



# Shalom News North America

An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.



March 2010



- [Economic Justice](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Human Dignity](#)
- [SSNDs and Status of Women](#)
- [Remembering Romero](#)
- [Integrity of Creation](#)
- [Carbon Fast](#)
- [Earth Hour](#)
- [Peace & Non-Violence](#)

“Alert to rapidly evolving conditions in a changing society, we discern which world conditions we are called to address. . . . and what the urgent educational needs of our times are.”

- School Sisters of Notre Dame YAS General Directory #37

## Economic Justice and Education

[Back to Top](#)



**Empowering the Poor**  
*An Appeal to the Religious Communities*

The Economic Justice Working Group of the Union of Superiors General/International Union of Superiors General (USG/UIIG) in Rome is making an international appeal to religious communities throughout the world to commit to purchasing Fair Trade products as a means to promote more equitable global relationships. [Learn more here.](#)



“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.” (Nelson Mandela)

With this introduction, the Global Campaign for Education is introducing its annual Global Action Week from April 19-25. The Campaign is encouraging participation in the “world’s largest lesson,” an opportunity for all to learn more about the goal of **Education for All**. [Click here](#) for everything you need to organize an event in April.

## Human Dignity

[Back to Top](#)

### Faith Groups Voicing Support for Immigration Reform

**March for America** - As part of a U.S. faith community campaign for humanitarian change to immigration policy and in coordination with the annual [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#), the National Council of Churches USA and Church World Service are organizing [A March for America: Change Takes Courage and Faith](#) on Sunday, March 21 in Washington, D.C.



**Postcards** - The USCCB [Justice for Immigrants](#) movement has initiated a postcard campaign to urge Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation. [Learn more, take action.](#)



**Facebook** – Fifteen women religious communities in Wisconsin (including SSND) are taking their support for immigrants and immigration reform to [newspapers](#) and [Facebook](#). Check it out!

### SSNDs and the Status of Women



A delegation of SSNDs, including students from Mount Mary College, will attend the [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\) March 1-12](#) as it undertakes a review of the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In addition, SSND has joined 22 other NGOs in submitting a written statement that will be presented to the CSW for consideration. [Learn more.](#)

**International Women’s Day is March 8**, a day when women on all continents come together to celebrate their common struggle for equality, justice, peace, and development. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### Remembering Romero



March 24 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero. [Click here](#) to reflect on his life, his words, his work. [Click here](#) to take action to help save the lives of community activists in El Salvador.

## UN Launches International Year of Biodiversity



The UN International Year of Biodiversity began January 11 with stark warnings over the failure of world governments to live up to their promises to reduce the decline of biodiversity. Human expansion is pushing other species to extinction at about 1,000 times the natural rate, the UN says. According to the updated global “Red List” of endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, 22 percent of all known mammals and 70 percent of plant species surveyed are under threat of extinction. Learn more at [BBC](#) and [www.cbd.int/2010/about](http://www.cbd.int/2010/about).



### Carbon Fast for Lent

KAIROS invites you to

participate in a [Carbon Fast for Lent](#). This year they have created a resource that offers suggestions on how

to celebrate this holy season—a time to reflect on what fasting is all about and on how we can reduce our personal carbon footprint and advocate for social change. [Click here](#) for the U.S. version.

### World Water Day

The focus of the World Water Day on March 22 is “Clean Water for a Healthy World,” stressing water quality as well as quantity. The reality is that one in eight people in the world don’t have access to safe water. Millions of women and children must still spend several hours a day collecting water from distant, often polluted sources. Over 2.5 billion people live without proper sanitation. [Learn more, take action.](#)



### Earth Hour

Earth Hour, a global call to action on climate change, will take place on Saturday, March 27, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. local time. With 579 cities, towns, and municipalities and 77 countries and regions across every continent already signed up for this year’s “lights out” event, Earth Hour 2010 is set to be the world’s largest global climate change initiative. [Learn more, get involved.](#)

## The Cost of Endless War

March 19 marks the seventh anniversary of the start of the Iraq War. The most recent “official” count set the U.S. military death toll at 4,378 in Iraq and another 999 in Afghanistan, with the prediction of many more to come. An estimated 860,000 civilians have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan in that same time. While the human death toll is stunning, the total cost in dollars, at over \$1 trillion, is mind-boggling. That’s enough to provide health care for over 300 million people for a year. Check out [www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org) to find out how else those U.S. tax dollars could have been spent.

## Death Penalty Abolition Day

March 1 is [International Death Penalty Abolition Day](#), a day that marks the occasion in 1847 when the state of Michigan became the first English-speaking territory in the world to abolish capital punishment.

The [Innocence Project](#) has released a report detailing all 250 exoneration cases in the U.S. since 1989 and outlining causes of wrongful convictions. (Many involve capital cases.) [Click here](#) for the full document.



***Shalom News North America*** is an e-publication of the Shalom North America Coordinating Committee (SNACC) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame— Judy Bourg (DA), Tim Dewane (ML), Eileen Reilly (AM), Rose Mary Sander (CA), Jeanne Wingenter (MK), and Paulette Zimmerman (SL). Your comments, suggestions, and feedback are always welcomed. Email us at [justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org](mailto:justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org)