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, #38).

Solidarity gives flesh to human oneness. Building a global culture of solidarity—new societal norms, systems, and structures which embody solidarity’s commitment to the good of all and of each individual—is the ultimate antidote to marginalization and surest guarantor of human rights.

**All human beings
are born free, equal
in dignity and rights.**

~ Universal Declaration
on Human Rights



What Can We Do?

1)

Study international human rights agreements. Start with

- ★ the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*—available in more than 300 languages and dialects: www.unhchr.ch/udhr/index.htm, and
- ★ the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*: www.unicef.org/crc/crc.htm.

2)

Speak out for human rights.

- ★ Join campaigns of international human rights organizations like Amnesty International (AI) and Human Rights Watch (see *Resources*).
- ★ Research human rights issues in your country. Share what you learn and take action. For a list of country-specific AI offices see <http://web.amnesty.org/links>.

3)

Hone your “global citizen” skills.

- ★ Cultivate a global perspective:
 - Read news from around the world at www.oneworld.net.
 - Intentionally encounter other cultures, within and outside your current homeland.
 - Attend international meetings like the World Social Forum and United Nations conferences.
- ★ Seek out stories of people whose rights have been violated:
 - Refugees who fled violence only to have difficulty finding asylum.
 - Indigenous peoples in your native land.
 - Immigrants—legal and illegal—who have encountered rejection and discrimination.

4)

Use institutional power to promote human rights.

- ★ Work to ensure that the policies/practices of our Church, our Congregations, and our sponsored institutions protect human dignity, respect human rights, and promote equality and justice.
- ★ Use sponsored institutions to give special assistance to marginalized groups: jobs and healthcare, education/training opportunities, and affirmative action.
- ★ Put Congregational financial resources to work for human rights. Join other socially responsible investors to challenge human rights violations of corporations. (For more information, see www.iccr.org.)

Resources

Amnesty International <www.amnesty.org> is a worldwide movement defending human rights. The web site includes information and action suggestions on a variety of human rights issues and contact information for national AI offices throughout the world. (English, French, and Spanish)

Human Rights Watch <www.hrw.org> conducts fact-finding investigations into human rights abuses in all regions of the world. The site contains extensive information on major human rights issues. (Spanish, French, and English with some documents in Portuguese)

Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives <www.kairoscanada.org> is an education/action organization focusing on various issues, including aboriginal rights, rights of refugees and migrants, and corporate responsibility. (French and English)

Rights & Democracy <www.ichrdd.ca> promotes and defends the rights set out in the International Bill of Human Rights. Its work focuses on democratic development, women's rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, and globalization and human rights. (English, French, and Spanish)



Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women, UNIFEM, 2003, available as a free PDF file at www.unifem.org. This report highlights achievements in combating violence against women, provides examples of good practices, looks at the challenges ahead, and identifies next steps.



Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy, ed. Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild, Henry Holt and Co., New York, 2002. Fifteen essays explore the worldwide mass migration of women occurring due to transnational traffic in child and elder care, housecleaning, and sex services.



The No-Nonsense Guide to International Migration, Peter Stalker, New Internationalist Publications and Between the Lines, Toronto, 2001. This guide lays out the dimensions of today's mass migrations, their effects on sending and receiving countries, and the growing importance of migrants in a globalizing world.



The No-Nonsense Guide to Indigenous Peoples, Lotte Hughes, New Internationalist Publications and Between the Lines, Toronto, 2003. Hughes' book looks beyond exotic images of indigenous peoples and traces the story of their exploitation from colonial times until today. Indigenous peoples describe in their own words their struggles to retain their land and culture in the face of globalization.

Videos

Resources continued -> >



Uprooted: Refugees of the Global Economy

This film presents stories of immigrants who left Bolivia, Haiti, and the Philippines after global economic powers devastated their countries—only to face new challenges in the United States. The stories raise critical questions about U.S. immigration policy in an era when corporations cross borders at will. English with Spanish subtitles; produced by the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, 2001. (28 minutes)



A Score for Women's Voices

In 2000, millions of people worldwide took to the streets to denounce poverty and violence against women. This historic “World March of Women”—a bold initiative of the Québec Federation of Women—represented a turning point in global solidarity. Set against the backdrop of a song, this film celebrates the March and explores five innovative projects around the world designed to protect and enhance the rights of women. English and French; produced by the National Film Board Of Canada, 2002. (86 minutes)

These videos (available in VHS and PAL) may be borrowed free of charge from the Holy Cross International Justice Office Resource Library (e-mail: ksmedley@cscsisters.org; phone: 574-284-5303; fax: 574-284-5596).

**For more information,
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