

Awakening to a New Consciousness

*Listening to the Cry of Earth
and the Cry of the Poor*

Mercy's Theological Reflection Process



Session Four | Facilitator's Guide

January 2022

Deep Reflecting: Engaging Social Analysis

Goals:

- To use tools of social analysis to unpack the systemic injustices that are part of extractivism.
- To more deeply understand the intersection of the Mercy Critical Concerns and extractivism.

PREPARATION FOR THIS SESSION

Using the *Call to a New Consciousness: Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor* webpage, participants will have completed the following before the start of the session:

1. **READ** — Participants will read [Overview of Session Four: Social Analysis](#). This overview will describe how the movement to engaging social analysis during deep reflecting means that we must ask questions to understand who, where and why the decisions are made that impact people, communities and Earth.

[journaling] Points to consider for the overview and sample questions:

- Calling to mind the videos watched and stories heard, participants are asked to note where they might go to learn more information to answer some of these questions. To what sources would they turn to ensure that BIPOC, communities of the global south and Earth are central to our understanding?
- How we can continue to engage the questions listed in the [theological lenses](#) discussed in Session 3, Deep Reflecting.

2. [videos] **WATCH** — Participants will watch the following videos in the order provided below. After each video, they should spend some time in quiet reflection and consideration of the following questions:
 - a. [Extractivism in Honduras, The Struggle for Life: An Interview with Mercy Associate Nelly Del Cid](#) (13:06)
 - b. [Extractivism in Honduras, Empty Promises: An Interview with Mercy Associate Nelly Del Cid](#) (11:58)
 - c. [Extractivism in Honduras-, And Women Rise Up: An Interview with Mercy Associate, Nelly Del Cid](#) (9:49)
 - d. [Intersectionality: Extractivism Impacts Mercy's Critical Concerns](#) (6:06)

[journaling]

- What did I learn from examples shared?
- How do I watch this differently, knowing the [theological lenses](#) we have explored and discussed?
- Where did I see the intersection with Mercy's Critical Concerns in the videos?
- *What questions did these videos raise for me about where power and decision-making occur?*
- *Where would I turn to learn more about the situations described centered in the experience of people, communities and Earth?*

3. [reading] **READ** — Participants are asked to read [Extractivism's intersection with Mercy's Critical Concerns](#) and in doing so, will spend time reading and reflecting on these explanations and examples of where the impact of extractivism is seen in the intersection with the Critical Concerns of Mercy. These examples develop the Mercy lens further and show explicitly how the destructive nature of the Extractive Development Model intersects with all of the Critical Concerns. After reading this information, participants should spend time in reflection on the following questions:

[journaling]

- What new information did you learn from this document? Were there examples shared that you were not aware of?
- How does this exploration of this intersection help you to frame Mercy's current and future engagement with extractivism?

4. [reading] **READ** — Sister Terri Bednarz's reflection [Extractivism in My Own Backyard](#).

[journaling] Consider your own experience and write down what resonated with you from her reflection.

LARGE GROUP SESSION OVERVIEW

1. Imaginative prayer
2. Show [video](#).
3. Discussion of following points (shared for context for facilitators to understand what is being discussed not for action):
 - a. Still not in decision-making mode but moving into critical thinking about where the power exists and why.

- b. Moving from examples of extractive industries to an Extractive Development Model. What does that mean, and how should that frame our thinking now and as we move into session five?
- c. Significant preparation was required for this session, but not all will be directly brought into the small group discussion. It lays the foundation and the springboard to change or more fully develop our individual and collective ability to do social analysis around extractivism, using the conversation we have had to date and our theological lenses.

SESSION 4 — FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

In this session, you will facilitate an analysis of the Extractive Development Model and its intersection with the Mercy Critical Concerns. The participants will have spent time considering how the Extractive Development Model shapes and influences our way of living (social, communal, political, economic, etc.). The conversation will be grounded in a video interview featuring Mercy Associate Nelly del Cid who shares the impact of the Extractive Development Model on her country, Honduras. The length of this session will be no more than 90 minutes.

While there will be an opportunity to share reactions and learnings from the preparatory materials, the small group conversation will instead ask participants to apply all they have read, watched and learned to date and engage in conversation that still speaks from the whole person and centers on the people, communities and Earth impacted by extractivism.

As usual, this session will occur on Zoom and start with a large group gathering. The large group gathering will last approximately 15 minutes and will consist of the following:

- Welcome
- Imaginative prayer
- Content/teaching around social analysis
- An invitation to move into smaller assigned groups

Participants will not return to the large group. As the facilitator, you will conclude the session when it is complete, no longer than 90 minutes.

Key points to this conversation:

As the facilitator, you are called to be attentive, so that all participants can actively participate and continue to recalibrate the conversation to be centered in the experiences of people, communities and Earth. In this session, consider how to use the questions of social analysis shared here to encourage participants to continue to ask questions and peel back the decisions and decision-making around extractivism. We are moving from listening to reflecting and questioning, and this is the priming to ultimately understand what is ours as Mercy to do — individually, as a community and corporately.

Facilitators should review the information around [Contemplative Dialogue](#), enter into this conversation with that framing and continue to revisit it as necessary through the conversation.

After the participants move into their smaller assigned groups, you will guide your group through the content outlined below. You will gauge when the group's energy is ready to wrap up the session, between 60 and 90 minutes. An overview of the facilitated part of this session consists of the following:

- Check-in from participants
- Discussion of content
 - Initial sharing from preparatory work
 - Photo reflection
- Identifying what has emerged
- Preparation for the next session
 - Review of resources (to go deeper)
 - Sharing of individual work/homework

The following hyperlinks and explanations in the guide below will help you navigate any materials for this session. Facilitators may, of course, use their own approach to the guide.

1. The facilitator invites the small group participants to introduce new participants and to check in.
 - a. **Facilitator:** (If there are any new participants in the group invite them to share their names, where they live and what has drawn them here.)
 - b. **Facilitator:** Let's begin with a check-in.
 - i. Using no more than one brief sentence, describe what you have continued to sit with since we last gathered in November, perhaps a feeling, an insight, a thought or action.

- ii. Share what sat with you from the prayer— was there an image, an interaction, a smell or feeling that was surprising to you or that you carry with you into our conversation.
 - iii. Was there a phrase or an image from the video with the pope that sticks with you as we move into our conversation?
- c. Now we are going to move into the content for this session.

FIRST CONTENT: PREPARATORY MATERIALS

The facilitator will remind the participants of certain insights from the preparatory reading for this session.

Facilitator: In our preparatory reading and watching of the videos, we learned various ways the Extractive Model of Development impacts our Critical Concerns. We were also cautioned not to give in to tendencies to problem-solve or to make decisions about what “should be done” or “what could be done.”

We were encouraged to situate our analysis from a place of harmony and right relationship with the community of life. We, as humans, exist within the living ecosystems of the planet. We strive to live in a reciprocal, non-dominant relationship with the community of Earth. We are called to shift toward a conscious way of living that is more consistent with the Genesis story, not that we are to dominate and subdue, but rather to serve as responsible and cooperative stewards. The Genesis image is not one of human overlords dominating and subduing the Earth as we have traditionally interpreted the biblical story, but of shepherds living in harmony with creation.

Through our preparatory materials, we were encouraged to keep our focus on the questions of “why” and “who is responsible” rather than “what can we do.”

Facilitator: First, are there any clarifications we need to discuss regarding terms in any of the materials and their use concerning extractivism (e.g., neo-colonialism, capitalism, racism, misogyny, corruption)? Facilitators may reference the [Glossary of Terms](#).

For the next 15 minutes, I invite each of you to share a learning or an insight that stayed with you or challenged you from the videos, the overview of social analysis, the intersection. What was new for you to learn in a concept or way of framing? In what way does your preparation call you to respond to extractivism and its impact on our Critical Concerns? What questions specifically challenged you? Where would you go to learn more?

SECOND CONTEXT: EXTRACTIVISM AND THE CRITICAL CONCERNS

Facilitator: In the videos and the overview of the intersection of the Critical Concerns, as well as when we considered the Mercy lens, we learned of the tremendous intersection among our Critical Concerns and with our Critical Concerns when we hear the examples of extractivism and consider the Extractive Development Model.

We are now going to enter a contemplative dialogue around images and reactions of the intersection of the Mercy Critical Concerns and extractivism. I will show you images that are representative of that intersection, and we will spend some time in silence with each one. After a short period of silence with each photo, I will invite anyone to share their responses to the following questions:

- What do I see in this photo? How does it make me feel? How does my
- What do I see differently now than I would have six months ago?
- What questions does this image cause me to ask myself? Ask of Mercy? Where would I go to find answers or to learn more?

PROCESS NOTE: Facilitators can share the photos provided in the PowerPoint in any order, but one at a time. Take time after each one for some silence and then responses to the questions. If there is little response, you may choose to show multiple photos and then reflect on the questions as a group.

You should not feel rushed to get through ALL of the photos but should be attentive to the rhythm of the conversation and move on when appropriate. There may be more than one photo for each Critical Concern. You may pick one of each or show all. If there is dialogue among participants that allows you to go deeper with analysis feel free to guide them through that, using some of the points you heard in the training or described above.

If your group quickly makes it through ALL of the photos, feel free to identify an area from the preparatory materials that you would like to explore further. Here are some possible suggestions.

- Terry’s reflection — ask for examples from their own experience that were raised after reading the reflection.
- Overview of social analysis — engage in further discussion focused on how they have engaged in social analysis around other issues and how that could help frame this discussion.

WRAP UP: With at least seven minutes left in your session, please share the [intersection graphic](#).

Facilitator: We have been looking at, reacting to and dialoguing about individual images of the intersection of a Critical Concern and extractivism. This graphic shows us many more examples and ways that the Extractive Development Model has fostered systemic problems that intersect with our Critical Concerns. What are your eyes drawn to when you look at this graphic? What is a new or surprising example for you? Which would you seek to learn more about? We will share this graphic following the session.

IDENTIFYING WHAT HAS EMERGED — Following the conversations so far, the facilitator encourages group members to send comments on “what is too good for the group to keep to themselves” to the following email: extractivism@sistersofmercy.org.

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION

Facilitator: In our next session, we will be looking at transformation. Where do we go from here? What is Mercy’s task? How should this learning impact our collective and corporate decision making? How do we respond to what we have learned? Where are we being urged to go after reflecting on extractivism and its impact on our Critical Concerns? What additional information do you need to move into that conversation?