

Immaculate Conception Parish, Maryhill, Glasgow

Feedback from CST Session Four: (a) Tackling Dehumanising Poverty in the Global South and Introducing Pope Francis's Concept of Integral Human Development and (b) See, Judge, Act: Solidarity, Migrants and Refugees

The groups (here randomly numbered) were asked to concentrate this time on local actions.

Group 1

Need to continue this focus within the parish and Maryhill

Reinvigorate the local 'Justice and Peace' group and start by reviewing the next steps from these four talks

Build on existing connections with local politicians

Publicise social activity, helped by connections with local journalists (we note that Catholic Social Teaching is the world's best kept secret!)

Establish a series of Justice and Peace meetings with nearby MSPs from all parties [e.g. Paul Sweeney (Labour), Bob Doris (SNP) and Ross Greer (Greens)]

Organise a 'mass lobby' – give each 20 pounds per small group?

Group 2

Take the breakfast club connected to the food bank as an example of getting different individuals together. It took a while to establish but now there are people of different cultures and faiths as well as dis/abilities because all have been made welcome

Another good example is the Findlay Church, St George's Cross. This is a community church which opens its doors to all for English language learning for asylum seekers/refugees, toddlers' groups, sewing/craft groups, meaning that all cultures participate and build a community where equality for all is prime

Group 3

Ask people what they need

Treat everyone the same and with respect

No-one is judged and no barriers

Group 4

Locally, support more foodbanks

Teach English

Contact local MSP or MP

Give a warm welcome at breakfast clubs

Nationally, encouraging more help for asylum seekers and refugees and pay asylum seekers for work

Internationally, support agencies like SCIAF and especially with funds

Group 5

Locally, support St Gregory's foodbank and the refugees they work with. This is supported by other churches

Nationally, tell people in power about our good work with migrants and refugees

Internationally, advocate a return to 0.7% of GDP being spent on overseas aid

Group 6

There is a lack of infrastructure – we need to build up suitable systems to assist refugees and asylum seekers

Find out basic information about types of refugees and how the official systems work. This will help us to see the difference between legal and illegal refugees.