Empowering women and rebuilding livelihoods with victims of sexual violence in DRC
Tuesday 11 August

Institute for Social Justice Seminar Series

Location:
Date: Tuesday 11 August
Time: 1pm-3pm
Venue: Australian Catholic University
Level 16 – Meeting Room 16AB, Tenison Woods House
8 – 20 Napier Street, North Sydney

Speaker: Sister Angélique Namaika

Abstract
The Institute for Social Justice is delighted to welcome Sister Angélique Namaika who is visiting Australia as UNHCR’s guest. Sister Angélique, a Catholic nun, was the recipient of the 2013 Nansen Refugee Award - UNHCR’s highest human rights prize – for her ground-breaking work with women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Sister Angélique’s courage and achievements are extraordinary in a country widely regarded as the most dangerous place in the world to be a woman. She is based in the town of Dungu in the remote north of the DRC, an area ravaged by Lord’s Resistance Army violence.

Through her women’s refuge Maison de la Femme (House of Women), she has helped transform the lives of more than 2,000 displaced women and girls who have suffered rape, abduction, sexual slavery and other human rights abuses that have resulted in their ostracism from society. Her projects include a UNHCR-funded bakery, a collective farm, sewing workshops and literacy classes that enable women to recover their self-esteem and gain the skills they need to support themselves and their children.

Enquiries regarding Sister Angélique’s work, or mission in Australia, may be directed to Greg Mills, Acting Media and Public Affairs Manager, Australia for UNHCR:
gmills@unrefugees.org.au

Enquiries regarding the seminar can be directed to:
isj@acu.edu.au