

Global climate change is impacting people and the environment in many ways. Here are some examples that directly connect to the Sisters of Mercy's Critical Concerns.



#### **IMMIGRATION**

- Rising sea levels are forcing communities in some coastal areas and on some small island nations to plan for mass relocation.
- Those dependent on dwindling tourism and fishing economies are beginning to seek work elsewhere.
- Desertification is pushing families into urban areas and, in some instances. into refugee camps.



- Key systems, such as the ocean (acidification, temperature), the North and South poles and the jet stream are being modified by CO2 and warming.
- Seasons shift, temperatures climb and sea levels rise leaving people, wildlife, agriculture, water supplies, forests and ecosystems vulnerable.



# **RACISM**

- Low-income communities of color in urban areas often have less access to relief from excessive heat and freezing temperatures.
- Marginalized racial and ethnic groups already are disproportionately impacted by toxic dumping and the siting of landfills and polluting industries.

# Impact of Climate Change

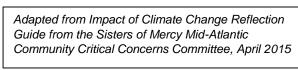
### WOMEN

- In rural and developing countries women are primary caregivers and small-scale farmers. Climate change challenges access to water and affects crop yield, increasing pressure to feed their families.
- Limited access to resources hinders women's ability to clothe and care for their families, sometimes increasing hunger and inability to continue schooling.

- Migration contributes to ethnic conflicts and wars.
- Drought and high temperatures have been linked to increases in domestic violence and assault.

**NONVIOLENCE** 

Reduced food production contributes to land disputes and struggles over diminishing resources.







# **LEARN MORE**

#### Earth

- NASA explores effects of climate change on regions of the United States
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explains the impact of climate change on oceans

# **Immigration**

- The United Nation's refugee agency explores concerns about climate change
- The United Nation's refugee agency explores global impact of climate change
- National Geographic details examples of climate change-related immigration

# **Nonviolence**

- Studies link rising temperatures to increase in violence
- Researchers say climate change-induced drought in Syria contributed to unrest
- Climate change is perceived as a security threat in Africa, where conflicts are arising over cultivated land and other natural resources.

# **Racism**

- A clean-energy advocate explains why African-Americans need to care about climate change
- Researchers discover that non-whites are more likely to suffer from extreme heat in the U.S.

## Women

• A United Nations project to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women has developed a fact sheet on the particular impact of climate change on women and the role that women have in mitigation and adaptation in their communities.