UNCC100 MODULE 6:
ADVOCACY: PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

Introduction
What is advocacy?
Advocacy for the poor and vulnerable
Resources
MODULE 6: ADVOCACY: PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT

Activities and materials in this module will help you meet:

Learning Outcome 1: Describe coherently in writing the principles of Catholic Social Thought (CST), and through a personal written commentary on each one, explain that the concepts of 'self' and 'community' are interrelated.

Learning Outcome 2: Analyse and evaluate the principles of CST in order to write an argument that shows how issues relating to the dignity of the human person and the realisation of the common good may be addressed by you in your professional practice (ie. the degree program you are studying) now and in the future.

- Graduate Attribute 1: demonstrate respect for the dignity of each individual and for human diversity
- Graduate Attribute 2: recognise your responsibility to the common good, the environment and society
- Graduate Attribute 4: think critically and reflectively.
- Graduate Attribute 7: work both autonomously and collaboratively.
- Graduate Attribute 8: locate, organise, analyse, synthesise and evaluate information.
- Graduate Attribute 9: demonstrate effective communication in oral and written English language and visual media

WARNING

Topics considered in UNCC LEO materials and in class discussions may be disturbing for some students.

If you are affected, please contact your Campus Leader and/or the University Counselling Service.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are advised that this site may include voices or images of people who have passed away. It may also contain links to sites that may use images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now deceased.
6.1 WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

In previous modules important themes within Catholic Social Teaching such as: The common good, human flourishing, subsidiary and the golden rule were introduced and discussed. Another important aspect is advocacy.

Advocacy plays an important part in changing things for the better. The word “advocacy” comes from a Latin word advocare which means "to be called to stand beside." People engaged in advocacy work on behalf of those who may not be powerful enough to speak for themselves or support them in a cause for greater recognition or to achieve justice. Advocates often work as mentors, linking people with resources, speaking on their behalf when necessary and empowering them to gain and retain control of issues which are of concern to them.

6.1.1 ACTIVITY

Completion of this activity is important for your assessment preparation.

Use the following resources to write a 100-word definition of advocacy.

"What is Advocacy?" - Advocare Incorporated

"What is Advocacy?" - Wallace Foundation (or read the transcript)

Watch these three videos of asylum seekers speaking in their own words about the conditions that forced them to flee their home countries and seek asylum in Australia.

- Hussain’s story (or read the transcript)
- Najeeba’s story (or read the transcript)
- Qasim Yahya Ali (or read the transcript)

Many of those who speak about the common good call for the restructuring of systems, organizations and governments to better cater for the vulnerable in society. As they currently stand, social, economic and political structures often serve the needs of the wealthy and powerful, at the expense of the poor and vulnerable. In the resources above, you have seen that current structures and social attitudes have a negative impact on the plight of refugees and asylum seekers.
**TASK:**

1. Think about the forces which cause people to take refuge in other countries. What social structures and circumstances can you identify that force people to seek refuge elsewhere?

2. Now think about the way in which Asylum Seekers are treated in Australia, both at the social and political level. Identify the social structures and attitudes that reinforce the frequent rejection of asylum-seekers in the Australian community, the way in which they are presented in the media, and the attitudes that underpin policy making. What would need to change for the situation of asylum-seekers to be improved?

3. How can an understanding of the global common good be brought to bear on this issue (consider the social structures and circumstances both in the countries of origin and in the destination countries of refuges and asylum seekers)? How can an understanding of the common good influence the way we should respond to this issue?
6.1.2 ACTIVITY TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

ADVOCATING FOR REFUGEES:

Choose 2 of these organisations and identify what actions they undertake to advocate for asylum seekers and refugees in Australia and around the world:

- **The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre** (Australia’s biggest refugee advocacy and support organisation)
- **Chilout** (an organisation that works to defend the rights of children in Australian immigration detention centres)
- **Amnesty International** (a global organisation which works to defend the rights of those denied justice around the world)
- **Rise** (a refugee and asylum seeker organisation in Australia run and governed by refugees, asylum seekers and ex-detainees)

ADVOCATING FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have long struggled for equal rights and recognition in Australia. Below is a list of 5 Australian organisations that advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Choose 2 organisations from this list and identify what actions they undertake in terms of advocacy:

- **The National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples**
- **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services**
- **The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)**
- **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIHEC) Aboriginal Corporation (AC)**
- **First Peoples Disability Network (Australia) – FPDN**
6.1.3 RESOURCES TO DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Listen to this example of a successful advocacy campaign, featured in Natalie Warne: Being Young and Making an Impact, (video captions available) where an inspiring young woman speaks of what motivated her and of her ultimate success. As you can see in this video, advocacy involves far more than simply donating to charity and continuing to live our day-to-day lives. Advocacy requires a change in plan, a stepping forward, an acceptance of an, often public, role to bring about change. It involves putting aside our personal interests and working to radically improve situations of injustice in the world.

6.1.4 SOMETHING TO PURSUE IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST

If you would like to find out more about the Refugee and Asylum Seeker issue in Australia this fact file will help (note: this resource is sometimes unavailable while information is being updated). You could also refer to the Refugee Council of Australia website.
Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist Church minister as well as a civil rights activist who campaigned effectively for social change in the United States in the 1960s. He also won the Nobel Peace Prize. In his speech, “The Other America,” delivered at Grosse Pointe High School in 1968 (not long before he was assassinated), he observed:

... On some positions cowardice asks the question is it safe? Expediency asks the question is it politic? Vanity asks the question is it popular? The conscience asks the question is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right.

Unfortunately, in our world we can identify many areas where we still have a great deal of work to do to achieve the common good for all.
6.3 READINGS AND VIDEOS

6.3.1 VIDEOS TO WATCH

ETHICAL FASHION
SBS News Campaign: SBS (transcript):

Melbourne Ethical Fashion Hub: The Cause (transcript):

6.3.2 ACTIVITY 1

Thinking reflectively.

Read James Martin S.J. "Top Ten Takeaways from 'Laudato Si.'"

Read Sydney Morning Herald "Surf clothing label Rip Curl using 'slave labour' to manufacture clothes in North Korea."

Read Textile, Clothing & Footwear Union of Australia "Ethical Clothing example through the Clothing and Shopfitters Union."

Read Shop Ethical "Outworkers in Australia."

Read Baptist World Aid "5 Things You Need to Know About Your Ethical Fashion Guide."

Read The ACU Mission "ACU Mission And Vision."

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What do you think constitutes "the good life"?
2. How do you respond to the author's proposals about happiness and meaning?
3. What do you value? In what way does what you value contribute to happiness and meaning in your life?
4. What, for you, are the indicators of success in life?
5. What role do your relationships with others have in the development of meaning in your life?
6. How would you categorise what is important in life and what is not?