

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

August, 2007



Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative. Earth Charter III, 9

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Millennium Development Goal 1

By 2015: *reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day*

reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Did you know that in our world today?

Every year nearly 11 million children die before their fifth birthday. (Source: [UNICEF](#))

One third of deaths – some 18 million people a year or 50,000 per day – are due to poverty-related causes. That's 270 million people since 1990, the majority women and children, roughly equal to the population of the U.S. (Reality of Aid 2004)

Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases – that's over 30,000 per day and one every 3 seconds. (80 Million Lives, 2003/Bread for the World/UNICEF/World Health Organization)

Over a billion people live on less than \$1 a day with nearly half the world's population (2.8billion) living on less than \$2 a day. (UN HDR, 2003)

600 million children live in absolute poverty. (SCF, Beat Poverty 2003)

The three richest people in the world control more wealth than all 600 million people living in the world's poorest countries.

(Source: [ChristianAid](#))

Income per person in the poorest countries in Africa has fallen by a quarter in the last 20 years. (Source: [ChristianAid](#))

800 million people go to bed hungry every day. (Source: [FAO](#))

Value of Development Index

Cost of canceling the debts of the poorest African countries for each citizen of the world's richest countries: \$1.70 per year

Percentage of the US budget that the average American voter thinks the U.S. spends on non-military international assistance: 15-30

Percentage of the U.S. budget that the U.S. spends on non-military international assistance: 0.56

Average U.S. tariff on least-developed country goods: 5.5percent

Average U.S. tariff on rich-country goods: 1.1percent

Chance a child in a low income country will die before his/her fifth birthday: 1-in-11

Chance a child in a high income country will die before his/her fifth birthday: 1-in-143

Amount of official overseas development assistance given to poor countries each day per American: 15cents

Amount the average American spends on soft drinks each day: 60cents

The sum appropriated by the U.S. Congress for the war in and reconstruction of Iraq: \$128 billion

Estimate of what it would take to achieve the Millennium Development Goals: \$75 billion

Call to Action

All of this information can be overwhelming and you may find yourself asking “What can I do? I’m just one person”.

The White Band is the international symbol to show your support for an end to global poverty. By wearing a White Band, you become part of a worldwide campaign that is rallying millions of people around the world to demand that the world leaders live up to their promises to end poverty.

Please consider wearing a **White Band** (cost to you is \$10.00 for a pkg. of 10) www.noexcuse2015

When people see it and ask you about it, you will have an opportunity to talk with them about ending global poverty and get them involved.

This month we commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Pray for those suffering the effect of radiation today from the bombs that were dropped.

Pray for those suffering the effects of war today.

Sharings from June 18 – Deepening the Global Heart

Here are a few more of the commitments made by our sisters and associates:

To spread information about the Millennium Development Goals and to contact my representatives to fulfill the USA’s commitment to .7% of our income toward meeting these

I will look to the possibilities for “community supported agriculture” boxes. I will make donations for mosquito bed nets as gifts. I will make time to bring a spirituality of “oneness among all beings” as part of my prayer

Daily log onto “thehungersite.com” – click to each of 6 global needs to provide free food, mammograms, books for children, help to animals, and rain forest; tell others

I commit myself to discussion and prayer with others on how we live our vows for mutual sustainability, relatedness, and mutual collaboration

Music was used during the day by composer Jan Novotka and she did the music for the Earth Spirituality retreat sponsored by the CSJ’s in June. Please contact Mary Lange if you would like to borrow one of her CD’s w/music book for something you are doing: *Together in the Great Work; In the Name of All that Is; Ever Ancient, Ever New; Awakening Consciousness; Melodies of the Universe.*

Are you aware that the U.S. is next to the bottom in giving its pledged .7% of our income to the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals? Right now we are at the halfway mark and the U.S. has given .2% of its commitment.

SUBMITTED BY THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY: PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE