

# Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

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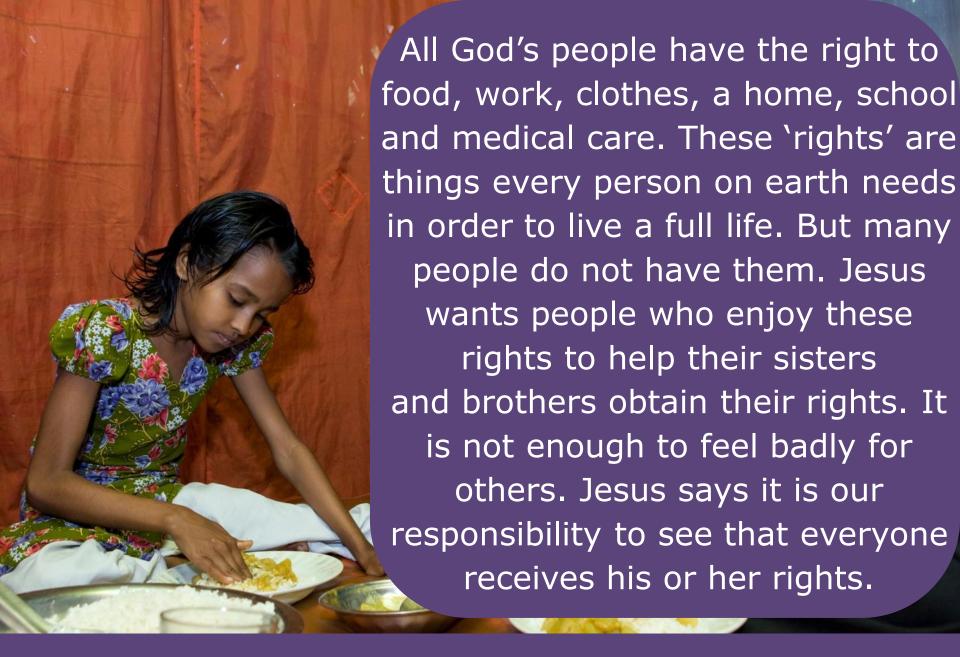


### The dignity of the human person



Jesus understood that people need each other.
We all need our families, friends and neighbours. He tells
us that these important people can help us. Jesus says
we must help them too. Doing this, we create a loving
community where everyone can live life to the full.

## We are called to live as family and community



### Rights and responsibilities

### We are called to stewardship

The earth and all life on it is God's creation. We are called to take care of it because it is a holy gift from God and the only place we can live. When we make bad or thoughtless use of the world's resources, many people suffer. When we make good choices about how we treat other living things (people, animals, plants) we help all living things to live as God intends. Making wise choices about the care of God's creation is called good stewardship.

Every person needs food, water, work, housing, school, and medical care. Those who do not have these are poor. Our Church teaches that these sisters and brothers must be treated with extra respect and extra care and have access to what they need. Those who are not poor must share what they have with others because the gifts of God's world are for all people.



### An option for the poor and vulnerable

Everyone's work is of value. There are many kinds of work. In each job, workers deserve to be treated with respect, work safely, work reasonable hours, and earn fair wages. They deserve this because they are made by God. Our work gives us the means to live, but it is also a chance to use the talents God gives us. Our work is our way of cooperating with God to help create a better world.



### The dignity and rights of workers



The world's peoples are interdependent (we need each other). When we walk alongside and learn from each other, we call this solidarity. Even with huge distances between us we are still one family—the family of God.



We are called to forgive others. When we have done something wrong we must try to put things right not just by saying sorry but by changing our behaviour. Jesus teaches us to live in peace with one another. He says we must forgive those who hurt us and make friends again. This is not easy and we all need to work at promoting peace in order to have one just world.

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Picture credits: Marcella Haddad, Philippe Mougin, Simon Rawles, Dominic Nahr, Bridget Burrows, Paul Smith

