

About the GNMR Network

The Global Ignatian Advocacy Network identified governance of natural and mineral resources (GNMR) as one of its five advocacy priorities. This resulted in the establishment of the GNMR Network, the purpose of which is to ensure that issues of equity and sustainability are addressed in the governance of natural resources. The GNMR Network will support and advocate on behalf of local communities affected by mining activities, and will lobby on human rights issues where appropriate.

In recent months, representatives of each Jesuit Conference have been working together to consider how the Jesuit community can best contribute in this field. Together, these representatives make up the Core Group leading the GNMR Network. Those people are:

- Europe: Alicia Alemán
Canada: Kirsti Tasala
- Latin America and Caribbean : Sergio Coronado
- US: Fernando Serrano
- Africa: Ferdinand Muhirirwa
- South Asia : there is currently no Conference representative, but Xavier Jeyeraj's involvement provides a perspective from this region until a Conference representative is appointed
- Asia Pacific : Julie Edwards (CEO of Jesuit Social Services, an Australian social change organization working to build a just society. Julie was appointed the leader of the Core Group last year).

The Core Group has established the following goals for the GNMR Network:

1. Raise awareness among Jesuits, partners and the communities we serve, of the importance of good governance and management of natural and mineral resources and sustainable lifestyles.
2. Build capacity among Jesuits, partners and the communities we serve, to enable them to understand, address and provide leadership in matters regarding the governance of natural and mineral resources.
3. Support and advocate with and for people and communities affected by mining.

Membership of the GNMR Network

The GNMR Network will comprise members from each of the six conferences (Europe, Latin America, Asia Pacific, Africa, South Asia and the US) with an interest in addressing issues of equity and sustainability in the exploitation of natural and mineral resources.

Although the Network will initially comprise those approached on the suggestion of the Social Apostolate Co-ordinators and Core Group members of each Conference, membership is open to others who are interested. There is no limit on the number of members, and membership may fluctuate from time to time.

Role of Members of the GNMR Network

It is envisaged that the Network will play a key role in linking the Core Group with individuals and communities in need of support in relation to GNMR issues. A principal role of Network members will be to:

- share information with the Core Group on GNMR-related matters from their region
(For example, a Network member may bring bring a particular case of inequity in a mining project to the attention of the Core Group, which will then work to assist the affected community);
and
- disseminate relevant information from the Core Group amongst local communities and contacts.

It is anticipated that some Network members may be more active than others, depending on time capacity and expertise. However, all network members are welcome, regardless of the amount of time they are able to commit. What is important is that the Network has the broadest geographic coverage possible to best enable it to achieve its goals.