

## **Introduction**

Mineral extraction is as old as human existence. However, with the industrialisation of the mining sector and the spread of consumerist lifestyles, the scale of social and environmental impacts of mining reached worrying levels. Just as Caiaphas said that “It is better for one man to die for the people than that the whole nation perish” (Jn 11:50), before allowing Jesus to be crucified on the cross, the concept of “sacrifice zones” became popular in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is literally to say that the suffering of some, rather millions of poor communities, for the sake of so-called “economic growth” and “progress”, is perfectly fine. It is an actual crucifixion of local communities affected by the large-scale extraction of minerals and other raw materials. The system seems to say that sustaining a predatory economic system is necessary. This is what Pope Francis denounces on numerous occasions. It is anti-life, and it endangers the Common Home.

The Justice in Mining network, one of the four Global Ignatian Advocacy Networks, brings together Jesuit social centres, NGOs and Universities that promote integral ecology and socio-environmental justice in mining-related contexts. During 2021 and 2022, the network has been identifying those Jesuit entities involved in this field from different perspectives to understand better their work, their context, the challenges faced and the opportunities for networking and advocacy ahead.

This 135th edition of *Promotio Iustitiae*, “Justice in Mining: A Global Review of Challenges of Mining and Extractivism,” aims to compile some of these case studies. It is a continuation and an update of PI-118 of 2015 dedicated to “Governance of mineral resources: challenges and responses”, with a renewed focus on the work carried out by the people and organisations collaborating with the network. The cases to be presented can either be documented cases of Jesuit social centres and organisations - with a long tradition of accompanying communities affected by mining conflicts in the Global South and need to defend their rights; or based on advocacy projects or campaigns related to extractive issues that Jesuit social centres and organisations have carried out in the Global North. It can also incorporate Universities to link research on mining-affected realities with public advocacy.

Ultimately, we are looking for concrete experiences and in-depth reflections that make visible the challenges and efforts made to promote socio-environmental justice and holistic ecology in contexts affected by mining. It can cover different issues/areas:

- Criminalisation of human rights and environmental defenders.
- Environmental and social impacts of mining on the quality of life of communities affected
- Risks of mining for vulnerable groups (women, children and indigenous peoples)
- Artisanal mining, working conditions and labour rights.
- Right to free, prior and informed consent and/or the ‘Right to say No’ to mining.
- Forced displacement of communities due to the expansion of mining projects
- Corporate regulations and mineral supply chains.
- Ethical investment and/or divestment in mining companies
- Campaigns and advocacy actions to change mining policies and laws of countries
- Integral ecology, socio-environmental justice and alternatives to mining extractivism
- Energy transitions and mining

Many other issues can be related to mining and extractivism. Hence, the elements outlined above are only some general guidelines or criteria. We seek to select at least one or two cases from each Jesuit Conference to make visible the global character of the network and, at the same time, to reflect the particularities and challenges that mining imposes in each context. We believe that making visible this diversity of past and present experiences by Jesuit social centres, NGOs and universities can help us identify opportunities to continue networking in the coming years to build other economic models that are more humane, just and sustainable.

### **What do we expect from the authors?**

Keeping the search for justice in mining as a shared horizon, this volume seeks to bring together case studies related to the ten sub-themes outlined in the previous section. We request the authors to write a reflective article based on their knowledge and experience of these cases. They can:

- a) Share their experiences of working in accompanying affected communities on mining;
- b) Present concrete campaigns carried out to raise awareness about the social and environmental impacts of mining and to bring about change.
- c) Reflect on any of the above issues from different perspectives (ethical, moral, cultural, religious, etc.).
- d) propose ways to build bridges, advocacy links and structures for collaboration and networking that can help foster a closer relationship between the organisations in the network.

### **Guidelines for authors**

Font : Times New Roman, size – 12 Line spacing: 1.5  
Number of words : Maximum 2,500  
Referencing style : In-text citations should use the American Psychological Association (APA) referencing style.

The deadline for submission of your articles is **15<sup>th</sup> February 2023**.

Please provide us with your first name, last name, email address and a brief note (25-30 words) about yourself.

#### Please note:

- a) Promotio Iustitiae (PI) is an online publication of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES), General Curia of the Society of Jesus, Rome. It is published in four languages (English, Spanish, French and Italian) and has 5,000 plus subscribers worldwide.
- b) To view past issues of PI, please visit our website: [www.sjesjesuits.global](http://www.sjesjesuits.global). If you need further clarification, please get in touch with the editor at [sjesdir@sjcuria.org](mailto:sjesdir@sjcuria.org) or [justiceinmining@alboan.org](mailto:justiceinmining@alboan.org)
- c) It is a journal of reflection and not research, so please do not focus on providing lots of technical data or quotes to prove your points or ideas. What is helpful is to share experiences and personal and community reflections on the specific topic you have chosen.