



## JOHN PAUL II JUSTICE AND PEACE CENTRE

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# FAITH DOING JUSTICE

## Newsletter N.12. July-Sept. 2010

Dear friends,

The last months have been marked in Uganda by the NRM Primary (ruling party) elections with too much violence already. Many people keep wondering: if this kind of violence takes place within the single ruling party, what will happen in the upcoming inter-party national elections scheduled for the 12 Feb.2011.

### PREPARING THE ELCTORATE:

JPIIJC intends to focus all the civic education training programs with community leaders, educators and politicians at various levels to exercise their civic rights in voting responsibly for leaders of integrity.

The Catholic Bishops are encouraging the politicians not to bribe voters: “This country got some political leaders because of rigging. Ballot papers were stuffed to win votes, which is not good for the people in the communities..”(New Vision: 27.8.10).

The Church also warns on poll chaos with cautions about dirty politics: “It’s vital to make it clear to every Ugandan that politics for good governance must be perceived as faith in God put into action so as to erase the language of dirty politics from our daily vocabulary” (Daily Monitor: 25 Aug.10)

The Centre is intensifying workshops with politicians in different regions of the country to reflect together on vital issues: responsible leadership, constitutionalism and good

governance, democracy and multiparty democracy, conflict resolution and peace building. While these basic civic/ethics education programs are ongoing, the Centre is preparing some specific activities with St. Diego University and IRCU to prepare the electorate through posters, media messages, baseline surveys and some publications to inform and motivate the electorate.

## I . EVENTS

### 1. Youth, Peace and Development.

The overall objective of the International Peace Day was “Having a peaceful Uganda with empowered youth to achieve the Millenium Development Goals by 2015.”

The Office of the Prime Minister, being in charge of most of the postconflict recovery challenges ( like the refugees and IDP), acted as the convener for the national platform on peace building and conflict resolution. This national platform comprises: ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector etc. JPIIJPC was also represented.

The peace week which started on the 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010, with the final celebration on the 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. at Kololo Airstrip. JPIIJPC, like all organizations, marched, with 25 people/youth from KIU Peace Club, MUBS and other youth representing the Centre. They marched from city square to Kololo.

JPIIJPC was given a tent and a desk where people came to get information about the identity, goals , activities and publications of the centre. WBS , NTV and other media channels requested us to give them our publications on research and civic education programs. Some of our participants were interviewed by the media. The international Peace day celebrations ended at 3,30 pm. The Minister of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Prof. Tarcis Kabwegyere presided the function, concluding with the Uganda National Anthem.

### 2. Youth Building Peace.

From 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> August 2010, some 70 youth (between 18 -25 years old) from different regions of the country gathered in Bp Scouts Francis Camp Site- Jinja, for their program: “Building Peace for the Future Through Uganda’s youth”. The youth came from 29 different parishes, especially from Kampala, Jinja and Lira. The youth gained practical skills in leadership, team building, communication and other disciplines. They also learned more about Catholic Social Teaching, while helping to strengthen their Catholic identity. This is the second year that such training for youth has taken place.

### 3. Music Dance and Drama (MDD) on JPIC issues.

For the first time, JPIIIPC and Uganda Martyrs Secondary School in Namugongo prepared 4 Drama presentations, entitled : “BEEFLESS BONE” on Justice and Peace issues, at La Bonita Theatre, Kampala, on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010.

About one thousand people attended and appreciated this informal way of ethics/civic education. We believe that MDD is also a powerful way to convey the message of JPIIIPC. DVDs from the performance are available at the Centre.

## II. ACTIVITIES

### 1. Workshops with Politicians.

JPIIIPC is organizing and facilitating one workshop monthly with the top politicians of the country in the different regions of Uganda. We have already reached the politicians in Hoima and Masindi districts. During Oct. and Nov. , we are meeting the politicians in Fort Portal district.

We intend to continue targeting the politicians, especially after the elections take place, to support them in being leaders of integrity who care for the good of all citizens.

### 2.Civic Education for Teachers: New Developments.

From 3<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010, 67 teachers from Kibale Distric gathered in Kagadi for the second phase in civic education training. They have managed to:

- Create the Kibale Teachers for Justice and Peace Club
- Receive the new text book for civic education
- Engage in a considerable number of activities in other schools. They also started a project for self reliance.

Other civic education workshops for teachers are planed in Kasana, Hoima, Gulu, Arua, Kasese, Kabale, Kangole etc.

### 3. Parents and Parish Council Leaders

The Staff, supported by some part-time facilitators, is carrying on the civic/ethics education program for family and community leaders. As with the teachers program, we also carry out two/three workshops monthly.

## 4. Research Based Advocacy.

JPIIJPC continues its program of four scientific researches per year. After publishing the “Food Insecurity Findings”, we have embarked on an expanding Kampala Basic Needs Basket research including also a population survey regarding these informal settlements and the access people have to services. The fourth research for this year will be on domestic violence.

## 5. Traditional Wisdom Workshops

Representatives from the Acholi and Langi cultures were gathered in Kampala to complete the research being done on the cultural wisdom, values and practices regarding civic education. Some of this cultural-traditional wisdom and values have been already integrated into the text book for civic education.

## 6. Workshop on Election Violence:

A day long workshop on election violence and mediation as a strategy in handling electoral violence took place at Hotel Africana on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Some highlights came out:

- Ugandans are tired of wars and violence. There is a cry for responsible leadership and the rule of law.
- Ethnicity used to instigate violence.
- Need for capacity building for conflict transformation, resolution and management.
- Need to mobilize Church leaders and all believers to raise awareness about votes apathy.
- Need to discuss even in Churches the importance of active citizen participation in electing good leaders and holding them accountable. Printing reading materials to publicize issues of good governance
- Need to monitor political violence, media and state organizations.
- Need to network for polls observation.

## 7. Consultative Forum

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2010, the Consultative Forum (C.F). of JPIIJPC met to discuss some of the present challenges we face in Uganda. The reflection focused on the upcoming Elections. Two proposals were made by the C. F.

- To formulate and present to Parliament a Petition to separate the security forces (Army and Police) from direct political activities.
- To focus all civic education programs of JPIIJPC on the upcoming Elections

## 7. University Students:

We are planning to start a more systematic program of ethics/civic education for university students. At KIU, the students have formed a “Students association for Justice and Peace.”. We want this to be extended to other universities and tertiary centers of education.

## III. NETWORKING

### 1. Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

On 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010, the staff of JPIIIPC spent half a day, facilitated by Stefan Willmutz from AGEH, to design our new Strategic Plan 2010-2013 keeping in mind clear strategies for adequate monitoring and evaluation of our activities focusing in a particular way on the OUTCOME and Impact of our programs.

### 2. Trocaire Training in Conflict Sensitivity Approaches

TROCAIRE organized a Consultative meeting (30<sup>th</sup> Aug.-2<sup>nd</sup> Sept) and then one week’s training (20<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup> Sept.) on the theme: “Conflict sensitivity approaches” for all partners. Three members of the staff attended the training, seeking to mainstream these conflict sensitivity approach, in all our programs. Some issues discussed were:

- to integrate conflict sensitivity into all JPIIIPC projects
- to integrate conflict sensitivity approaches into peace building activities in one partner school
- to enhance credible conflict sensitivity and peace building with our partners.

### 3.San Diego University Proposal

The department of political science at San Diego university in USA is designing together with JPIIIPC, a joint program to prepare the electorate in Uganda for the upcoming elections. The concept proposal focuses on information and motivation of civil society (through posters, media messages and surveys) to vote responsibly and to assess the impact of our messages in the behavior of the electorate.

## 4. Renewed Cooperation with the National JP Commission.

JPIIIPC intends to intensify the collaboration with the national JPIC Commission of the Catholic Bishops, encouraged by the presence of Bp. Filippi who is the Chairperson of this UEC JP Commission and by the new Secretary General of the same Commission.

## IV. UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1. National Conference for Reconciliation, Justice and Peace

From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010, will take place at Hotel Africana, the Second National Conference for Reconciliation, Justice and Peace.

This National Conference , organized by the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) gathers all religious leaders together with the cultural and political leaders to foster a more just, reconciled and peaceful Uganda, especially while we face the challenge of the Elections. Last year this Conference was very instrumental in calming down the civil unrest in Kampala. We trust that this same Conference will ensure a fair, participative and harmonious election process.

### 2. Advent Radio Programs

Following our tradition, JPIIIPC will animate the Sunday Social Gospel Programs in Radio Maria every Sunday of Advent from 8 to 9 pm . We intend to take up some programs as well for the Elections time to promote participative, free and just elections.

## V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1. New Chairperson of the UEC JP Commission

Bishop Giuseppe Filippi is the new Chairperson of the Ugandan Episcopal Conference Justice and Peace Commission. We are certain that this appointment will enhance the profile of JPIIIPC and the networking with the NJPC and other JP Organizations.

### 2. Food Insecurity Research Findings

JPIIIPC has published the “Reality of food insecurity in the face of advancement in global food production”. It is a study of food insecurity in the selected districts of Arua, Adjumani, Katakwi and Amuria.. It is available at the Centre for 3000 sh.

### 3. Civic Education Text Book

The Civic Education Text Book for teachers is finally on sale at JPIIJPC and some book shops and procures. The authors are now preparing the Teachers Guide to accompany the Text Book. The Text book costs 15.000 Ug. sh.

### 4. Annual Report

A 3 years Report of JPIIJPC is being printed and will be available in one week. This report includes all the activities carried out by JPIIJPC . Being the first report of this kind, it presents all the main activities from the beginning of the Centre till today. From now onwards, this report will be annual.

### 5. The 2011 Calendar

The 2011 Calendar will be on sale by the 10<sup>th</sup> October in some procures (Nsambya, Rubaga, Mbuya) , in bookshops (Christ the King, St. Paul's) and at the Center.

### 6. New Strategic Plan

The new Strategic Plan is being printed as well to guide the Centre during the next three years. This Strategic Plan can be shared with like-minded Organizations working for JPIC.