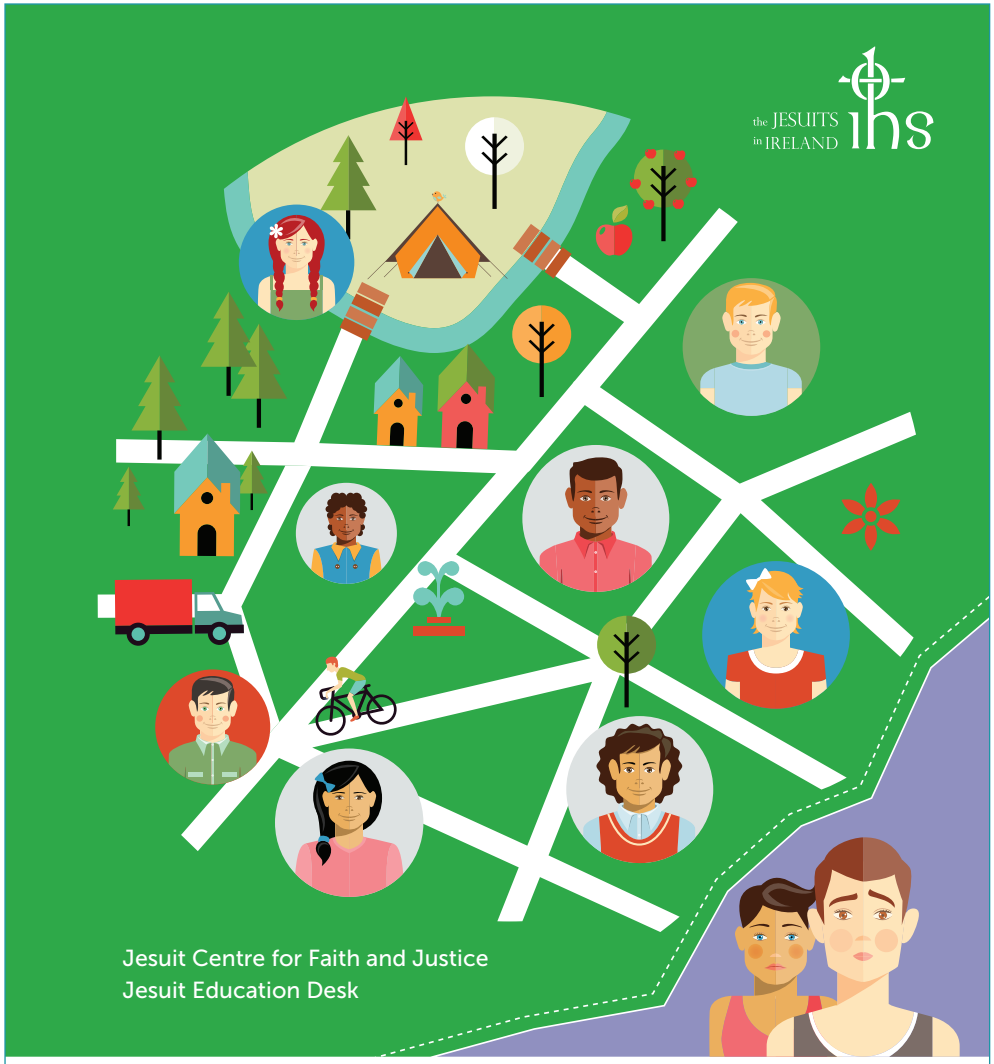

ON THE MARGINS

Teacher resource materials for the junior cycle of post-primary education

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On the Margins is an exciting resource for CSPE and RE teachers, with 28 lesson plans the module introduces students to social justice focusing in particular on how society responds to crime and the use of imprisonment.

Developed in conjunction with teachers each lesson has clearly defined learning goals and a step-by-step guide to help deliver the learning activity. The resource explores issues of social justice and focuses in particular on how society responds to crime and the use of imprisonment. While the resource is targeted at junior cycle post-primary it can be easily adapted for older students.

In developing the resources it became apparent that young people are quick to recognise right and wrong and have a desire to challenge injustices, but they can also be quick to judge and 'pass sentence'. The resource is designed to develop students' capacity for ethical reasoning, critical thinking and skilful analysis of social justice issues. Just as important the module aims to foster empathy amongst students for people living on the margins of society.

The resource may challenge your own perceptions.

On the Margins is set out in three strands and can either be used as a stand-alone module or easily adapted to complement current programmes. The content of the strands will be an eye opener for students; they will be fascinated to read and learn about life in prison, role play as judge and jury as well as challenge their own views about crime and its causes. Section one with 11 lessons on social justice provides a thorough examination of the issue using mixed methodologies and focuses on active learning. An aim of the resources is to bring alive, in an engaging way, concepts that can be abstract and difficult to explain and comprehend, for example, 'What's the difference between equality and fairness?'.

On the Margins is available from the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, please email Eoin at: ecarroll@jcfj.ie.