

A young woman with long, dark, wavy hair is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. She is holding a wooden flagpole with both hands, and a flag with green and white horizontal stripes is visible above her head. The background is a light-colored, textured wall.

trōcaire

**THE
ROMERO
FUND**

A SPECIAL
FUND
TO SUPPORT
THOSE WHO
SUFFER
SERIOUS
HUMAN
RIGHTS
ABUSES

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AND POVERTY

St. Oscar Romero advocated that Christ is found in people living in poverty and reminded us that it is the poor who are destined to inherit the earth, not the rich, the influential or the powerful.

Trócaire's Romero Fund continues the vision of St. Oscar Romero to defend the rights of the poor and call out the injustices that plague them. Poverty is a human rights issue and so as an agency of the Catholic Church, passionate about both ending poverty and defending human rights, we want to respond effectively where we see violations of human rights and extreme poverty. Guatemala, South Sudan, Palestine and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the focus of this fund. In these countries we are working hard to provide immediate relief and protection against human rights violations and support people as they campaign for their rights.

We launched this fund in 2017 with the goal to provide funding in situations where serious human rights abuses are occurring. Covid-19 has added greater complexity to our responses in these countries and greater potential for human rights abuses. Already we have witnessed how Covid restrictions are being misused to imprison human rights defenders without charge or trial and to cut off their access to the communities they defend.

Thanks to your support to date we have been able to challenge these injustices. But we want to do more. As we extend this fund for an additional three years, please consider how you can stand with us.

Caoimhe de Barra
CEO Trócaire



THE ROMERO COUNTRIES



TRÓCAIRE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Trócaire was set up nearly 50 ago as a means for Irish people to help those in severe need in some of the poorest countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and the Middle East.

At the heart of our work is the belief that every woman, man and child is equal. We are all born in God's image with the right to a dignified life, free from injustice.

Poverty is more than the absence of material goods, it is the absence of opportunity, a lack of power, a lack of voice and a lack of control over one's life.

Trócaire works with people whose human rights are denied, and who live in fear of those in power.

Trócaire challenges this power imbalance.

Our approach involves supporting local organisations to engage those in power. To address structural issues that drive inequality, undermine rights and accountability.

With your support, we can empower women and men to challenge unjust power structures. To claim their rights. To stand together and fight for justice and equality.

IN HIS NAME...

“Aspire not to have more but to be more.”

Oscar Romero

St. Oscar Romero became the voice of oppressed people through his powerful work for justice during El Salvador's civil war. He was a friend of Trócaire and the organisation is proud to have supported his brave work, for which he paid the ultimate price when he was assassinated in 1980.

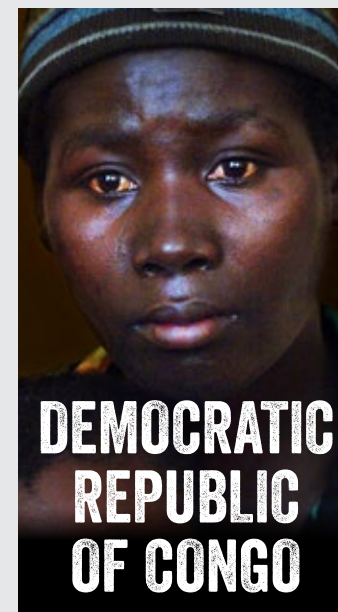
Trócaire aims to continue the vision of this outspoken champion of the poor – for people to live in dignity, to feed themselves and their families and live without fear.

We **URGENTLY** need funds to not only continue our work in these countries, but to grow our projects and reach even more people.



SOUTH SUDAN

Your gift can help promote peacebuilding and reconciliation and help families who survived terrible violence to start farming again.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

One of the most disturbing impacts of war is the use of sexual violence against women.

With your help we can provide life-saving aid and protect women from gender-based violence.



GUATEMALA

You can help support the indigenous Mayan people to access their political, social and economic rights.



PALESTINE

Your gift can provide medical and psychological care to families who experienced trauma during the violent conflict and support organisations working for peace.

IMPACT TO DATE

SINCE THE ROMERO FUND BEGAN, THIS IS JUST SOME OF THE TRANSFORMATION MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

SOUTH SUDAN

5,341 households disrupted by the conflict have received emergency food.

300 women's groups have received seeds and tools for farming.

10 villages have had boreholes rehabilitated to provide safe water.



DRC

30,000 women supported to increase their voice and influence in decision-making at family, community and national level.

1,200 solar lamps were provided to vulnerable groups. These lamps are used by women attending health facilities to give birth at night, so they can light their way safely and avoid snakebites.



GUATEMALA

15,000 Human Rights Defenders were supported to access justice, assert their rights and protect themselves. 51 emblematic cases had favourable sentences ensuring justice for many survivors of rights abuses.

2,308 people from indigenous and campesino communities who were under threat were protected.



PALESTINE

13,000 human rights defenders were assisted.

1,063 Palestinians were supported to continue living in their homes in the West Bank due to the temporary suspension of demolition orders.

3,000 people were supported to live free from gender based violence.



WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN DO MORE

With your support, we want to extend the Romero Fund for an additional three years to strengthen our work.

We want to respond to increased human rights abuses that impact the poor and strip them of their right to dignity. We can only do this with your help.

Please consider how you can support this fund over the next three years and help us to do more.



Photo: Sister Bridget Tighe from Sligo providing health care for vulnerable Palestinians in Gaza. Photo: John McColgan.



Trócaire is delighted to have John McColgan as ambassador for the Romero Fund. John, best known as co-creator of Riverdance, also has a keen interest in human rights issues across the world. John travelled to Palestine and Guatemala with Trócaire and met communities who continue to suffer severe human right violations. He saw first-hand what Trócaire is doing to help them.

Through John's powerful advocacy and commitment to fundraising, the awful plight of affected people in the four Romero countries has been highlighted to many new audiences across Ireland.

THE ROMERO FUND | WHAT YOUR SUPPORT CAN DO

€5,000

Will provide treatment for 270 children in Gaza with intestinal parasitic infections, as well as providing hygiene kits and nutritional education for parents.

€10,000

Will provide legal advice and psychosocial support to 30 Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala who have been attacked because of the work they do.

€20,000

Will provide 1,400 farming toolkits in South Sudan, which includes seeds, plants, hoes, rakes and watering cans.

€50,000

Will build 14 wells or water sources in DRC, reducing travel time and risk for women and children fetching water.

PLEDGED GIVING

Many of our supporters have chosen to pledge their giving over a number of years. This is very beneficial to Trócaire as typically our programmes are set out over 3-5 year time periods. Pledged giving allows us to better plan the work we do on individual projects.

TAX EFFICIENT GIVING

Make your gift go even further with Tax Efficient Giving.

In the Republic of Ireland, we can claim an additional **44.9%** of your gift from Revenue if you are a taxpayer. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim an additional **25%** on your gift through GiftAid

In the case of corporate donations, companies can claim a deduction for their donation as if it were a trading expense.

CAN YOU HELP? PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY...

Contact Susan Kirk / Niamh Dockery at:

Trócaire, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 NX63, IRELAND.

Tel: +353 1 629 33 33

Email: susan.kirk@trocaire.org / niamh.dockery@trocaire.org

www.trocaire.org

