

Trócaire

YOUR LOVE IN ACTION

News on how Trócaire supporters like you are conquering fear worldwide

Winter 2020

Meet the Human Rights Defenders

Always valiant, often in danger, meet the heroes that fight to protect humanity with your help, page 2.

Human Rights Defender Sr Agge, Kenya
Photo: Alan Whelan/Trócaire

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MEET THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The work of human rights defenders is always valiant, often life-threatening, and in dire need of your conviction and support to keep the spotlight of the world on their quest to protect humanity from those that exploit, oppress, and exterminate it. Thank you for fighting at the most grassroots levels beside heroes like these...



Photo: Alan Whelan/Trócaire

Sister Ursula Agge in Kenya's Mukuru Slum: Grace Under Fire

Sister Agge's eyes hold a fierce faith. As one of Trócaire's partners Medical Missionaries of Mary, Sr Agge has led the Mukuru Health Clinic in one of Kenya's bleakest, biggest slums for over seven years. During that time she has heard horrific stories of gender-based violence (GBV), poverty, and



abuse. But this tireless defender of humanity shows no signs of quitting.

"Mukuru has a lot of violence – gender-based violence, rape, and defilement. You have children being abused. The conditions are terrible and people are living in abject poverty. Trócaire came with an integrated HIV and GBV programme because the two issues are often intertwined. Many women, and some men, are HIV positive but they have also been violated." Because your ongoing donations help Sister Agge and her team bring the HIV and GBV programmes together, she

explains, "we can do door-to-door interaction, testing, and screening." She pauses to express her thanks to the Irish people for their support of Trócaire, and adds, "We've made great strides over the years [and] have a lot of psychosocial support [for people], and a paediatric support group for the children." ♥

Abelino Chub Caal in Guatemala: 813 Days Wrongfully Imprisoned

Six months after Abelino Chub Caal walked out of prison a free man, he was awarded with Trócaire's Romero Award for human rights. The 35-year-old –trained as a teacher – stands up against corruption and inequality in his homeland of Guatemala, even though violence, intimidation, and murder are a daily reality for



Photo: Gerard McCarthy/Trócaire

defending vulnerable farming communities. Said CEO Caoimhe de Barra, "Abelino's case is yet another example of the need for an international treaty on Business & Human Rights, which Trócaire is calling on the Irish and UK governments to support."

Guatemala is one of the most violent countries in the world.



As land is stolen for hydro dams, logging, palm oil, and sugar cane developments, local people suffer and activists like Abelino risk their lives: 26 human rights defenders were killed in Guatemala last year. Abelino's own efforts to defend indigenous Mayan land rights saw him wrongfully imprisoned for over two years. When the evidence was finally exposed as a sham, he was cleared in less than five days – one more reason to keep the spotlight of the world on abuses such as these. RTÉ broadcaster John Creedon, who met with Abelino on his visit to Ireland to accept the

Romero Award said, "I'm reminded that I'm standing in the presence of a man of integrity, dignity, and courage. I wish Abelino the very best with the huge task ahead." ♥

Loice Guvheya in Mutoko, Zimbabwe: A Granite Will

"I am emotive about the damage being done to our environment," begins community monitor Loice Guvheya. That emotion – an ocean of loss, outrage, and resolve – pours from her every word. She points to the deep, ugly gashes in the earth caused by foreign mining companies that descend on her beloved community of Mutoko in Zimbabwe. The companies extract the valuable black granite for profit overseas, then leave without permission asked or reparations given. In an area without electricity



Photo: Siobhan Curran/Trócaire

or paved roads, the jagged fissures are life-threatening to children and animals. The fissures and piles of rubble, often dumped on farming plots, also force local women to walk even longer distances for water. "We thought the mining would eradicate poverty and our life would be upgraded. But nothing changed," says Loice.



Currently there is no international treaty to ensure businesses respect human rights. It's causing a tragic cascade of events in places like Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Guatemala. Good people are kept in poverty and oppressed so they – or their lands – can be exploited, while big business makes a killing. Because of your kind donations that help Trócaire partners like ZELA, the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association, Loice and other community activists are trained to monitor and document what's happening so companies can be

held accountable. Internationally, in giving, you also help Trócaire to push for a globally enforceable United Nations Treaty on Business and Human Rights (see below). ♥

JOIN THE CALL TO STOP BIG BUSINESS PROFITING FROM ABUSE:

Call for the Irish and UK governments to push for a globally enforceable United Nations Treaty on Business and Human Rights on www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/makingakilling



To all the courageous human rights defenders around the world, thank you. We walk beside you on your quest for love to conquer fear.

IT STARTS WITH ONE LIFE

Thank you for bringing hope and change to children, women, and men suffering in the hardest-hit corners of the world in 2019...



Thank you for giving Brenda a voice

Two out of every ten girls in Malawi have been sexually abused before the age of 18. Only nine percent get professional help. Your kind gifts help Trócaire partner Ujamaa Pamodzi to run a support group for young Malawians like 18-year-old Brenda that is transforming attitudes towards gender-based violence and women's roles. Photo: Alan Whelan/Trócaire ♥



Thank you for rushing clean water to Ma Soe

When torrential monsoon rains became dangerous knee-deep floodwater in Myanmar that swirled through the streets and tainted wells, your generosity let Trócaire turn on a dime to provide Ma Soe and hundreds of others with safe, clean water to drink. Photos: ALARM/Trócaire ♥

www.trocaire.org

Thank you for giving Wendy and Escarlett a safe waystation

Wendy (26), is fleeing rampant crime in Honduras with her 8-month-old daughter Escarlett and husband, on foot. As part of Central America's migrant caravans, the family hopes they won't be met with a wall when they reach the US. Through Trócaire partner The Migrant House, you are providing shelter, food and water – a safe and welcome waystation in Guatemala. Photo: Simone Dalmasso/Trócaire ♥



Thank you for helping Salaad and Dr. Hassan

At Trócaire partners in developing countries around the world like Somalia, your support keeps healthcare clinics open, staffed, and stocked with critical supplies like the supplements Dr. Abdinassir Hassan could give to baby Salaad who was suffering from acute malnutrition. Because of you, Salaad made full a recovery! Photo: Eyeris Communications/Trócaire ♥

Thank you for Plumpy'Sup™

If a baby suffers malnutrition in the womb, or before the age of two, it's a life sentence. Their brain will never recover. That's why extra thanks go to Trócaire monthly supporters – Fear Fighters – and leadership donors who made a pledge to pull people back from the brink of starvation in desperately hard-hit communities in Zimbabwe. This includes Plumpy'Sup™ nutritional supplements that fend off the lifelong spectre of malnutrition in even the littlest lives.



♥ ♥ ♥
Thank you, today and forever, for every life you change.

THE LITTLE SEWING MACHINE THAT COULD... AND DID!

Life in Kenya's Kangemi slum was hard enough. So when Nancy Wanjiku was made redundant in her job, she feared her family might not survive. Then a women's empowerment programme that you help to fund changed her future forever...



The cycle of poverty is beginning to shift for people like Nancy Wanjiku in Kenya, thanks to the skills training and sewing machine that your kind support helped to provide so she could start her own business. Thank you! Photos: Trócaire.

Nancy Wanjiku is a single mother. But she knew she and her two daughters had it better than most. Reminders were everywhere of the hardscrabble existence that is life in the Kangemi slums of Kenya. Here more than 100,000 of the poorest people in Nairobi fight to hold onto hope in the face of rampant unemployment and lack of access to basics like running water. Violence against women and children is rife and tragic. But Nancy had a good job in charge of housekeeping, where she'd been for ten years. Her

family was safe. Until it all came crashing down.

New management took over at Nancy's workplace. In the blink of an eye, her job was gone. She and her two daughters were forced to move into a single room. She took on any odd jobs she could find. She feared they wouldn't survive.

A gateway called Uzima

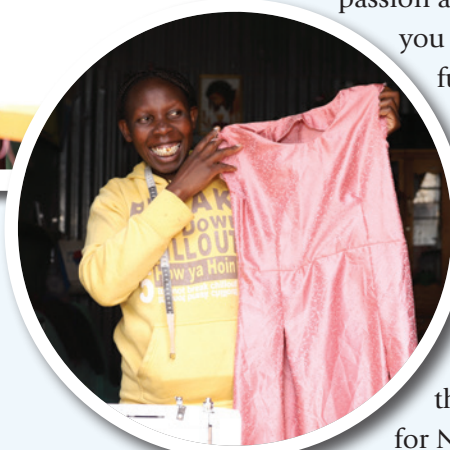
One day Nancy heard about the Uzima Women and Girls Empowerment Programme at

her local St. Joseph's parish, funded through your support for Trócaire. The programme's aim is to eliminate discrimination against women and empower them to take on equal roles in the community – and it's working.

Through the Uzima programme Nancy studied computers, fashion, and design, three areas that captured her passion and talents. Then you helped again, funding a sewing machine for Nancy for her exemplary work in class.

A one-woman industry

That's when things took off for Nancy Wanjiku's small tailoring business. It was baby steps to start, but soon Nancy incorporated the computer skills she'd learned and took her business online. Today Nancy can pay the fees to keep her girls in school without having to sacrifice food or basic commodities: her business means she can afford both. It's how the cycle of poverty begins to shift. One donation, one determined woman, one sewing machine, at a time. **Thank you.**♥



LAST YEAR 89,000 PEOPLE LIKE NANCY were directly helped by your steadfast support of Trócaire women's empowerment programmes! To learn more visit www.trocaire.org/whatwedo/womens-empowerment

COUNT YOUR LOVE FOR ALL THE DAYS: YOUR 2020 TRÓCAIRE BOX COMING SOON!

This Lent, will you count your love for all 40 days to help Angela and Madris protect their families?

Hunger. Exploitation. Oppression. Injustice. Around the world, brave women like Angela and Madris are risking their lives to protect their families from terrible threats. In the face of daunting enemies like climate change and corrupt corporations, they are doing all they can. But for love to conquer fear, they need you. **Please watch for your 2020 Trócaire Box and Lenten Giving Kit coming soon, and give what you can to help.**

Thank you in advance for caring! ❤️



CHRISTMAS 2019: YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE (AND GLORY!)



Whether you visited a Trócaire centre to buy cards or made a Gift of Love donation for the special people in your life this Christmas, please know your generosity is directly reaching families like little Glory's in eastern Kenya. The gift of five chickens they received provides eggs and income that help keep Glory's family fed – and help keep 8-year-old Glory going to school. Photo: Gary Moore/Trócaire

From your Trócaire family around the world, may you have peace and prosperity in the new year for standing strong against injustice.

Thank you. ❤️

"We cannot do what we do without your support and we really appreciate this warmth and friendship. It means a lot to us." — Sister Agge, Trócaire partner in Kenya (story page 2)

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Mying-Sam Tyu (62), in Myanmar.
Photo: Gyang Dau/Trócaire



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Thank you!

Trócaire is the overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. We work with partners in over 20 countries in the developing world to empower communities to improve their lives, meet their basic needs and ensure their human dignity. In Ireland, we raise awareness about the root causes of poverty and injustice, and advocate for change. ROI Charity Regulatory Authority No. 20009601 CHY5883 | NI Charity Commission No: NIC 103321 | Revenue Number (HMRC) XR10341 | Company Number NI021482