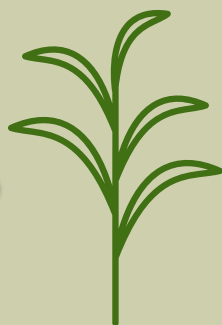


ORCIE Offerings

April 2025, Jubilee Edition



ORCIE is the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology, where Catholic religious are collaboratively increasing their impact on policy change for ecological justice and reconciliation.

WHAT'S NEW?

Exciting News! ORCIE's Website is Live!



We are thrilled to share that the Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE) has launched its brand-new website: <https://orcie.org/>

Explore resources available to you, stay updated on our latest advocacy initiatives, and join us in our collective commitment to ecological justice. Whether you're interested in our advocacy efforts, downloading resources, upcoming events, or opportunities to get involved, you'll find everything you need in one place.

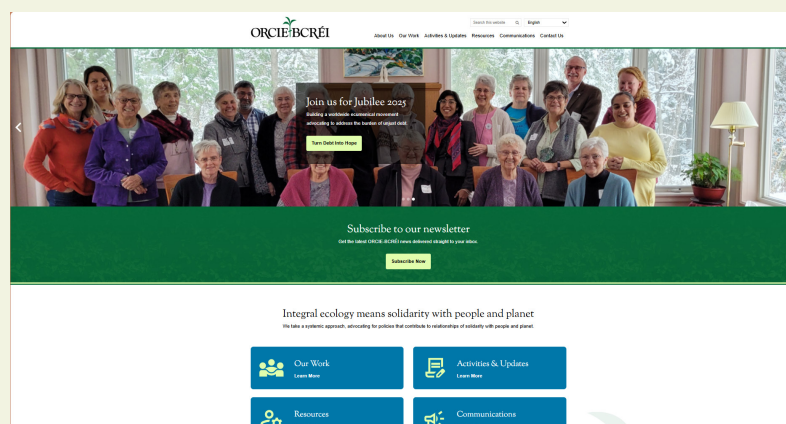
Designed with accessibility in mind, the site features large font options (use Ctrl + on your keyboard to zoom in) and is available in both English and French.

We welcome your contributions, whether it's sharing resources, success stories, written reflections, or ideas for new content. Your feedback on the design, usability, and features helps us grow stronger together.

We're so excited to mark this milestone with you—thank you for being part of it!



Come explore and make it your own:



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IN COALITION



ORCIE Joins the Jubilee 2025 Campaign!

We are mobilizing a worldwide ecumenical movement advocating for systemic change to address global economic inequality and the burden of unjust debt. Join us in the **Jubilee 2025 Turn Debt Into Hope campaign** and be part of a global movement for change.

To bring this international campaign to life in Canada, ORCIE has been working with KAIROS, who is leading the campaign in collaboration with Citizens for Public Justice and Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. The Canadian Council of Churches has been active in developing the campaign and will be inviting its member churches to support it.

Thanks to work with ecumenical partners and debt networks worldwide we have a global petition campaign aiming for **10 million signatures** pushing for financial reform and the urgent cancellation of unfair global debt. Throughout 2025 we will use the petition for advocacy initiatives at strategic moments like the upcoming G7 and G20 meetings, as well as COP30.

“Another heartfelt appeal I would make is directed to the more affluent nations. I ask that they acknowledge the gravity of so many of their past decisions and determine to forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to repay them.”

– Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit*

Why now?

The Jubilee 2000 campaign is often remembered as one of the most successful ecumenical campaigns in Canada, achieving bilateral debt cancellation and contributing to a global campaign that has canceled \$130 billion of debt in 36 countries. The Jubilee year of 2025 brings a renewed opportunity for reflection and action. Today, many countries are spending more money on debt repayments than on healthcare, education or climate action. It is a life and death situation.

Read here the reflections on Jubilee 2000, by Joe Gunn, ORCIE Treasurer: [Jubilee 2000 Memories](#)
– The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology



IN COALITION

Jubilee
2025

Turn Debt
into Hope

TURN
DEBT
INTO
HOPE

ORCIE Joins the Jubilee 2025 Campaign!

Ecological Debt

Calling for financial reform and the urgent cancellation of unfair global debt is only part of the equation. Wealthy countries, including Canada, and corporations exploit resources from heavily indebted countries and from Indigenous communities causing human rights violations and severe ecological harm. This creates an “ecological debt” owed to those countries and to Indigenous peoples.

Together, we can turn debt into hope!

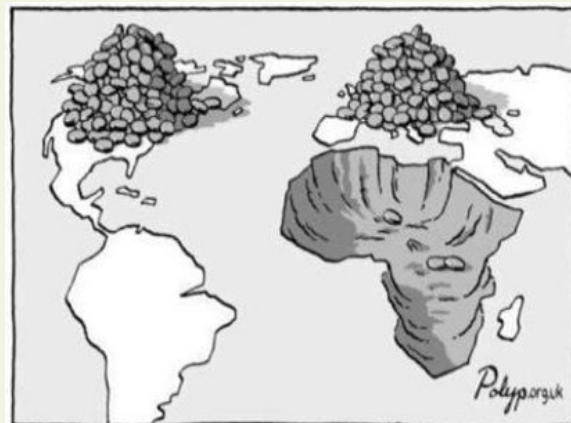
More than 3.3 billion people live in countries that are spending more on debt payments than on health or education, standing in the way of sustainable development. For heavily indebted countries, public debt has grown so large that repayment is impossible, burdening future generations. This can change.

Public, private and multilateral creditors must cancel or reduce debts, and political leaders must support a multilateral framework for debt resolution. This would be a transformative shift for billions of people, moving us from a model focused on profit and enriching creditors to one that prioritizes a just society, centering people and the planet.

ORCIE invites you to sign the petition online here: [Petition - KAIROS Canada](#)

Or **print a paper version** of the petition to use in your communities. (But just sign once!).

Download the PDF here: [Petition_Debt_Jubilee_2025.pdf](#)





RESOURCES

Introducing ORCIE's Positioning Paper "Linking Ecological Debt to Global Financial Exploitation"

Addressing **ecological debt** demands a fundamental rethinking of global power dynamics and our shared responsibility for the planet. Learn more about the concept of ecological debt and its deep connections to global financial exploitation in ORCIE's special in-depth position paper. Link available in our website: [Linking Ecological Debt to Global Financial Exploitation – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology](#)

The paper also highlights Canada's role as a Global North country and outlines ORCIE's contributions to the *Turn Debt into Hope* campaign through:

- Education and awareness-raising
- Advocacy on Parliament Hill
- International climate finance justice
- Promoting an Integral Ecology lens on the economy



We believe people of faith have a moral obligation to challenge financial systems that sustain unjust debt and ecological destruction. We hope this paper sparks reflection, dialogue, and meaningful action in your congregations and communities.

We invite your to read and share the full paper: [Linking Ecological Debt to Global Financial Exploitation](#)

You can access the **executive summary** of the paper here: [Linking Ecological Debt to Global Financial Exploitation – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology](#)

Soon to be available in French and Spanish!

Let's build momentum toward a more just and sustainable world—together!



RESOURCES



Webinar Recap: From Ecological Debt to Ecological Hope

On March 18th, ORCIE hosted an engaging webinar titled **From Ecological Debt to Ecological Hope**, part of our ongoing engagement in the Jubilee 2025 campaign, "Turn Debt into Hope." With 136 registered participants, the event brought together religious leaders from Canada and Brazil to address the urgent need for ecological and financial justice in the Global South.

The webinar's primary intention was to highlight the burden of unjust, unpayable debts faced by many countries and to discuss **how religious communities can amplify their voices within the Jubilee campaign**, especially that of religious in the Global South. The session featured guest speakers from diverse backgrounds:

- Elton Bozzetto, Brazilian journalist
- Sr. Nilva Dal Bello, CSJ Brazil
- Sue Wilson, CSJ Canada
- Sasquia Antúnez Pineda, ORCIE's Advocacy and Communications Officer

The discussions were enriched by interpretation in French, English, and Portuguese.

Key Takeaways:

The speakers shared insights on the urgent need for debt cancellation, with reflections on the Biblical call for social and ecological justice. As Pope Francis stated, "God is the first to forgive debts, as we always ask in the 'Our Father.' The Jubilee calls us to translate this forgiveness into social terms so that no individual, family, or people is crushed by debt." This message was central to the calls to action brought forward during the webinar, including:

- Reigniting the meaning of the Jubilee Year in terms of Biblical social and ecological justice.
- Amplifying the voices of religious and social movements for ecological justice in the Global South.
- Building the ecumenical justice movement in Canada and internationally.
- Gathering 100,000 signatures from Canadians on the Jubilee petition to support debt justice.

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RESOURCES



Webinar Recap: From Ecological Debt to Ecological Hope

During the small group discussions, participants reflected on the following questions:

- *What resonated with you from the presentations?*
- *What ideas do you have for engaging your community in the Jubilee campaign?*
- *How can we share the need for debt cancellation from the perspective of members of religious congregations living in the Global South?*

These discussions were an opportunity for attendees to connect, share insights, and further strengthen the call for justice.

The event marked an important step in building momentum for the Jubilee 2025 campaign and its call for ecological hope. As ORCIE continues to advocate for a just and sustainable future, we look forward to working together with all involved to make a tangible impact.

Missed the Webinar?

Find the links to all resources here:

<https://orcie.org/resources/webinar-from-ecological-debt-to-ecological-hope/>

The video recording will be sent by email to all participants.

Check out excellent resources by our partner organizations – like this faith based reflection, via Development and Peace, and these videos by KAIROS partners. Stay tuned for events and activities as we engage in an experience of Jubilee throughout this coming year and beyond.

Reflections: EN_Faith-based-reflexion_2025.pdf

Videos: Jubilee Videos / Videos Jubilé - KAIROS Canada



RESOURCES



Webinar Recap: From Ecological Debt to Ecological Hope

Darelene O'Leary, sharing her experience from the webinar:

What stood out to you?

As I listened to the speakers on different aspects of ecological and financial debt, including impacts on communities in the Global South, it was clear that the global financial structures behind the debt crisis are the same structures behind the climate and ecological crises facing the planet. These are the economic bodies, systems, and mechanisms that perpetuate a neocolonial and dominant approach to people and the planet. It is essential that the world move toward new models of economic life that respect human dignity, the common good, and flourishing of the earth systems.

It was so important to hear the speakers from Brazil remind us about the impacts of financial and ecological debt on communities. The injustice is so clear when you hear about toxins in women's and babies' bodies as some of the direct impacts of these destructive systems of domination. Hearing from Sr. Nilva really spoke to the power that religious congregations have as witnesses and as strong voices for justice and solidarity.

How do we move forward from here?

I was struck by what I heard in our small group conversations that really said to me that religious congregations in Canada are still in the struggle for justice, peace, and living in interconnectedness with creation, in spite of the slow progress being made over the years. I think there is a unique shared voice that is powerful and that we have a chance to amplify.

The ORCIE webinar felt like a continuation of the efforts of the Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish, in their long-time advocacy for regulation and oversight of extractive industries. I'll continue to work with the Marthas on local and global efforts for accountability and industry regulation, particularly in light of Canada's commitment to Indigenous rights and sovereignty.

This was very motivating!

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TAKE ACTION



ORCIE Presents Position Paper and Gathers Support for Jubilee 2025 Petition at St. Paul University Eco-Fair

On March 25th and 26th, **ORCIE participated in the St. Paul University's Eco Week**, with inspiring events that brought together students, faculty, and organizations committed to sustainability. The week began with an ORCIE sponsored event - a screening of Princess Mononoke, followed by a thought-provoking panel discussion that drew connections between the film's themes and today's ecological and socio-political challenges.

ORCIE's Executive Director, Genevieve Gallant, and Advocacy and Communications Officer, Sasquia Antúñez Pineda, collaborated with Le Centre Oblate's Executive Director, Tara Hurford, offering support and encouragement to the student organizers. ORCIE was honored to support the fair's success and encourage student leadership.

During the fair, Sasquia represented ORCIE on the panel **"Future Leaders of Sustainability: Organizations Making an Impact"**, presenting ORCIE's position paper titled **"Linking Ecological Debt to Global Financial Exploitation"**. This presentation highlighted ORCIE's advocacy within the Jubilee 2025 campaign, focused on the topic of ecological debt, and emphasized the urgent need for debt cancellation of low-income countries and ecological justice.

In addition to the panel, ORCIE hosted a booth where attendees were invited to learn more about the Jubilee campaign and sign the petition calling for global financial and ecological debt justice. The event fostered valuable conversations, raising awareness about ORCIE's mission and ongoing advocacy efforts. The fair also offered a valuable opportunity for ORCIE to connect and build relationships with local organizations in Ottawa committed to environmental and peace initiatives.

We are grateful to St. Paul University for hosting this impactful event and to all those who engaged with ORCIE's work. ORCIE celebrates the initiative of SPU students in bringing this event to life, demonstrating their spirit and dedication to sustainability.

Together, we continue to build momentum for the Jubilee 2025 campaign —calling for a future rooted in justice and sustainability!





STORIES



Introducing the Jubilee 2025 Project: Amplifying Voices from the Global South

We believe that our advocacy efforts in the Jubilee campaign will be strengthened with first-hand accounts and personal stories by people the most affected by ecological and financial debt in the Global South. In light of this reality, ORCIE is working on preparing an action plan to incorporate narratives and insights from members of religious communities in the Global South into our political advocacy efforts. This will help create momentum within the federal government of Canada to pay our fair share toward adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage funds in the Global South. Perspectives from the Global South are critical for raising awareness in Canada and generating the political will necessary for a more robust response to climate change.

To date we have received submissions from Religious in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and India. **Please see the stories here:** Jubilee 2025 Project: [Voices from the Global South – The Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology](#)

What's next?

We plan to share widely the conclusions drawn from this initiative. **Do you have connections with Religious in other countries who are also concerned about climate action and debt cancellation? Let's work together to share their message! Contact Sasquia at: sapineda@orcie.org**

In the Spirit of Jubilee, we can be tangible signs of hope!

- By being involved in the efforts of ORCIE and other faith based organisations.
- By making tangible decisions in our own life as to how we are impacting people in the Global South.

"If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry." (Spes Non Confundit, 16)





WHO IS ORCIE?

- Congrégation des Filles de Jésus, Région Canada
- Congregation Notre Dame, Visitation Province
- Congregation of Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
- Jesuits of Canada
- Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Presentation Sisters
- Soeurs franciscaines missionnaires de l'Immaculée-Conception
- Sisters Faithful Companion of Jesus
- Sisters of Charity, Halifax
- Sisters of Holy Cross
- Sisters of Mercy Sisters of our Lady of the Missions
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Canada
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto
- Sisters of St. Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie
- Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish
- Sisters of St. Martha, Charlottetown
- Society of the Sacred Heart

JOIN US!



ORCIE invites religious congregations who are interested in joining to reach out to:

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Email: GGallant@orcie.org

Sasquia Antúnez Pineda,
ORCIE Researcher
Tel. 647-782-8068
Email: sapineda@orcie.org

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ORCIE  **BCRÉI**