

## Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - Trócaire

# Trócaire

In March 2016, Berta Cáceres, an environmental activist was murdered as a direct result of her work supporting indigenous people's rights in Honduras.

While it is a very high profile case, gaining worldwide attention, the intimidation and killing of Berta, is not unique. Violations against vulnerable communities and human rights activists have become more prevalent on a global scale. Land grabs and the denial of access to resources for minority groups are common. At the same time armed conflicts in some of the poorest parts of our world are driving displacement, hunger and fear. It's against this backdrop that **SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** – is so important. Without these three key ingredients, we cannot hope for sustainable development around our world.

If SDG 16 is to be achieved, it requires people to have a say in the decisions that affect their own lives, and for their basic rights to be upheld. To this end, Trócaire supports the work of human rights activists who document human rights violations and challenge those responsible, including governments and other institutions. Our work helps to empower marginalised people, especially women, to participate in governance processes and demand accountability for injustices. In Guatemala, for example, Trócaire worked for over thirty years seeking justice for survivors of crimes, including genocide, which were committed under former dictator, General Efraín Ríos Montt. Here in Ireland, Trócaire campaigns to ensure the Irish Government plays its part in global efforts to tackle violations of international law, and to help bring about a peaceful end to conflicts, based on justice and human rights. Recently, for example, Trócaire supporters called on Irish political leaders to ban the import and sale of Israeli settlement products in Ireland. Israeli settlements are illegal under international humanitarian law, and a massive barrier to peace between Palestinians and Israelis. By prohibiting trade with Israeli settlements, Ireland can help to remove the economic incentives for settlement construction, thereby strengthening efforts towards justice and peace in the region.

Achieving peace, justice and strong institutions on a global scale will be a massive challenge – especially in countries facing major insecurity and where significant exploitation of people and resources exist. However, we *can* achieve it. We *must* achieve it. Trócaire is committed to ensuring this happens. Are you?

### **TRÓCAIRE BIO**

Founded in 1973, Trócaire is the official overseas development organisation of the Catholic Church in Ireland. We work with a range of partners to support communities in over 20 developing countries with a focus on justice and human rights, food and resource rights, women's empowerment, and humanitarian response. In Ireland Trócaire raises awareness about the injustice of poverty and inequality through our programmes in the Irish education sector, through parish and community groups, and through our public campaigning and advocacy work. Tackling the root causes of poverty is a key part of our mission.