

4. Faith Communities

In such a world all people are equal and free and we agree that organizing allies and **faith communities** support immigrant rights. In our school we work with others to promote justice, peace and care and we work openly and in community to uphold fundamental human rights. Religious leaders and communities of faith have the moral authority and the responsibility to work together, in a spirit of multi-faith collaboration, to promote and protect the inviolable dignity of women and girls. People of faith have a unique and unparalleled potential, as moral and spiritual leaders, to be powerful agents of prevention, education and advocacy to end violence against women. We share a conviction of the fundamental unity of the human family, and the equality and dignity of all human beings. We affirm the sacredness of the individual person and the importance of his or her freedom of conscience. Today, faith communities continue to be an indispensable partner in UNICEF's work to advance children's rights and enhance their well-being. Such partnerships are especially important in our renewed focus on reaching the poorest, most vulnerable and hardest to reach children and families. Religious communities may also join together in formal or informal networks and platforms that go beyond their own faith tradition. These inter-religious mechanisms leverage the social, spiritual, moral and other assets of different religious communities to align around common problems and accomplish positive change by harnessing their collective and complementary strengths. Our school participates in several community initiatives to help poor people. The instinct to care for children comes from deep within the teachings and spiritual vision of all religious traditions, which motivates people of faith to make the commitment to take practical actions for children. Every year there is a day in which we collect a number of savings and food for the poor. Then we organize another day in cooperation with the oratory of our church to gather all the clothes for poor people because students must learn not only religion but also important lessons about morals, social behavior and their own value as human beings. In every setting, religious communities provide care and support for their members, particularly the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. They often prioritize the educational needs of vulnerable children and assist with shelter and access to needed services, including medical and legal support. They provide counseling and spiritual guidance and speak out on behalf of those who are powerless to advocate for themselves. They can be powerful allies in protecting the most vulnerable children. The foundational principles of all the major faith traditions are love, compassion, respect for the dignity of all persons and charity for the less fortunate and this is the aim of our school.