

### **Why is the Columban Centre for Peace Ecology and Justice involved?**

The St Columban's Mission Society is dedicated world-wide to the eradication of poverty and Third World Debt. The Columbans specifically approach their work from the standpoint of solidarity with the poor and the integrity of creation. We believe that the Church in our time must challenge the scandal of structural poverty (poverty caused by the way governments and institutions function) and spiraling violence. We believe that such challenges are basic to what the Gospel demands of Christians and that this concern for justice, peace and the integrity of creation is central to our missionary work.

### **The United Nations Millennium Goals aim to halve absolute poverty by 2015.**

**Goal 8** of the Millennium Goals states: Develop a global partnership for development – part of this goal advocates: "Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems..." <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/goals.html>

The PEJ Centre as part of the Columban Mission Institute, along with the Columban Mission Centre, supports the Make Poverty History Campaign [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org) which focuses on the issues of Trade, Aid and Debt to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The campaign has been instrumental in having the debt of some countries cancelled, and in getting the debt issue on the agenda of international planning. <http://www.eurodad.org/default.aspx> In the struggle against poor country debt the PEJ aims to increase awareness of this vital issue and to urge more people, especially Christians to get involved in the Debt Campaign.  
[http://www.columban.org/jpic/economic\\_justice.html](http://www.columban.org/jpic/economic_justice.html)  
<http://www.columban.com/jandp.htm>  
<http://www.columbans.co.uk/>  
<http://www.columbanmission.net/jpicuptinglife.html>