

DJPC's Commitment to Economic Justice

DJPC is dedicated to promoting economic justice in Latin America as it is intrinsically related to maintaining lasting peace and upholding human rights in the region. DJPC evaluates governmental and corporate policies to ascertain whether their power and authority are being employed to guarantee what is right and just in an economic sense for the people of Latin America, and takes action where they are not.

DJPC premises its work on the conviction that society bears the responsibility to recognize and support the dignity of each human life and that all economic decisions must be evaluated in terms of their impact on the most vulnerable. Economic justice comprises a set of principles that promotes a range of economic opportunities and the freedoms to achieve them. It recognizes the interdependence of all human beings and the need to employ the talents and ideas of all members of society in alleviating present inequalities. As such, all persons must be guaranteed the space to develop fully their potentials in order to serve their own self-interests and contribute to the common good.

DJPC believes that individuals share economic rights to life, food, shelter, clothing, rest, health, education, medical care and, most importantly, the right to decent work and just wages as the means to meeting these needs and contributing to the well being of the community.

The challenge lies in the reality that the privileged and powerful have usurped the right of the less powerful, and particularly the marginalized, in making decisions affecting their economic lives and futures. Throughout history, profit motives have trumped the common good—this situation has only been exacerbated through globalization and the influence of transnational corporations, particularly in regard to workers' rights and the environment.

In an effort to build a more just world, DJPC promotes public policies that increase the ability of citizens of developing countries, including the marginalized, to participate as they choose in local, regional and global economies. It renounces policies, actions and investments that sustain or intensify existing inequalities in developing countries, tolerate oppression by governments or elites, and violate the individual economic rights stated above. DJPC advocates that the U.S. government work with all sectors in developing nations to promote just, inclusive and transparent economic policies.

New models are called for—models that uphold the right to economic self-determination by all members of society. DJPC supports initiatives that afford access to and control of the resources, credit, and technical support required to strengthen local economies. DJPC also recognizes that more inclusive participation is required to ameliorate quality of life issues confronting the marginalized in developing nations: poverty, illiteracy, child mortality, environmental degradation, diminished workers' rights, social violence, discrimination against women and indigenous people, deficient education and health care, non-potable water and poor sanitation, and inadequate housing.

DJPC works to establish equitable public policy through:

- Education: of our members, our communities, our Congressional delegation on the ways in which U.S. economic policies affect inequality and impede economic justice.
- Solidarity: partnering with local and national groups and international movements to advocate for these policies. Reaching out to communities impacted by these policies and bearing witness to their struggles.
- Nonviolent Activism: calling, writing, visiting and keeping the pressure on members of our Congressional delegation to enact just economic policies. Participating in rallies, press conferences, public meetings, and nonviolent protests.