

Ethical Framework for Mary Aikenhead Ministries

Introductory Statement

The permanent principles of the Church's social doctrine ... are: the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. These principles, the expression of the whole truth about the human person known by reason and faith, are born of "the encounter of the Gospel message and of its demands summarised in the supreme commandment of love of God and neighbour in justice with the problems emanating from the life of society".

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, par.160

The Four Permanent Principles

The Dignity of the Human Person

God has imprinted his own image and likeness on man (cf. Gen 1:26), conferring upon him an incomparable dignity... In effect, beyond the rights which man acquires by his own work, there exist rights which do not correspond to any work he performs, but which flow from his essential dignity as a person.

John Paul II, Centesimus Annus, 1991, #11

The Common Good

It grows increasingly true that the obligations of justice and love are fulfilled only if each person, contributing to the common good, according to his own abilities and the needs of others, also promotes and assists the public and private institutions dedicated to bettering the conditions of human life.

Gaudium et Spes, 1965, #30

Subsidiarity

Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organisations can do.

Pius XI, Quadragesimo Anno, 1931, #79

Solidarity

Solidarity is undoubtedly a Christian virtue... In the light of faith, solidarity seeks to go beyond itself, to take on the specifically Christian dimension of total gratuity, forgiveness and reconciliation. One's neighbour is then not only a human being with his or her own rights and a fundamental equality with everyone else, but becomes the living image of God the Father, redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and placed under the permanent action of the Holy Spirit.

John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 1987 #40

Ethical Framework

This is an ethical framework, rather than a complete code of ethics. It is meant to be used in conjunction with other relevant documents, including the Theological Statement of *Mary Aikenhead Ministries*, the Leadership Framework for Mary Aikenhead Ministries and relevant canon, civil law and the teachings of moral theology.

The Ethical Framework is a public statement of what the works of *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* stand for and what the wider community can expect of these Catholic services.

Purpose of Ethical Framework

In faithfulness to the Gospel, the social doctrine of the Church and its moral teaching, the Ethical Framework for *Mary Aikenhead Ministries* will:

- provide a guide for the behaviour and decision making of all persons in *Mary Aikenhead Ministries*
- facilitate a prophetic stance against policies, positions and practices contrary to the vision and values of *Mary Aikenhead Ministries*
- encourage an organisational culture which expresses the vision and values of *Mary Aikenhead Ministries*.

Ethical Framework for *Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

Human Dignity

- Recognises the dignity of each individual human person as inviolable
- Brings with it natural rights and duties
- Promotes the human rights especially of those who: lack services, lack access to services, cannot participate or are refused the opportunity to participate in significant national, state and/or community activities and discussions
- Ensures that every person, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalised, has reasonable access to more than just the basic necessities of life.

The Common Good

- Actively seeks conditions that enhance the good of all
- Requires that the poor, the marginalised and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their holistic growth should be the focus of particular concern
- Ensures a response to injustice at local and global levels and a commitment to working for a more just society and a more humane world
- Takes the issue of poverty beyond charitable acts and into the questioning and challenging of social values and structures
- Demonstrates responsible stewardship in the quality and professionalism of individual and collective work
- Fosters collaboration rather than hierarchical management, ensuring a cohesive engagement of all involved
- Contributes to the achievement of a quality common life together
- Takes responsibility for caring for the environment.

Subsidiarity

- Enables participation of and among those who make up the organisation
- Fosters life within the organisation, without undue social control and unwarranted interference
- Ensures participation in decision making processes affecting personal and organisational life
- Promotes decision making that is empowering of those involved and affected in the process
- Ensures that decision-making processes include consultation with those who will be most affected by them.

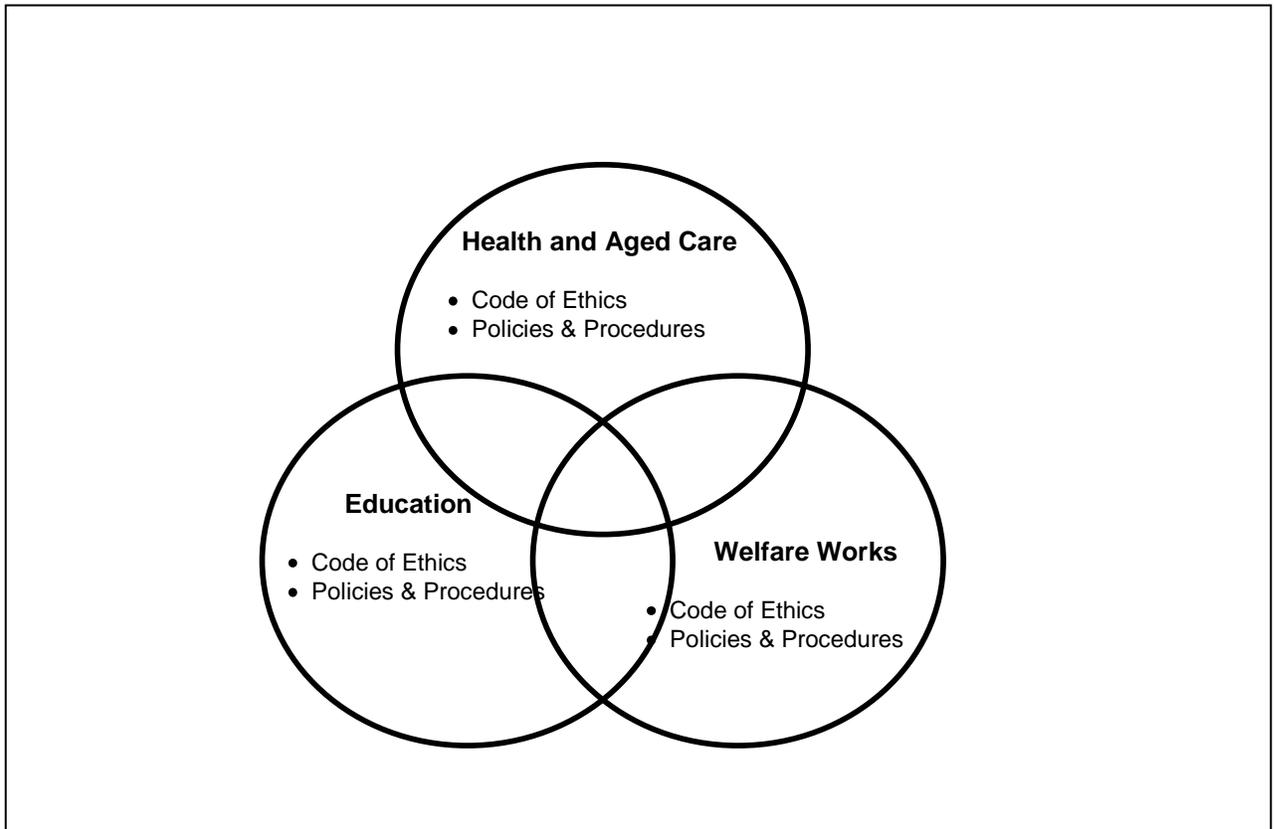
Solidarity

- Acknowledges that our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, cultural, economic and ideological differences
- Respects and promotes personal, social, economic, cultural and political rights
- Presents a spiritual and material solidarity with all people, especially those who are marginalised, vulnerable or distressed, giving priority to those in greatest need.

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Human Dignity

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The Common Good