



School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Atlantic-Midwest Province  
**Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation**  
Five Focus Areas

**From our beginning in 1833**

the School Sisters of Notre Dame have transformed the world through the ministry of education, especially in service of girls. Today, like our foundress, Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, 'we educate in areas of urgent need' [YAS 23], giving preference to people who are marginalized and to people made poor, in order to establish a just society. Through education, advocacy, prayer, and corporate engagement, the Atlantic-Midwest Province focuses on the following areas of concern, chosen from the 24th General Chapter in 2017.

**Dismantling Racism**

We acknowledge the history of racism against people of color and Indigenous people, the systemic nature of racism, and our participation in it as individuals and as members of groups. We seek to understand our complicity and to work to dismantle racism in all its forms. We invite others to this ongoing dialogue and work.

**Addressing Climate Change**

God created human beings and all Earth's communities to live interdependently in loving communion. As a Laudato Si' Congregation, SSND promotes God's vision of oneness through right relationships by engaging in ongoing conversion of attitudes and behaviors. Our personal and communal ecological conversion is an essential part of addressing climate change.

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**Haiti Collaboration**

SSND and Beyond Borders have a partnership in service of the people of Haiti. The collaboration empowers Haitians in efforts to increase access to quality primary education, promote economic justice and sustainable livelihoods, and stop the practice of restavèk, or child domestic servitude. SSND trains teachers in Haiti and provides educational materials through Notre Dame of Maryland University, participates on Beyond Borders' board, and supports a prayer ministry for the Haitian people.

**Justice for Immigrants**

We live in a time of unprecedented, forced migration and displacement, which puts vulnerable migrants and refugees in the path of potential exploitation, such as human trafficking. SSND is committed to supporting immigrants through our ministries and by educating and advocating for just immigration laws. With immigration a part of our own history, we promote awareness of the important contributions that immigrants make to societies.

**End Human Trafficking**

There are an estimated 50 million human trafficking sex and labor victims around the world. We address the plight of modern slavery by raising our consciousness, advocating and engaging in activities to help those affected by this crime. Our work is guided by the primary principle of Catholic Social Teaching - the life and dignity of the human person. We recognize the interrelated economic, social, racial, environmental, etc., root causes of human trafficking and seek to understand our contribution to systems that oppress others.



SSND Five Focus Areas

"Dare to Care" - News & Actions

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