



Supporting your work for Justice and Peace with young people

Introduction

Welcome to the ninth edition of the imaginatively titled 'BOVA'd?'. This newsletter is produced by Bosco Volunteer Action, the Salesians of Don Bosco's overseas volunteering organisation in the UK. It aims to encourage and support instances of development education within youth work; raising awareness of problems confronting developing countries and presenting actions which can be taken. Sent out 6 times per year and then available from www.boscovolunteeraction.co.uk, 'BOVA'd?' brings together information, links and resources relevant to justice and peace issues from a large number of charities and campaign groups.

Complex images of poverty

In previous editions (see BOV'd? 2 at <http://boscovolunteeraction.co.uk/bovad.aspx>) we have discussed the importance of finding ways to respect the humanity and dignity of people in developing countries by presenting a complex picture, where possible using their own words and images. Obviously it is a dangerous oversimplification to make generalisations such as 'all Africans are poor'; when a young person has this message contradicted they may lose faith with all charity/justice related activities.

My advice presented in that edition was to:

- Try to make use of images and words from the countries under discussion
- Avoid using only negative images (e.g. all starving children); include pictures or videos of 'normal' activities which your young people can relate to
- Talk about justice not charity
- Be aware of the message you put across and beware of too much oversimplification

2 resources created by BOVA returned volunteers can help you give your young people a more complex message about poverty.

Wonderful resources

Life in Pasil is a collection of short stories and poems written by the young people of a slum in the Philippines. It shows both their struggle with poverty and their love of their community. It can be downloaded free from

<http://boscovolunteeraction.co.uk/mariasbook.aspx>

Savio Bhavan, Don Bosco Tumkur is a film showing a day in a life of the ex-child labourers in a Salesian home in India – again it makes clear both joy and struggles. It can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6HFhFCGzcQ&feature=related> and can be downloaded using the YouTubeDownloader.

Our aim is to support you in your work, so please contact bova@salesianyouthministry.com with any feedback, suggestions or items for inclusion.

Best wishes

James