



# NORTHWEST COALITION *for* RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

Annual Report

Fall 2013

## Without a Vision, the People Perish

—Proverbs 29:18

“**B**efore you finish eating your breakfast this morning, you’ve depended on more than half the world. This is the way our universe is structured... We aren’t going to have peace [and justice] on earth until we recognize this basic fact...” said Martin Luther King, Jr. In her book, *Resisting Structural Evil*, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda calls us to examine our connectedness and the structural “evil that inhabits our lives by virtue of the economic policies, practices, institutions, and assumptions that shape how we live.”<sup>1</sup>

Moe-Lobeda lays out a moral vision for social and ecological justice, a framework in which to recognize structural evil and our participation in it; to raise up signs of hope breaking through; and to see that we “are not

**“VISION is not enough, it must be combined with VENTURE. It is not enough to stare up the steps, we must step up the stairs.”**

—Vaclav Havel

alone in the move toward more just and sustainable ways of living. The sacred life-giving and life-saving Source of the cosmos is with and within Earth’s creatures and elements...luring creation toward God’s intent...”<sup>2</sup>

*In its 19th shareholder season, the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment (NWCRI), in partnership with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), brought this moral vision to the boardrooms of 51 corporations. Members addressed 25 social and environment justice issues with 21 shareholder resolutions and participated in over 60 dialogues.*

In a world with little patience for long term, faithbased shareholders believe that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”<sup>3</sup> For over forty years, ICCR has been a leader in a growing movement to transform corporate policies and practices to promote the common good of the global community. We have engaged some of the world’s most influential companies on issues ranging from access to health, to the risks of hydraulic fracturing to predatory lending practices.

Our vision of a world without human slavery where all children are free to go to school and play became more real this year when Hershey took a significant step to eradicate trafficking and forced child labor on cocoa farms. The Company’s “21st Century Cocoa

Plan” combines a commitment to source 100% certified cocoa for its entire product line by 2020 with an investment in communities that will improve education for children and the livelihoods of the growers. With a 43% share of the US chocolate market, Hershey’s leadership will have a positive impact on the cocoa industry.

Less than 3% of the world’s water is freshwater, and only 1% is available for human consumption. NWCRI and ICCR members advocate for protection of the planet’s water as a moral mandate and a matter of environmental and social justice. We work with companies to develop sustainable water practices and to adopt the Human Right to Water, which was recognized by the UN in 2010. This year our



Water billboard produces 100L of water a day from humidity, Lima

multi-year engagement with Campbell Soup moved the company to support this critical human right and commit to do its part to ensure that water is clean, safe, accessible and affordable in communities where the Company operates.

In this 2013 Annual Report, the members of the Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment show how we have used our rights, power and responsibilities as shareholders to call for a moral vision of social and ecological justice in our global community.

<sup>1</sup> *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation*, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, Fortress Press, 2013, p. xvii

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. xvii-xviii

<sup>3</sup> Theodore Parker

# Global Supply Chain Justice

## Human Slavery: Five Score Years & Counting



2013 marks one hundred and fifty years since Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and fifty years since Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream* speech, a dream that we would "make justice a reality for all God's children." Yet today, fifty years after the March on Washington, the International Labor Organization estimates that 21 million people globally are in forced labor (14.2 million) or sexual servitude (4.5 million). Human slavery is the third largest illegal activity in terms of revenue.

NWCRI members believe that we have a moral obligation to end human slavery through changing systems, policies and practices that allow and promote this egregious abuse of human rights. We ask corporations to examine their supply chains from raw material to finished product for risks of trafficking and modern day slavery.

Shareholders see signs of hope in the tourism industry when hotels have adopted human rights policies that address human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children and train their staffs to be aware of and report possible abuses. NWCRI leads the engagement with Hyatt Hotels which completed its staff training in June and will now include it in new staff orientation.

For a third year Kroger, the largest grocery chain in the US, has refused to engage shareholders on the risks of human trafficking and forced labor in its supply chain. The Company purchases significant amounts of fruits and vegetables and this is a concern because agricultural workers are excluded from labor laws that apply to US workers. Our shareholder resolution was supported by over 16% of shareholders. We will continue to challenge the Company's belief that its Code of Conduct for its suppliers ensures justice for farmworkers.

**Action:** Tell Kroger and Wendy's that as a responsible consumer you expect justice for farmworkers.  
[ciw-online.org/supermarkets](http://ciw-online.org/supermarkets)  
[ciw-online.org/wendys](http://ciw-online.org/wendys)

## Made in Bangladesh: If a Label Could Talk

The apparel and footwear industry is in the process of developing a tool that will measure the environmental and social impacts of products from raw material to disposal. Meanwhile, labels are already talking for those willing to listen. "Made in Bangladesh" tells of the more than 1100 garment workers who died on April 24 in the collapse of Rana Plaza, an eight story factory producing cheap clothing for you and me. The label tells of grieving survivors, the suffering of the injured and lost incomes.

The garment industry in Bangladesh employs 3.5 million, most of whom are young women taking their first steps out of poverty. Four-fifths of the garments come to the west and the fear is that western buyers will take their business elsewhere rather than play a constructive role in the reform of the Bangladesh garment industry.



Two victims in Rana Plaza

**You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you didn't know.**

—William Wilberforce

A sign of hope that we can change the global garment industry is found in the efforts of NWCRI, ICCR and a coalition of over 200 global investors who are calling on companies to join the *Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety*. The *Accord*, a multi-stakeholder agreement that has been signed by over 70 European, American and Australian companies, addresses comprehensive apparel sector reform that is legally and financially binding; and has a governance structure with equal representation for trade unions and corporations.

A group of about 20 North American companies have developed an alternative to *The Accord*, the *Bangladesh Worker Safety Initiative*. While we applaud this response to the Rana Plaza disaster, we are concerned about the lack of worker involvement in the development and governance of the *Initiative*, which we regard as crucial to meaningful reform of the Bangladesh garment industry. Therefore, ICCR continues to press US companies to join the *Accord*. Engagements include: Costco, Gap, JC Penny, Macy's, Nordstrom, Sears, Target and Walmart.

# Food Safety & Sustainability

## Access to Nutrition: A Public Health Issue

In a world where approximately 1.4 billion people are overweight and almost 900 million are malnourished, responsible shareholders are concerned about what the top global food and beverage companies are doing to improve customers' access to equitable and affordable nutrition. Recognizing that obesity is a significant and growing public health issue, NWCRI and ICCR members are engaging the most powerful food, beverage and media corporations in an effort to address the national epidemic of childhood obesity. This year our primary objective is to reduce youth-focused marketing and consumption of food and beverages low in nutrients and high in excess calories from sugar and fat. Companies include: General Mills, Kellogg's, Campbell Soup, Kraft, Coca Cola, PepsiCo, Kroger, Walmart, McDonald's, Disney, and Time Warner Cable.

Going forward, "our objective is to enlist companies in the solution to the dual burdens of obesity and under nutrition by encouraging them to produce and market healthy and nutritious foods, and to increase their accessibility via responsible pricing and promotion."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The Corporate Examiner*, Nadira Narine, ICCR, Vol. 37, No. 9, Winter 2013, p.7



Migrant Worker with cucumbers, Blackwater, VA

**Action:** Be a Savvy Consumer! Read *Behind the Brands* to learn what ten of the world's most powerful food and beverage companies are doing in the areas critical to agricultural production to sustainably feed a growing population: women, small-scale farmers, farmworkers, water, land, climate change and transparency. [www.behindthebrands.org](http://www.behindthebrands.org)

## Consumers Right to Know: Label GMOs

Faithbased shareholders filed the first resolution requesting the labeling of GMOs in 2000. It withstood a challenge at the Security Exchange Commission, establishing that GMOs are a significant social issue.

This year NWCRI and ICCR members went to the boardrooms of the Kraft Foods Group and PepsiCo requesting that the companies label their food products that may contain GMO ingredients. We did not go alone.

- ⌘ According to a *New York Times* poll, more than 90% of Americans support the labeling of GMOs.<sup>1</sup>
- ⌘ Consumers have convinced two dozen states to launch labeling initiatives. In November, Washington State voters will decide on I-522, which requires that foods containing GMOs be labeled by July 1, 2015.
- ⌘ Whole Foods Market will label all GMOs sold in its stores by 2018. Chipotle is the first and only major US food supplier to voluntarily label GMOs.

**When an idea reaches critical mass there is no stopping the shift its presence will induce.**

—Marianne Williamson

How is the food sector responding to this growing momentum to label GMO foods? By saying that the FDA has determined that they are safe; their food products are labeled clearly, accurately and in accordance with all applicable laws; and by spending a significant amount of money to defeat labeling efforts. When questioned about the use of shareholder resources for this purpose, companies said that state-by-state labeling was not the answer.

PepsiCo believes that it is worthwhile to seek a national industry agreement that appropriately addresses the concerns raised by all stakeholders. The Company committed to continued consultation with us saying, "We appreciate having the ability to bring ICCR's viewpoints into the conversation as the issue evolves...and ICCR's commitment to help advance the issue through its advice and counsel and its allies."

On April 24, 2013 the *Genetically Engineered Food Right-to-Know Act* was introduced at the federal level. It is our hope and expectation that the Kraft Food Group will also join with industry to support this federal legislation.

<sup>1</sup>"Strong Support for Labeling Modified Foods," *New York Times*, Allison Kopicki, July 27, 2013



## Healthy People & Planet

### Needed: Bold and Urgent Action to Turn Down the Heat

In our lifetime we are already experiencing the impacts of climate change: extreme weather, food and water insecurity, displacement of people, and cost to rebuild. The cause is no longer debated in scientific circles; humans are the cause of global warming. Our responsibility now is to slow greenhouse gas emissions in this decade and help the world prepare for a 2°C warmer world.

The World Bank, which views climate change as a fundamental threat to economic sustainability in the 21st Century, issued *Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must*

*Be Avoided.* World Bank President Jim Yong Kim hopes that the report shocks us into bold and urgent action. He says, “Lack of action on climate change threatens to make the world our children inherit a completely different world...Climate change is one of the single biggest challenges facing development, and we need to assume the moral responsibility

to take action on behalf of future generations, especially the poorest.”<sup>1</sup>

When ICCR members filed the first resolution referencing “planetary (global) warming” in 1989, we embarked on decades of challenging corporations to address climate change and adopt renewable energy strategies. Among the dozens of companies in the fossil fuel sector that

we engaged this year was ExxonMobil. For a seventh year NWCRI joined over 30 institutional investors in filing a shareholder resolution

**We are continually faced with great opportunities which are brilliantly disguised as unsolvable problems.**

—Margaret Mead

requesting the most profitable oil and gas company in the world to measure, disclose and set reduction goals for the greenhouse gas emissions in its operations and products. After the resolution was supported by 30% of shareholders, Pat Daly, OP, who leads the ExxonMobil engagement for the TRI State Coalition, commented: “Investors expect ExxonMobil to show leadership in developing solutions, as the company plays such a critical role in energy markets, but to date what we have seen is stubborn denial and a refusal to adapt.”

Faithbased shareholders are disappointed that the majority of the energy sector appears to deny the cost of climate change to people and planet. However, we will continue to use our power and responsibility as investors to work with ExxonMobil to recognize and take action on the climate crisis.

<sup>1</sup>[www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/) November 2012

### Fracking: Wait and See?



Satellite image from NASA reveals North Dakota's natural gas flares visible from space

Popularly referred to as the “Frack Rush,” hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas has become a boon to energy companies, job seekers and land owners. But at what cost to the environment and communities? From her vantage point

in Philadelphia and wearing her corporate responsibility hat, Nora Nash, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia and NWCRI, cautions against taking a “wait and see” stance on fracking. She says, “Across Philadelphia, it is evident that fracking has...taken a toll both on the land and on the human spirit. We continue to measure drilling in light of economic development...but enact regulations that pay little attention to... community rights, and the long-term health of communities.”

Nash led a coalition of over 30 investors in filing a shareholder resolution with Chevron requesting a report on the policies, procedures and practices utilized to minimize the adverse environmental and community impacts from the Company’s shale energy operations. Over 30% of shareholders supported the resolution.

**Action:** Use the IPJC Hydraulic Fracturing pamphlet for education, analysis, reflection & action. [www.ipjc.org](http://www.ipjc.org)

### Is Relocation the Solution?

Mossville, Louisiana is a community whose air, soil and water have been poisoned by the 14 industrial companies who supply gas for our cars and PVC for everything from our children's swimming pools to medical tubing. In 2009 NWCRI and ICCR members, recognizing that we were shareholders in the companies polluting Mossville, partnered with Mossville Environmental Action Now (MEAN) to advocate with corporations for the community's human right to a healthy environment.

Investor pressure on Phillips 66 (formerly ConocoPhillips) led by NWCRI has resulted in improvements to Mossville's water system, attention to the air quality and effective community engagement practices and environmental accountability.

In December when Sasol, a South African chemical and synthetic fuels company, announced plans to spend \$21 billion to build the first plant to convert natural gas to diesel fuel next door to Mossville, shareholders wrote to the CEO about the potential business risk from poor community engagement procedures. In July, after a series of meetings with investors and the community, Sasol announced a voluntary property purchase program for residents in areas affected by the company's growth plans. "Sasol is committed to listening to community concerns and being a good neighbor and corporate citizen in southwest Louisiana," said Mike Thomas, Sasol VP for US Operations. Negotiations with SASOL on relocation are being coordinated by MEAN.

ICCR members are pleased with Sasol's prompt response and commitment to ensuring environmental justice for the Mossville community. However, the challenge remains, how can we transform corporate policies and practices so that they promote the common good of people and planet and no one is forced to relocate?

### Good News for Children in Poorest Countries Living with HIV

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), the UN-backed public health mechanism created in 2010 with the goal of increasing access to HIV medicines, had only one member, Gilead Sciences, until February 27, 2013. On that date ViiV Healthcare, a joint venture of pharmaceutical giants GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer, granted the MPP a voluntary license for pediatric formulations of abacavir in the 118 countries where most (98.7%) of the children affected by HIV live. Of the 3.4 million children worldwide with HIV only 550,000 have access to medicines.

### Support for Healthcare Reform

Among the five insurance companies that NWCRI and ICCR engage on healthcare reform, Health Net is one that is trying to do the right thing. This Western regional company that offers health benefits to over 6 million in all 50 states has developed a business model that allocates premiums to provider networks thus placing responsibility for managing care on those most able to do so, patient and provider.

This model also reduces administrative costs. The Company wants to demonstrate how the cost curve can be managed and how care should be provided. During our dialogues the Company exhibited an infectious enthusiasm for the challenges of engineering change in the healthcare system.

**I believe this is the next evolutionary leap of our species—how to take our diversity, our personal freedom, and our creativity and use it to create a planetary community where all life can flourish.**

—Margaret Wheatley

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*Mother and child in El Fasher, Sudan*

### Storefront Payday Lenders Come to Main Street

Gone are the days when there were a few storefront lenders in underserved neighborhoods where one could get quick cash for an emergency. Today, according to a Pew Report, there are 20,000 storefront lenders, hundreds of online lenders and mainline banks that offer these short-term, high-interest loans to borrowers in need of money to pay recurring bills, including food, rent and utilities.<sup>1</sup>

This year NWCRI and ICCR members filed shareholder resolutions with Fifth Third, Regions Financial, US Bancorp and Wells Fargo requesting a report on the adequacy of the company's policies in addressing the social and financial impacts of direct deposit advance loans which are repaid automatically and in full out of the customer's next direct deposit. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, the typical user of this product pays 365% APR on a 10-day loan and remains in debt for 175 days a year.

The resolutions were withdrawn when it became evident that the Securities Exchange Commission would rule that they could be omitted as ordinary business. However, our efforts did bring attention to the need for fairness and transparency in regard to payday loans. In April federal regulators took two important steps to rein in abusive payday lending practices.

First, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) issued proposed guidance that requires banks to properly underwrite small loans and establish safeguards to prevent long-term borrowing. Second, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) released a whitepaper on payday lending which confirms that payday lending is problematic and signals the seriousness with which the CFPB views it.

Investors continue to call upon the banks in our portfolios to offer responsible loans to their customers who find themselves in need of cash.

<sup>1</sup>Who Borrows, Where They Borrow, and Why, www.pewstates.org/ July 19, 2013.

### A Study in Contrasts: ICCR & ALEC

The year was 1973. While the newly formed ICCR was hard at work on its number one priority, apartheid in South Africa, a group of legislators gathered in Illinois to form the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) whose priority was to remake America. Forty years later ICCR is a leader of corporate responsibility initiatives designed to promote a more just and sustainable world. And ALEC? A recent report, *ALEC at 40: Turning Back the Clock on Prosperity and Progress*, "identifies hundreds of ALEC 'model' bills introduced in 2013" and details the 40-year history of ALEC with an in-depth look at Stand Your Ground, Voter ID, Lower Wages, For-Profit Education, Undermining Environmental

Regulation and Limiting Corporate Liability.<sup>1</sup>

A shareholder campaign designed to move companies to evaluate the reputational risks of ALEC membership resulted in 50 proposals filed; and the 36 that have come to a vote have averaged 24.6% support. To date, 54 major corporations have left ALEC or

confirmed they were no longer involved; and of these 27 have been engaged by members of our group. This is an impressive number that shows the effectiveness of filing proposals and engaging in dialogues with companies including, Bank of America, Coca-Cola, ConocoPhillips, General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft, Merck, PepsiCo, WellPoint, and Wells Fargo.

Shareholders attending the annual meeting of GEO Group, the number two private prison company, were greeted by students and others protesting the Company's lobbying activities designed to benefit its business. The resolution filed by NWCRI and ICCR members was supported by 32% of shareholders, a significant increase from last year when it received 18% support.

At Johnson & Johnson's 2013 Annual Meeting CEO Alex Gorsky responded to a question about the Company's rationale to leave ALEC: "We as the leadership team and frankly I made the decision that ALEC was no longer consistent with the principles in our Credo and overall stakeholders."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"ALEC at 40: Turning Back the Clock on Prosperity and Progress," *The Center for Media & Democracy*, 2013, www.alecexposed.org

<sup>2</sup>JNJ 2013 Annual Meeting Transcript

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Springfield, MO payday loan protest

**...a society is judged not so much by the standards attained by its more affluent...members as by the quality of life...for its weakest members.**

—Javier Perez de Cuellarv



## 2012-13, NWCRI shareholder activities included dialogues & resolutions\* with the following companies:

| Company                     | Issue  | Action                 |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Abbott                      | Global Health                                    | Dialogue               |
| Alpha Natural Resources     | Water Impacts of Business Operations             | Yr 2 resolution—26.59% |
| Altria Group                | Lobbying Expenditure Disclosure                  | Yr 2 resolution—21.80% |
| Boston Scientific           | Medical Device Affordability & Access            | Dialogue               |
| Campbell Soup               | Access to Nutrition/Water Use                    | Dialogue               |
| Caterpillar                 | Human Rights                                     | Yr 4 resolution—26.81% |
| Chevron                     | Hydraulic Fracturing                             | Yr 3 resolution—30.20% |
| Coca-Cola                   | Water Use  | Dialogue               |
| ConocoPhillips              | Rights of Indigenous People                      | Dialogue               |
| Corrections Corp of America | Human Rights Policy/Private Prisons              | Dialogue               |
| CVS Caremark                | Tobacco Sales                                    | Dialogue               |
| CVS Caremark                | Lobbying Expenditure Disclosure                  | Yr 1 resolution—35.70% |
| Dow Chemical                | Adverse Impacts of GMOs (Herbicides)             | Resolution withdrawn   |
| DuPont                      | Adverse Impacts of GMOs (Herbicides)             | Yr 1 resolution—6%     |
| ExxonMobil                  | Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals                   | Yr 7 resolution—26.70% |
| ExxonMobil                  | Hydraulic Fracturing                             | Yr 4 resolution—30.20% |
| Family Dollar Stores        | PVC Products & Packaging                         | Dialogue               |
| Fifth Third Bancorp         | Payday Lending                                   | Resolution withdrawn   |
| Freeport McMoRan            | ILO Principles & Metrics                         | Dialogue               |
| GEO Group                   | Lobbying Expenditure Disclosure                  | Yr 2 resolution—32.30% |
| GEO Group                   | Human Rights Policy/Private Prisons              | Resolution withdrawn   |
| Gilead Sciences             | Global Health                                    | Dialogue               |
| GlaxoSmithKline             | Global Health                                    | Dialogue               |
| Health Net                  | Healthcare Reform                                | Dialogue               |
| Hershey                     | Global Food Supply Chain/Child Labor             | Dialogue               |
| Home Depot                  | Equal Employment Opportunity                     | Yr 9 resolution—25.96% |
| Hyatt Hotels & Resorts      | Code Protecting Children/Human Trafficking       | Dialogue               |
| Johnson & Johnson           | Global Health / Healthcare Reform                | Dialogue               |
| JP Morgan Chase             | Lobbying Expenditure Disclosure                  | Yr 1 resolution—9.90%  |
| Kraft Food Group            | Label Genetically Engineered Products            | Yr 1 resolution—4.8%   |
| Kroger                      | Human Trafficking & Forced Labor in Supply Chain | Yr 3 resolution—16.33% |
| Lockheed Martin             | Lobbying Expenditure Disclosure                  | Yr 1 resolution—9.70%  |
| McDonald's                  | Access to Nutrition                              | Dialogue               |
| Merck                       | Global Health                                    | Dialogue               |
| Mondelez                    | Global Food Supply Chain/Child Labor             | Dialogue               |
| Monsanto                    | Sustainability Reporting/Water Risk              | Resolution withdrawn   |
| Newmont Mining              | Free, Prior & Informed Consent                   | Dialogue               |
| PepsiCo                     | Label Genetically Engineered Products            | Resolution withdrawn   |
| Pfizer                      | Global Health / Healthcare Reform                | Dialogue               |
| Phillips 66                 | Community Accountability                         | Dialogue               |
| PPG Industries              | Community Accountability                         | Dialogue               |
| Regions Financial           | Payday Lending                                   | Resolution withdrawn   |
| Time Warner                 | R Rating for Movies/TV Depicting Smoking         | Resolution withdrawn   |
| ViiV                        | Global Health                                    | Dialogue               |
| Walgreen                    | Tobacco Sales                                    | Dialogue               |
| Walmart                     | Benefits for Domestic Associates                 | Dialogue               |
| Walmart                     | Global Supply Chain                              | Dialogue               |
| WellPoint                   | Healthcare Reform                                | Dialogue               |
| Wells Fargo                 | Payday Lending                                   | Omitted by SEC         |
| Starwood Hotels & Resorts   | Code Protecting Children/Human Trafficking       | Dialogue               |
| US Bancorp                  | Payday Lending                                   | Resolution withdrawn   |
| Wyndham Hotels & Resorts    | Code Protecting Children/Human Trafficking       | Dialogue               |

\*Includes resolutions filed by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia out of their office.

\*\*A shareholder resolution must meet a threshold of 3% in year one; 6% in year two; 10% in year three.

## Our Mission

The Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment (NWCRI) is a regional collaborative venture of faith-based institutions committed to using their power as investors to shape a more just world. Members use their rights as shareholders to dialogue with companies about corporate policies and practices in order to promote peace and economic, social and environmental justice.

## Our Priorities



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Equity:</b><br/>Access to Nutrition<br/>Predatory Lending</p> | <p><b>Environment:</b><br/>Climate Change<br/>Water</p>   |
| <p><b>Health:</b><br/>Access to Health<br/>HIV/AIDS Pandemic</p>    | <p><b>Corporate Responsibility:</b><br/>Human Rights<br/>Human Trafficking<br/>Supply Chain</p> |
| <p><b>Peace:</b><br/>Violence in Society</p>                        |   |

- Adrian Dominican Sisters
- Benedictine Sisters  
Cottonwood, Idaho
- Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel
- Congrégation des Soeurs des Saints  
Noms de Jésus et de Marie
- Congregation of the  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- Episcopal Diocese of Olympia  
Commission for the Church  
in the World
- Northwest Women Religious  
Investment Trust
- Oregon Province Jesuits
- PeaceHealth
- Providence Health & Services
- Sisters of Providence,  
Mother Joseph Province
- Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon
- Sisters of the Holy Names of  
Jesus & Mary, U.S. Ontario Province
- St. Joseph Family Center
- Tacoma Dominicans

## What Are the Bees Telling Us?

The UN estimates that our current food system fails to provide equitable access to nutrition for one in eight people in the world. Members of ICCR and NWCRI advocate for a just and sustainable food system that nourishes both people and planet now and into the future.

Honey bees are a critical component of our food supply. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), “About one mouthful in three in our diet directly or indirectly benefits from honey bee pollination.” Therefore, bee die-offs, estimated by the USDA to average 33% of the total bee population each year, pose serious threats to our food system and have significant financial implications for food producers.<sup>1</sup>

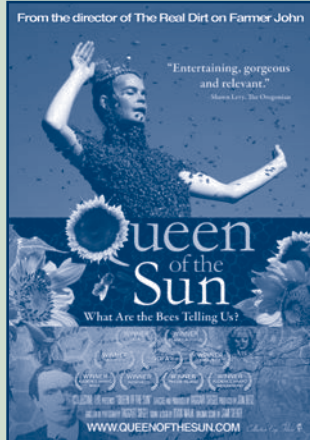
Evidence suggests that one of the leading factors of bee Colony

Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids (neonics). Companies in the United Kingdom are addressing the bee crisis by reducing or eliminating

the pesticides of concern from their supply chains. European Union regulators have banned the use of the suspect pesticide. In August the US Environmental Protection Agency announced that it will require a warning label on pesticides that contain certain neonics.

NWCRI and a coalition of shareholders have written to food producers and retailers and home improvement companies voicing concern about the possible devastating impacts of CCD on the environment and global food supply and requesting dialogue.

<sup>1</sup>“Honey Bees and Colony Collapse Disorder,” *US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, www.ars.usda.gov*



**Action:** View *Queen of the Sun: What the Bees are Telling Us*. Available at IPJC. Visit the Pesticide Action Network to take action. [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)



**NWCRI**  
a program of the

Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center, is a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a national coalition of 300 religious institutional investors working to achieve a social and environmental, as well as a financial return on their investments.

These highlights summarize the work that NWCRI has done in collaboration with ICCR during the past year.

Judy Byron, OP  
Director, NWCRI

**1216 NE 65th Street  
Seattle, WA 98115  
206.223.1138  
ipjc@ipjc.org  
www.ipjc.org**