Engaging young people with justice and peace

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Workshop Plan

Aim: To encourage and empower!

• Introductions
• Engaging young people
• Young people and justice and peace
• Traps we fall into
• Useful resources
• First steps and encouragement
But first…
Please could you jot down 5 words or phrases which represent Africa for you
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Who are we and why are we here?
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Learning through action; serving the young and the poor alongside Salesian communities around the world
Signs and bearers of God’s love to the young

God calls us to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor
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Engaging young people

Some thoughts…

• Don Bosco and whistling
• Find them where they are…
• Your passions and theirs
  – “Love what the young love”
  – “A spoonful of honey…”
  – Their passions and yours
Where are the young people?
How might we reach them?
Who can help us?
Engaging young people

Some thoughts…

- Don Bosco and whistling
- Find them where they are…
- Your passions and theirs
  - “Love what the young love”
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  - Their passions and yours
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The 3 barriers to action

... a framework for engagement

1. I don’t know about it
   - or understand why it’s an issue
2. It’s nothing to do with me or us as church
   - responsibility and empathy
3. There’s nothing I can do about it
   - including prayer, telling others etc.
From your experience, do these feel right?
Some encouraging news

- It’s possible
- They’re interested
- It’s never too early
- We’ll never see all the results
- A story of success
“We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.”
Some encouraging news

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• They’re interested
• It’s never too early
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Charity over justice

- “I’ve done my bit”
- Love requires justice, not simply charity, which although necessary is “no substitute for justice withheld” (St. Augustine).
- The ‘Virtuous Escalator’?
Justice?

Charity?
The Pover-tree

Consequences of poverty

Root causes of poverty
How to write about Africa
Traps we fall into

Problematic representations of poverty

• “How to write about Africa” by Wainaina
• Africa has poverty, war and starvation. But it also has people going about everyday life.
• We must try to find ways to respect the humanity and dignity of people in developing countries by presenting a more complete picture
• Why? Disempowering – for countries, for non-white young people
Try to make use of images and words from the countries under discussion

Avoid using only negative images (e.g. all starving children); include pictures or videos of ‘normal’ activities which your young people can relate to

Talk about justice as well as charity

Be aware of the message you put across and beware of too much oversimplification
What most people are saying about Africa

POLITICS
GUNS
MOUNTAINS
SUN
DRY
FARMERS
HUTS
DONATIONS
HISTORY
STARVING
POVERTY
CROPS
DROUGHT
MUSIC
SANDBEFOREIGN AID
DISEASE
WARRIORS
FAMINE
CHARITY
DESPOT
BONO
LIONS
COLONIALISM
DUST
TRIBES
GIRAFFES
DEBT
AID
RAPE
WILDLIFE
POOR
DURY
POLITICS
LIONS
HUTS
FLIES
AIDS
COLONIALISM
DESSERT
What most Africans are saying about Africa
Traps we fall into

So..

• Try to make use of images and words from the countries under discussion

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• Talk about justice as well as charity

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Useful resources

There’s good stuff out there
– there’s no need to reinvent the wheel!

- British Red Cross ‘News think!’ emails
- Newspapers (from around the world)
  - e.g. www.nation.co.ke/ (Kenya)
- www.paxchristi.org.uk/PeaceEd.HTML
- www.globaldimension.org.uk/
- CAFOD, Christian Aid, OXFAM and so on
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A good resolution...
N One day, while Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father-in-law, he led the flock across the desert and came to Sinai, the holy mountain. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him as a flame coming from the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire but that it was not burning up.

M This is strange, why isn't the bush burning up? I'll go over and look.

N When the Lord saw that Moses was coming closer, he called to him from the middle of the bush.

G Moses! Moses!

M Here I am.

G Do not come any closer. Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

N So Moses covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.
This isn’t easy…

G I have seen how cruelly my people are being treated in Egypt; I have heard them cry out to be rescued from their slave drivers. I know all about their sufferings, and so I have come down to rescue them … I have indeed heard the cry of my people, and I see how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you can bring my people Israel out of Egypt.

M I am nobody. Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the people of Israel out of Egypt?

G I will be with you.

Exodus 3: 1-12
Many thanks – and good luck!

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