

**THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIES
POSITIONAL STATEMENT**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Salvation Army as an international movement and an evangelical branch of the universal Christian Church, believes that all people are made in the image of God and that each person, in the eyes of God, has worth and dignity.

The Salvation Army has from its inception applied Biblical principles to the social problems presented by humanity and society, and this continues to be our work. We believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to humanity's deepest need.

The Bible consistently emphasises justice, and particularly social justice:

- in how people are treated
- in the just division of resources
- in how people relate to one another
- in caring for others

Zechariah 7:9-10

Jesus taught the two-fold responsibility — to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and your neighbour as yourself.

The Bible teaches against:

- the luxury of the rich and the deprivation of the poor
- pride and arrogance
- indifference to the need of others
- oppression and exploitation of the poor
- institutional corruption

It teaches:

- responsibility and accountability for others out of our love for God.

Romans 13:8-10

The Salvation Army recognises that poverty can never be completely eradicated, but acknowledges its Christian responsibility to the powerless and those suffering economic hardship. We therefore have as our purpose, to glorify God, to bring others to know Him and to so live and work in society that each person has the opportunity to live with worth and dignity.

Scripture texts:

Zechariah 7:9-10 (NIV)

"This is what the LORD Almighty says, 'Administer true justice, show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'"

Romans 13:8-10 (NIV)

"Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments ... are summed up in this one rule: 'love your neighbour as yourself'. Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law."

Approved by IHQ, 11th July 1995