

Christian Social Ethics and advocacy

Eurodiaconia
Paris, September 2012
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Lobbying and advocacy

- Definition

- Lobbying

- Influencing the decision making bodies/persons

- Advocacy

- Defending the interest of a person/group
 - Speaking on behalf of (the client)

Advocacy (1)

- Influencing the shaping of the political, economical, social, cultural system
- Governemental, international institutions, associations, medias, organisations, civil society, mentalities, culture...

Advocacy (2)

- Mandate
- Skills, expertise, special knowledge
- Specific actions and networking

Is advocacy Eurodiaconia's task ?

- Should Diaconia do this task ?
- Can Diaconia do this task ?
 - In the interest of poor, marginalized, socially disadvantaged, vulnerable people (and next generations)
 - For a just and peaceful society

(wrong) reasons to refuse advocacy

- Politics, division, conflict
- Church : unity, reconciliation, love
- Minority situation
- Heritage of communist time

Love for the neighbor

- Parable of the good Samaritan
- Not: who is? But: act, be the neighbor...
- Not only interpersonal
- Structural, political dimension
- Not only the visible ones
- The 65 millions, 7 billions, next generations
- State as mediation of solidarity, global governance as mediation

Evangelization

- Personal, interpersonal relations, family, neighbors...
- Professional, social, political life
- Structural dimensions
- “I will make all things new”

Paul VI

Populorum Progressio 1967

- « It is not just a question of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty. It is not just a question of fighting wretched conditions, though this is urgent and necessary task. It involves building a human community where men can live truly human lives, free from discrimination on account of race, religion or nationality, free from servitude to other men or to natural forces which they cannot yet control satisfactorily. It involves building a human community where liberty is not an idle word, where the needy Lazarus can sit down with the rich man at the same banquet table ».

Justice and love

- Standing up for justice : genuine task of the Church
- Concrete way to establish justice...
- Love supports and goes beyond justice
- Good structures don't make charity and love unnecessary !

Justice in the world 1971

- “The struggle for justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of preaching the gospel that is the Church's mission for the redemption of humanity and its liberation from every oppressive situation” (Synod of Bishops)

Sollicitudo Rei Socialis

1987

- Structural sin
- Task: tackling the structures of society, influencing the structures of society, the mentalities of people, the cultures...

Charity

- The wider charity is a political one
- The social charity
- Fighting structural sins
- Making our societies more humane, paying attention to the poor and vulnerable

Task for Eurodiaconia

- In case of emergency, helping the needed... *(deliver, develop)*
- Without ignoring the root causes of poverty *(demand)*
- Addressing the root causes without ignoring the concrete persons in need
(deliver, develop, demand)

Curent challenges

- Becoming a subcontractant of public authorities (State or EU)
- Specificity of Social Services of General Interest
- Social State: challenges, future, development...

summary

- Advocacy is an integral part of Diaconia' task
- Advocacy and concrete action are supporting each other
- Giving legitimacy one to the other
- Ethical Social Teaching and pragmatic actions are the two sources of the legitimacy of our statements

Resources

- Catholic Social Teaching
www.vatican.va
Search compendium
- CST resources, for instance:
www.social-spirituality.net