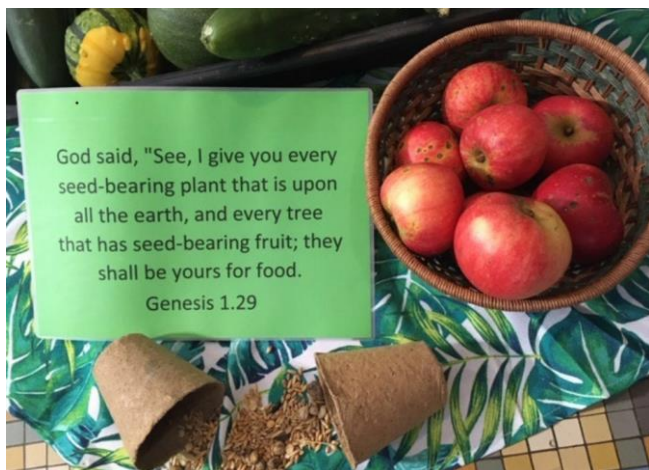


# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

17<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – SEASON OF CREATION



Season of Creation space put together by volunteers of the Care of the Earth Parish Group of Carrigaline in Cork.



Season of Creation space by Mary O'Regan, Granagh Church, Limerick.



Elaine Hill promoting the Season of Creation to supporters at Trócaire's Centre in Cork City.

**Trócaire**

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## COVID 19: CORK CENTRE



Yvonne Cronin promoting hand-made craft items made by women in the projects we support in Uganda, Rwanda, Sierre Leone, Guatemala, Honduras, Myanmar and Kenya.

Also on sale in our Cork Centre is a book written by one of our volunteers, Con Lynch 'Along the Right Path'. All proceeds to Trócaire.

Perfect gifts for a friend or loved one. Email us at [corkcentre@trocaire.org](mailto:corkcentre@trocaire.org) for more information.

Our Cork Centre is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm.

Don Ryan (here with Janet outside the Cork Centre) raised €500 for Trócaire. Don and his wife, Therese, are regular visitors to the centre along



with their young family. As well as being a very busy solicitor, Don does some volunteering for us in his local parish of Cobh when he has some quiet time. We are blessed to have him.

**Trócaire**



# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – LIMERICK

### Season of Creation webinar – Limerick, 27<sup>th</sup> of August at 7:30pm

The webinar offered an opportunity for reflection on current and recent experiences. It walked through the Season of Creation resource pack prepared by the Laudato Si' group of the Irish Bishops' Conference and identified practical action steps to be taken by parishes going forward. Forty-one people from 19 parishes across the Diocese as well as people interested in the theme of Caring for Our Common Home registered for the webinar. All forty-one received a copy of the resource pack by email. The resource pack and slides from the webinar were made available on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.limerickdiocese.org/resources/category/resources/season-of-creation-2020/>



Season of Creation prayer space  
by Betty from St Nicholas' parish.

### ***"Cultivating Hope"***



diocese  
of limerick  
our catholic community

### in the **Season of Creation**

(1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

### **Zoom Webinar for Parishes**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August, 7:30pm



Each Sunday during the Season of Creation, the daily 7am 'thought for the day' on the Diocesan Facebook page focused on the theme of Creation drawing on the homily notes in the resource pack.

<https://www.facebook.com/dioceseoflimerick/photos/a.235567433298837/1458782517643983/>

**Trócaire**

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – LIMERICK



diocese  
of limerick  
our catholic community



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**



### **The Story of Creation**

Sharon Collopy, a Godly Play storyteller, and member of the Limerick Trócaire volunteer group recorded a beautiful video telling the 'Story of Creation'. Sharon also prepared guidance for teachers or others who wished to explore the Story of Creation through a series of 'wondering' questions. Sharon's recordings and guidelines were made widely available through the Diocesan website and Facebook page:

<https://www.limerickdiocese.org/news/the-story-of-creation-told-by-sharon-collopy-in-the-season-of-creation/>

Sharon also spoke at mass in St John's Cathedral on Laudato Si during Season of Creation. We would like to express our gratitude to Sharon for her wonderful work and to Fr Noel Kirwan for being so welcoming.

### **Season of Creation – Social Media activity**

Fr Derek Leonard recorded a video of Pope Francis' prayer for the Season of Creation:

<https://www.facebook.com/Saintnicholasparish/videos/345345283180081>



The Limerick volunteers met to discuss all their activities during Season of Creation and plan their upcoming activities.

**Trócaire**

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – WEBINARS

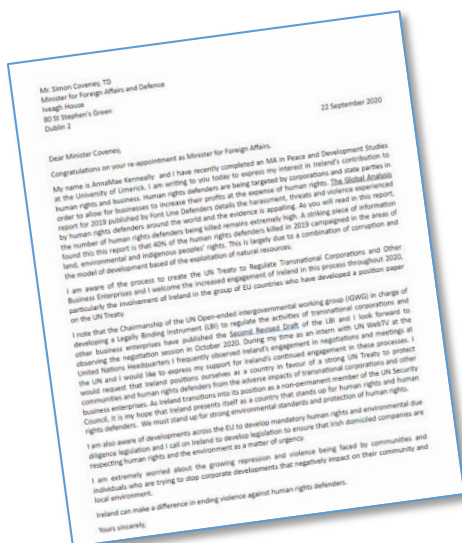
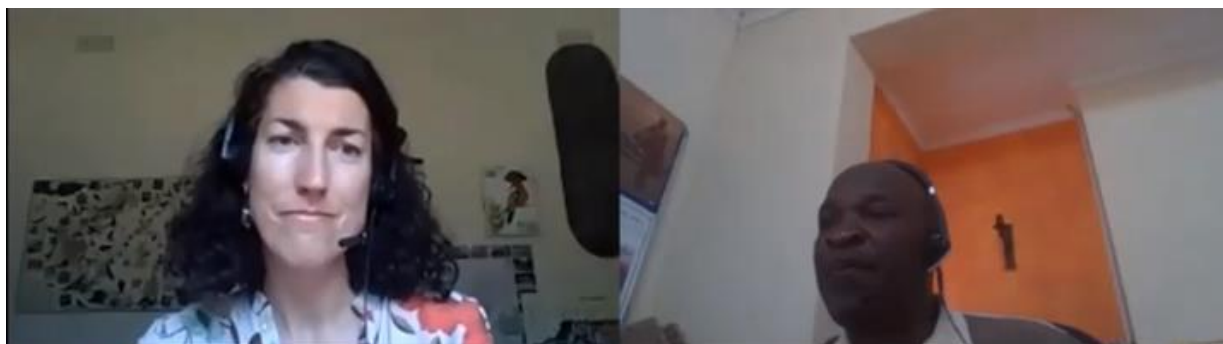
### 18<sup>th</sup> September – Culture Night

We celebrated the courage and determination of female human rights defenders with two short documentary screenings: Sumud: Everyday Resistance (Palestinian women); Women in their Place (indigenous women in Honduras).



### 24<sup>th</sup> September – Cultivating Hope

Sarah McCann and Edward Makoni from the Zimbabwe office spoke to a large audience of volunteers and supporters on the effects of climate change on communities and the work that Trócaire does on agroecology.



23 volunteers wrote and posted a personal letter to Minister Simon Coveney ahead of the UN 6<sup>th</sup> Session on the Treaty on Business and Human Rights.



Galway volunteers met on zoom regularly to organise their promotional work for our online events and their campaigning work for the Overseas Aid budget and Business and Human Rights.

**Trócaire**

Want to watch our recordings on the Volunteer Vimeo page? Ask your local contact



# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

### SUE McDONOUGH IN KERRY

My name is Sue McDonough. I live in Killarney, Co Kerry. I'm in my twilight years. My background is Nursing/management in U.K, Canada and Zambia.

I have been a volunteer fundraiser in Killarney for various charities over the past 10 years.

When the opportunity arose to become a volunteer with Trócaire, I pursued it. Janet in the Cork office processed my application very efficiently and in a friendly manner.



The motivation for me being involved is that my commitment, however small, can change lives in poverty stricken developing countries. Funds raised will help to combat injustice.

I was very impressed by the well organised and structured meetings arranged by Janet. And I was amazed to hear of so many impoverished countries benefiting from the work Trócaire does.

I have raised awareness by displaying data in the Church office, by word of mouth and sale of St Bridget's crosses. I implemented the sale of gifts of love and raised €900. As it was a first attempt, it was well supported. It would have been an annual event but the pandemic intervened. However, we look forward with optimism. The Lenten appeal also went well. The co-operation of Fr. Liam and his team was impeccable in facilitating all projects. I have enjoyed meeting and interacting with like-minded people from all walks of life.

It's a pleasure and fun to assist Trócaire in supporting the deprived with their basic needs.

**Trócaire**

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread" ~ Mahatma Gandhi

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE MAELLE NOIR IN GALWAY



My name is Maëlle Noir and I have been volunteering with Trócaire for two years. I joined the Galway office at the very beginning. I am excited to be part of such a dynamic, creative and enthusiastic community of volunteers and staff. Having a background in human rights law, the opportunity to volunteer with the leading overseas development agency in Ireland deeply resonates with my desire to contribute to the fight against injustices by combining academic research and grassroots advocacy. Passionate about human rights, I value the opportunity to unlearn, learn and co-learn about anti-discrimination efforts around the world while being involved in actions that can make a tangible change for communities on the ground.

I will remember the 2018 Christmas gift campaign as it was my first task with Trócaire. I was responsible for going around Galway city churches to ask them to display the posters and leaflets and to sell the gifts in GMIT and NUIG. I am looking forward to being involved in the campaign again this year, despite the adjustments we will have to make due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is an excellent way to engage with donors who wish to support a particular cause and to exchange with them on their motivations to take part in the fight for a fairer world. Interactions with these committed people, including volunteers, are what makes my experience with Trócaire an extremely rewarding and enriching journey.

**Trócaire**

“Poverty is not just a lack of money; it is not having the capability to realise one’s full potential as a human being” ~ Amartya Sen

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## STAFF PROFILE

### JOANNE MCGARRY IN MAYNOOTH CAMPAIGNS & VOLUNTEER MANAGER



Joanne is originally from Wexford and lives in Celbridge, Co. Kildare with her husband and daughter.

Joanne has worked for Trócaire for 14 years. She has worked in programmes, policy and campaigns. She has been managing the Campaigns Team for 3 years and has worked closely with many volunteers during this time, supporting them with campaigning actions online and offline and at events.

Joanne said, "I am delighted to be taking on the management of the Volunteer Programme. I am impressed everyday by the dedication, innovation and passion of our volunteers. Their voices and actions on behalf of Trócaire, ensure we can continue to support communities who need us most in developing countries."

**Trócaire**



# **Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10**

## **STAFF PROFILE**

### **MARK MCMAHON IN BELFAST FUNDRAISING AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**



Mark started in his role of Fundraising & Engagement Officer at Trócaire in September 2020 and is based in the Belfast office.

Originally from Derry City, Mark has worked in fundraising roles for several charities in the North of Ireland including overseas development organisations - Children in Crossfire, Christian Aid Ireland, and Cancer Research UK. In all of those roles, he has worked closely with volunteers to support them in their fundraising efforts.

Mark said, “I am very pleased and honoured to get the opportunity to work with such an amazing organisation as Trócaire. I am very excited at the prospect of working with Trócaire’s many committed and passionate volunteers and to help support the vital work they do across Ireland to help change the lives of people in communities around the world.”

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## GENEVA TRIP – ONE YEAR ON

In October 2019 volunteers Joe, Bertie, Teresa, Tony, Aoife and Jim (from left to right below) went on a trip to Geneva to witness the negotiations at the 5<sup>th</sup> Session for a UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights.

A year later, here is what they say.



**Tony Devlin:** The trip to Geneva was quite an inspirational experience, not only for the comradeship with the other Volunteers but for the contacts we made with so many civil society groups doing so much good work. Back in Ireland I've been able to engage with politicians in my constituency (Dublin West) and to spread the message about the importance of the Treaty with an interview on local Radio (Phoenix FM) and by bringing the Massive Clearance installation to Blanchardstown Parish Centre. In May, I was able to deliver a series of six Zoom talks to people here in Blanchardstown, based on a communal reading of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'* and emphasising the close connection between what happens to the planet and what happens to the poor and the marginalised. I'm impatient now for the day when COVID restrictions are eased and a cherished plan to bring the exhibition *Faces of Resistance* here can be implemented.



**Trócaire**

“Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and Apartheid it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings” ~ Nelson Mandela

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## GENEVA TRIP – ONE YEAR ON

**Teresa Hill:** Since returning from Geneva I have volunteered at events highlighting the issues faced by human rights and environmental defenders during the NI Human Rights festival and in Stormont with Bertha Cáceres. I have spoken to my elected representatives about the need for effective legislation for corporations. As part of my Masters, I carried out some research into human rights due diligence legislation in Northern Ireland. I am pleased that Ireland is more engaged with the negotiations this year and I hope that alongside other nations, Ireland will come out in favour of the UN Treaty.



**Bertie O'hAinmhire:** I believe that Ireland is in a unique position within the EU and at UN level to show strong leadership, we have to stand up for strong environmental standards and human rights. I have been in contact in the meantime with politicians and leaders in Ireland encouraging increased engagement of Ireland in this process. Through social media in particular I have endeavoured to highlight the growing repression and violence being faced by communities and individuals who are trying to stop corporate developments that negatively impact on their community. *Tá an rás seo do acmhainní nádúrtha ag cur na milliún i mbaol, caithfear deireadh a chur leis an ciapadh agus an imeaglú atá ag tarlú go laethúil.*

**Joe Murphy:** I wrote to a number of TDs seeking support for the treaty and met an Independent TD in her office in Galway. Clearly she understood the importance of the treaty and was very supportive of it. I think that some TDs who didn't respond to me may not be as interested in what they may see as 'international politics'. I feel that because Galway is so reliant on multi-national businesses there may be a reluctance to get involved in what may be wrongly seen as restrictions on business (with developing countries). Overall, I got a strong sense from my engagement with the public that people understand the need for the treaty and support it. I am enthused by countries such as France which has implemented legislation to discourage the abuse of human rights in developing countries.

**trócaire**

"The fastest and cheapest way to eradicate poverty is not by giving food but by giving hope, love, and education" ~ Debasish Mridha



# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## AL-HAQ THANK YOU LETTER

Upon receiving a thank you letter from Al-Haq, Eoin Hamill, Programme Manager - Occupied Palestinian Territory & Israel said:

"I just wanted to share with you all a letter from our partner Al Haq thanking Trócaire for our crucial support on the issue of corporate accountability and Business and Human Rights for which they recently received an award.

Our work on the Occupied Territories Bill (OTB) is very much part of this focus, and as they mention in the letter the direct advocacy undertaken by Trócaire has made a big difference in achieving this 'steady shift in discourse'. So many Trócaire staff contributed to the work on the OTB, and our Trócaire volunteers played a phenomenal role."

Affiliate, International Commission of Jurists - Geneva  
فروع لجنة الحقوقيين الدولية - جنيف  
تتمتع الحق بصفة استشارية لدى المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي في الأمم المتحدة  
NGO in Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



3 October 2020

Mr. Eoin Hamill  
Programme Manager - Occupied Palestinian Territory & Israel  
Trocaire, Maynooth  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 NX63  
Ireland

Re: Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award

Dear Eoin,

On behalf of Al-Haq, I am pleased to share that our organization has been chosen to receive the 2020 Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award from the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) along with co-laureate, Ms. Alejandra Gonza from Global Rights Advocacy. The award recognizes individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to corporate accountability. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude for your support to Al-Haq and faithful commitment to defending human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) in the face of political pressure and campaigns of intimidation that seek to legitimize occupation and oppression.

Al-Haq's work in the area of business and human rights is a result of decades of colonial policies implemented by Israel, the Occupying Power, in violation of international humanitarian law. Our work targets duty bearers and stakeholders for advocacy and accountability on issues related to business and human rights. Not least of this work has been relentlessly advocating for the release of the UN Database of businesses operating in the OPT, as mandated by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2016, until its eventual release in February of this year. Al-Haq will continue to advocate for annual updates to the database, as provided by the mandate. In addition, Al-Haq will continue the pursuit of accountability of corporations and corporate actors for their complicity in the continuation of rights violations in the OPT.

Over the past few years, our partners have supported this work through funding, calls to action, direct advocacy with third State duty bearers, and institutional support. This award belongs to all of us who work to realize the rights of Palestinians in the OPT. Even more than the award itself, we celebrate the recognition by human rights defenders and civil society organizations of the Palestinian people's legitimate call for accountability under international law. For your invaluable contribution to this steady shift in discourse, I thank you and I look forward to continuing our pursuit of justice together.

Sincerely,

  
Shawan Jabarin  
General Director



*"I am pleased to share that our organisation has been chosen to receive the 2020 Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award"*

Shawan Jabarin,  
General  
Director, Al-Haq

**Trócaire**

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## POPE FRANCIS ENCYCLICAL LETTER



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

### FRATELLI TUTTI

Of the Holy Father Francis  
On fraternity and social friendship

Last Sunday Pope Francis signed his latest encyclical after celebrating mass at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. [Fratelli Tutti](#) is a letter addressed to all people, which focuses on human connectedness and social friendship, all of which resonate strongly with much of Trócaire's work overseas and in Ireland.

It is also a significant global response to Coronavirus. Indeed, Pope Francis' weekly audiences have focused on themes linked to the pandemic and have offered hope and a way forward, not just for Catholics, but for everyone.

As the agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland working on justice and human rights, we particularly welcome the Pope's thought-provoking guidance on subjects including universal human rights, conflict, the treatment of refugees and migrants, the rights of indigenous people and the need to actively pursue a 'better' form of politics. These are areas that Trócaire has worked on for many years and this encyclical provides further validation of that work.

We leave you with these inspirational words from Fratelli Tutti:

"It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Fraternity between all men and women.[...] we need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead."



**Trócaire**

# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

17<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Since the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1987, people of all backgrounds, beliefs and social origins have gathered every year on October 17<sup>th</sup> to renew their commitment and show their solidarity with the poor.

Trócaire was initially established in 1973 to protect and respond to the basic rights of those in need while simultaneously tackling the critical question of why these people are poor and oppressed and challenging the structural issues that result in their poverty and inequality.

Trócaire understands poverty as being more than the absence of basic needs. It is the absence of opportunity, a lack of power, a lack of voice, and a lack of control over one's own destiny. To tackle poverty is to address the additional factors that perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

Trócaire believes that one such factor that lies at the heart of poverty is an imbalance of power. When those in power disregard and disrespect the fundamental human rights and dignity of each individual and fail to act for the common good, access to and use of resources become more and more inequitable, and the poverty cycle is thus perpetuated. Global wealth is becoming increasingly concentrated among a minority elite. Therefore, Trócaire has a major commitment to addressing this imbalance of power by supporting the empowerment of women and men, to challenge these unjust power structures and to claim their inalienable rights.

For Trócaire, the key factors in today's context which keep women and men in poverty are:

- A lack of access to, control over and protection of resources, particularly land and water: globally one in nine are hungry, with insufficient access to land, water, inputs and training, many of them smallholder farmers and particularly women.
- Inequality, in particular gender inequality: women and girls continue to experience multiple forms of discrimination, resulting in the most significant burden of poverty and vulnerability. Therefore, Trócaire strives to support small female enterprise in developing countries.
- Humanitarian crises: exacerbated by political factors and climate change, denying people access to basic needs and protection in times of crises. These factors flourish in a context of poor governance and disregard for human rights.

**Trócaire**



# Volunteer Voice Newsletter #10

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

**Christmas time is soon approaching!  
Would you like to support Trócaire's Gifts of  
Love campaign in your parish community?**

There are many ways you can help to raise awareness of these practical, ethical and life-changing gifts such as soap, chicks, goats, school lunches, beehives and many more.

Each gift is given directly to families in communities we support across the world and makes such an incredible difference to their lives.

Please contact your volunteer officer below for more details.



### Put an article in your local newsletter for Gifts

Trócaire Gifts help some of the poorest people in the world to work their way out of poverty. There are fourteen gifts to choose from starting at £/€5 for Soap. All the gifts are real items, sourced in-country which go to families in need of our support.

For further information pick up a brochure in the Church or visit

<https://www.trocaire.org/gifts> .

### YOUR LOCAL CONTACT

Cork/Kerry: Janet Twomey – [janet.twomey@trocaire.org](mailto:janet.twomey@trocaire.org)

Northern Ireland: Roisin O'Hara – [roisin.ohara@trocaire.org](mailto:roisin.ohara@trocaire.org)

Dublin/ North Leinster and Galway/Limerick: Marie-Anne Michel –  
[marianne.michel@trocaire.org](mailto:marianne.michel@trocaire.org)