



The Vincentian  
Partnership for  
Social Justice

**Working for  
social and  
economic change  
tackling poverty  
and exclusion**

Members:

The Society of  
Saint Vincent de  
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The Vincentian  
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and  
The Sisters of  
the Holy Faith

The Vincentian  
Partnership for  
Social Justice  
Ozanam House  
53 Mountjoy  
Square  
Gardiner St.  
Dublin 1

Tel: 01 8780425  
Fax: 01 8780423  
[vpi@eircom.net](mailto:vpi@eircom.net)

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- Progress on Millennium Development Goals
- Prayer and Reflection

# JUST.NOW

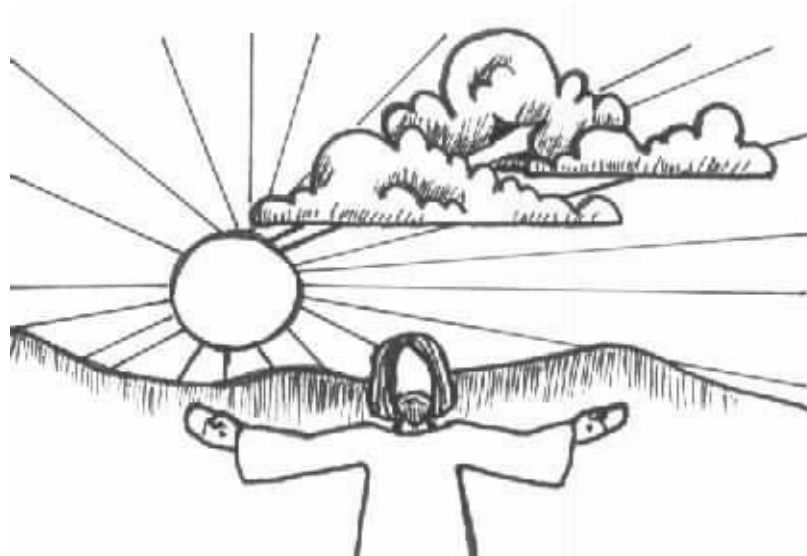
March-April 2005 Justice Briefing

## Millennium Development Goals

Our lives are charged with the Risen Lord. At times, we live in the shadow of failure and apathy. However to see Jesus as the Risen Lord is to recognise that life, love and effort are stronger than self-interest, indifference and difficulties.

This edition of Just.Now deals with the Millennium Goals. This Summer the U.N. will gather the 189 countries that have pledged to do their "utmost" to meet these goals. This U.N. Conference could be the time when justice and poverty issues generate real political will for change. Together, the nations will assess progress and renew their commitment to global, social and economic justice.

It is the presence of the Risen Christ which gives us the energy, dynamism, urgency and passion to work towards realising the Millennium Goals. These goals give us a glimpse of a transformed world in which poverty and suffering are not accepted as inevitable.



**Date for Your Diary:**

**Global Week of Action - April 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Current world trade rules are unjust to poor countries. The aim of Global Action Week is to challenge the free trade myth. Trade is not an economic issue, it is a human issue.

**To find out more, visit [www.april2005.org](http://www.april2005.org)**

# Millennium Development Goals: Signs of Hope

## The Reality - Bad News 2005

- 1 billion people try to live on less than \$2 a day.
- 113 million children are excluded from primary school education.
- Women are denied basic human rights; millions are abused in the sex trade; millions more work in desperate conditions to feed families.
- 11 million children die before their fifth birthday from curable diseases.
- 34 million people live with HIV and AIDS.
- In developing countries the risk of mothers dying in childbirth is one in every forty eight.
- 1 billion people lack safe drinking water and 2 billion lack sanitation facilities
- Poor countries pay 4 times as much money in debt repayment as they get in international aid.

## The Goal - Good News 2015

- Poverty and hunger around the world will be cut in half.
- Primary school education for all girls and boys around the world will be a reality.
- Women everywhere will be safe, their human rights respected and they and their families enabled live a life of dignity.
- Child mortality will be reduced by two thirds.
- The cases of HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB will begin to decline.
- The proportion of women dying in childbirth will be reduced by three quarters
- The number of people with access to safe water will double and 100 million families will have better sanitation
- All countries will work together for people-centred development, debt forgiveness and fair trade

*"Justice and truth demand that basic human needs should be met and that no one should be left to perish".*

Pope John Paul II, Centesimus Annus #34

*"Hope in the coming kingdom is already beginning to take root in the hearts of people. The radical transformation of the world in the Paschal Mystery gives full meaning to the efforts of people, and in particular to the young, to lessen injustice and to advance together in justice, freedom, kinship and love".*

Synod of Bishops, Justice in the World #76

*"Solidarity helps us to see the 'other' - whether a person, people, or nation .... as our 'neighbour', someone who is to be made a sharer like ourselves in the banquet of life to which we are all equally invited by God".*

Pope John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis #39

# Implementing the Millennium Declaration

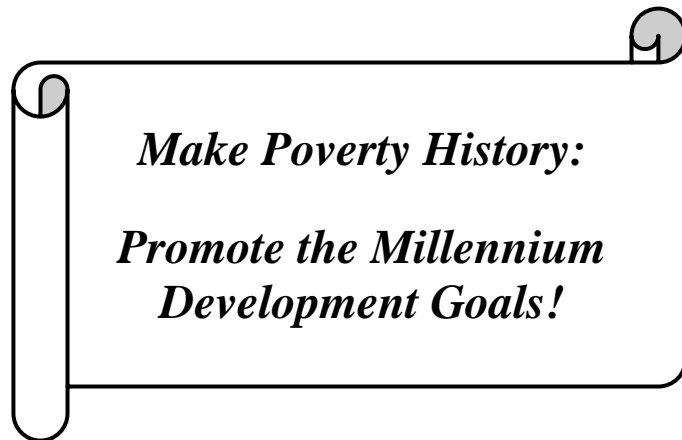
## What Has Been Achieved?

"Developing countries are reducing extreme poverty, extending access to primary education and alleviating disease and hunger --- in pursuit of targets set in the 2000 U.N. Millennium Declaration" states Secretary - General Kofi Annan. In specific terms this means that:

- 200 million fewer people live in extreme poverty in Asia
- Primary school enrolment rates are over 90% in Latin America, the Caribbean, much of Asia and northern Africa.
- Hunger is lessening in all regions, though not at the same rate.

However, the poorest nations in sub-Saharan Africa show little progress in any of these goals. The high death rate among children and mothers persists. Hundreds of thousands still lack clean drinking water and sanitation. The greatest failure is in implementing Goal 8, *Global Partnership for Development*. Primary responsibility for this failure lies with the developed countries.

Putting national interest first in areas of trade, aid and debt has left poorer countries at a disadvantage, especially in agriculture and textiles. In particular, the EU's insistence on economic partnership agreements which liberalise the markets with poorer nations has resulted in "giving with one hand and taking back with the other". The end result is that struggling nations become poorer, despite their best efforts to trade their produce on the world market.



The Millennium Development Goals remain a clear vision for nations to work together for a fairer world for all. They reaffirm the values of equality, mutual respect and shared responsibility for the condition of all peoples. They relate these values to the broader context of peace and human rights. Their implementation implies a transformed world where each person's dignity is respected, their rights upheld and the sacredness of all creation embraced.

### What Can I Do?

- Keep the vision of the Millennium Goals alive in my awareness.
- Promote knowledge of these Goals with groups among whom I work.
- Lobby TDs and Government Ministers to keep the solemn commitment made at the World Summit in Johannesburg to achieve the UN target of 0.7% in ODA by 2007
- Join my voice to that of others in civil society to promote national progress on the Millennium Goals

# Prayer and Reflection

## Prayer Service of Hope: The Millennium Development Goals

The prophet Micah declared: "Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." The nations of the world are called to act justly by meeting concrete goals to provide fullness of life for billions in our global community. We are called, as citizens of one of the richest nation in the world and as global citizens, to make our voices heard as we urge our nation's leaders to make the Millennium Development Goals a reality. Lord, help us to act justly, love our global family tenderly, and to walk humbly with you as we strive to build a better world.

### Leader:

In this season of hope, we gather together as an Easter people.

We claim the power of Christ's resurrection for our world torn by war, divided by injustice and weakened by lack of concern for the poorest people and nations.

Inspired by the promise of a better future for all as set out in the Millennium Goals we affirm:

**Voice 1:** By 2015, poverty and hunger around the world will be cut in half.

**All:** To this we commit ourselves

**Voice 2:** By 2015, primary school education for all girls and boys around the world will be a reality.

**All:** To this we commit ourselves

**Voice 3:** By 2015, women everywhere will be respected, safe, and enjoy all human rights.

**All:** To this we commit ourselves

**Voice 4:** By 2015, child mortality will be reduced by two-thirds.

**All:** To this we commit ourselves

**Voice 5:** By 2015, the cases of HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB will begin to decline.

**All:** To this we commit ourselves

**Voice 6:** By 2015, the proportion of women dying in childbirth will be reduced by three quarters.

**All:** To this we commit ourselves

**Voice 7:** By 2015, the number of people with access to safe water will double and 100 million will have improved sanitation.

**All:** To this we commit ourselves

**Voice 8:** By 2015, all countries will work together for people-centered development, debt forgiveness and fair trade.

**Leader:** We proclaim to all the hope of Christ as set out in these goals for the global family. May we work together to raise up our sisters and brothers who lack the basic necessities of life—food, clean water, safety and respect for human dignity. We believe in humanity and in life. We trust that by every act of faith, of hope, of compassion, and of social justice, we build a new of solidarity, equality and mutual respect for all.

