



## Teacher's Guide: Critical Concerns Bingo for Secondary Schools

### Critical Concerns Overview

The Sisters of Mercy were founded out of a deep concern for the needs of person who are poor. Today, their ministry is focused on addressing unmet needs through five “Critical Concerns” – anti-racism, Earth, immigration, nonviolence and women. These Critical Concerns are embraced not only by the Sisters of Mercy but also by their sponsored ministries, including schools that are part of the Mercy Education System of the Americas (MESA).

- ✚ **Earth:** strive to act in harmony and interdependence with all of creation.
- ✚ **Immigration:** work to ensure the dignity of immigrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking and stand in solidarity with all who suffer oppression.
- ✚ **Nonviolence:** promote peace in families, in communities, in business and among nations.
- ✚ **Anti-Racism:** oppose racism in all its forms and face and address it among themselves and in the communities where they live and work.
- ✚ **Women:** work for equality of women, celebrating their contributions, advocating for their rights and speaking out against gender discrimination in the Church and society.

Each of the Critical Concerns is represented by an icon – the five icons are pictured below. It will be important to familiarize your students with the icons, if they are not already, for the Critical Concerns Bingo activity.








If you are interested in more information and activities around the Critical Concerns:

- ✚ [MESA educational resources on the Critical Concerns](#)
- ✚ [Critical Concerns poster and flyer for your classroom](#)

We recognize that the Critical Concerns are built into many areas of your school curriculum and that adequate scaffolding is necessary for an activity to truly make an impact in a student's mind and heart. For the Critical Concerns Bingo activity, older students may wish to commit to completing five squares in a row within a designated timeframe – perhaps during Mercy Week – or filling their entire card before the end of the year. Younger students may work together to fill five squares together as a class, with teachers choosing appropriate activities. Educators may also choose to customize the editable and/or blank versions of the cards for their students.

## Critical Concerns Bingo

Critical Concern	Bingo Activity	Additional Resources, if needed
<p>Anti-Racism</p> 	Enjoy a snack or meal from a cultural that is different from your own.	For recipe ideas: <a href="#">International Recipes for Kids</a>
	Watch: <a href="#">The Danger of a Single Story</a> . <a href="#">Learn more about Black Catholic experience and history from members of the Mercy community.</a>	
	Read <a href="#">about an experience of racism in a country different from your own.</a>	The “Let’s Fight Racism” page from the United Nations includes many additional classroom resources <a href="#">here</a> .
	Learn about <a href="#">Rosewood</a> and <a href="#">Greenwood</a> and write a short reflection	
<p>Earth</p> 	Plant and nurture a seed as a way to appreciate the wonder of God’s creation.	
	Explore <a href="#">this Laudato Si’ Visual Reading from the Sisters of Mercy.</a>	
	Try one new Earth-friendly practice.	
	Read: <a href="#">“Pope Francis declares care for creation a new work of mercy.”</a>	
	Create a piece of art using recycled products.	
<p>Immigration</p> 	Does your family celebrate any traditions from another country? Write a reflection or create an illustration to describe it.	
	Watch <a href="#">this brief video about the history of the Sisters of Mercy in the United States.</a>	<a href="#">More resources on Mercy for Immigrants are available here.</a>
	Read a story about a young immigrant on the Sisters of Mercy blog: <a href="#">Dania’s Story (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph)</a>  <a href="#">A DREAMer’s Story</a>	
	Spend some time researching immigration policies in your country. What can you do to raise awareness about any injustices you discover?	Some suggestions for raising awareness might include: making signs/posters; letter-writing campaign to government officials/representatives; <a href="#">signing up for action alerts from the Mercy Justice Team.</a>
Learn more about what local Catholic Charities or other organizations are doing to support immigrants and refugees. Brainstorm ways to help.		

<p>Nonviolence</p> 	<p><a href="#">Learn how to meditate.</a> How did it make you feel?</p>	
	<p>Learn about the life of <a href="#">St. Josephine Bakita.</a></p>	
	<p>Practice positivity! Challenge yourself to say nothing negative about yourself or others for one day, including on social media.</p>	
	<p>Try to eliminate violent words from your everyday speech – <a href="#">see a list here.</a></p>	
	<p>Write a prayer for peace to share with classmates.</p>	
<p>Women</p> 	<p>Draw a picture of or write a letter to a woman who inspires you.</p>	
	<p>Do all school-aged girls go to school worldwide? <a href="#">Learn more in this UNICEF article.</a></p>	
	<p><a href="#">Learn about the life of Justina “Jessie” Ripoll, the first Jamaican Sister of Mercy.</a></p>	
	<p>Research about the life of women in a country different from your own.</p>	
	<p>Collect items to donate to a local women’s shelter.</p>	