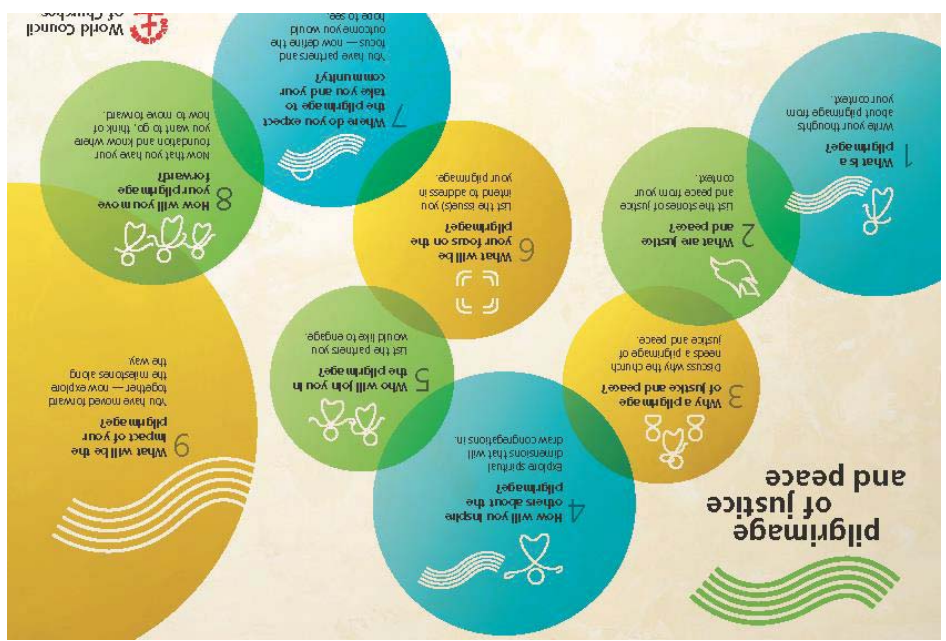


A possible method : WCC Pilgrimage of Justice & Peace

What are the SDGs and how are churches getting involved? What relevance do they have to us locally?

Roger Mills
January 2018

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): the role of faith communities



FPCT Justice & Peace Action Group : Agenda 2018

- What do other Justice & Peace groups do?
- Not all faith based
- What are denominational priorities?
- Similar across churches but differently organised
- How do church and civil agendas relate?
- Very close, though church more focussed on injustice towards believers
- How do local/national and international priorities differ?
- Social inclusion v. development aid

What should FPCT JPAG do?

- Complete the USPG questionnaire, adding Falmouth & Penryn's work to national database
- Use the SDGs as primary themes for meetings, exploring how they relate to local issues
- Explore ways of raising awareness of issues and promoting relevant actions across the community
- Etc!

First came the MDGs

- **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**
- The United Nations Millennium Development Goals are eight goals that all 191 UN member states have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015
- The MDGs originated from the United Nations [Millennium Declaration](#). The Declaration asserted that every individual has dignity; and hence, the right to freedom, equality, a basic standard of living that includes freedom from hunger and violence and encourages tolerance and solidarity. The MDGs set concrete targets and indicators for poverty reduction in order to achieve the rights set forth in the Declaration.

USPG

- In the UK we are coordinating an interfaith group who are looking at the domestic implementation of the SDGs. In 2018 it will focus on developing a resource for different faiths, linking their theology to the SDGs and encouraging action in response to each goal. The group will also work to encourage government to take the necessary actions to achieve the SDGs domestically.
- We are also working with the Anglican Alliance to develop 17 Bible studies introducing Churches globally to the SDGs and linking them with their theology.
- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RC6ZY33> Questionnaire

- We see this endeavour as particularly valuable in a post-Brexit atmosphere of distrust and even animosity between various sectors of society.
- We have teamed up with our peers in other faith organisations. A working group has involved USPG, Islamic Relief, Religions for Peace, Global One, the United Reformed Church and the Leicester Sikh Alliance – and many more organisations have pledged their support.
- Our aim is to show the government and citizens of the UK that every faith has theologians that can motivate people to make the lifestyle and behavioural changes necessary to achieve the SDGs.
- And where these theologians are different, a consolidated UK interfaith response to the SDGs can bring the faith communities together as we become united in the pursuit of these common goals.
- One of our immediate tasks is to compose a joint letter to the UK government to make clear the shared concern and determination of the faith communities that we redouble our efforts as a nation to support a fairer and more just world.
- To help map some of the amazing things faith communities are already involved in all across the UK we would ask you to complete a short survey.



The Eight Millennium Development Goals are:

- to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- to achieve universal primary education;
- to promote gender equality and empower women;
- to reduce child mortality;
- to improve maternal health;
- to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
- to ensure environmental sustainability; and
- to develop a global partnership for development.

...by 2015!

So what was achieved? (The Guardian 26 July 2015)

- **MDG 1:** The number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day has been reduced from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, although the target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger was narrowly missed.
- **MDG 2:** Primary school enrolment figures have shown an impressive rise, but the goal of achieving universal primary education has just been missed, with the net enrolment rate increasing from 83% in 2000 to 91% this year.
- **MDG 3:** About two-thirds of developing countries have achieved gender parity in primary education.
- **MDG 4:** The child mortality rate has reduced by more than half over the past 25 years – falling from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births – but it has failed to meet the MDG target of a drop of two-thirds.

USPG writes:

- The SDGs pose some difficult questions. For example, is the UK really a 'developed' country if the air pollution we produce is helping to kill people and the planet? And can we call ourselves developed when our achievements can only be sustained through the exploitation of others?
- The UK government – alongside other 'developed' nations – needs to seriously reconsider our impact on the world.
- To this end, all UK citizens have a part to play in making their voices heard – not least the faith communities. A central tenant of Christianity and other faiths is a concern to tackle poverty, improve access to health services and education, and campaign for gender equality. And, as such, it could be argued that the faith communities have always been engaged to some extent in the work required to meet the SDGs.
- USPG wants to ensure that faith organisations and communities are at the heart of the UK debate around the SDGs.

UKSSD (UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development)

- Conditions in one country affect others, so all must participate.
- UKSSD creates a space to mobilise people, communities and organisations in the UK so they can play their part to create decent work in a prosperous economy and a fair and just society – all within the Earth's limits.
- [Driving action for the Sustainable Development Goals in the UK](#)
- There is currently no national plan for the Sustainable Development Goals in the UK. We're going to create it. We've launched an ambitious project to produce the first stakeholder-led national plan for the UK.
- Our Partners span a variety of sectors and industries but they are all committed to the working together to progress sustainable development and deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the UK.
- USPG first Christian group to join UKSSD

So what was achieved? (The Guardian 26 July 2015)

- **MDG 5:** The global maternal mortality ratio has fallen by nearly half – short of the two-thirds reduction the MDGs aimed for.
- **MDG 6:** The target of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/Aids by 2015 has not been met, although the number of new HIV infections fell by around 40% between 2000 and 2013.
- **MDG 7:** Some 2.6 billion people have gained access to improved drinking water since 1990, so the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water was achieved in 2010 – five years ahead of schedule. However, 663 million people across the world still do not have access to improved drinking water.
- **MDG 8:** Between 2000 and 2014, overseas development assistance from rich nations to developing countries increased by 66% in real terms, and in 2013 reached the record figure of \$134.8bn (£80.3bn). [cf world arms spend £1.3trillion; UK aid 0.7% GDP = £13.3billion]

Now the SDGs

- The UN reports:
- [Following wide consultation] On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to **end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.
 - For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you.
 - Do you want to get involved? You can start by telling everyone about them. We've also put together a list of actions that you can take in your everyday life to contribute to a sustainable future.

CAFOD strategy

- Ask your national government to:
1. Develop a national sustainable development strategy
 2. Commit to implementation of all the global goals
 3. Set up cross-departmental committee
 4. Build on the experience of MDG Parliamentary Committee
 5. Call upon decentralised administrations and local government to work closely with civil society
 6. Ensure that national and local resources are allocated
 7. Establish public, participatory and inclusive monitoring
 8. Participate fully and actively in agreed international follow up and review processes

End extreme poverty. Fight inequality and injustice. Fix climate change. Whoa. The Sustainable Development Goals are important, world-changing objectives that will require cooperation among governments, international organizations and world leaders. It seems impossible that the average person can make an impact. Should you just give up?

No! Change starts with you. Seriously. Every human on earth—even the most indifferent, laziest person among us—is part of the solution. Fortunately, there are some super easy things we can adopt into our routines that, if we all do it, will make a big difference.

Have a look at just a few of the many things you can do to make an impact!



Christian responsibility

- Drives faith-based development agencies: Christian Aid: strong influence in original consultation
- CAFOD: specific SDGs programme – see booklet 'Looking at SDGs through *Laudato Si'*'
- Do not recognise inadequacies of current growth-based models
- Lobbying governments to support aims and develop national strategy
- USPG first Christian group to join UKSSD ([UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development](#))

The SDGs ... a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

- 17 Goals build on [Millennium Development Goals](#)
- new areas include climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice
- The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.
- work in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations.
- tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us together to make a positive change for both people and planet.

- Does AID Effectiveness Mean Repairing the World?: an Examination Of Tikkun Olam's Implications for Modern AID Effectiveness Standards
- Essay: Religion in Sustainable Development
- Essay: High-Level Collaboration between the Public Sector and Religious and Faith-Based Organizations: Fad or Trend?
- Essay: Sustainable Development and Religion: Accommodating Diversity in a Post-Secular age
- Essay: Religion, Human Rights, and Development: Focusing on Health
- Essay: Reflections on HIV-Related Experiences of 2 Global Funding Mechanisms Supporting Religious Health Providers
- Essay: Lessons from the Faith-Driven Response to the West Africa Ebola Epidemic
- Essay: Negotiating a Language of Gender: SDG5 and the Roman Catholic Church
- Review Essay: Is the Problem Really Religious Freedom?
- This journal issue was supported by the Department for International Development's Policy Research Fund

What's it got to do with religion?

- Development aid projects do not succeed if they ignore local religious sensibilities
- Considerable research activity: for example:
 - a special issue of the journal 'The Review of Faith and International Affairs', featuring 15 articles and essays:
 - *Innovative Faith-Community Responses to HIV and AIDS: Summative Lessons from Over 2 Decades of Work*
 - *Getting dirty: Working with Faith Leaders to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence*
 - *Interventions with Local Faith Communities on Immunization in Development contexts*
 - *Faith Affiliation, Religiosity, and Attitudes Towards the Environment and Climate Change*
 - *Religion and Social Cooperation: Results from an Experiment in Ghana*
 - *Religion and Development: the Norwegian AID Discourse*



Sustainable Development Goals 1-9

- 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation

Sustainable development: *development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;*

- The concept of sustainable development tells us that we must balance the need for social progress and economic growth with preservation and enhancement of our natural environment.
- through sustainable development we can recognise that what we do today to make our lives better should not have a negative consequence for our children, or their children.
- social, economic and environmental problems are connected. If we create a solution in one area, it could have a positive or negative effect on another. Governments need to ensure there is 'policy coherence', which means this connectedness is reflected in their policy making.
- The Sustainable Development Goals are the far to set out what sustainable development means in practice for all nations, rich and poor.

Sustainable Development Goals 10-17

Sustainable
development:
'development which
meets the needs of
the present without
compromising the
ability of future
generations to meet
their own needs';

- This is the definition set out in *Our Common Future*, a report by the UN World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) in 1987, which led to Earth Summit 1992
- Rio Declaration
- UN Commission on Sustainable Development
- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) which oversees the SDGs

- 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries
 - 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 - 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
 - 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 - 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 - 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
 - 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
 - 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
- Within the goals are 169 targets*
...by 2030