Background

The Feminist Task Force of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, the Loretto Community at the United Nations, Eco Justice Collaborative, Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization and Citizens Against Ruining the Environment have partnered to present today’s proceedings, the second Women and Climate Justice Tribunal in the United States.

This Tribunal follows a long line of Women’s Tribunals that have taken place around the world over the last several years, spearheaded by the Feminist Task Force.

The Tribunals have been used to create a public space for women to draw attention to critical issues at local, national and global levels. They provide an opportunity for women directly affected by different situations, such as poverty, climate change and gender inequality, to present testimony, bring awareness and advocate for fundamental human rights.

Findings from this Tribunal will be presented in June at the Rio +20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

A Special Thanks to:
Father Lescher & Deacon Ralph Bias of Sacred Heart Church, Chuy Negrete, Sacred Heart Church Choir & Director David Jones, DePaul University’s Women’s Center, Greenpeace, Jan & Kathy Kaiser of Cool Joliet, the Loretto Community, the Loretto Women’s Network, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 8th Day Center for Justice, Lan Richart of EcoJustice Collaborative (videographer), Suellen Spooner of CARE (baked goods), Grant Spooner of CARE (videographer), and Edyta Sitko of Greenpeace (press work).
Chicago & Coal

• Women from the Joliet and Lockport area have been working for 20 years to call attention to and stop the pollution from two area coal plants and the quarry waste disposal site. They have been breathing harmful emissions from two polluting coal fired power plants in Will County; one of these plants is in Romeoville and the other is in Joliet.

• Women in the historic African-American Smiley subdivision live next to an unlined coal ash landfill known as Lincoln Stone Quarry, where coal waste has been dumped since 1962.

• Women from Pilsen and Little Village have been breathing air from two of the oldest and dirtiest coal plants in the nation and their recent grass-roots efforts helped bring about their closure. Although the plants will close by the end of this year, properties remain toxic and polluted.

• Women from the Joliet and Lockport area have been working for 20 years to call attention to and stop the pollution from two area coal plants and the quarry waste disposal site. They have been breathing harmful emissions from two polluting coal fired power plants in Will County; one of these plants is in Romeoville and the other is in Joliet.

These Chicago women, from different backgrounds and different neighborhoods, have all been witnesses to the harmful impacts of coal on their lives and communities. Join us as we hear their testimony.

Jurists

• Welcome: Deacon Ralph Bias
• Introductions: Ellen Rendulich of Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (CARE) & Pam Richart of Eco-Justice Collaborative
• Global Women’s Tribunals: Rosa Lizarde, Feminist Task Force

Case 1: Local Impacts of Coal Plants in Joliet & Romeoville
Case leader: Ellen Rendulich, Resident & Director of Citizens Against Ruining the Environment.
Expert Witness: Brian Urbaszewski, Dir. of Environmental Health, Respiratory Health Assoc. of Metro. Chicago

• Ardis Doolin, Resident & CARE Member
• Carol Stark, Resident & Director of CARE
• Mary Burnitz, Resident & Director of CARE
• Maureen Headington, Stand Up Save Lives

Case 2: Impacts of Coal Ash Disposal
Case Leader: Sandy Burcenski, Director of CARE

• Juanita Stokes, Resident
• Kathy Kaiser, Cool Joliet & Sacred Heart Church
• Sandy Burcenski, Resident & Director of CARE

Case 3: Fisk & Crawford Coal Plant Remediation
Expert Witness: Jerry Mead-Lucero, Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Org.

• Leila Mendez, PERRO
• Stephanie Dunn, Pilsen Resident
• Marta Aguila, Pilsen Recent

Music Intercession by: Sacred Heart Church Choir

Looking Forward: Sally Dunne, Loretto Community at the UN

Closing Remarks: Pam Richart