



9th August
2022

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 18

MEETING FACE TO FACE AFTER TWO YEARS

We had a wonderful gathering with eleven of our NI volunteers at the Europa Hotel in Belfast on Saturday 18th June.

The conversation was very fruitful with great ideas for the future such as selling a 50th anniversary calendar, using contactless terminals, planting trees or creating a Trócaire global warming garden for Season of Creation and many more.



Trócaire

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Kerry



We met with the Kerry volunteers on the 28th June 2022 for the first time since February 2020.

We started our session with a short video on gratitude. We looked at Berta Cáceres story in Honduras. She worked to protect indigenous land from a company that wanted to build a hydro-electric dam. We learnt how justice has come for her family at last following her assassination in 2016. We also shared updates from East Africa, Zimbabwe and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and discussed some ideas for the Season of Creation.



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Limerick



On the 5th July, we met with the Limerick team of volunteers and special guests for the first time since January 2020.

We started by watching photos of volunteers' activities in the Diocese of Limerick over the last two years. That made for a great discussion on projects ahead for Season of Creation, gifts and Lent.

After that we all sat around a table for a cuppa, homemade cakes and sandwiches. It was so lovely to get to spend time with each other again.



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Northern Ireland

At the end of June, Don Wildy visited St. Anthony's Primary School in Larne, County Antrim. The school raised an amazing £1,307.39 in various ways over Lent: a Blue Day, Trócaire collection boxes, sponsored bounce. Don is pictured there with school Principal Yvonne McNeill and pupils involved in the fundraisers.



Eamon McNeill collected an impressive cheque of £4,231.91 from St. Ronan's College in Lurgan at the end of May.



VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Cork

Huge congratulations to Bishop William Crean, Trócaire's Chairperson for bringing a very large globe of our world to St. Colman's Cathedral in Cobh recently. Thousands of people from all over the world came to visit Gaia.

Pictured at the event are Jane Mellett, Trócaire's Laudato Sí officer, Father Tom McDermott, Priest in Cobh and Janet Twomey from Trócaire's Cork Centre.



Big congratulations to Cork volunteer, Jenny Byrne on winning the Cork Rose of Tralee.

Jenny has been volunteering for Trócaire for over 6 years and is a PhD candidate in NUIG.

She said: 'what I enjoy the most about being a Trócaire volunteer [is] being in constant contact with inspiring people doing incredible work all over the world, and feeling part of a broader cause: working to improve the lives of others.'

Your Trócaire family will be rooting for you Jenny in Tralee this coming August! Thank you for all you do to make the world a better and fairer place.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Cork

Cork volunteer Megan (left) stopped by the centre to promote Trócaire's [Development Education Resources](#)

Do you have a family member or friend who is teaching?

Our resources are free to download and are an engaging social and global justice tool for educators.

Siobhan (right) also stopped by and collected some posters for the 'always on' gifts to display in her local community and parish. For more information on our ethical Gifts of Love, [visit here](#).



Trócaire's Cork Centre is located in the city centre on 9 Cook Street.

We open each week day 9.30am - 5.30pm. Feel free to drop in for a chat.

If you are looking for a gift for a loved one, we have our range of ethical [gifts of love](#) for you to choose from as well as a beautiful range of overseas crafts items.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Leinster/Galway



Leinster volunteers helped at the **Caring for Our Common Home** exhibition in TU Dublin, Grangegorman during the months of June and July.

Their involvement started with the launch which was held on the 8th June. It was lovely to see familiar and new faces in person at the event.

Then volunteers chose their dates and times to go and help the TUD team at the exhibition speak to the public about the exhibition.

Those who were there said that it was intimate and well worth the visit; a beautiful exhibition and a beautiful space to have it. The exhibition will stay in Grangegorman until it leaves for Cork early October.



The Galway volunteers were also very busy looking for new venues for the Irish version of the Face of Resistance exhibition.

It spent a few successful weeks in Ros Muc and is on its way to Kerry in September.

The volunteers approached the Galway City Museum, NUIG and other venues to plan for a tour around the Gaeltacht.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Webinars

15th June 2022:

Karen Murphy, Women's Empowerment Coordinator shared with us an overview of Trócaire's work on Women's Empowerment in general.

Then Ana Maria Monzon from Guatemala and Gabriela Flores from Honduras spoke about their work and gave us some examples of working with survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and with women leaders.

We were all inspired and felt a real connection after meeting Gaby and Ana Maria.

If you missed the session, you can watch it here:

<https://vimeo.com/721090973>

(ask your local contact for the password)



20th July 2022:

Janet Twomey explained Trócaire's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and what it means for us all here in Ireland and overseas.

Rushi Junnarkar, Partnership and Localisation Adviser, showed us what localisation is in practice and gave us two examples of partner organisations. If you missed the session, you can watch it here:

<https://vimeo.com/733624562>

(ask your local contact for the password)



21st September 2022:

Summer webinar on Trócaire's work in Occupied Palestinian Territories, 5-6pm. You will meet with Eoin Hamil, Programme Manager, Raffoul Rofa, Director of the Society of St. Yves (a Jerusalem based organisation who provide legal assistance, counsel and advocacy to members of the community) and Bertie O'hAinmhire, Board member of Sadaka.

You can register for this last webinar at this [link](#).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Campaigns
group

‘THREADS FOR CORPORATE JUSTICE’ TEXTILES



Here are the twelve textiles created by volunteers from all parts of Ireland. All the creations represent an issue dear to us all from fairtrade to fast fashion, from the price of palm oil to the fishing industry, from power imbalances to burning dreams. Each piece is a work of art that took real passion, dedication and talent. A huge thanks to all involved in this project.

The textiles will be mounted into one large wall hanging that will hopefully travel around the island of Ireland.

We can't wait to see the finished product.

The launch of the textile will take place in October in Belfast. We'll keep you informed when we have more details.

DEIRDRE MCARDLE'S VISIT TO UKRAINE

- **8.8 million displaced** to other countries (refugees)
- **8 million displaced within Ukraine** (IDPs – internally displaced people)
- **15 million in need of humanitarian assistance**

‘Travelling to Ukraine for Trócaire I saw how we are assisting women, men and children affected by the crisis. I was travelling with Trócaire’s local partner Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Drohobych. Caritas staff spoke about how challenging the initial days of the conflict were with hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the country. From day one, Caritas was at the border providing food, hot drinks, a place to sit and rest as people fled.

I met a young woman in Caritas Ukraine’s centre in Drohobych who was blind. She was from Mariupol and her home was destroyed in the fighting. She lost everything and had to leave with her mother and baby. She played the saxophone for us. Staff had found her one to replace the one she left behind. It was moving to hear her play. She seemed to find comfort in being able to play.



We visited Caritas' humanitarian hub in Drohobych, who are distributing basic items and providing cash to recently displaced people. An ambulance (left) which Trócaire (with funds from Irish Aid) is equipping was parked out front.

I spoke to a woman at the Caritas centre in Drohobych. Her home in Mariupol was destroyed and she had left with her two children and mother. Her children are attending the child friendly spaces (right) that have been set up by Caritas. These are supported by psychologists and volunteer teachers. The situation in Ukraine is grim but the strength and resilience of the displaced women I met and the commitment of Caritas staff was impressive.’



HOW TO SUPPORT

Annual Report

In the past year alone, Trócaire has managed to support over 1.8 million people in 24 countries around the world. CEO Caoimhe de Barra noted that the global COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of Climate Change continue to affect the most vulnerable communities that Trócaire works with.

“Not only were health systems still overwhelmed but the secondary effects of Covid-19 were devastating with lockdowns, travel restrictions and school closures costing millions of people their livelihoods. Children, especially girls, lost out on education and gender-based violence escalated” she said.

In this coming year, we will look at continuing to focus our fight for social justice on four key elements:



As a volunteer, you might find it useful to keep up with recent developments in countries experiencing political insecurity, and be aware that the effects of COVID-19 are still being severely felt in many parts of the world. Trócaire's latest Annual Report is out [here](#).



SEASON OF CREATION

1 September to
4 October

This year the theme for Season of Creation is 'Listen to the Voice of Creation' and the symbol being used is The burning bush. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice.



The Burning Bush
Ex 3:1-12

**Listen to the
Voice of creation**
SEASON OF CREATION 2022



SEASON OF CREATION

During the Season of Creation this year, we are listening to the Voice of Creation.

These voices have been muted for far too long; the voice of indigenous peoples, of our suffering sisters and brothers, of all members of God's creation, and the voice of the Earth.

In early July, seven Irish faith institutions joined 35 faith institutions from seven countries to announce their divestment from fossil fuel companies. These faith institutions included Catholic and Church of England dioceses, the Methodist Church and other Catholic religious orders. More than 1,500 institutions from all sectors, with combined assets of over \$40 trillion, have now made some form of divestment commitment worldwide, up from a starting point of \$50 billion in 2014.

Jane Mellett, Trócaire's Laudato Sí Officer said, "Fossil fuel companies are driving the climate crisis, which is having a devastating effect on the most vulnerable people in our world and endangering all life on this planet. By divesting from the fossil fuel industry, Church institutions are taking a practical step to ensure a more sustainable future for all."



Each one of us must accept our personal and collective need to change and make sacrifices, recognising the inherent issues of justice and fairness that are involved – Archbishop Eamon Martin

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The 9th of August is the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The UN first introduced this day of awareness in 1994 in order to create greater awareness of the importance of indigenous communities' contributions to science, culture, language and careers of our precious natural resources, to name only a few. Today, we continue to work with indigenous communities, especially with indigenous women who are most vulnerable to social and economic inequalities.



Maria Soto and other Ixil women celebrate after former Guatemalan dictator Rios Montt was found guilty of genocide against indigenous people in the 1980s. The election in Brazil will increase threats against indigenous communities across the region. (Photo: Elena Hermosa)

María Magdalena Cuc Choc, a community leader and human rights defender, is currently under house arrest for her work protecting indigenous Mayan communities. (Photo: Federación Guatemalteca de Escuelas Radiales, FGER)

For the last 15 years, teacher María has dedicated her life to the protection of human rights and the rights of the Q'eqch'í people from El Estor in northern Guatemala.



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