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From the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council,
the social justice and human rights agency of the Catholic Church in Australia

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

We now enter the Season of Advent and prepare to receive the true gift of Christmas - God's presence among us making all things new.

This is a time for us to reflect on our commitment, as followers of Christ, to the work we share in bringing justice and peace to our world. It is a time for celebrating our achievements, reflecting on the past year and finding time for renewal. As the Bishops have said in their Social Justice Sunday Statement this year:

'Discipleship of Jesus leads naturally to a desire to make peace; and his power working in us makes that desire a reality. Christians welcome aspects of our culture that discourage violence. They treasure peace and are called to be strong in their commitment not only to live peacefully but to be creative makers of peace.

'Peace and peace-building go beyond simply the absence of conflict. They are positive, constructive ways of living that require constant nurturing, and that reflect the

sacredness that is in the deepest part of our being - the sacredness that is the presence of the God of peace in our world.' (refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/140910/2010%20Social%20Justice%20Sunday%20Statement.pdf>)

With the closing days of 2010 comes the end of two named decades for peace - The World Council of Churches' *Decade to Overcome Violence* and the United Nations' *International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World*. The shared goals of these decades have included the promotion of fundamental human rights, strategies to address violence - direct and structural - in homes, communities and in the international arenas, and ways of learning from local and regional programs for overcoming violence.

I remember the great optimism as we entered this millennium that humanity had an opportunity to foster a new era of world peace and development. The 9/11 and other terrorist attacks leading to the 'war on terror' suddenly threw up challenges to that optimism. But such immense challenges, both in Australia and globally, did not diminish the commitment cultivate a culture of peace but rather increased it.

Much has been achieved throughout the decade and so much remains to be done. Brendan McKeague, a founding member of Pace E Bene in Australia, made this point at the launch on the Bishops' Statement in September.

He emphasised how the work of this decade is ongoing and that we need to be planning ahead. 'If the United Nations declared an International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World and the World Council of Churches invited us into a Decade to Overcome Violence, can we use what we've learned about nonviolence

thus far to become the foundation for our actions in this next decade?’ (refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/Launch%20address%20Brendan%20McKeague%20SJSS%202010.pdf>)

In their Social Justice Sunday Statement, the Bishops posed a series of questions about how we can foster peace as ‘individuals and families’, in ‘our local communities’, and ‘for us as a nation’. In framing the questions in these three categories, the Bishops were mindful that everyone has different opportunities in which to cultivate peace. They recognised how any gesture or initiative for peace, no matter how small, contributes to the shared endeavour to bring the peace of Christ to our world. These questions are helpful in considering our commitment to peace over the coming decade.

This brings me to some observations that were made by my predecessor, Sandie Cornish, at the beginning of the decade of peace. Sandie had returned from an Asian region ecumenical consultation on social advocacy in 2001 where she had spoken with Archbishop Antonio Ledesima from the Philippines about the concept of the three related paradigms in the work for peace - a culture of life, a culture of human rights and a culture of peace.

Sandie said, ‘One of the big challenges in working for justice and peace is the magnitude of the problems to be addressed and the sheer number of issues. It is easy to feel overwhelmed and ineffectual ... For me it is helpful to try and have a sense of the big picture, but to identify where my efforts fit in.

‘If we use a framework to articulate our analysis of the reality, we can have a sense of doing something about something while acknowledging that we cannot do something about everything. We can see then how our contributions are part of the overall response that is needed, and we can also respect the partial contributions of others.’ (refer: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/pdf/cultivating_a_culture_of_peace.pdf)

A similar point was made in an Advent reflection I was reading from Fr Richard Rohr’s

book ‘Preparing for Christmas’. Reflecting on Matthew 7:21, Fr Rohr speaks about the ‘Big Picture’ of the Kingdom of God and our calling to bring that Kingdom into being. He says:

‘I believe Jesus was teaching a larger version of what many of us say today when we say that we must “think globally and act locally.” Because I am part of the Big Picture, I *do* matter and substantially so. Because I am *only* a part, however, I am rightly situated off to stage right - and happily so. What freedom there is in such truth! *We are inherently important and included, yet we are not burdened with manufacturing or sustaining that private importance.*’

This is good advice for those engaged in various ways and in different capacities in the work for justice and peace. The challenges can appear so huge that anything we do may seem futile. Still, even the smallest action can have great impact. Alone, we may not be able to bring peace to an entire community. But even a word of support, an apology, a stand in solidarity, might be a gesture that brings respite to a troubled soul and sparks a broader impulse to peace. In Matthew’s gospel, for example, Jesus speaks of the importance of giving even ‘a cup of cold water’ (Matthew 10:41-42). Taken together, these individual gestures of peace can change the world.

To me, the framework Sandie speaks of provides a really useful way of acknowledging the different spheres of influence we have for cultivating peace and how the many different initiatives or causes are united in the big picture of our faith. So too, the peacemaking of either an individual or the entire Church is related and united in discipleship of Jesus.

In this context, we might consider our response to the Bishops’ questions for the year and the decade ahead.

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat I wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

John Ferguson

A Prayer for Peacemakers

*Spirit of God,
give us the openness, deep within us
to recognise, daily,
all people as made in your image and likeness.*

*Help us to learn from one another
the ways of being fully alive,
at peace with ourselves and with those
around us.
Give us the courage to transform
those parts of ourselves and our world
that separate and cause enmity.*

*Help us to take steps to stop
the cycle of violence
in our homes, in our workplaces,
in our neighbourhoods, in our country,
in our world.*

*May we be open to our deepest yearning
for a world alive with your justice and truth,
to dream of a society
where all are treated with respect,
and, with the power of your Spirit,
to take steps to bring it about.*



Current Issues / Resources

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On 3 December every year International Day of People with Disability is celebrated worldwide recognising the achievements and contributions of people with disability. To promote and celebrate this day the Disability Projects Office of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life is producing a bookmark. The bookmarks are 20 cents each plus postage and handling. The theme is “Jesus said ... ‘Be Open’”. Parishes/dioceses are encouraged to celebrate the day on 4/5 December but flexibility is encouraged to celebrate it whenever it is most appropriate for the parish/diocese. To order bookmarks, call (02) 6201 9868 or email disability@catholic.org.au. Find out more about this day at <http://www.idpwd.com.au/Pages/default.aspx>

101 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR A PEACEFUL REFERENDUM

On 21st September *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* began its campaign ‘101 days of prayer for a peaceful referendum in Southern Sudan’. The campaign is based in Southern Sudan, but its outreach is worldwide, mobilizing religious congregations, NGOs and people of all religions to ensure that peace prevails no matter the outcome of the elections. On January 9, 2011 Southern Sudan will vote to

either stay united with Sudan or to secede and form a new country. *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* in conjunction with the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development has pledged to accompany Sudan with prayer. Visit the campaign website for information and to find out how you can be involved: www.solidarityssudan.org

CARITAS - ‘TAKE ACTION FOR SUDAN’

Caritas Australia has a range of information and support material that will help you to stay in touch with the circumstances in Sudan and to give your prayer and support at this time. Included are fact sheets, latest news, information from the Bishops Conference of Sudan and prayer resources. Visit the Caritas website for more information: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Peace_In_Sudan&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=8042

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - GLOBAL GIFTS

Caritas Australia’s Global Gifts provide a special way to mark the big occasions in life. Giving a Gift of Life card is a meaningful way to celebrate Christmas and makes a real difference to lives of people around the world. You can make a difference for peace, food security, health, water, education and disaster

response. You can choose to send the gift via email as an e-card, or order a traditional printed card to send in the post. For more details and to order see http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Gifts&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=7935

EDMUND RICE CENTRE APPEAL - PACIFIC CALLING PARTNERSHIP

The twin threats of climate change and great poverty threaten the very future of Kiribati. Climate change has led to higher tides, more frequent and violent storms and wave surges, with sea walls crumbling and the inundation of sea water. Kiribati currently has the highest levels of infant mortality from diarrhoea in the Pacific, among the highest in the world for children under five. Prof. Pat Dodson and Phil Glendenning are asking you to consider supporting the advocacy and community work of the Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP). They say, 'as this year nears its end, we are asking Australians committed to social justice to please generously assist ERC and PCP in this work... Your tax deductible donation is deeply appreciated and will be put to immediate use to assist the people of Kiribati get the attention they deserve and the support they need.' To make your donation, call (02) 8762 4200.

COMMISSIONER GOODA OUTLINES PRIORITIES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda has said he will use his term to focus on developing stronger and deeper relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the rest of Australia, with all levels of government, and between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples themselves. During his address at the National Press Club, Commissioner Gooda said he would work closely with Australia's political leaders and Australians to achieve a successful referendum in 2013 to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution. He said Indigenous peoples around the country were still hurting as a result of the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act when the Northern Territory Intervention was imposed, and he called on governments to end a 'bureaucratic territorialism' which still marked

much inter-departmental and community engagement with Indigenous communities. Refer: www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/speeches/social_justice/2010/20101103_npc.html

ADDRESS: 'CAN AUSTRALIA AFFORD NOT TO BE RECONCILED?'

Speaking at the inaugural National Indigenous Policy and Dialogue in November, Professor Patrick Dodson said that, while Australia has failed to adequately pick up the opportunity to work for reconciliation, it is more aware of the legacy of colonisation and has slowly sought remedies that deal with mainstream inequality and sensitivities. He says that restorative justice for taking the lands and livelihoods away from a unique people has not been its main agenda but the challenge now is to look for new partnerships, new possibilities, new vision and a new philosophy to guide us to a more collaborative and co-existent future. To access Pat Dodson's address, visit: <http://nipdc.arts.unsw.edu.au/keynote.html>

PUBLICATION: 'A BETTER WAY'

With the release of their new book 'A Better Way: Success stories in Aboriginal community control in the Northern Territory', ANTaR is calling on governments to support Aboriginal organisations and communities in driving solutions to the challenges they face. The book highlights 13 successful Aboriginal community-controlled organisations in the NT that are working across a diverse range of sectors. All feature Aboriginal management and administration, are responsive to local community needs and priorities and work in partnership with other organisations. Together, they offer an alternative response to the challenges facing Aboriginal communities based on community participation and leadership. To download, visit: <http://www.antar.org.au/abetterway>.

HIGH COURT RULING

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have welcomed the High Court judgment that Australian legal procedures must be thoroughly considered and applied by those who make decisions about asylum seekers held in immigration detention. Bishop Joseph Grech said Australians will welcome the

decision, which affords asylum seekers the same protections of the legal system offered to everyone else. 'Following this significant judgment, surely the time has come to address the situation and to consider seriously moving all asylum-seekers processing onshore. ... The Bishops of Australia sincerely hope that this is the end of so-called 'Pacific solutions' in which those seeking asylum in Australia are moved to remote offshore locations in order to avoid their access to Australian laws,' said Bishop Grech. (refer: http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=1034&tmpl=component&format=raw&Itemid=355)

JESUIT COMMUNICATIONS FUNDRAISING

Jesuit Communications is running a Christmas Raffle to help in its production of quality publications such as Eureka Street. Prizes for the 2010 Christmas Raffle are:

1st - A \$5,000 MYER shopping voucher; 2nd - A \$1,500 MYER voucher; 3rd - A \$500 MYER voucher. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday

14 December 2010 and all winners will be notified. Should you wish to obtain a book of raffle tickets or for further information, visit <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=12613> or contact 1300 728 846, fax (03) 9421 9600 or mail PO Box 553 Richmond Vic 3121 to request a book(s) of raffle tickets.

ICAN CONCERNS OVER URANIUM SALES

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is raising concerns about Australia's plans to sell uranium to Russia. In ratifying an agreement first flagged between John Howard and Vladimir Putin in 2007, Prime Minister Julia Gillard is selling Australia's uranium to a country with the world's largest nuclear weapons arsenal and the largest stockpile of weapons-usable material. ICAN is deeply disappointed about Australia's decision and is seeking support in getting the message to the Prime Minister. To find out more and consider what action can be taken, visit: <http://www.icanw.org.au/node/135>

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website [that can be faxed to (02) 8306 3498]: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

ORDER NOW! - 2011 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2011 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It also highlights aspects of the theme for Social Justice Sunday in 2011 - 'Prisons and the justice system'. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. A great Christmas gift. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

2010 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT - STILL TAKING ORDERS

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops

Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'Violence in Australia: A message of peace'. The ACSJC is still taking orders for the Statement. An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards being a peacemaker.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Teachers' Notes, PowerPoint Presentation - now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

Ecumenical resource: 'Peace Be With You'. Download from the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/social-justice>

SERIES PAPER - 'MERCY AND JUSTICE EMBRACE'

Sr Marie Farrell rsm considers the vast range of people and organisations working for justice in today's Church in Australia and how they form a mosaic of social justice that reflects the mystery of the Eucharist and God's bond with humanity. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER - 'WOMEN IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA'

Catholic Social Justice Series paper No. 67 is a collection essays by women engaged in wide-ranging areas of Church life. A collection of eight papers. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1.20; 2 copies \$1.80; 3-5 copies \$3.00)

This Month's Notices

27 NOVEMBER. SEMINAR: 'LIGHT OF THE WORLD: BEING CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY' (NSW). Diocese of Wollongong is holding its annual Vatican II seminar. Keynote speakers: Fr Francis Moloney sdb and Bishop Peter Ingham. The seminar will focus on the Vatican II document on the Church and its significance for what it means to be church today and how it can be lived in our Diocese in light of the Pastoral Plan. 10.00 am to 3.30 pm, Chevalier College, Bowral. Contact: jane.edwards@woll.catholic.org.au or 02 4253 0899, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.dow.org.au/coming-events/coming-events>.

28 NOVEMBER. FUNDRAISER: 'INACTION FOR ACTION DAY' (NATIONAL). What are you not going to do on this day? Don't mow the lawns, let the washing pile up, don't bother with the dishes and forget about the shopping - do nothing for a change. Inaction for Action is a global event that can be anywhere, anytime where you can do nothing, and help raise much needed funds. Action for Community Living (ACL) Inc is encouraging everyone interested to get involved and help raise funds for their upgrade of computers, infrastructure costs and supporting great programs that provide empowerment and leadership training for people with disabilities. Contact: 03 9489 2999. Web: <http://www.inactionforaction.org.au>.

28 NOVEMBER. MANLY FAIR TRADE MARKET (NSW). Manly Council will be holding the Manly Fair Trade Christmas markets. There

will be 40 stalls offering a wide range of products, including handicrafts, clothes, bags, home wares, jewellery, toys, coffee, tea and chocolate. Free Christmas craft activities and all day entertainment. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Manly Council Forecourt, Manly. Contact: carol.layton@manly.nsw.gov.au or 02 9976 1658. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/480>.

29 NOVEMBER. INDONESIAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE: 'UPDATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN WEST PAPUA AND SECURITY SECTOR REFORM' (NSW). The recent visit of Prime Minister Julia Gillard to Indonesia put under the spotlight indigenous Papuans being tortured by Indonesian Security Forces. The Military Court in Jayapura (Papua) sentenced several soldiers to just a few months in prison, instead of the Human Rights Court trying this case. Meanwhile the Indonesian armed forces chief, Admiral Agus Suhartono, has announced a new military operation in the highlands of West Papua, the scene of much violence in recent years. Indonesian Solidarity and the West Papua Project at the University of Sydney are collaborating to present this Conference, plus a new collection of photos from West Papua. Speakers: Prof Peter King, the University of Sydney; Muso Sombuk, the University of Papua, Jayapura; Rusdi Marpaung, the human rights Jakarta-based group, Imparsial; Edio Gueterres, Dili - Timor Lorosae; Cammelia Webb-Gannon, Ph D student at CPACS, the University of Sydney; and Dupito Simamora, Indonesian Embassy, Canberra. 10.30 am to 4.00 pm, Centre for Peace and Conflict

Studies, Mackie Building, Room 114, Arundel Street, Forest Lodge, University of Sydney. Contact: indonesian_solidarity@yahoo.com.au or 0422 647 025. Web: <http://indymedia.org.au/a-one-day-conference-west-papua-update>.

1 DECEMBER. BREAKFAST: 'I CAN FIX HOMELESSNESS... TRUST ME' (ACT). The Institute of Public Administration ACT and the Public Policy Institute of the Australian Catholic University are holding this breakfast. Hon Dr Gary Johns will be speaking on the topic of homelessness, focusing on how to achieve the Rudd government's promise to halve homelessness by 2020. Roslyn Dundas, Director of Australian Council of Social Services ACT, will be giving a reply. Cost: \$95-125. 7.30 to 9.00 am, Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue, Ainslie. Contact: Jessica.keyes@act.ipaa.org.au or 02 6251 6060. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_national/faculties_schools_institutes_centres/institutes/public_policy_institute/.

1 DECEMBER. SOCIAL POLICY CONNECTIONS AGM AND FORUM: 'HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE NT INTERVENTION' (VIC). The Northern Territory Intervention, introduced in 2007, causes great anger, frustration and despondency amongst the majority of Aboriginal people in the NT. Church and community groups across Australia, too, are concerned as the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination notes that the legislation discriminates on the basis of race as well as 'the use of so-called special measures'. Speaker: Hon Alastair Nicholson AO, former Chief Justice of the Family Court, Honorary Professorial Fellow of the University of Melbourne. Alastair Nicholson has been at the forefront of fighting to change the legislation to ensure full restoration of the Racial Discrimination Act. At the forum, he will provide more details about this issue, and how all concerned with Aboriginal wellbeing might respond. Cost: donation. 7.00 pm AGM; 7.30 pm forum; Yarra Theological Union Study Centre, 34 Bedford Street, Box Hill. Contact: 03 9890 1077 or admin@socialpolicyconnections.com.au. Web: http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/Portals/3/docs/newsletters/SPC%20Newsletter.Nov.2010.pdf?utm_source=Social+Policy+Co

[nnections+List&utm_campaign=72dc775aec-SPC_Important+Updates+231110&utm_medium=email](#).

1, 2 DECEMBER. ADVENT DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION (NSW). Bishop David Walker is holding this celebration where Sr Trish Madigan OP will give the homily. 8.00 pm, 1 December, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley Avenue, Waitara. 2 December, St Patrick's Church, 76 York Street, East Gosford. Web: <http://www.dbb.org.au/ourparishesandpriests/Pages/BulletinDownloads.aspx>.

2 DECEMBER. SEMINAR: 'POST-RELEASE EMPLOYMENT' (NSW). There are many challenges faced by ex-prisoners in staying in poorly paid employment when the lure of easy money beckons. This seminar will investigate these issues and will explore post-release employment opportunities available to ex-prisoners. This seminar has been made possible through the sponsorship of Corrective Services NSW. Speakers include: a representative and clients from the Community Restorative Centre; Dr Bronwyn Naylor, Monash University; and Brad Parker, CFMEU. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Faculty Common Room, Level 4, Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0248 or law.events@sydney.edu.au. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#SafeGrowth.

2 DECEMBER. WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS REPORT (TAS). Women's International League for Peace and Freedom are holding this event as part of Human Rights Week. Rose Tasker, who recently attended the World Youth Congress in Turkey, will report on events there. 2.30 pm, Women Tas, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart. Contact: 03 6233 4841. Web: http://www.afairerworld.org/Coming_events/.

2 - 3 DECEMBER. PATH TO FULL EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE: 'THE AFTERMATH OF THE CRISIS' (NSW). Hosted by Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE). Speakers: Marshall Auerback, global portfolio strategist, RAB Capital Plc, co-manager, RAB Gold Fund; Professor Randall Wray, University of Missouri-Kansas City, USA, Center for Full Employment

and Price Stability (CFEPS), Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Cost: \$400, concession \$230. University of Newcastle. Contact: 02 4921 7283 or coffee@newcastle.edu.au. Web: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/conferences/2010/index.cfm>.

3 DECEMBER. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (ERISJ) SEMINAR: 'CORE INSIGHTS THAT UNDERPIN SOCIAL JUSTICE' (WA). We often hear such terms as 'social justice' and 'human rights' bandied about. But what do they mean? ERISJ Director David Freeman unpacks these terms, suggesting that social justice is an umbrella term that folds together what he identifies as 35 core insights. These insights combine lived human experience, analyses of suffering and indignity, attempts at their alleviation, and the underpinning values that enable the entire social justice project. Cost: \$25-150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/certificates>.

3 DECEMBER. PHOTO EXHIBITION: 'MASTERPEACE: FOOTPRINTS FROM A JOURNEY TO FREEDOM' (VIC). This is Amnesty International's photo exhibition of Australian refugees leading lives of hope, happiness and laughter. There will be opportunity to take action to protect refugee rights. On the opening night of the exhibition, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre will be catering and the refugee hip-hop group Footprints Enterprises Inc will perform their own songs about their lives as refugees in Australia. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Studio B, Arts House, Meat Market, 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne. Contact: melbourne@artilleryfestival.com. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/vic/event/24092/>.

3 DECEMBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY. IDPwD is celebrated worldwide recognising the achievements and contributions of people with disability. IDPwD brings together people with disability and the general community and aims to: showcase the skills, abilities, contributions and achievements of people with disability; promote a positive image of people with disability; and involve people with disability and the broader community in activities to

celebrate and raise awareness of IDPwD. There are many easy and fun ways to get involved in IDPwD - host your own event or take part in an event in your area. Register or find an event near you: <http://www.idpwd.com.au/Pages/default.aspx>.

3 DECEMBER. STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DAY (NSW). Decorate some lanterns which will be lit and floated on the pool in memory of victims of domestic violence. Free sausage sizzle, face painting, pool entry and information bags. 6.00 to 8.30 pm, Mount Druitt Pools, Mount Street, Mt Druitt. Contact: 02 4731 5098. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/50802/448/>.

3 DECEMBER. FUNDRAISER: 'THE EAST TIMOR LITERACY FOR LIFE PROJECT' (NSW). Juanita Phillips, author and presenter, ABC 7pm News, will host this event. Speakers: Jock Cheetham, SMH Journalist; Sr Susan Connelly RSJ, Mary Mackillop East Timor Mission; and Jemma Hollands, Human Rights Lawyer, former advisor to the Timorese Government on human trafficking. Raffle prizes: bottle of Grange and Moet Chandon, designer label gifts, gym membership, salsa lessons. All funds raised will go towards giving Timorese children library books in their own language. Cost: \$20 tax deductible donation. 6.30 to 8.30 pm, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: 02 9960 2333, RSVP essential. Web: http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4_h.htm.

4 DECEMBER. FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TOURS (VIC). This fair trade shopping and lunch tour is held just in time for Christmas. Visit 2 fair trade shops each with a diverse range of products and then lunch at Melbourne's finest social enterprise restaurant, Charcoal Lane. First stop: The Trading Circle, Abbotsford (www.thetradingcircle.com.au), second stop: Sankofa, Fitzroy (www.sankofa.com.au), last stop: two course lunch at Charcoal Lane (www.charcoallane.com.au). Cost: \$70 (includes transport, champers, nibbles, fair trade goodie bag and 2 course lunch). 10.30 am to 2.30 pm, The Trading Circle, 261 Victoria Street, Abbotsford. Contact: kym@sankofa.com.au or 03 9416 4584. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/508>.

4 DECEMBER. REFLECTION AFTERNOON: 'A CRY OF THE HEART - ADVENT AND OUR LONGING FOR PEACE' (NSW). A reflection afternoon from the Sydney Justice and Peace Office with input from Margaret Wiseman and Dr Gerard Goldman as well as time for prayer and conversation. Dr Gerard Goldman, Director of the Broken Bay Institute, holds doctorates in both missiology and ministry, and has a particular interest in the theology of peace and reconciliation. Margaret Wiseman, Catholic Chaplain, Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre, is a wife, mother and grandmother, who also works as a spiritual director, offering one to one direction and retreats. 1.30 to 4.30 pm, St Mary's Catholic Church, 21 Swanston Street, Erskineville. Contact: 02 9390 5319 or chantelle.ogilvie@sydneycatholic.org, RSVP by 30 November for catering.

4 DECEMBER. BARBECUE TO SUPPORT REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS (NSW). Following the success of their October picnic in support of refugees and asylum seekers, the Balmain and Rozelle Action Group will be hosting another BBQ. Everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate the start of summer with some good food and company, and even some cricket. 1.00 to 6.00 pm, Darrell Jackson Gardens, Carlton Crescent, Summer Hill. Contact: balmain.amnesty@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/23731/>.

4 DECEMBER: MOVIE SCREENING: 'PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL' (WA). As part of the 16 Days of Activism to Stop Violence Against Women, the WA Amnesty Branch is screening this remarkable film. *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country. Thousands of women - ordinary mothers, grandmothers, aunts and daughters, both Christian and Muslim - came together to pray for peace and then staged a silent protest outside of the Presidential Palace. Armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions, they demanded a resolution to the country's civil war. Their actions were a critical element in bringing about an agreement during the stalled peace talks. Inspiring, uplifting, and

most of all motivating, it is a compelling testimony of how grassroots activism can alter the history of nations. Cost: \$10, concession \$5. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Fremantle Film and Television Institute (FTI), 92 Adelaide Street, Fremantle. Contact: jill.downard@amnesty.org.au. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/wa/event/24133/>.

4 - 5 DECEMBER. FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKET (QLD). Local not-for-profit organisation, the Qld Fair Trade Collective, is hosting two days of Fair Trade and ethical shopping. Complete with entertainment, fairtrade tea and coffee, food, face-painting and charity info stalls, this is the perfect way to put a little meaning back into your December shopping. Choose from a huge range of fairly traded gifts, home wares, toys, clothing, fashion accessories and gift hampers. No entry cost. 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, Nudgee Junior College Hall, corner Kate Street and Witton Road, Indooroopilly. Web: <http://www.qldfairtrade.org.au/markets>.

5 DECEMBER. BOOK LAUNCH: 'HEART SPACE' (NSW). The Council for Australian Catholic Women in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle invites you to the local launch of *Heart Space - A Compilation of Prayers and Reflections by Catholic Women of Australia*. The local contributing authors are Loretto Lynch and Carmel Scruton. 3.00 pm, Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West. Contact: 02 4979 1111 or sarah.lonsdale@mn.catholic.org.au, RSVP by 1 December. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/CACW%20-%20Heart%20Space%20-%205%20December%202010.pdf>.

7 DECEMBER. EDMUND RICE AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'POWER OF COMMUNITY' (NSW). A documentary titled *The Power of Community, How Cuba Survived Peak Oil* will be shown and discussed. Cuba was forced through sudden withdrawal of its source of oil from the Soviet Union to find a way to continue to farm and grow without reliance on a ready source of oil. The result was a real use of community power and co operation and resulted in a country where most farming went from large energy intensive farming to smaller less energy-intensive organic farming

and the use of urban gardens. Industries too have successfully addressed the challenge of substantially reducing the need for high energy use. Community cooperation and a real sense of ownership and mutual responsibility show the way for other countries to also move to a less fossil fuel energy driven future. Cost: \$2-5. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, Homebush West, near Flemington station. Contact: 02 8762 4200 or leoniec@erc.org.au. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au>.

7 DECEMBER. PRESENTATION: 'FACES BEHIND THE FEAR' (VIC). Many asylum seekers have been forced to leave their family behind and live in destitute conditions here in Australia while seeking refugee status. At the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) they are made to feel welcome, safe and supported. At ASRC we believe in the potential of people, in the extraordinary resilience and courage of asylum seekers. Speaker: Manita Ray, Philanthropic and Corporate Affairs Coordinator, ASRC. 8.00 pm, St Stephen's Parish Centre (behind the church), 383 High Street Road, Mount Waverly. Contact: johnthek@westnet.com.au, RSVP by 1 December. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/vic/event/24155/>.

7 DECEMBER. FORUM: 'HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY' (NSW). Including the launch of FECCA's magazine *Australian mosaic* on the topic of 'Rights and Diversity'. Speakers: Joumanah El Matrah, Executive Director, Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria; Pino Migliorino, Chair, FECCA; Padma Raman, Executive Director, Australian Human Rights Commission; and Graeme Innes, Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner. Presented by Australian Human Rights Commission and Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA). 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, Hearing Room, Australian Human Rights Commission, Level 8, 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Contact: padma@fecca.org.au, 02 6282 5755, 02 9284 9716 or Maria.katsabanis@humanrights.gov.au. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/50611/451/>.

8 DECEMBER. TASCROSS HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK BREAKFAST (TAS). Topics discussed include human rights and the community

services sector and a Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities for Tasmania. Speakers: Cassandra Goldie, CEO, ACOSS; and Robin Banks, Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commissioner. Cost: \$15-30. 7.30 am, Salamanca Inn, 10 Gladstone Street, Hobart. Contact: admin@tascross.org.au, RSVP by 3 December. Web: <http://tascross.org.au/>.

8 DECEMBER. DINNER AND SPEAKER: INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY AND HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK (TAS). Australian Volunteers International is holding this event to mark International Volunteer Day and Human Rights Week. Speaker: Robin Banks, Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, to speak on the progress of human rights protection in Australia. 7.00 pm, Upstairs Republic Bar, North Hobart. Contact: admin@afairerworld.org or 03 6223 1025. Web: http://www.afairerworld.org/Coming_events/.

9 - 10 DECEMBER. SYMPOSIUM: '2007 DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. INDIGENOUS SURVIVAL: WHERE TO FROM HERE?' (NSW). This symposium will host famed Indigenous commentators and activists from Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Australia, who will provide critical responses to the contemporary position of Indigenous Peoples globally since the 2007 ratification of the Declaration. It is presented by The David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research (DUCIER). Cost: \$210. UniSA Bradley Forum, Level 5, Hawke Building, 50-60 North Terrace, Adelaide. Contact: 08 8302 9281 or kendra.coulter@unisa.edu.au. Web: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/ducier/research/symposium/default.asp>.

10 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK MARCH (TAS). Each year the Human Rights Week Committee and Amnesty International Australia organise a peaceful march through Hobart CBD. It's easy to join, simply register your group's interest, make some banners or placards, and meet at the centre of the roundabout just near the ABC office. 12.00 to 2.00 pm, ABC Roundabout, Hobart. Register: tasaia@amnesty.org.au or 03 6221 1002. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/tas/event/24116/>.

10 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS MEDALS AND AWARDS CEREMONY (NSW). Commission President, Catherine Branson QC said ‘The Commission’s Human Rights Medals and Awards ceremony provides one of the most effective ways the Australian community can pay homage to those who go beyond the call of duty to promote fairness in a way that ultimately benefits us all, ...The ceremony is guaranteed to lift spirits and provide inspiration for all those who attend and above all, provides the opportunity to say thank you to the winners for their efforts.’ She said the Ceremony also provided the opportunity to network and meet others involved in human rights advocacy in Australia from the government, non-government and corporate sectors. Cost: \$80, concession \$50. 12.00 to 3.00 pm, Grand Ballroom, Sheraton on the Park Hotel, Sydney. Contact: 02 9284 9618 or hrawards@humanrights.gov.au. Web: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards.

10 DECEMBER. ETHICA CHRISTMAS IN PERU (VIC). Ethica believes in giving marginalised and impoverished women in Peru the opportunity to earn an income by providing the resources to make products for sale in Australia and paying a fair wage for those products. It is a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development that maintains the dignity of the women and teaches them skills for the future. This event is a chance to do all your ethical Christmas shopping. 2.00 to 8.00 pm. Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: info.ethica@sosj.org.au. Web: <http://www.ethica.org.au>.

10 DECEMBER. YOUTH FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS: ‘RIGHTEOUS RIGHTS AT THE ROUND TABLE’ (VIC). Proudly presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria and supported by PBS 106.7FM, Signal, City of Melbourne, Arts Victoria and Australia Council for the Arts on Human Rights Day. Speakers: Tyrone Bean, Australia’s First Nation’s; Emmanuel Majok, newly arrived Sudanese Australian; Robbie Thorpe, Black GST elder, activist and the man behind the phrase ‘White Australia has a Black History’, addressing rights of the First Australians; Akoch Manheim, founder of the Sudanese Lost Boys Association of Australia;

Dr Diane Sisely, Director, Australian Centre for Human Rights, will be addressing the rights of women and the application of human rights in everyday life. Following on from the main agendas discussed, the group will work together to draw up their own bill of rights and this will be sent to the Australian Government for recognition. Massive hip hop choir will perform to close the forum. 1.00 to 4.00 pm, Signal Youth Space, Flinders Walk, Northbank. Contact: youth@multiculturalarts.com.au or 03 9417 6777. Web: http://www.multiculturalarts.com.au/events2010/righteous_forum.shtml.

11 DECEMBER. FAIR@SQUARE FAIR-TRADE AND ETHICAL FESTIVAL (VIC). Fair@Square acts not only as an awareness raising platform but, importantly, aims to link the public with organisations that operate with an ethical and socially responsible paradigm. Fair@Square provides a culturally rich and diverse offering of workshops, talks, market stalls, music, fashion and art, appealing to the young and old. The festival inspires, entertains and educates attendees from all cultures, demonstrating how to become part of a sustainable future that values and respects all human beings and the preservation of our planet. No cost. 11.00 am to 6.00 pm, Federation Square, Melbourne. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/474>.

11 DECEMBER. WA FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS MARKET (WA). The WA Fair Trade Collective in conjunction with the Subiaco Farmers Market will be hosting a Christmas fair trade market - home wares, toys, clothing, crafts, food, jewellery and accessories. Fair Trade cooking demonstrations (10.00 am), Fair Trade chocolate fountain, talks, films, and children’s activities. Organic and wholesome foods at the farmers market. 8.00 am to 1.00 pm, Subiaco Farmers Market, Subiaco Primary School, 271 Bagot Road. Contact: robert@fairgotrading.com.au or 08 9228 2610. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/524>.

12 DECEMBER. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ART EXHIBITION AND FREEDOM MUSIC (NSW). The Central Coast Action Group have organised this day of activities and festivities. The day will feature the music of Azadoota World Music

Band, and Melody Pascoe, vocalist and Central Coast Action Group Director of Campaigning, will sing 'Born Free'. Art from the inaugural Beryl Collier Human Rights Art Competition will be displayed. There will also be a photographic exhibition focussed on refugees. Speakers: Professor Helen Ware; Tenpa Dugdak, Tibetan refugee, Free Tibet Movement; Dr Win Childs; and Robin, Iraqi refugee; lead singer of Azadoota. There will also be a performance by The Temple Gypsies, a freedom world dance group, and a workshop on human rights law. Cost: gold coin donation. 11.00 am to 4.00 pm, The Rhythm Hut, Unit 7/ 141-145 Erina Street, Gosford. Contact: howardcbell@aol.com. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/23982/>.

14 DECEMBER. CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA BREAKFAST MEETING: 'HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT VULNERABLE CHILDREN' (VIC). "We must listen to the voices of the children in our care and put their needs at the centre of our decision making. We have to hold true to our responsibility as a community to provide long term stability and positive outcomes to kids in our care." (M.Cronin). Speaker: Micaela Cronin, CEO, MacKillop Family Services. Cost: \$15. 7.15 for 7.30 to 8.45 am, Cathedral room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. Contact: esilvius@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566, RSVP by 9 December. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/>.

19 - 21 JANUARY, 7 - 8 MAY. CATHOLIC INSTITUTE INTENSIVE COURSE: 'INTRODUCING ISLAM' (NSW). One in five people in the world are Muslim. Together with Christians they make up over fifty per cent of the world's population. Increasingly, Christians and Muslims are neighbours at school, at work, at play, in the neighbourhood. Lecturer: Patrick

J McInerney LSAI, TheolM, PhD, Columban Missionary Priest; assigned to Pakistan for over twenty years; Coordinator of the Columban Mission Institute's Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and Centre for Mission Studies; Board Member of ACU's Australia-Pacific Centre for Interreligious Dialogue; member of the ACBC's Australian Catholic Council for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations. Also Muslim guest lecturers with expertise in Islamic scholarship will present an "insider's" view. Contact: 02 9752 9500 or cisinfo@cis.catholic.edu.au, RSVP by 10 December. Web: <http://www.cis.catholic.edu.au>.

23 - 26 JANUARY 2011. ANNUAL BIOETHICS COLLOQUIUM PUBLIC LECTURE: 'EUGENICS IN CONTEMPORARY BIOETHICS' (VIC). The Hon Greg Donnelly MLC, Government Whip in the Parliament of New South Wales will speak on the topic 'New Developments in the Euthanasia Campaign' at a public forum. 7.00 pm, ACU, Christ Lecture Theatre, Fitzroy. Contact: 03 9412 3377 or moshea@jp2institute.org.au. Web: http://www.cam.org.au/index.php?option=com_eventlist&view=details&id=96&Itemid=393.

4 - 6 FEBRUARY. PACE E BENE AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GATHERING: 'ENGAGING NONVIOLENCE - NONVIOLENT LIVING IN THE 21ST CENTURY' (VIC). An invitation to join with others at the 3rd National Gathering of Pace e Bene Australia, sharing the journey of 'exploring nonviolence' and how it takes shape in our lives. Cost: accommodation \$175, concession \$155; plus invitation to contribute to conference costs. Amberley, Edmund Rice Centre, 7 Amberley Way, Lower Plenty. Contact: 03 5562 3277, 0408 541 152 or bobmyers@aapt.net.au. Web: <http://paceebene.org.au/>.

News Monitor

Compassion needed from community over refugee move: bishop

The community needs to show “compassion and understanding” over government plans to move asylum-seekers into new detention centres near Perth and Adelaide, said the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference delegate for refugee and migrant issues.

Bishops ask Vic Catholics to scrutinise candidates

For the first time in a Victorian State Election, the Archbishop of Melbourne and the Bishops of Ballarat, Sandhurst and Sale prepared a powerful pre-election document to guide Catholics as they considered how they would vote.

Aussie delegates attend Kiribati climate conference

A delegation from the Edmund Rice Centre and the Pacific Calling Partnership attended a major climate change meeting hosted by the low-lying Kiribati island.

New JRS shelter can house entire refugee families

Jesuit Refugee Service Australia is able to accommodate entire refugee families after opening its latest shelter, a former boarding house in the Sydney beachside suburb of Manly.

Laotian village threatens to expel more Christian families

Officials in a southern Laotian village ordered six more Christian families to renounce their faith or face expulsion in early January.

Legal equality should signal end to offshore processing, say bishops

A High Court judgement that effectively affords asylum seekers the same protection of the country’s legal system as everyone else should spur the government to consider moving all asylum-seeker processing onshore, said the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

European church groups call for ‘climate justice’

A meeting of European churches has adopted a “Budapest Call for Climate Justice”, calling for social and ecological values to be a central goal in policy-making among industrialised nations, the Independent Catholic News reports.

Women religious to Canberra for human trafficking talks

Australia’s women religious travelled to Canberra to hold meetings about human trafficking with politicians, community leaders, academics, union bosses and foreign embassy staff.

- For details click on headlines or to to <http://cathnews.com>

Social Justice Calendar

1 WED World AIDS Day

2 THU International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

3 FRI UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Battle of the Eureka Stockade, 1874

5 SUN 2nd Sunday of Advent
International Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development

6 MON St Nicholas (Santa Claus)

7 TUE International Civil Aviation Day

8 WED Final Session of Vatican Council II, 1965

9 THU International Anti-Corruption Day

10 FRI Human Rights Day: Adoption of United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
Prime Minister Paul Keating's Speech to launch International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1992
Death of Thomas Merton, 1968

11 SAT International Mountain Day

12 SUN 3rd Sunday of Advent

18 SAT International Migrants Day
South Australian Parliament was the first in the world to give women the right to vote, 1894

19 SUN 4th Sunday of Advent

20 MON International Human Solidarity Day

21 TUE Native Title Bill passed by the Senate, 1993
Dissolution of the USSR and the founding of the Commonwealth of Independent States including Russia, 1991

23 THU Wik decision, 1996
Immigration Restriction Act (White Australia Policy) enacted, 1901

25 SAT Christmas Day (Solemnity)

26 SUN Holy Family (Feast)

31 FRI Paid annual leave granted to workers in Australia, 1946

JANUARY 2011

1 SAT Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)
World Day of Prayer for Peace

Theme: Religious freedom, the path to peace
1901: Foundation of Commonwealth of Australia
1994: Native Title Act commenced operation

2 SUN The Epiphany of Jesus (Solemnity)

3 MON 1977: First loans by the Grameen Bank, founded by Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh

9 SUN Baptism of Jesus

10 MON 1946: First UN General Assembly opens with 51 nations represented

15 SAT 1929: Birth of Martin Luther King Jr in Atlanta, USA

16 SUN Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees

18 TUE 1788: First Fleet arrives at Botany Bay with 751 convicts to establish NSW as a penal colony

23 SUN Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 MON Feast of St Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalism

25 TUE 1959: Second Vatican Council promulgated by Pope John XXIII

26 WED Australia Day/Survival Day
1788: Governor Phillip raised the British flag at Sydney Cove
1972: Aboriginal Tent Embassy established in Canberra

27 THU UN International Day of Commemoration for the victims of the Holocaust

30 SUN Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
1948: Mahatma Gandhi assassinated

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$6.60. To order go to http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html, or call 02 8306 3499.

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