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MissionAid
November 2015
Issue 98

Welcome to the November Issue!



Students line up for morning assembly at the John Paul II School in Wau, South Sudan. The school is managed by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa. South Sudan has proportionately fewer girls going to school than any other country in the world. According to the United Nations, less than one percent of girls complete primary education. Only one schoolchild in four is a girl, and female illiteracy is the highest in the world. Photo: Paul Jeffrey.

A Message from our CEO

Thank you to everyone who attended our second members' meeting of 2015 on the 12th of November!

It was great to see you all again, and to meet some new faces.

The meeting was a great opportunity to update you on what has been happening at Misean Cara HQ.

We have recently completed our Mid-term Strategic Review (2013-2016). As you will remember, you all met Ian in February during our vibrant Vision session. The Mid-term Strategic Review involved wide consultation with members, the Board of Directors and staff over the summer months.

The Review is a testament to the journey we have travelled to date as well as highlighting the priorities for the coming 12 months.

We also had a session on financial accountability and results. The session provided an overview of sector wide standards many of which you are already implementing. We also divided into groups to discuss the practicalities of implementation, and some of you shared your positive experiences.

Last week, we followed up this session with a workshop on both topics to roll out the standards to the wider membership, and to develop an action plan to further the adoption of the standards. The workshop was a great success, and we will be hosting a second workshop focused on finance in early 2016 so



CEO Heydi Foster

News Stories

[Launch of New Handbook on Human Rights-Based Approach to Extreme Poverty](#)

[Five-year strategic planning underway in Ghana region](#)

[A Big Thank You From The DREAM](#)

[Improving Development Effectiveness in Zimbabwe](#)

[Misean Cara Attends The 2015 Parliament of World Religions](#)

[Watch The Recording Of The RTÉ Televised Mission Sunday Mass](#)

please stay tuned for more information about this.

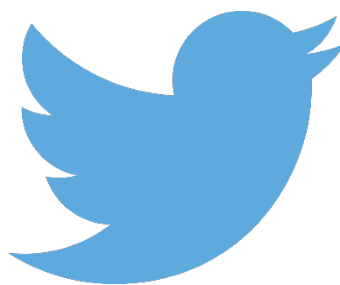
The meeting also provided a wonderful opportunity to share our research findings on 'Resilience: A Faith Based Response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.' Led by Trinity College Researcher, PHD Candidate Olivia Wilkinson the findings showed that the characteristics of a faith based response to humanitarian crises are threefold: (1) Provide prayer and ritual; (2) Incorporate a holistic approach; and (3) The response is long term as missionaries live in solidarity with communities for decades.

Thank you to Fr. Sean McDonagh from the Columban Fathers who gave an impassioned presentation on climate change and Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si, and Peadar King from KMF Productions for facilitating a screening of Jeju's Aching Heart from the RTÉ award winning What in the World?

I was delighted to have the honour of giving the Opening Address at this year's Development Studies Association (DSA) of Ireland Annual Conference. The conference focus was on transformative change, and in my opinion the work of missionaries epitomises this more than anything else. I shared examples of your work, and in particular I spoke about the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa with the Love and Hope Centre in Kenya, and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (Chigwell) who work with the survivors of the El Mozote massacre in El Salvador.

Send us your photos and videos!

We want to help showcase the work of our members by sharing photos, stories and videos of the wonderful work you do on our website, Facebook Page and MissionAid. If you have a photo, story or video to share then please email Tara Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie



Connect with us on Twitter!

Follow Misean Cara [@miseancara](https://twitter.com/miseancara) or check out <http://www.twitter.com/miseancara> for updates.

Follow our CEO Heydi Foster [@HeydiFosterCEO](https://twitter.com/HeydiFosterCEO) or

Kind regards,
Heydi

Heydi Foster

P.S.

I am now on Twitter! Connect with
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We Want To Promote The Wonderful Work You Do!

We want to help showcase the wonderful work you do by sharing stories; updates; photos; and videos on our website, Facebook and LinkedIn Pages, Twitter account, and in our monthly e-newsletter MissionAid.

If you have a story, update, photo, or video to share then please email our Communications Officer Tara Finglas tfinglas@miseancara.ie

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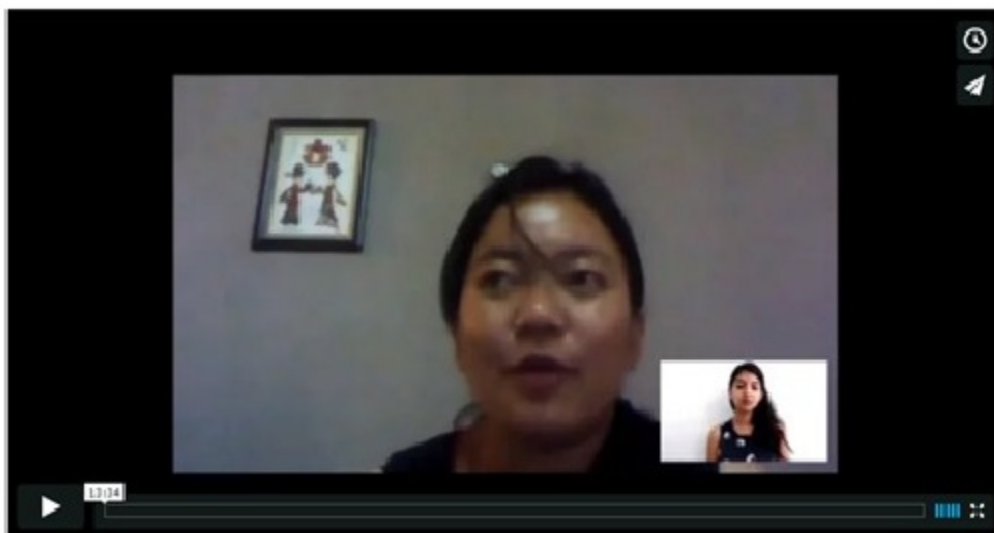
Stories from the field

Driving Venezuela



Fr. John Jennings is some driver. Of cars that is. Not in the style of Jackie Stewart. Or Niki Lauda. Or indeed the current heartthrob of Formula 1 Lewis Hamilton. But some driver nonetheless. Traffic lights are discretionary he nonchalantly told me as he breezed through red light after red light in Caracas, Venezuela's capital city. And it's not just the lights that John can negotiate but the incredibly steep narrow winding roads where cars weave in, and out and between each other in a kind of mechanised ritualised dance. And it works. People give way – eventually - and nobody raises their voice. Not that I can imagine John ever doing that. His is quiet, and even to my poorly attuned ears his Cork roots shine through his at-ease Spanish. [Read now.](#)

Interview with Indigenous Women's Rights and Climate Justice Activist Alina Saba



Last year, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM) sisters, initiated a project called Our Common Ground. The goal of the program was to raise our own and others awareness about the relationship of people and Earth. The need for this has become evident through climate change, depletion of natural resources and the extinction of species. The effects on people living in vulnerable areas of our country, and around the world are particularly harsh. [Read now.](#)

Inspire leaders. Pontifex, Hear Us.



I'm from the Democratic Republic of Congo where I experienced violence, persecution and discrimination. My father was a journalist and an advocate for the welfare of journalists. He was working on a book which described the social and political situation in the country. The government didn't like this and retaliated. The government army kidnapped my father and came in the night to kill my entire family.

I was the only survivor. I went a Bishops home and hid for three days. I could not even attend my own family's funeral. The Bishops arranged an exit visa to leave the country; those who don't have it need to go through the jungle. I crossed Uganda and kept traveling as far as I could to seek safety. I wasn't thinking of going to a specific place, I just ended up in Kakuma. [Read now.](#)

Consider the invisible. Pontifex, Hear Us.



In my dreams I am a journalist, a college-educated writer, but, today I am a refugee. Becoming a refugee changed my life for the worse – I can't study any more and I'm raising my sisters alone without an income. It's very hard to find food and pay the rent.

Sometimes, I fear I may have to sell my body to make ends meet. I can't work here and don't have parents to rely on. Luckily, I have a house to live in but I don't know how to find money for my other survival needs. [Read now.](#)

Preserve our only safe place. Pontifex, Hear Us.



My mother took me to Dadaab refugee camp when I was two years old after my father was murdered in Somalia. I lived in Dadaab for 20 years. I would go to school while my brother would sell charcoal for our family's survival. The weather was harsh, and we spent most of our time trying to survive – gathering fire wood and water – but it was our home.

When the government or media talks about closing Dadaab, I feel terrified. My siblings and I cannot go home to the place where our father was killed, our home was burnt. We have nothing to go back to in Somalia. I have no recollection of life there. Dadaab protected me when I was young. People come together and behave like family, there is no discrimination among the refugees, and we all feel equal. [Read now.](#)

Events and Training Courses

Handbook Launch -- Making Rights Work For People Living in Extreme Poverty



Two days before Human Rights Day, All Together in Dignity Ireland (ATD) and Misean Cara will launch in Ireland the new Handbook "Make Human Rights Work" at 11.00am on Tuesday 8 December 2015 in the Hall of SVP Ozanam House, 53 Mountjoy Square West, Dublin 1.

For perhaps the first time in history, a set of United Nations principles on Human Rights and Poverty situations has been translated into concrete suggestions for everyday people to take action.

Spearheaded by Franciscans International and ATD International, with support of Irish stakeholders (Misean Cara, Edmund Rice International), dozens of grassroots organisations worldwide, as well as individuals with a lived experience of poverty, have created a handbook to make human rights work for all. [Click here to read more and to register.](#)

Upcoming Events & Training Courses:

- [Join The Annual Carol Singing organised by the Zambia Childrens Appeal Group](#)
- [European Year for Development #EYD2015](#)
- [Kimmage Development Studies Centre](#)
- [Child Safeguarding - Organisational Self Audit Tool \(Free\)](#)
- [The International NGO Training and Research Centre \(INTRAC\)](#)

Misean Cara is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. It is registered in Dublin, Ireland, No: 381117. Its registered office is: 563 South Circular, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. It has been granted tax exemption by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland and has a charitable tax exemption number: CHY15772.