

LORETO SCHOOLS

JPIC SEMINAR REPORT

October 2011



REPORT ON THE EIGHTH ANNUAL JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION SEMINAR FOR LORETO SCHOOLS.

*"...My heart is moved by all I cannot change.
So much has been destroyed.
I must cast my lot
with those who age after age, perversely,
and with no extraordinary power
reconstitute the world".*

*Adrienne Rich
Natural Resources*

(Quoted by Annette Honan in her presentation to teachers)

SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

- To give practical expression to the international Kolkata Guidelines which challenge educators to work from the principle of inclusivity and in so doing to stand with those on the margins of society. Leadership development of students is a core objective. We are challenged to lead students in helping to build a better world.
- To educate students for global citizenship
- To support teachers in their leadership of development and justice education
- To introduce students to the concepts of development and justice education
- To imbue in students a sense of responsibility for justice issues which they will carry into adult life
- To enable students to develop action plans for the academic year ahead

THE SEMINAR

The seminar was held in Emmaus Swords on 11th and 12th October and was attended by 52 students and 28 teachers from 20 post primary and primary schools.

The day began with a prayer led by Siobhan Murray, Loreto Balbriggan and a brief introduction to the seminar programme by Blathnaidh Colhoun, Education Development Officer.



Patsy Toland from Self Help Africa opened the seminar with his keynote address 'The Millennium Development Goals – A plan for saving the world or another broken promise?' He challenged the students to consider the importance of promoting the MDGs and invited them to co-operate with him in the creation of a book themed on Millennium Development Goal 3 which is to *Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women*. The aim of this MDG is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels of education by 2015.

Presentations from students followed lunch. Participants were given insights into 2010/2011 JPIC projects in Loreto Balbriggan, Beaufort, Crumlin, Mullingar, St Stephen's Green.

Students from Portmarnock Community School described their plans to go to Lesotho in February 2012.

Students attended workshops given by Trocaire's Aoife McTernan and her colleagues.

Teachers attended an afternoon session given by Annette Honan, NCCA. She explored teaching methodologies to encourage flexible and critical thinking and effective group work. Her excellent presentation included an outline of how Junior Cycle reform should result in a more flexible curriculum. She spoke about the opportunity to align curriculum planning with schools' mission statements and to challenge students' perceptions of justice and development education. Her handouts and slides were made available to all participants.

Anne Kelly IBVM is the Loreto representative to the UN. She travelled from New York to describe her role and means of influencing policy in that organisation. She can bring issues to representative groups from countries or to groups such as the Women's Commission which meets in February 2012 for example. She can listen to and take part in discussion and get others to speak on her behalf. She is a source of information for Loreto schools and a point of contact in the UN for them. Loreto is one of 5000 Non Governmental Organisations with representatives at the UN but words are the tool with which she works. She suggested that the Loreto Network had the potential to be very powerful and that if all schools supported an issue, she could bring it to people of influence.

Sr Anne would like to see established a commission on human trafficking and suggested that the Loreto network of schools could help to lobby for such an organisation.

Workshops which followed Sr Anne's talk comprised the second part of her presentation. She presented the students with factual information about Zambia which was used as a case study for the workshops. Students working in groups improvised as advocates for the MDGs and prioritising of same within Zambia. The teachers present adopted the roles of government ministers. The exercise helped students to appreciate the difficulties involved in trying to prioritise issues which seemed to them to be of equal importance and then to try to influence a government which appeared unable to bring about change.

After the workshop, everyone went to the Oratory where a reflection was led by Niamh

Donohue from Loreto Beaufort

On the second day of the seminar Kathleen MacLennan IBVM talked to the students on the topic of *MDGs - what Loreto is doing in Practice*. Her focus on the work of Mary Ward International illustrated the many ways in which Loreto is addressing MDGs in the furthest flung corners of the world. She showed many photographs of Loreto projects around the world, demonstrating the great variety of work being done in the most remote and far flung corners of countries where, in some instances, no other organisations will go. She brought these projects to life both in the telling of the stories about them and with the accompanying photographs.

For the final session, students and their teachers took time to work on their Action Plans for 2011-2012.



It was suggested that MDG 3 might be an appropriate goal for students of secondary school and that it could be particularly effective if the Loreto network of schools worked together in the promotion of one goal. The Loreto project in Sudan encompasses all MDGs but MDG 3 has particular resonance as the education of girls has such impact on whole families.

EVALUATIONS

Students reported that they found Sr Kathleen's presentation inspiring and useful. They were made aware of the extent of Loreto foundations throughout the world and left with a strong sense of the difference between justice and charity.

Students expressed appreciation of their newly acquired knowledge of Millennium Development Goals as outlined in Patsy Toland's presentation.

The Loreto link at the UN through Anne Kelly IBVM was a revelation. Students wanted to know how they could influence UN policy and how to bring influence to bear on such a large organisation. It was suggested by one participant that Loreto Schools should visit the UN.

Students found the Trocaire workshops enjoyable and enjoyed the presentations from other schools as well as the opportunity to work on their own action plans.

When asked whether their expectations of the seminar had been met, students said that they had and more. Among the new things they had learned about were:

- Loreto link to UN
- FGM
- The power of lobbying
- Importance of JPIC in school
- Importance of contacts and networking
- Millennium Development Goals
- Loreto Sudan
- Loreto Projects around the world
- Children and education
- That small groups can make a difference
- Climate change and its effects
- Gender inequality
- The arms industry

When asked for suggestions or further comments, students looked for more opportunity to mix and work with the other Loreto schools at the seminar. Some felt that there should be more emphasis on the MDGs in school. Others wanted to know how students could take part in Loreto projects in India and Africa.

CHALLENGES

One of the main challenges from a Loreto networking point of view is to keep going the momentum created at the annual JPIC seminar. Schools are busy places and students and teachers have many demands on their time

With cut backs to supervision and substitution, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Principals to release teachers from class. The addition of planning time to the normal school day means that teachers are not as free as they were outside of class time to facilitate and lead students in Justice and Peace related activities. Despite that, large numbers of teachers in Loreto schools give of their time without the expectation of payment or material reward.

The challenge will be to ensure that within the network of Loreto schools in Ireland, the commitment to justice, peace and support for Loreto worldwide will remain as strong as ever. The network needs students and teachers who will continue to come forward in a spirit of voluntarism and generosity to support and lead initiatives at local, national and international level.

As the girls learned at the JPIC seminar, small groups can make all the difference. The challenge for students is to continue to speak out on behalf of those who are not empowered to speak out for themselves so that in turn people, whose basic human rights go unrecognised, will be empowered to change their own lives.

While each school continues to support and advocate on behalf of local organisations, there is a challenge to focus on global issues. Students have the power to make others aware and to act on their knowledge, not just while in school but throughout their lives. All the MGDs are worthy of pursuit but perhaps in the light of the development of the Sudan schools, it is appropriate that the secondary schools within the network focus on MDG 3 and the primary schools on MGD 2 which is to *To Achieve Universal Primary Education*. It seems appropriate that a network of schools should focus on the key human rights of education and equality.

Blathnaidh Colhoun

Loreto Education Development Officer

November 2011

SCHOOL ACTION PLANS FOR 2011/2012

*Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Seminar
11-12 October 2011*

BALBRIGGAN

Before Christmas:

- World AIDS Day ~ 1 December
~ nail painting! Lipstick
- Equality Day - 10 December
~ Discrimination activity

After Christmas:

- Fair-trade stall
~ new products sold during the fashion show/musical/break time
- International Women's Day ~ 8 March
~ Inspirational women from all subject areas in school
- Mother Earth Day ~ 22 April
~ Local areas of beauty photo competition
- Clothes recycling "dress for success" link

BEAUFORT

Before Christmas:

- One World Week - (Explain to Staff week before One World Week)
~ peer teaching with Sixth Class in Loreto Grange Road Primary School
- Universal Children's Day – 20 November
~ Peer teaching – younger years
- Sticker Activity Fourth & Fifth Years
~ Skype call to Sudan
- SVP Christmas Party and Luxury food hamper appeal for vulnerable people in our school community

After Christmas:

- January: Empowerment of Women Week - 27 January
~ Linking with Mary Ward Week
~ Organise a speaker to come in to discuss FGM for JPIC group prior to the week
~ JPIC Group will present the topic from First to Fourth Years
~ A speaker for Fifth & Sixth Years
~ Topics to be decided for First and Second Years

- February – Fair Trade Week
 - ~ Ask school shop to supply fair-trade products
- Get working on a campaign in relation to MDG 3 and Sudan
- March – International Women’s Day
 - ~ Discussing positive women in the developing world

BRAY

Before Christmas:

- Link with St Patrick’s Primary School
 - ~ Host a Christmas party to raise money for Sr Orla and Sudan
- Display for APA – Sr Orla’s Christmas to educate the rest of the school

After Christmas:

- Mary Ward Day
 - ~ hostages/poverty
- Music/special needs
 - ~ School for Rumbek
- Local Awareness – homelessness
- Easter Egg Hunt –raise money for Sudan School
 - ~ Facts about Sudan and MDGs.
 - ~ Give clues for the egg
- World Women’s Day – 8 March

CAVAN

Before Christmas:

- World AIDS Day – 1 December
 - ~ Use Notice board and a poster campaign to raise awareness
 - ~ Sell rubber wrist bands and send profits to AIDS Awareness
 - ~ Each senior class representative releases a balloon at 03.45pm to highlight Awareness of AIDS
 - ~ Order professional poster
 - ~ Use of intercom
- St Vincent DePaul – Guest speaker
 - ~ Highlight the situation in Cavan and make homelessness real. How can we help with St Vincent DePaul’s work?

After Christmas:

- Social Justice Day – 20 February
 - ~ Prayer read over the Intercom.
 - ~ MDGs - notice board and PowerPoint presentation to be shown to various classes
 - ~ Use Red/Green/White stickers- people to be treated differently depending on colour of sticker
- World women’s Day – 8 March
 - ~ look at key women figures

- ~ gender inequality statistics.
- ~ During week all Fifth Years will cover Female Genital mutilation in Religion
- ~ A pink badge will be given to every girl in the class
- World Water Day
 - ~ Notice board/Intercom
 - ~ Focus on Trocaire's water-stricken areas.
 - ~ use of Power Point You Tube
 - ~ Focus on water use and how we can reduce wastage.
- April/May – Awareness of Loreto's fantastic work in Sudan
 - ~ Easter egg hunt/ Easter Raffle in staffroom
 - ~ Use Sr Kathleen's PowerPoint presentation to show pupils

CLONMEL

Before Christmas:

- Establish JPIC
- World AIDS Day ~ 1 December
 - ~ nail varnish

After Christmas:

- World Food Day
 - ~ Classes to computer room.
- World Water Day ~ 22 March
 - ~ Students wear something blue

COLERAINE

Before Christmas:

- Macmillan Coffee Morning/Trad for Trocaire
- Shoebox Appeal
- MDG 2 Education – Readathon. Members visit classes.
- Fair-trade stall on Mission Day
 - ~ Chocolate fountain, sweets
 - ~ Justice Films
 - ~ Information leaflets
 - ~ Encourage pupils to make ethical choices
 - ~ Human rights display, powerpoint on monitors,
 - ~ Silence at assembly
 - ~ Peace bracelets – Posters on conflict.

After Christmas:

- Lone/Heart rolo campaign: Ethical choices
Child labour
- World Water Day in March
- Trocaire Campaign
- Flip Flop Friday – gender equality, empower women

- MDG Awareness YR 8 - 10
 - ~ powerpoint at Carol Service
 - ~ Treasure Hunt
 - ~Peer education
 - ~ Quiz sheet
- Fundraising for Loreto School Sudan

CRUMLIN ROAD

Before Christmas:

- Form JPIC Group in the school
 - ~ Create a link with the Primary School.
 - ~ Spread awareness
 - ~Presentation - JPIC and MDGs – simplified version
- Twin school – research
 - ~ Does it already exist?
 - ~ Form link
 - ~ Form a partnership with other school

After Christmas:

- Be positive week
 - ~ Prepare for week of school wide events to promote awareness of Mental Health issues and the promotion of good mental health both in school and at home
- MDGs and JPIC Programme
 - ~ Make students in our own school more aware of the MDGs and JPIC Programme through events and poster campaigns.
- Encourage as many students as possible to become involved in connecting/forging links with our sister schools both nationally and internationally

DALKEY

Before Christmas:

- School Talent Show in aid of Sudan
 - ~ Make a video to show all of the students a comparison between a day in the life of a Loreto Dalkey student and Loreto Rumbek Student.
- Make sure our whole school understand the Third MDG. Using different activities and 'The Girl Affect' Brand
- Activities for World AIDS Day ~ 1 December
 - ~ Red theme: red socks, red balloon release, have a speaker, posters, red ribbons

After Christmas:

- Justice and Peace Week
 - ~ Centred around International Women's Day
 - ~ Lunchtime activities

- ~ Religion classes talking about Justice and Peace topics
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen for homeless people
 - ~ Distribute sandwiches and soup to homeless people around the city (Soup Run)
- Homeless display
 - ~ Outside the school and lunchroom
 - ~ Brown coin collection for Irish Homeless people

FERMOY

- Raising awareness of the street children in India and the organisation HOPE who do so much good work there.
- Exploring and raising awareness of the inequalities of the prison and justice systems of Ireland.
- Raising awareness of the STAND BY ME charity and its work with the poor of South Africa.
- Random acts of kindness week.
- Women as agents of social change.
- Investigation into violence against women in the western world.
- World AIDS Day--Explaining AIDS.
- Human trafficking.
- Domestic violence in Ireland.
- Sending a student to India with the HOPE foundation.
- Operation smile

These projects will be explored throughout the year and already we have had success in our ambition to understand these issues.

FOXROCK

Before Christmas:

- Increase membership of the JPIC
- Run campaign to promote elimination of violence against women in Ireland

After Christmas:

- Try to establish Loreto JPIC for past pupils
- Broaden campaign for safety of women in Sudan through education
- Set up face book group for JPIC schools so they are connected
- Fundraise for Sudan
 - ~ bag packing
 - ~non uniform day
- Loreto schools to campaign for group to be formed in the UN to stop Human trafficking

KILKENNY

Before Christmas:

- World AIDS/HIV Day ~ 1 December

- ~ Ribbon/badges ~ Workshop for Second Years
- ~ Display
- Human Rights Day – 10 December
 - ~ Workshops in Primary Schools
 - ~ Workshops for First years
 - ~ 3 Stickers – Fourth Years

After Christmas:

- International Women’s Day – 8 March
 - ~ Quiz – online action
 - ~ Survey – St Patricks Day parade
- Fundraiser for South Sudan
- Local: Women in Sport in Kilkenny
 - ~ Letter to GAA signed by students
- Petition (whole network initiative) given to Sr Anne Kelly in UN

LETTERKENNY

Before Christmas:

- International Violence Day against Women
- MDG Awareness in secondary School and Primary schools
 - ~ First Year classes
 - ~ SPHE PowerPoint presentation
 - ~ Permanent posters
- World AIDS Day
 - ~ Nail varnish
 - ~ Information sheets
- United Nations Day
 - ~ Sr Anne Kelly
 - ~ Information and awareness
- Mental Health Week
 - ~ Positive + music on intercom
- SVP Christmas hampers
 - ~ SVP awareness
 - ~ Guest speaker

After Christmas:

- World Cancer Day/Breast Cancer Awareness - February 4
 - ~ Leaflets
 - ~ Community awareness
- World Water Day – March 22
- Loreto Sudan
 - ~ Compare education systems of Ireland and Sudan
 - ~ Raise awareness of similarities
 - ~ Loreto crest known world wide, ‘We are Loreto girls’ – remind school
- FGM Awareness
 - ~ Posters and PowerPoint presentations to educate teachers and students.

MULLINGAR

Before Christmas:

- Self Acceptance Week (28 October – 2 November)
- International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women

After Christmas:

- Sudan Week – possible suggestions
 - ~ Geography/CSPE/Religion? Home Economics classes focus on Sudan
 - ~ If school has an intercultural club link in with them.
 - ~ Dates to be decided by Education Office
 - ~ Select 5 MDGs with focus on Sudan
 - ~ Because I'm a girl
 - Pack for each teacher containing 30 speech bubbles beginning with 'Because I'm a girl' and instructions.
 - At an appointed time (e.g. 10.20) all teachers will distribute speech bubbles to class to be filled in
 - These will be collected at end of class
 - JPIC will then pin them up on cut-out of female in reception
- Design a JPIC badge
- Themed cake sale.

NAVAN

Before Christmas:

- Peace and Social Justice – Navan Website
 - ~ Blog? Marking
- Suggest Mission Week money goes to Sudan
 - ~ Kathleen MacLennan IBVM + awareness

After Christmas:

- Peace & Social Justice Week
- Concern Fast
- Inequality Day – stickers (Mullingar)
- End of Year newsletter
- Suicide Awareness – Get rid of Taboo
- Website

LORETO GRAMMAR SCHOOL, OMAGH

Before Christmas:

- Sister Kathleen visit – speak to all pupils about work of the Loreto Sisters in Southern Sudan
- Whole school fundraising for Loreto Sudan

- Research MDG 3 – 'to promote gender equality and empower women'; link to Southern Sudan
- Saint Vincent de Paul – whole school involvement

After Christmas:

- Continue focus on whole school fundraising or Loreto Sudan
- Raise awareness of MDG 3 through PowerPoint presentations at Years 8-14 assemblies
- Celebrate International Women's Day – 8th March, 2012

PORTMARNOCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Before Christmas:

- AIDs Day – 1st December – give out red ribbons, red nail polish, create a big red ribbon and get everyone to sign it in support

After Christmas:

- 22nd March – World Water Day – link with Art department to create an art installation to represent the issue around the need for safe drinking water
- Pick a day to focus on raising awareness of one MDG – instead of going with all of them-focus on one that may be relevant to the whole school community
- 8th March – International Women's Day – interesting to see how this is taken up in a mixed school – focus on the roles that females take in the lives of everyone e.g. Mothers, sisters, daughters etc. Look at the issues surrounding females throughout the world –especially inequality both in developing world and developed world.

ST STEPHEN'S GREEN

Before Christmas:

- 25th November- Elimination of Violence against women
 - ~ poster and facts campaign
 - ~ message and reflection on intercom
 - ~ domestic violence to be taught in senior R.E. classes
- 1st December- World Aids Day
 - ~ Banner displayed to public highlighting the day
 - ~ Use windows on front of school to display facts and statistics highlighting how HIV is related to poverty, lack of education and the effect it has on women worldwide.
 - ~ Peer teaching by JPIC members

After Christmas:

- World water day: have powerpoint on canteen screen, it shows the dangers

women in Africa face simply getting water every day.

~ Put facts in toilets about the risks African women face going to the toilet in certain areas

~ Put dirty water in canteen with signs, 'would you drink this' and give information on water wastage in the west

- Genocide in Rwanda- use of DVD shown at lunchtime over the week for senior students about the injustices of this event and its impact now
- Themed silent disco (maybe women in history) - students pay in to raise money for Sudan. Bake sale also.

SWORDS

Before Christmas:

- Peer teaching to First Years by Transition Year students
- PowerPoint presentation to parents at Carol Service ~ linking with the Christmas story.
- Christmas Card Competition
~ Sell at Parents' Carol Service
- Universal Children's Day ~ 20 November
~ Posters
~ Prayer for children
- World AIDS Day ~ 1 December
~ Accessorise for AIDS Day ~ red bangles, hair bands, earrings etc.

After Christmas:

- World Day of Social Justice ~ 20 February
- World Water Day
~ Posters/water containers with dirty water, facts etc.
- Women's Day ~ MDG Goals 3 and 5
- Parish Initiative: Speak at Masses, etc again.
- Build a link with partner school ~ Mauritius
- Invite Clodagh and Niamh back to talk to First Years about their time in Kenya, as they are new to the experience.
- Enquire about a local social justice project
- Idea of 'sponsoring' a girl in Rumbek
~ Designing a brochure for Mary Ward International to publicise the idea among schools?