

# ISARC

## Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition

"Faith Communities In Action Against Poverty"

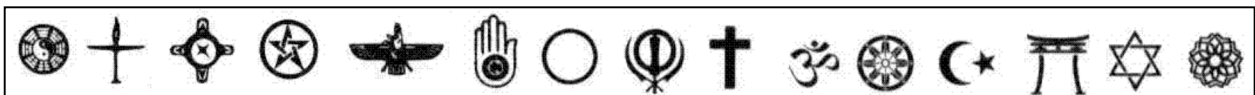
### **2010 Social Audit: A Faith Community Assessment of the Status of Poverty in Ontario**

ISARC is mobilizing again to provide opportunities for the most vulnerable of our society to tell their stories of living in poverty. In 2010, Hearings will take place across Ontario as part of ISARC's Social Audit. This Social Audit seeks to communicate the social effects of the current Ontario government's policies and actions towards people living in poverty and our society as a whole.



Using a modified UN rapporteur model, people with the lived experiences of poverty, whether they are single parents, disabled, working poor, people of colour, new immigrants, or single adults, will have an opportunity to share their stories and be heard. If we want to advocate for change to the current system, it is imperative that those people directly affected by government policy be given voice to how these policies are helping or hindering them in their struggles with poverty.

ISARC hopes to conduct Hearings right across the province in urban, rural, northern, and Aboriginal communities. These Hearings will take place where people living in poverty can safely come together. As people of faith your help is vital to getting the Social Audit off the ground. Do you have the skills to organize a local Planning Committee to coordinate with ISARC staff and to hold a Hearing in your community? Do you have skills as a Facilitator and are willing to conduct a Hearing allowing people who are often silenced find their voice? Do you know formal and informal leaders within your community who may do more if they knew the full story of what living in poverty truly means?



## Ways to Help

1. Become a Convenor and organize a local Planning Committee.
2. Join a local Planning Committee to organize a Hearing in your community.
3. Facilitate a Hearing with people living in poverty so that they can tell their stories.
4. Recruit a Rapporteur, a dedicated listener, who may be moved by stories heard to mobilize their resources in the struggle to end poverty.
5. Become a Reporter and capture in writing the stories told.
6. Organize a delegation to meet with local politicians to share findings from the hearings in their communities.
7. Write a media release to increase knowledge in your area about the issues of poverty.
8. Pray for those involved in the Social Audit that they may be good stewards of the stories they hear.
9. Share the findings from the Social Audit with your faith community and your neighbours.

## Timeline

- November: Recruit Convenors  
Local Planning Committees Formed
- December: Local Planning Committees Meet  
Recruit Rapporteurs
- January: Training for Facilitators and Reporters
- February: Finalize dates/locations for local hearings
- March & April: Hearings take place
- May: Interim Report Completed  
Queen's Park Forum on Social Audit
- September: Final Social Audit Report Completed

## Contact Us

If you are interested in assisting with the Social Audit in any way please contact any one of the following:

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