



Introduction to

Ignatian Advocacy

JCAP Ecology – Reconciliation with Creation Network

26 August | 2pm Manila | 60 minutes

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Secretariat (SJES)

Where we are going

1

What is advocacy – and why does it matter?

And why are we well placed to do it

2

It is not new for us

Ignatius, and how we got here

3

What makes our advocacy Ignatian?

A process, a tool, an approach

4

What it looks like now

A global campaign, with Daniela

First, the word: **ADVOCACY**

Advocacy: working to change the rules, not only to help the person in front of us.

There's not a clean translation from English to some other languages - the SJES uses the word 'advocacy' in French, Spanish and Italian language editions

It is not the same as lobbying. **Lobbying** is the direct conversation with decision makers. Advocacy includes everything that makes that conversation possible.

We are unusually well placed

Presence

One of the most widespread grassroots organisations in the world, in daily contact with poor and marginalised people.

Knowledge

One of the largest pools of research capacity anywhere. Universities, social centres, institutes.

Access

Contact with a great many people in decision-making positions.

Three great assets. Mostly disconnected from each other.

We should aim to join them up more – locally, regionally, globally – for greater impact.

The Global Ignatian Advocacy Network (GIAN) was created to do this - to address global problems.

1

This is not new for us

Advocacy did not arrive in the 21st century.

Ignatius. Azpeitia, 1535

He returned to his hometown, where he had spent his youth brawling and gambling.

He did not stay at the family castle.

He lived at the poor hospital and the leprosarium for the poor.

Proximity first.

Then address structure.

From there he lobbied the town magistrates to outlaw gambling, which was ruining poor families.

Then a rediscovery

1975

GC32: the service of faith and the promotion of justice – including addressing structural injustice

2008

GC35 explicitly names importance of advocacy; elevates ‘reconciliation’ - with God, others, creation; call to pursue new economic and social paradigms; elevates role of Conferences – as decision-making and planning structures.

2008

El Escorial. 45 people, 22 countries, 19 real examples

2010

The Global Ignatian Advocacy Network

Ecology and the Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources (now Justice in Mining) were among the first themes chosen.

On the importance of advocacy and the political dimension

“...all Jesuit works should work together on 'universal causes'... Advocacy has not been, is not, and will not be easy. To achieve results in this field, it is necessary to work more closely together (and I am referring again to the participation of all Jesuit works), collaborating with many other organizations and projects, ecclesial or not, that seek to create the social and political conditions of greater dignity for all, of justice and reconciliation between men and women and peoples.”

Fr Sosa SJ, 2025

Pause

**What is one thing your work already changes,
beyond the person in front of you?**

Two minutes. Make a note, or put it in the chat.

2

What makes it Ignatian

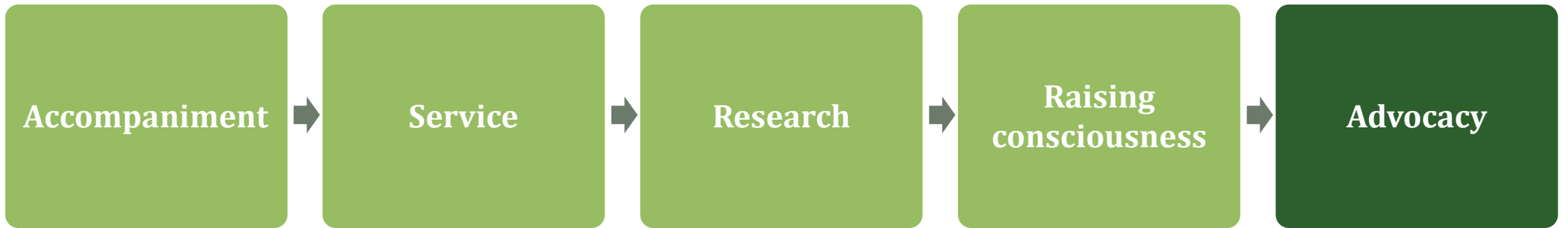
A working definition of ADVOCACY

An organised process to change the policies, practices, ideas and values that keep inequality, prejudice and exclusion in place.

Policies and practices. But also ideas and values.

It builds the capacity of those most affected as decision makers, as advocates - it does not speak over them. It builds more accountable and equitable institutions of power.

Five parts of one process



It begins with encounter. That is the spiritual source of everything after it.

Not five options to choose from. Five parts of one movement.

Five parts of one process



If institutions ignore research, consciousness-raising and advocacy, they are giving up on structural transformation

Therefore they are giving up on the promotion of justice.

Patxi Alvarez SJ, Serving the Poor, Promoting Justice, 2023

Five parts of one process



Your own work may sit in one part, or two – not all five. That is normal.

The obligation is not on **you** to do all five. It is on **our institutions** not to treat the last three as optional.

Patxi Alvarez SJ, Serving the Poor, Promoting Justice, 2023

Why this needs collaboration and networks

Accompaniment and service can be done alone. The last three steps cannot.

Our research, sensitisation and advocacy have more impact when we collaborate and work in networks – coordinating objectives and resources, agreeing on agendas, and keeping an open outlook.

Advocacy is already being done at all levels - locally, regionally, globally. But we can do more.

When a network works well, it enriches local work and reorients it towards structural aims.

Work carried out as a group gains new meaning.

Patxi Alvarez SJ, *Serving the Poor, Promoting Justice*, 2023

What makes it Ignatian

- In solidarity with the poorest and most marginalised
- Intellectually rigorous and competent
- Loving and world affirming
- Discerning (contemplative in action)
- In the church for the world
- Open to partnership with others and practised in a communitarian environment
- Adaptable, creative and responsive
- Always seeking to be of greater service

What this rules out

- Slogans alone. Condemnation may mobilise, but it is not yet advocacy.
- Speaking for people we are not close to. The aim is to accompany them as they make their own case.
- Being against a group rather than for a right relationship.
- Treating ourselves as outside the injustice. We are all inside it, and we may gain from it.

"In justice work there are no catalysts." Nobody changes others without being changed.

What does it look like? Both a process and a tool for justice.

A combination of some of the following strategic activities:

- **Research** and documentation - including of **lived experience**
- Defining and promoting **public policies** based on critical analysis and discernment
- **Awareness raising** through education, community mobilisation or organising
- **Communication** and **media work** with proposals for change
- **Networking** and **alliance building** with people, organisations, civil society
- Developing **relationships** with key **decision makers**
- Creating opportunities for **direct interaction** between affected people and power holders
- **Influencing** companies, politicians and public opinion through **direct action** regarding concrete challenges
- Promoting and encouraging **capacity building for advocacy** at different levels

What to listen for next

Daniela will provide an example of a Jesuit global campaign regarding a global problem.

Listen for this approach:

- **Solidarity with the poorest and most marginalised**
- **Intellectually rigorous**
- **Loving and world affirming**
- **Discerning**
- **In the church for the world**
- **Open to partnership with others**
- **Adaptable, creative and responsive**
- **Always seeking to be of greater service**

Where do you hear them? Put it in the chat as she speaks.

3

Advocacy right now

Daniela Alba

Advocacy Coordinator, Jesuits for Climate Justice

One question to take away

In the five-part process, where does your work sit?

Who is doing the other steps?

Are you connected to them?

Thank you.