

Illustrations
Nancy Roberge

**STAND UP
FOR A JUST
WORLD**

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aqoci
Association québécoise
des organismes de
coopération internationale

In partnership with
Canada



**AQOCI dedicates
this graphic novel
to all those who
take action for
a just world.**

COORDINATION
Caterina Milani
Program Officer,
AQOCI

Katrie Gagné
Communications
Officer,
AQOCI

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Marlène-b.

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STAND UP FOR A JUST WORLD

By Nancy Roberge

Through Dalie's journey, artist Nancy Roberge
and AQOCI invite you to get involved too,
for greater social justice.

aqoci.qc.ca

#SDI2026

Stand Up FOR A JUST WORLD

In the current context, marked by crises—conflicts, setbacks in human rights, climate emergency—and the withdrawal of several countries from international aid, solidarity between peoples is more important than ever.

Over the past year, members of the Quebec Association of International Cooperation Organizations (AQOCI) have come together with civil society groups here and abroad to rethink international solidarity. Together, we have sought concrete solutions to face the major challenges of our time. Nearly 1,500 people contributed to creating a Declaration of Commitment for international solidarity. This text calls on us to act together, now and for the future.

Today, we invite you to reflect with us on these issues and commit to changing our societies in a sustainable way. Today's major crises do not stop at borders, they affect everyone, even here in Quebec.

**DO YOU WANT TO TAKE ACTION
FOR A JUST WORLD? SIGN THE
DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT:**



There are days like this, when nothing goes right. I drift around. I let myself be sucked into social media...



No relief in sight

Famine

Homelessness is on the rise

Tax havens



...and in the end, all this bad news just makes me feel depressed.







* I don't understand. What's happening ?



*She says you don't have enough money.



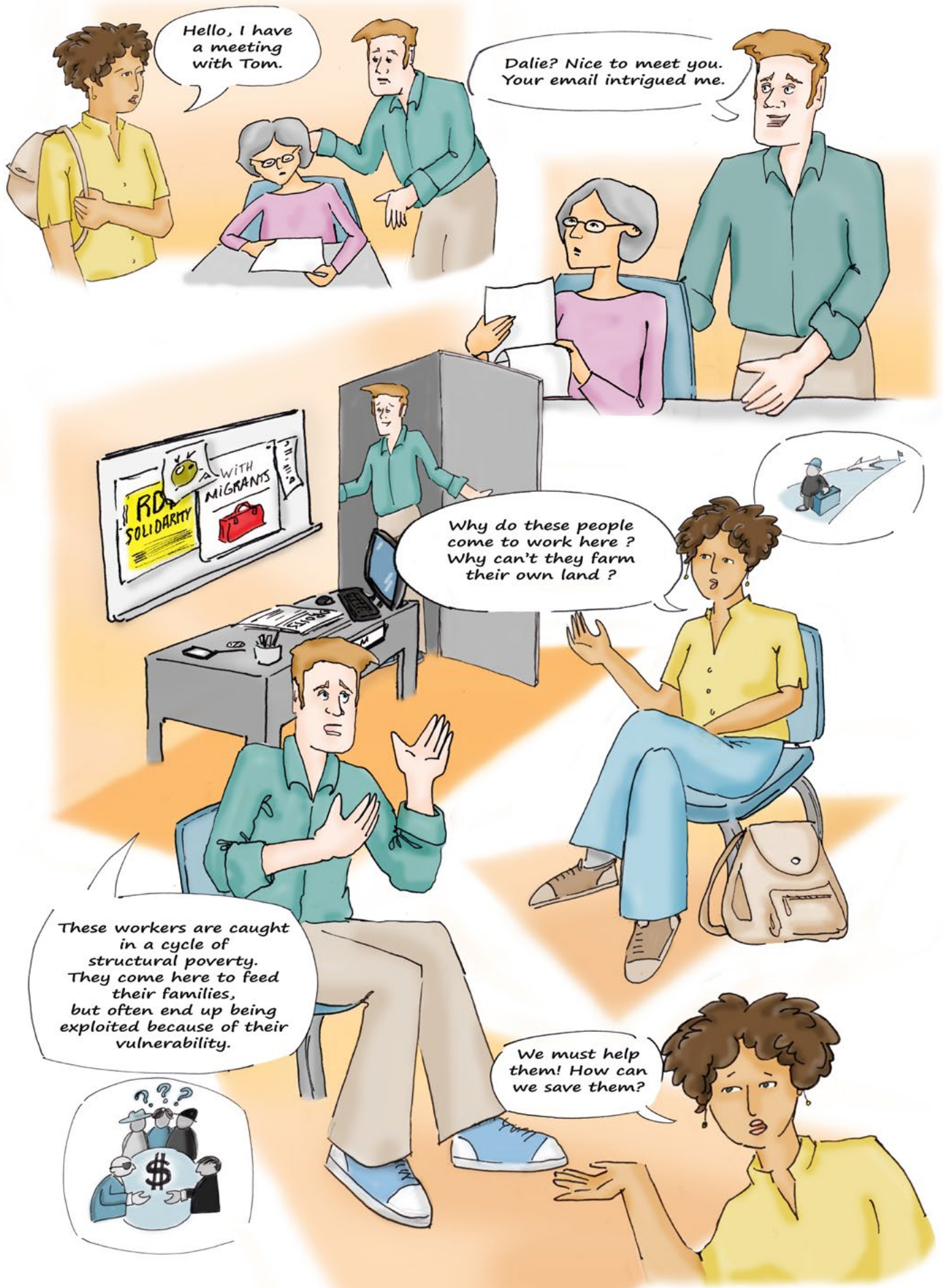
*Thank you, it's hard when no one understands you. It's hard...



I couldn't ignore what I had seen.



Every search led me to new questions, new connections. As if I were pulling on a thread that revealed a web of interconnected issues.



Hello, I have a meeting with Tom.

Dalie? Nice to meet you. Your email intrigued me.

Why do these people come to work here? Why can't they farm their own land?

These workers are caught in a cycle of structural poverty. They come here to feed their families, but often end up being exploited because of their vulnerability.

We must help them! How can we save them?



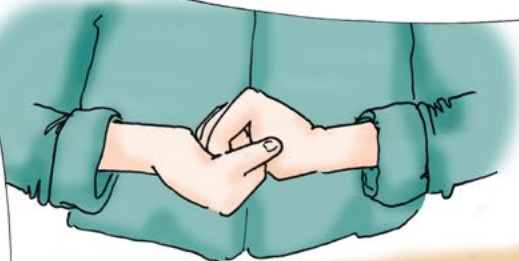
Helping isn't saving, Dalie.



Well...

It is listening, understanding and accompanying. It is recognizing their dignity and their power to act.

All these issues are interconnected: workers' rights, climate justice, gender equality, peace...



It's so huge... How can one person make a difference?

By starting somewhere. For example, we are organizing a march for social justice.



A march? Is that really going to change anything?

It helps. Come! You'll see...



Okay. I'll come.





share verified information on social media



seek information from reliable sources

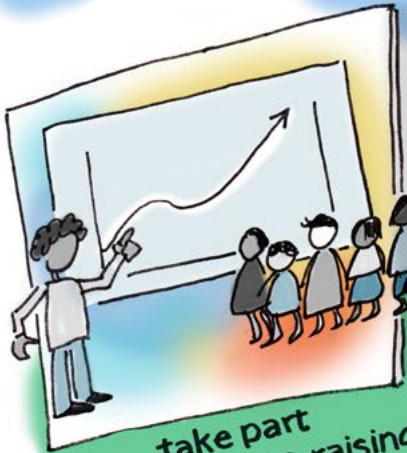
I understand that engagement is not a sprint, but a marathon. Every small action counts, especially when you add them up.



change your consumption habits



sign petitions



take part in awareness-raising workshops



volunteer



advocate to elected officials



take action
on the ground



I don't pretend to be able to solve all the problems in the world. But I now know that I am part of a vast network of people who, together, weave a web of solidarity stronger than any injustice.



Powerlessness
is believing
that you're alone

Solidarity
is discovering
that you never were.

QUIZ

TRUE FALSE

- 1 The richest countries are those that host the majority of forcibly displaced people and refugees. TRUE FALSE
- 2 The richest 1% hold more wealth than the entire poorest 80% of the world's population. TRUE FALSE
- 3 At least one in eight people worldwide are exposed to armed conflict. TRUE FALSE
- 4 Nearly 75% of the Earth's surface is now degraded by human activities. TRUE FALSE
- 5 Climate disasters affect everyone equally. TRUE FALSE
- 6 Women's political representation is steadily increasing, and parity has now been reached in most countries. TRUE FALSE

1: FALSE. In reality, 73% of forcibly displaced people are hosted in low- or middle-income countries. These states therefore bear a disproportionate humanitarian burden despite limited resources.

Source: UNHCR. n.d. [https://www.unhcr.org/fr?title=Refugee Data Finder–Key indicators](https://www.unhcr.org/fr?title=Refugee+Data+Finder+Key+indicators)

2: FALSE. The concentration of wealth is even more pronounced: the richest 1% own more than the entire poorest 95%. This extreme inequality illustrates the scale of global economic imbalances and the urgent need to rethink wealth redistribution.

Source: Oxfam-Quebec. September 23, 2024. "The richest 1% own more wealth than 95% of humanity," warns Oxfam, while "the shadow of the world oligarchy hangs over the United Nations General Assembly." <https://oxfam.qc.ca/analyse-oxfam-inegalites-richesses-mondiale/>

3: TRUE. According to estimates from the UN and the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), nearly 1 billion people—about 1 in 8 people globally—lived in an area affected by armed conflict in 2024. In fact, global conflicts have doubled in the past five years and it is estimated that about 50 countries were involved in active conflict in 2025. This reflects a worrying escalation of global tensions.

Source: ACLED. 2024. "Conflict Index: December 2024". <https://acleddata.com/conflict-index/>

4: TRUE. About 75% of the Earth's surface has been significantly degraded by human activity: deforestation, resource extraction, urbanization, and intensive agriculture.

Source: L'Orient Le Jour. February 19, 2025 COP16 : les chiffres clés sur l'état alarmant de la nature dans le monde. <https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1448406/cop16-les-chiffres-cles-sur-letat-alarbant-de-la-nature-dans-le-monde-reperes.html>

5: FALSE. Women and girls are 14 times more likely to die during climate disasters and make up for 80% of displaced people. Yet only 0.01% of global climate finance reaches women-led organizations, despite their critical role in adaptation and resilience.

Source: Care. 2020. "#SheLeadsInCrisis". https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CARE-Campaign-Brief-She-Leads_FR.pdf

6: FALSE. In several countries, there is rather a rollback. In Canada, for example, the lack of gender parity of candidates among candidates in the last federal election reflects a worrying stagnation. In addition, many elected women face rising levels of intimidation, particularly online, which discourages political participation.

Source: La Presse. April 30, 2025 "Moins de femmes élues au Québec". <https://www.lapresse.ca/elections-federales/2025-04-30/parite-hommes-femmes/moins-de-femmes-elues-au-quebec.php>



A woman committed to a better social cohesion, Nancy Roberge has been practising interactive forum theatre for forty years - creating, facilitating, performing, and producing plays. Having always maintained an interest in illustration in her free time, she discovered graphic facilitation a few years ago, a medium that draws on her expertise to capture ideas in real time and to move discussions forward among participants. During the Forum of the Quebec International Solidarity Extensive Consultation in June 2025, Nancy created graphic reports of the workshops and plenary sessions. The AQOCI team then invited her to create a graphic novel on international solidarity.

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