

## **Justice and peace issues in Africa**

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### **Social issues**

- poverty: inaccessibility of good education and therefore literacy
- inaccessibility of good medical care
- HIV/Aids
- rape and incest
- gender inequality
- female genital mutilation
- children's rights abuse: prostitution
  - child labour
  - child trafficking
- negative influence of media and modern technology
- family breakdown and violence
- drug abuse
- land issues: land clashes
  - land-grabbing
- environmental degradation
- political instability: corruption
  - insecurity
  - civil wars
  - poor governance

### **Effects on educational community**

- high rate of drop-out from school
- death of able personnel due to HIV/aids
- family disintegration
- early marriages
- increase in drug addiction and irresponsibility around drugs
- hunger/starvation and drought, death
- consequential poor learning
- upsurge of refugees (local and international)

### **Course of action**

- sex education and HIV/Aids awareness especially among the young
- family life education, guidance and counselling
- environmental care and campaigns
- promotion of nationalism rather than tribalism in school
- education on human rights and gender equality
- lobbying on serious issues that affect the educational community
- education for justice and peace
- intervention by the UN on serious cases before they get out of hand eg Darfur in Sudan

### **How does this impinge on the Mary Ward Institute?**

- these issues challenge the Institute's ability to offer quality education
- they place financial constraints due to large numbers of needy cases

**We hope for:**

- training of the sisters to be more professional in handling different issues
- financial help
- lobbying the UN through the NGO to pass non-discriminatory regulations that affect
- Africa to be the voice of the voiceless