



Role and Responsibilities of the Social Justice Representative

General Objective:

Promote Working for Social Justice by (*Section 3:22 The Rule*):

- Identifying Root causes of poverty and contributing to their elimination.
- Affirming the dignity of each human being as created in God's image.
- Seeing Social Justice issues from the perspective of those in need.
- Opposing discrimination of all kinds.
- Fostering new attitudes of respect and empathy for the people we serve in our mission of charity.

Terminology:

Social Justice Committee; Umbrella Committee which can include SJ reps and representatives of Systemic Change, Voice of the Poor Advocacy and Prison Ministry as well as other issues.

Conference Social Justice Representative; Responsible for promoting Social Justice issues in their conference and communicating with their Area SJ rep.

Particular Council (or Central Council Social justice Representative) – promote Social Justice issues in their Particular (or Central) Council. Communicate with their Area SJ rep.

Area Social Justice Rep – Responsible to coordinate, promote and communicate with the Social justice reps at all levels in their designated geographical jurisdiction.

Activities:

- Provide Social Justice Leadership on Systemic Change, Advocacy and Prison Ministry issues within the Area /Conference/Particular Council. Initiate the process of the working with those we serve to bring about fundamental change designed to help lead them out of poverty.
- Establish Social Justice as an item of business on every meeting agenda. (Conference Rep at the Conference meeting, PC Rep at the PC meeting, etc.). Initiate discussion on social justice issues at Conference/Particular Council meetings. Utilize resources available on website or current events for this purpose.
- All Social Justice Reps have a responsibility to help recruit and develop members that have a Social Justice interest into the Conferences/Particular Councils.
- Arrange for Systemic Change and Advocacy training for the members of the Conference/Particular Council. Arrange for guest speakers at Conference/Particular Council meetings to educate members on specific issues.

Promote the use of the National and Regional websites as sources of information on social justice.

- Coordinate the work within the Conference/Particular Council to identify the root causes of poverty and of the barriers to getting out of poverty for the people served.
- Retain an awareness within the Conference/Particular Council of the resources available to help those they serve.
- Identify social justice issues when they arise in Conference/Particular Council meetings.
Interact with other Conferences, Particular Councils, and Area SJ Representatives to develop solutions to poverty.
Share with the National Council, Regional Council and Social Justice Committee, and with other Conferences and Particular Councils, activities undertaken and ideas for advocacy or systemic change.
- Distribute materials on social justice issues (available on Regional website, Voice of the Poor and Systemic Change pages) to Vincentians and Parishioners as deemed appropriate.
- Collaborate with other parish groups (poverty reduction coalitions, CWL, K of C, Schools, SJ groups, etc.) on Social justice issues.
Network with other community service groups to share ideas on SJ issues
- Encourage Vincentians and others to speak up for those we serve when they cannot speak for themselves. Search out opportunities and help the people we serve speak up for themselves through attendance at community meetings, participating in letter writing campaigns and petitions, etc.
- Area Social Justice Reps shall coordinate and communicate with the Conference / Particular Council reps in their area on a regular basis. In turn, they will report activities and request assistance from the Voice of the Poor and Systemic Change Committees as required.