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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

Church and community representatives are seeking to bring reason and a little compassion as politicians and media coverage once again sensationalise the desperation of asylum seekers and play down the inhumane conditions of prolonged detention.

Following the Government's announcement of the construction of a new detention centre on the outskirts of Darwin, ACSJC Chairman Bishop Christopher Saunders said: 'The matter of concern ... is not, as suggested by some politicians, that the government has failed to "stop the boats" but rather that the Australian Government continues to incarcerate desperate people who have fled violence and persecution.

'The \$9 million to be spent constructing a new detention centre and \$74 million over three years for leasing the land will be in addition to the hundreds of millions spent on the detention of just over 6,650 asylum seekers in mainland and offshore centres.

'Our prolonged detention of asylum seekers who come to Australia by boat is simply adding further trauma to the lives of vulnerable individuals and families - at great cost to the Australian taxpayer.'

As of February, 79 per cent of all asylum seekers have been in detention for longer than three months and 47 per cent have been detained between six months and a year.

One of the causes of the delays is a backlog in ASIO security checks, which are now taking an average of 66 days. During a Senate estimates hearing in late February, the Department of Immigration revealed that 900 people who have already been accepted as genuine refugees remain in detention because ASIO has not completed the required security checks.

Bishop Saunders criticised Government for the delays, saying: 'These people are in need of compassion and security. The appallingly long time it takes to process their claims is a sad condemnation of our moral worth as a people who pride ourselves in always preserving a spirit of fairness.' (refer: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/media_releases/2011_03_10_79687812567.html)

The delays are causing the kind of tensions that we saw unfold in protests on Christmas Island in recent weeks.

Fr Maurizio Pettena, Director of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) condemned the firing of tear gas and bean bag rounds at protestors as a 'highly inappropriate' response to protests that were in fact an 'understandable reflection of the conditions of detention'. He said: 'The frustration involved with being locked up for the duration of the application process is immense and we need to consider more appropriate and humane responses to this issue.

'The Catholic Church will never accept mandatory detention, in particular prolonged, offshore and remote detention of asylum seekers and refugees

'Detention is for criminals. Asylum seekers and refugees are not criminals. Asylum seekers are people created in the likeness of God, deserving of dignity, and due to circumstances beyond their control are now in search of a sustainable life. Political demands should never prevail over the value of the human person', he said. (refer: http://www.catholic.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=1117&tmpl=component&format=raw&Itemid=355)

Edmund Rice Centre Director, Phil Glendenning, highlighted the personal responsibility of Australians in his opinion piece for *Australian Policy Online*.

'The firing of "bean-bag bullets" at protesting asylum seekers on Christmas Island will have taken many detainees straight back to the battle zones of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. But, the bean-bag guns wound us too - as a nation. All the more so because, in terms of asylum policy, there is a better way.

'The causes of the protests on Christmas Island lie within the machinations of our politics. When compassion for vulnerable people is seen as weakness, rather than our greatest civilising strength, then it's not just the Department of Immigration that has a problem. We do - all Australians ...

'The asylum seekers' experience and trauma is something we struggle to understand. For them, war is not just another item from between commercial breaks on the 6 pm news. Fortunately, what has happened to them has not happened to most of us. If it had, we would not treat them the way we do. We would not build bigger and more remote detention centres. We would not allow them to be the political football they have become', Mr Glendenning says. (refer: <http://www.apo.org>.

[au/commentary/bean-bag-bullets-or-better-way-australias-asylum-policy-crossroads](http://www.apo.org.au/commentary/bean-bag-bullets-or-better-way-australias-asylum-policy-crossroads))

There is a growing chorus of Church and asylum seeker advocacy groups demanding the Government live up to its promises that immigration detention would be a last resort and for the shortest possible time. Today's calls for the community integration of asylum seekers while their claims are assessed are the same ones being voiced at the height of the Howard Government's 'Pacific solution'.

Australian Human Rights Commission president Catherine Branson QC has spoken of how 'Australia's system of mandatory and indefinite immigration detention was one of the key concerns raised by the international community during the recent United Nations Universal Periodic Review of Australia's human rights record.'

Commissioner Branson added her call for the Government to implement the risk-based approach to detention it announced in 2008.

'People should only be held in immigration detention if there is a risk that justifies detaining them. If no such risk exists, they should be allowed to reside in community-based alternatives to detention while their refugee claims are processed.' (refer: http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2011/17_11.html)

Prolonged mandatory detention of a small number of asylum seekers is not necessary for the protection of Australia. Running detention centres and building new ones is an unnecessary and expensive burden on taxpayers. But it is impossible to measure the true cost of this system in terms of damage done to vulnerable people and to our nation's spirit of compassion and reputation as a responsible global citizen.

John Ferguson
National Executive Officer



Current Issues / Resources

PROJECT COMPASSION 2011

Your generosity has enabled Caritas Australia to help so many marginalised people throughout the world. With your support, Caritas Australia is working hard to support communities living in poverty to help people to help themselves. Project Compassion ends on Easter Sunday, 24 April 2011. Catholic schools and parishes throughout Australia have received educational materials aimed at broadening the way we view the world. International speakers from our partner organisations are visiting Australia to participate in a public speaking campaign for people of all ages. Visit the Project Compassion website for more information about how you can get involved and lend your support: http://www.caritas.org.au/project/compassion_11/About/index.html

FAIRTRADE CHOCOLATE EASTER CAMPAIGN

The campaign, an initiative of Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand and ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) asks people to buy FAIRTRADE chocolate for Easter to help stop the trafficking of children into West African cocoa plantations. About 40% of the world's chocolate is made from cocoa beans picked in West Africa, where many children are trapped in slavery and forced to work. Make Your Chocolate Fair This Easter. Before you buy chocolates think about where it comes from and who makes it. Fair Trade chocolate is now widely available from supermarkets, the Good Shepherd Trading Circles in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane and at Oxfam stores. For more information contact Good Shepherd Mission & Justice on 03 9205 4100.

PETITION: RESTORE HUMAN RIGHTS TO NT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

'concerned Australians' are seeking your support in seeking equity, respect and human rights for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers of the Northern Territory. In early February, Elders & leaders from the Northern Territory travelled to

Melbourne and addressed a full auditorium at the Melbourne University Law School. They released a statement to over 400 people. Such have been the serious criticisms of the NT Intervention at the United Nations that Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, is visiting Australia shortly. 'Concerned Australians' has a letter and petition requesting Navi Pillay to address these issues with the Government, urging them to turn around the human rights violations embedded in the Northern Territory Intervention. Petitions need to be returned to 'concerned Australians' by 7 May at: PO Box 281, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002.

To access the letter and forms, and also to access the Elder's Statement of February, visit <http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au>.

PUBLICATION: 'DESTITUTE AND UNCERTAIN'

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre has just released a new paper entitled *Destitute and Uncertain: The reality of Seeking Asylum in Australia*. The purpose of this paper is to educate, advocate and work constructively towards better practices and process regarding the welfare needs of asylum seekers. It highlights key recommendations to ease the uncertainty and destitution facing many asylum seekers living in our community. The paper outlines a best practice model for responding to the welfare needs of asylum seekers. To access the paper, visit: <http://www.asrc.org.au/publications/publications/>

NSW REFUGEE WEEK SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

Applications are now open for the 2011 NSW Refugee Week Small Grants Program. The Refugee Council of Australia is offering a limited number of small grants of \$250 or \$500 to NSW-based organisations. These grants are made possible through the generous support of the NSW Community Relations Commission. The grants are designed to enable grass-roots community participation in events that include refugee communities during Refugee Week.

The aim of events is to encourage Australians to think about the reasons refugees flee their homelands, the importance of providing safety and lasting security to people fleeing persecution and the positive contributions that refugees make to Australian society. Grant guidelines and application forms can be downloaded at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/rwgrants.html>. Applications close 5:00pm Friday 8 April 2011. For further information, contact (02) 9211 9333 or info@refugeecouncil.org.au

THE LETTER WRITING PROJECT (ASYLUM SEEKERS CHRISTMAS ISLAND)

Writing letters to people in detention has been an integral part of assisting asylum seekers in remote locations where the likelihood of receiving visitors is minimal. Because of Christmas Island's extreme isolation, letter writing is even more crucial to help bridge the gap between Australians and asylum seekers. They need to know they've not been forgotten. Web: http://asci.org.au/demo/?page_id=86.

DVD & BOOKLET: 'STATIONS OF THE FORESTS'

Following the format of The Stations of the Cross this prayerful resource laments the stages in the death of a part of God's Creation, the rainforests. It incorporates issues related to rainforest destruction: extractive industries, loss of biodiversity and climate change. In the International Year of the Forests, it invites you to reflect on our place in the Australian landscape in a similar manner and take hope-filled action. A booklet accompanies the DVD, providing the script, an agenda for meetings, a reflection for each of the Stations, and prayers. Ideal for senior students and adult groups. Price: \$25.00 plus postage, handling and GST. To Order, visit <http://www.columban.org.au> or Contact Columban Mission Institute,

Locked Bag 2002, Strathfield NSW 2135, ph 02 9352 8021.

PETITION FOR POKIE REFORM

Half of the poker machines in the world are located here in Australia. Australians lose over \$12 billion every year on pokies, and problem gamblers can lose over \$1000 in a single hour. GetUp! is running a petition calling on parliament to implement sensible pre-commitment technology to help problem gamblers kick a habit that's destroying Australian families. Independent MP Andrew Wilkie will present the petition to the Prime Minister when 100,000 people have signed on. To find out more and sign the petition, visit <http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/Pokies&id=1615>

PUBLICATION: 'SEE I AM DOING A NEW THING!'

See I am doing a new thing! is the result of a collaboration between the National Council of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Pastoral Projects office. In 2009 a survey was sent to all Institutes of Clerical Religious, Religious Brothers and Religious Sisters in Australia. The CRA commissioned the authors, Robert Dixon and Noel Connelly, to get a picture of the membership at the present time, to consider trends for the future and to understand more fully the important role that Catholic religious play in the Australian Church and society. The resulting report makes for fascinating reading. There is also insightful discussion of the data and reflections from prominent leaders of religious institutes. Published by John Garratt at a cost of 21.95, the document can be ordered online at: <http://johngarratt.com.au/index.php/product/9781920682293-see-i-am-doing-a-new-thing-stephen-reid>

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website and fax it to (02) 8306 3498: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2011

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *Religious Freedom: the Path to Peace*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope's message, some points for reflection, and prayer. This is an ideal resource for schools and social justice discussion groups. It can be downloaded in pdf or word formats from the ACSJC homepage: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

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. 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

The 2010 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)

(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

UNTIL 5 APRIL. ONLINE DIALOGUE: 'JOINING FORCES: ENGAGING MEN AS ALLIES IN GENDER-SENSITIVE PEACEBUILDING' (NATIONAL). New Tactics and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation's Women Peacemakers Program (IFOR/WPP) are holding this dialogue. It is an opportunity for engaging men as allies to discuss these questions and share their experiences. Web: <http://www.newtactics.org>.

UNTIL 15 APRIL. LENTEN LITURGIES OF HOPE AND HEALING (NSW). As part of the pilgrimage towards Easter, Bishop Michael Malone, accompanied by the Diocesan WYD Cross, will travel around the Maitland-Newcastle diocese to lead Lenten Liturgies of Hope and Healing. We live in parishes, neighbourhoods, a nation and a world that need healing. Join with members of your region to reflect and pray to the God who is justice, mercy and love.
2 April: 12.30 to 1.00 pm, St Augustine's Hall, Bathurst Street, Singleton.
8 April: 7.00 pm, St Paul's, 10 Young Street, Rutherford.
15 April: 7.00 pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Hamilton.
Contact: 02 4979 1111. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Lenten%20Services%20of%20Hope%20&%20Healing%20Mar%202011.pdf>.

UNTIL 17 APRIL. PROJECT COMPASSION (NATIONAL). Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's major annual fundraising and awareness campaign. It is an invitation to reflect upon the significant issues of poverty, justice and development in our world. Donations collected during Project Compassion support aid and development programs around the world and help to build a better life for the poorest of the poor. Read stories of hope, download resources and fundraising suggestions from the website and find out how your support makes a big difference to people living in poverty. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>.

UNTIL 23 APRIL. TAKE THE CARBON FAST (NATIONAL). Take the Carbon Fast for Lent to reflect on God's creation and take action to protect the world's most vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change. Fasting in the Bible takes on huge significance as a period of reflection, giving up luxuries, seeking God, repentance and transformation. There will be 7 session guides with bible studies under each of these themes. As you undergo the 7 weeks of carbon fasting, explore the sessions to reflect on your experiences and changes in lifestyle. To discuss the 7 sessions, you can meet weekly with a local small group of other participants. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/advocacy/articles/carbon-fast/>.

UNTIL 8 MAY. EXHIBITION: 'FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW: FIGHTING FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS 1920 - 1970' (NSW). This exhibition tells the story of a group of Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who said 'That's not good enough' - and did something about it. The exhibition tells some uncomfortable truths and celebrates some 'ordinary extraordinary' heroes. This is the time where some Australians did not have the same freedoms as everybody else. They were the First Australians, made second-class citizens in their own country. This is a moment to share our common history and celebrate some courageous Australians. Cost: \$10, concession \$5. 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, Museum of Sydney, corner Bridge and Phillip Streets, Sydney. Contact: 02 9251 5988. Web: <http://www.hht.net.au/museums/mos>.

31 MARCH. FILM SCREENING: 'THE GREATEST SILENCE' (WA). Since 1998 a brutal war has been raging in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Over 4 million people have died. And there are the uncountable casualties: the many tens of thousands of women and girls who have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated and tortured by soldiers from both foreign militias and the Congolese army.

The world knows nothing of these women. Their stories have never been told. They suffer and die in silence. In *The Greatest Silence* these brave women finally speak. Caritas Australia invites you to be a voice for women in the Congo, be informed and take action. Speaker: Alex Engel from Caritas Australia. Cost: donation. 6.30 pm, The Catholic Centre, 9 Maitland Street, Geraldton. Contact: plm@wn.com.au or 08 9964 2716, RSVP by 22 March. Web: http://www.caritas.org.au/project/compassion_11/Events/index.html.

31 MARCH, 1, 6, 7 APRIL. FILM SCREENING: 'THE WAR YOU DON'T SEE' (NSW, WA, TAS). John Pilger's controversial new film, a powerful and timely investigation into the media's role in war, tracing the history of 'embedded' and independent reporting from the carnage of World War One to the destruction of Hiroshima, and from the invasion of Vietnam to the current war in Afghanistan and disaster in Iraq. As weapons and propaganda become even more sophisticated, the nature of war is developing into an 'electronic battlefield' in which journalists play a key role, and civilians are the victims. Includes an interview with WikiLeaks founder and editor-in-chief Julian Assange.

31 March. 6.30 pm NSW, UNSW Kensington Campus, Robert Webster Building, Level 3, Theatre - Room 327. Cost: \$7. Contact: 0400 320 602 or sydney@greenleft.org.au.

1 April. 6.30 pm NSW, St Luke's Hall, 11 Stanmore Road, Enmore. Cost: \$7. Contact: sydney@greenleft.org.au or 0410 629 088.

6 April. 6.30 pm NSW, Parramatta Town Hall, Jubilee Room, Church Street, Parramatta. Cost: \$7. Contact: sydney@greenleft.org.au or 0431 586 588.

6 April. 6.30 pm WA, FTI Cinema, 92 Adelaide Street, Fremantle. Cost: \$7. Contact: perth@greenleft.org.au or 08 9218 9608.

7 April. 12.15 to 1.30 pm TAS, University Centre Lecture Theatre (back half of Stanley Burbury), Hobart. Cost: donation. Contact: 03 6234 6397.

7 April. 7.00 to 9.00 pm TAS, Hobart Activist Centre, 225 Murray Street, Hobart. Cost: donation. Contact: 03 6234 6397.

7 April. 7.00 to 9.00 pm NSW, Royal Exchange, 34 Bolton Street, Newcastle. Cost: \$7. Contact: newcastle@socialist-alliance.org

or 02 4926 5328.

Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/calendar>.

1 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'PRISON LAW REFORM - THE NEW CAMPAIGN' (NSW).

Speakers: John Dowd, Chancellor, Southern Cross University, former NSW Attorney General; and Brett Collins, Coordinator Justice Action. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

1 APRIL. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AT HOME AND ABROAD: AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS' (VIC). The Castan Centre for Human Rights Law presents Vanessa Zimmerman, Legal Advisor to Professor John Ruggie, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Business and Human Rights. Vanessa will explain the Special Representative's work to date, highlight how it fits into other international initiatives on the topic and discuss potential next steps after the Special Representative's mandate ends in June 2011. No cost. 4.30 to 6.00 pm, Monash University, Room G21, Building 75, Clayton Campus. Contact: castan.centre@monash.edu or 03 9905 3327, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.monash.edu.au/news/events/show/business-and-human-rights-at-home-and-abroad-an-update-on-the-wo>.

1 APRIL. SYMPOSIUM: 'SHOULD NSW HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH COURT?' (NSW). A symposium to discuss the potential of a mental health 'court' to address issues of diversion in relation to people with cognitive and mental health impairments in the criminal justice system and it might be implemented in NSW. No cost. 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, Foyer, Level 2, New Law School, University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/52429/449/>.

1 APRIL. UN WOMEN BOARD MEETING: MEET CARINA HOANG (WA). The Perth Chapter of UN Women Australia is holding this meeting including President Sue Conde AM and Members of the National Committee of UN Women

Australia. Guest speaker: Carina Hoang, former Boat Person, inductee into WA's Inaugural Women's Hall of Fame and author of *Boat People*. Cost: \$20. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Shire of Peppermint Grove, 1 Leake Street (corner Stirling Highway), Peppermint Grove. Contact: alisoncook132@gmail.com, RSVP by 30 March. Web: <http://www.unifem.org.au/>.

1 - 14 APRIL. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'MISSING PEACE SRI LANKA' (VIC). Missing Peace is a charity photographic exhibition that goes behind tourist facades and security fences to reveal the ground realities of post war Sri Lanka. It features recent photographs and tells a complex story from multiple perspectives - survivors, soldiers, expatriates and aid agencies. It portrays a resilient people searching for diaspora support to piece together their broken lives after the war. The Highway Gallery, 14 The Highway, Mount Waverley. Contact: diasporalanka@gmail.com or 0403 694 132. Web: <http://www.diasporalanka.com/blog/?p=61>.

2 APRIL. WESTERN AUSTRALIA NUCLEAR FREE ALLIANCE (WANFA) MEETING: 'COMMUNITY VOICES' (WA). Aboriginal people from around WA will be gathered in Perth to discuss the push for uranium mining across the state. This public meeting will give you the opportunity to hear the stories from communities. After the talks stick around to enjoy some of Perth's finest musicians. 6.30 to 10.30 pm, Camp Woody, 740 Traylen Road, Stoneville. Contact: dellaraemorrison@gmail.com or 0438 678 471. Web: <http://wanfa.org.au/>.

2 APRIL. BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER: 'HOMEWORK' (VIC). This fundraising event will provide support for homeless women in Victoria. Women who come to Bethlehem have experienced long-term homelessness. The community provides accommodation and support to women, many of whom experience disabilities associated with abuse and/or mental ill-health. Cost: \$220. 7.00 pm, Palladium Ballroom, Crown, Whiteman Street, Southbank. Contact: 03 9462 3937 or homework@bethlehem.com.au. Web: <http://www.bethlehem.com.au/downloads/AugustBethStar-2010.pdf>.

2 APRIL. REFUGEE ACTION COLLECTIVE RALLY: 'CLOSE BROADMEADOWS DETENTION CENTRE - CHILDREN OUT OF DETENTION' (VIC). Despite the government's October announcement that all children would be released from detention, there are still more than 1000 children in detention. More than 140 young asylum seekers from the ages of 13 to 18 are locked up in the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation at Camp Road, Broadmeadows. Many of these young people have no family in Australia. Most of them are teenage boys whose fathers, brothers or other family members have been killed, and their families have sent them out of the country to save their lives. Mandatory detention of any asylum seeker is inhumane but it is especially inhumane for children and teenagers. 1.00 pm, Hungry Jack's car park, corner Camp and Sydney Roads, Broadmeadows, then march to Camp Road entrance to detention centre for speakers and symbolic action. Contact: refugeeaction@hotmail.com. Web: <http://www.rac-vic.org/>.

2 APRIL. GETUP RALLY: FAMILY FRIENDLY RALLY FOR CLIMATE ACTION (NSW). GetUp members have proved before, that they are willing to publicly show how much they care about clean energy and climate action. Recently, when a noisy slogan shouting anti-climate-action rally came to Melbourne, instead over 8,000 locals joined the GetUp rally for climate action. Now in Sydney, again GetUp will hold a positive, family-friendly gathering to stand up for the vision of clean energy and preserving a safe climate for kids. There will be great music and face-painting for kids. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm, Belmore Park (next to Central Station, behind the Eddy Avenue bus stops). Register: <http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/ClickHereToRSVP>.

2 - 28 APRIL. PALMS VOLUNTEERING INFORMATION SESSION (VIC, NSW, SA, WA, ACT). Through a global volunteer program, Palms Australia can place people with a community that requests their particular expertise to help develop the skills of local people. This service overseas or in Australia can assist to build the capacity of a local community and advance a sustainable future. Volunteers' personal growth will be even

greater. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au/news/events/>.

3 APRIL. SKILL-SHARE IN THE PARK WORKSHOP: 'VISITING ASYLUM SEEKERS IN DETENTION' (WA). This workshop is for people interested in visiting asylum seekers in immigration detention but are unsure of what to expect or talk about. It will be informal and participatory, but it will be led by refugee rights activists who have been visiting people for several years and in a variety of different detention centres. (This workshop should be particularly valuable to those people who are intending to go to Curtin Immigration Detention Centre over the Easter long weekend as part of Converge 2011 (<http://converge2011.net/>)); there is a planning meeting for this at 3.00 pm in the same location). Workshop: 4.00 to 5.00 pm, The Rad Library, near the pagoda on the north side of Hyde Park off Vincent Street, Mount Lawley. Contact: skillshare-detention@interarma.org. Web: <http://www.ran.org/skill-share-park-visiting-asylum-seekers-detention>.

3 APRIL. TALK: 'WHAT CATHOLIC WOMEN DO IN THE CHURCH' (NSW). The Archdiocesan Commission for Women's next free talk on 'What Catholic Women do in the Church'. Speakers will be: Barbara Hall and Sr Loretta Corrigan of Goulburn, Rachael Foley of Cullerin, Gaye McManus of Yass and Beverley Raby of Queanbeyan. No cost. 11.00 am to 1.00 pm, Parish Meeting Room, Old Cathedral, Goulburn. Contact: 02 6231 0664 or 0417 418 838. Web: http://www.cg.catholic.org.au/news/view_event.cfm?loadref=18&id=859.

4 APRIL. COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE CENTRE (CRC) WORKSHOP: 'WORKING WITH OFFENDERS POST-RELEASE' (NSW). CRC has extensive experience work with ex-prisoners, and is offering this workshop on working with clients who are transitioning from prison back to the community. The workshop will provide an understanding of the NSW prison system; the impact of incarceration; the complex issues that affect offenders post release; strategies to work more effectively with this client group; and knowledge of available services and resources. Cost: \$220, concession \$150. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Foyer (Level 2),

Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0450 or law.criminology@sydney.edu.au. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#postrelease.

4 APRIL. SDC SEMINAR: 'DISASTER RECOVERY - TAPPING INTO NEW AND FAMILIAR RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE AID IN ACTION' (NSW). With the recent devastating scenes from earthquakes in Japan, Christchurch and Haiti it is increasingly important for aid organisations, governments and civil society partners to mobilise quickly and communicate effectively with many networks. Speakers: Margaret Bell, Médecins Sans Frontières; and Lindsay May, District Rotary Foundation Chair. Cost: \$5. 6.00 to 8.00 pm, University Technology Sydney, Building 10, Level 6, HR training room 2, 235 Jones Street, Broadway Campus. Contact: 0417 272 101 or lucy@claypartners.com. Web: <http://sdc.groupsite.com/calendar/event/2011/4/4/264086>.

4 APRIL. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'THE ISSAC INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYMPOSIUM 2011 - HOW SHALL WE PROTECT THE WAGES OF THE WEAK?' (VIC). This symposium is designed for industrial relations and human resource practitioners, students, and academics. Trade union influences have been collapsing in countries across the world. The main cause has been the intensification of competition, especially of international competition. The lecture will discuss how the consequences might be mitigated, and the role to be played by statutory minimum wages. Speakers: Professor William Brown from Cambridge University; Anna Lee Cribb, Fair Work Australia; and Bill Kelty, Director, Linfox. No cost. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Building H, Level 1.16, 900 Dandenong Road, Monash University, Caulfield Campus. Contact: michelle.kinniburgh@monash.edu or 03 9903 2450. Web: <http://www.monash.edu.au/news/events/show/the-issac-industrial-relations-symposium-2011>.

5 APRIL. PUBLIC FORUM: 'WILL THE REVOLUTION BE TWEETED? THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS' (VIC). The Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and the

Human Rights Law Resource Centre are holding this public forum. Panellists: Professor Sarah Joseph, Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law; Simon Sheikh, National Director of Getup; Jonathan Green, Editor of The Drum, ABC; and Alex Pagliaro, Refugee Campaign Coordinator, Amnesty International Australia. Cost: gold coin donation. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Monash University Law Chambers, 472 Bourke Street, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9905 3327 or castan.centre@monash.edu, RSVP by 28 March. Web: <http://www.monash.edu.au/news/events/show/will-the-revolution-be-tweeted-the-role-of-social-media-in-promo>

5 APRIL. BOOK LAUNCH: 'THE ILLUSION OF VICTORY: THE TRUE COSTS OF MODERN WAR' (NSW). The author Ian Bickerton, Senior Research Fellow, School of History and Philosophy, University of New South Wales, in conversation with Stuart Rees. This book demonstrates that most of the rewards of victory in modern warfare are either exaggerated or false. When the ostensible benefits of victory are examined a generation after a war, it becomes inescapably evident that the defeated belligerent rarely conforms to the demands and expectations of the victor. Consequently, long-term political and military stability is denied to both the victorious power and to the defeated one. Ian Bickerton persuasively argues that as the rhetoric of victory becomes hollower, all countries must adopt creative new approaches to resolving disputes. Cost: \$10, concession \$7. 6.00 pm, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: 02 9660 2333. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

5 APRIL. CARITAS AUSTRALIA FILM SCREENING: 'THE GREATEST SILENCE' (WA). Since 1998 a brutal war has been raging in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), over 4 million people have died. And there are the uncountable casualties: the many tens of thousands of women and girls who have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated and tortured by soldiers from both foreign militias and the Congolese army. They suffer and die in silence. In *The Greatest Silence* these brave women finally speak. Cost: donation. 7.00 pm, Parish Hall (New

Cathedral), Bunbury. Web: http://www.caritas.org.au/project_compassion_11/Events/index.html.

6 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'THE IMPACT OF THE NSW CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ON CRIME' (NSW). Presenter: Dr Vasilis Sarafidis, BA (Hons) Sussex, MPhil Cambridge, PhD Cambridge Lecturer, Lecturer in econometrics, University of Sydney. Hosted by NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR). No cost. 10.00 to 11.00 am, Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: bocsar_seminars@agd.nsw.gov.au or 02 9231 9190. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/51844/449/>.

6 APRIL. YOUTH OFF THE STREETS FUNDRAISER: EDEN GARDENS MORNING TEA (NSW). Bi-annual morning tea where there is an opportunity to meet Father Riley and enjoy the beautiful Eden Gardens. Cost: \$10. Eden Gardens, North Ryde, Sydney. Contact: 02 9491 9900. Web: <http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/newsletters/w1/i1001885/>.

6 APRIL. HAWKE CENTRE OCCASIONAL LECTURE: 'ONE UNKNOWN: FACING DEATH, CHOOSING LIFE' (SA). Peacemaker Gill Hicks was a survivor of the devastating 2005 London terrorist attacks in which 52 people died. She made world headlines as she courageously learned to walk again using prosthetic legs and dedicated her life to deterring anyone from following a course of violent action. Her highly effective charitable organisation M.A.D. (Making a Difference) for Peace communicates through projects, talks and workshops core messages from her experience and encourages people to think of peace as a verb and something everyone can 'do'. No cost. 5.30 pm start, Adelaide Town Hall, 128 King William Street, Adelaide. Web: <http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2011events/GillHicks.asp>.

6 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: PROMOTING PREVIOUSLY UNTHINKABLE WAYS' (NSW). In this seminar, Dr Derick Wilson, University of Ulster, discusses the development and future directions of restorative justice in Northern Ireland including the Youth Conference Scheme, the

Victims and Survivors Forum, policing reforms and restorative approaches in prisons. His presentation will be followed by a short interactive session exploring the relevance of these ideas in the NSW context. No cost. 5.00 to 7.00 pm, Faculty Common Room (Level 4), Sydney Law School, Building F10, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0248 or law.events@sydney.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#rjunthinkable.

6 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'THE IMPACT OF THE NSW CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ON CRIME' (NSW). Presenter: Dr Vasilis Sarafidis, Cambridge Lecturer. Hosted by NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR). No cost. 10.00 to 11.00 am, Metcalfe Auditorium, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: bocsar_seminars@agd.nsw.gov.au or 02 9231 9190. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/51844/449/>.

7 APRIL. YOUTH OFF THE STREETS FUNDRAISER: BOYS TOWN MOVIE SCREENING (NSW). Join Fr Riley, board members, employees, volunteers and supporters of Youth Off The Streets to celebrate their 20th Anniversary, with the screening of the original movie *Boys Town*, starring Spencer Tracey and Mickey Rooney. Cost: \$25. Empire Cinema Bowral. Contact: 02 4861 4466. Web: <http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/newsletters/w1/i1001885/>.

7 APRIL - 10 MAY. CONVERSATION WORKSHOP: 'ASYLUM SEEKERS ARE USED AS POLITICAL FOOTBALLS. WHAT CAN WE DO?' (NSW, WA, VIC). Research shows community views and fears around so-called 'boat people' are founded on myth, not fact. This campaign is created that mobilises action from those who already want asylum seekers to be treated fairly, and helps inform community views as a whole. Watch the new TV campaign, and then share it with friends and family. After watching the ad, participate in training to help develop conversation skills.

7 April NSW: 6.00 to 7.30 pm, NSW Action Centre, 79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale. Contact: nswcampaigns@amnesty.org.au, RSVP by 4 April. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/nsw/event/25140/>.

12 April WA: 7.00 to 8.00 pm, Dome Cafe, corner Rokeby Road and Seddon Street, Subiaco. Contact: stephanie.withers4@gmail.com, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/wa/event/25042/>.

30 April VIC: 1.00 to 3.00 pm, Suite 8, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood. Contact: vicvolunteers@amnesty.org.au, RSVP by 28 April. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/vic/event/24758/>.

10 May VIC: 6.00 to 8.00 pm, Suite 8, 134 Cambridge Street, Collingwood. Contact: vicvolunteers@amnesty.org.au, RSVP by 5 May. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/vic/event/24759/>.

8 APRIL. FILM SCREENING: 'OUR GENERATION' (NSW). A journey into the heart of Australia's Indigenous relations, a hidden shame that is pushing the world's oldest living culture to the edge. Through the stories of the Yolngu of Arnhem Land, the film looks at the Government's ongoing policies of paternalism and assimilation, examines the real issues underlying Indigenous disadvantage, and opens dialogue on ways forward that respect Aboriginal culture and dignity. A fresh look at unresolved issues, with music by John Butler Trio, Yothu Yindi, Archie Roach, Gurrumul and Goanna. Jeff McMullen, former ABC Foreign Correspondent, will be speaking before the film. No cost. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Amnesty International Australia, L1, 79 Myrtle Street, Chippendale. Contact: nswdignity@amnesty.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.ourgeneration.org.au/>.

8 APRIL. FORUM: 'ON CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE' (VIC). Join survivors, professionals and clergy in a forum about justice and healing. Restorative justice is a paradigm for justice used to empower all concerned through collaboration. The forum objective is to share strategies for reducing the harms of clergy sexual abuse, and to collaborate on preventing abuse and increasing healing and justice for survivors, families and communities. With restorative facilitators Peter Condliffe and David Moore, lawyer Paul Holdway, psychologist Nigel Denning, Vicar for Social Justice Rev Anthony Kerin, Police Detective Superintendent Rod Jouning, a Principal Child Protection Practitioner

and Survivors. Convened by In Good Faith and Associates with support from Victorian Association of Restorative Justice, and the Melbourne Victim's Collective. Cost: \$50-70, concession \$20. 12.00 to 4.30 pm, RMIT University Research Lounge, Level 5, Building 8, 368 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Contact: restoratedialogues@gmail.com or 03 9326 5991.

8, 13 APRIL. QCOSS WORKSHOP: 'COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLANNING MEETING' (QLD).

The Queensland Government and the Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) are working in partnership to develop and implement local community owned Homelessness Action Plans to address homelessness in specific locations throughout Queensland. The action plans will build on the policy directions developed in the Queensland Government Strategy for Reducing Homelessness, and generate new ideas to tackle homelessness in the location. This workshop is for those involved directly or indirectly in delivering homelessness service and those who are very interested in the issues of homelessness.

8 April: 12.30 to 4.00 pm, Chermside Library, 357 Hamilton Rd., Chermside.

13 April: 9.30 to 12.30, Inala Community House, 38 Sittella Street, Inala.

Contact: 07 3004 6926 or 0426 234 090.

Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event>.

9 APRIL. MISSION POSSIBLE: 'REBUILD, REFURNISH & RETURN GRANTHAM' (NSW, QLD). Spend one week of April School holidays to help rebuild Grantham, QLD - leaving from Thornleigh, NSW. 9.00 am, Thornleigh Community Baptist Church, Thornleigh. Contact: 0412 339 029 or sharon_l_stone@hotmail.com. Web: <http://www.hope1032.com.au/Noticeboard.aspx?cid=58&navid=3>.

9 APRIL. TEAR TRAINING DAY: 'BE THE CHANGE - SKILLS AND INPUT FOR THE JOURNEY' (QLD). TEAR Australia Youth and Young Adult Training Day. Speakers: Viv Benjamin, TEAR National Advocacy Co-ordinator; and Matt Anslow, TEAR National Young Adults Co-ordinator; plus other local activists and lifestyle experimentalists. Cost:

donation appreciated. 10.00 am to 3:30 pm, Community Meeting Room, Brisbane Square Library, 266 George Street, Brisbane. Contact: qld@tear.org.au or 07 3888 0571, RSVP by 6 April. Web: <http://www.tear.org.au/states/qld/>.

9 APRIL. REFLECTION AFTERNOON: 'A CRY OF THE HEART, MAKING PEACE AT LENT' (NSW). Talk, hear and pray about Lent in a suffering world. A reflection afternoon from the Sydney Justice and Peace Office with input from Margaret Wiseman, Catholic Chaplain, Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre and Dr Gerard Goldman, Director, Broken Bay Institute. 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 essential. Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/stfrancisstjoseph/Parishioners>.

10 APRIL. ECUMENICAL WAY OF THE CROSS (NSW). People are encouraged to attend this moving service with their family. Youth from diocesan schools are involved in the service. 3.00 pm, Conference Centre, near St Joseph's Church and School, 140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay. Contact: 02 4979 1111. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/Ecumenical%20Way%20of%20the%20Cross%20Apr%202011.pdf>.

11 APRIL. SEMINAR: 'BEYOND PUNISHMENT: ACTUARIAL RISK' (NSW). Sydney Institute of Criminology. No cost. 5.30 to 8.00 pm, Foyer (Level 2), Sydney Law School, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0238 or law.events@sydney.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#postrelease.

11 APRIL. AIATSI SEMINAR SERIES: 'LANGUAGES IN PUBLIC - REVIVING OLD INDIGENOUS NAMES FOR NEW PURPOSES' (ACT). Speakers: Laura Kostanski; and Ian Clark. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, Mabo Room, AIATSI Building, Acton Peninsula, Canberra. Contact: 02 6246 1161 or ntru@aiatsis.gov.au. Web: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/seminars.html>.

11 - 12 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES ON THE 2008 NATIONAL AND ABORIGINAL TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY' (ACT). This conference aims to initiate a conversation between stakeholders and academics about data and the research required to enhance the social science evidence base around Indigenous wellbeing and socioeconomic disadvantage. The conference covers a range of topics including: child development, crime and justice, culture, the customary economy, demography, education, employment, fertility, health, housing, income and financial stress, mobility, poverty, social exclusion, substance abuse and wellbeing. Cost: \$275. Haydon-Allen Tank, Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: 02 6125 0587 or admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://caepr.anu.edu.au/Seminars/conferences/conference.php>.

12 APRIL. ECUMENICAL GATHERINGS: 'LIVING JESUS' (QLD). 'I am delighted to have the privilege of publicly speaking about Jesus and His vision. Through His life, death and resurrection He gave us a new world and made us new people. Today many people are searching for good news and the life of Jesus can satisfy their desire completely.' Most Rev John Bathersby DD Archbishop of Brisbane. Each gathering includes prayer, presentations by 3 church leaders, multimedia, witness sharings, a question and answer panel and concludes with prayer. Presenters: Rev Bruce Johnson, Uniting Church, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall Anglican Church, Archbishop John Bathersby, Catholic Church. 7.00 to 9.30 pm, Newlife Uniting Church, 4 Greenwich Court, Robina. Web: <http://www.livingjesus.org.au/asp/index.asp?pgid=11966>.

12 APRIL. PUBLIC FORUM: '20 YEARS ON FROM THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY- WHERE TO NOW?' (NSW). On 15 April it will be 20 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report was handed to the Governor General. This forum will look at ways of improving prison conditions through standards and human rights mechanisms like the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture, as well as preventing imprisonment through justice reinvestment

and the impact of imprisonment on Indigenous women prisoners. Speakers: Associate Professor Neil Morgan, Inspector of Custodial Services WA; Ms Vicki Roach, Aboriginal prisoner advocate; Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner; and Mr Gerry Moore, CEO, Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT. 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, Redfern Community Centre, 29-53 Hugo Street, Redfern. Contact: social.justice@humanrights.gov.au or 02 9284 9603, RSVP by 7 April. Web: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/events/index.html#april>.

12 APRIL. GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING (QLD). Help deliver and write letters of concern to the Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith MP. Join in a public protest against \$43 billion yearly defence budgets and telephone the Minister with our concerns. Speaker: Dr. Daniele Viliunas, MAPW Queensland coordinator. Endorsed by Just Peace Queensland, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Medical Association for Prevention of War. 11.00 am, King George Square, Brisbane. Contact: 0431 597 256 or annettebrownlie@optusnet.com.au. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/global-day-action-military-spending>.

12 APRIL. MAPW DINNER: 'CHERNOBYL - FUKUSHIMA PANEL' (VIC). Information on the health effects of nuclear accidents, from Australia's leading experts. Sadly, this topic is now even timelier with the unfolding nuclear emergency in Japan. Speaker: Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson, CEO, nuclear regulatory body ARPANSA; Dr Peter Karamoskos, nuclear radiologist. This event leads up to 26 April which is the Chernobyl 25th anniversary. Cost: \$30, concession \$15. 7.00 to 9.30 pm, La Notte, 140 Lygon Street, Carlton. Contact: vic@mapw.org.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/dinner-chernobyl-fukushima-panel>.

12 APRIL. EDMUND RICE CENTRE: 'AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE' (NSW). We will be showing an interesting film about the 'natural' disasters in Bangladesh where the world's poorest people are being hit the hardest by climate change even though they are contributing the least to the problem.

We will look at how TEAR Australia is helping vulnerable communities respond to the challenges of global warming and discover how Australians can stand alongside by reducing our climate footprint and advocating for justice. Facilitator: Margaret Portel. Cost: donation. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, near Flemington Station. Contact: stephanies@erc.org.au or 02 8762 4200. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au>.

12 - 13 APRIL. CANA CONFERENCE: 'THE ELEVENTH HOUR' (VIC). This conference is the annual planning, networking and strategising event for members of Climate Action Network Australia. The theme of this conference will focus on the key matters on the climate change agenda in Australia this year and towards 2012 - the pollution price and its complementary measures and the international negotiations. Cost: \$154. 8.30 am to 5.00 pm, Conferences on Clarendon, 120 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne. Contact: admin@cana.net.au. Web: <http://www.cana.net.au/hot-topics/eleventh-hour-cana-conference-2011>.

13 APRIL. CSSV BREAKFAST BRIEFING WITH JUDGE MICHAEL MCINERNEY: 'GOVERNANCE FOR MISSION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR BOARDS' (VIC). Speaker, Judge McInerney, will reflect on his experience as Chair of Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda. Cost: \$15. 7.15 to 8.45 am, Cathedral room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne (enter via Lansdowne Street car park). Contact: esilvius@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566, RSVP by 8 April. Web: <http://www.css.org.au/documents/FlyerApril2011a.pdf>.

13 APRIL. FILM NIGHT: 'MOLLY AND MOBARAK' (QLD). This documentary shows how government policies impact on refugees trying to establish their life in a country town. Against a backdrop of occasional ignorance and hostility, the everyday Australians from the town of Young - people like Tony Hewson - recruit refugees to work in local industry; Anne Bell organises English classes and social activities; and Lyn Rule offers local refugees hospitality in her own home. Mobarak Tahiri has been in Australia for two years and his temporary visa will soon expire. No cost. 6.30

to 11.00 pm, Schonell Theatre, University of Queensland, Union Complex, Union Road, St Lucia. Contact: amnestyuq@gmail.com. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/qld/event/24849/>.

14 - 15 APRIL. RECONFIGURING CATHOLIC GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE (NSW). Catholic Health Australia's Conference is a forum for exploring the evolving governance structures of health and human service organisations within the Catholic Church in Australia. The Conference will hear from speakers from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Catholic health and aged care community, the Catholic social service and Catholic education sector, and experienced experts in governing and running Catholic organisations. Cost: \$370-480. Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach. Contact: 02 6203 2777 or angelaz@cha.org.au. Web: <http://www.cha.org.au>.

14 - 15 APRIL. NCOSS CONFERENCE: 'TOWARDS A JUST NT - DESIGNING THE FUTURE TOGETHER' (NT). Topics include: asylum seekers, child protection, income management, transport, etc. Cost: \$150-250. Henry Wrigley Drive, Darwin Airport Resort, Darwin. Contact: 08 8948 2665 or admin@ntcoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.ntcoss.org.au/sites/www.ntcoss.org.au/files/Conference%20Flyer%20NTCOSS.pdf>.

15 APRIL. ACTCOSS TRAINING: 'APPRECIATION OF TORRES STRAIT CULTURE AWARENESS' (ACT). This training for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers aims to assist participants in developing a better understanding of the cultural perspectives of Torres Strait people in Australia. The training will explore ways for organisations to develop a better understanding of some key issues such as culture, kinship and community, and assists participants in developing and improving a range of cross-cultural communication skills. Facilitator: Benny Hodges. Cost: \$54-239. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach. Contact: actcoss@actcoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html>.

15 APRIL. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'SRI LANKA - DESCENT INTO DICTATORSHIP' (NSW).

Speakers: Bruce Haigh, former Diplomat and Research Fellow, Centre Peace and Conflict Studies; and Bani Jagan, Convenor Human Rights Project, CPACS, Sydney University. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

15 - 17 APRIL. NATIONAL FAMILY GATHERING: 'SHARE THE DREAM - FAMILIES TRANSFORMING THE WORLD' (VIC).

This gathering is hosted by the Melbourne Archdiocese of behalf of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life (BCPL). Chair of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life Bishop Eugene Hurley said that this event is extremely important for families, to inspire and encourage them. 'These events give people a sense that they are not alone in the world. Our culture can be very individualistic and we really want to affirm families', said Bishop Hurley. Speakers: Bishop Jean Laffitte, Secretary to the Pontifical Council for the Family; Melinda Tankard Reist; Byron and Francine Pirola; Dr Brigid McKenna; and Dr Adam Cooper; etc. Cost: per family \$250-280. Xavier College, Barkers Road, Kew. Contact: 0407 081 256 or 03 9287 5579. Web: <http://www.sharethedream.org.au>.

16 APRIL. QUEENSLAND NUCLEAR STRATEGY WORKSHOP (QLD). No cost. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, CEPU Building, 41 Peel Street, South Brisbane. Contact: 0411 118 737 or nuclearfreequeenisland@yahoo.com.au. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/queensland-nuclear-strategy-workshop>.

16 - 17 APRIL. BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE FUNDRAISER: CLOVERLY OPEN GARDEN (VIC). The beautiful and tranquil Cloverly private garden in Hawthorn, goes on display as part of Australia's Open Garden Scheme. Cloverly is a magnificent garden where both structure and lush green foliage present an elegant and restful picture around a 1930s Georgian-style home. Cost: \$7, children free. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Cloverly, 5A Fordholm Road, Hawthorn. Contact: spincott@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 2484. Web:

<http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=119&dt=16/04/2011>.

17 APRIL. MELBOURNE PALM SUNDAY SILENT VIGIL FOR PEACE (VIC). Please bring any banners for a silent vigil then walk down to Peace Forum. 12.30 pm, State Library, corner La Trobe and Swanston Streets, Melbourne. Contact: 0431 519 577. Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/events/47016>.

17 APRIL. PALM SUNDAY PEACE FORUM (VIC). Speakers: Mariko Ishii, Peace Boat; Bill Williams, Medical Association for Prevention of War; Jessica Morrison, recent visitor to Afghanistan and Palestine; and Michael Hamel-Green, Nuclear Disarmament academic. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, Wesley Uniting Church, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Contact: 0413 849 984. Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/events/47017>.

17 APRIL. PALM SUNDAY RALLY: 'FREE THE REFUGEES, END MANDATORY DETENTION' (NSW). Speakers: Susan Connelly, Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission; Patricia Garcia, National Council of Churches; Sally McManus, Australian Services Union plus refugees from Iran and Afghanistan. 1.00 pm, rally at Sydney Town Hall, marching to Hyde Park. Contact: 0417 275 713 or 0413 003 148. Web: <http://refugeeaction.org.au/>.

17 APRIL. PEACE AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT RALLY (QLD). Palm Sunday event: MAPW's Sue Wareham will be the key speaker. No cost. 2.00 pm, Brisbane Square, Reddacliffe Place, Brisbane City. Contact: jshears28@yahoo.com.au or 07 3855 9497. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/peace-and-nuclear-disarmament-rally>.

18 APRIL. CONFERENCE: 'EQUAL RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY' (NSW). In 2010, Commonwealth Attorney-General Robert McClelland announced that he would be putting out an Equality Bill, which will merge all Commonwealth discrimination legislations into a single Act. It is important to ensure that people with disability are adequately protected by the new legislation as well as ensuring it encompasses protection for people

with disability against vilification. Currently, people with disability are not protected against vilification. Speakers: Dr Mark Sherry, Ohio, USA; Graeme Innes; Australian Human Rights Commissioner; etc. Cost: \$50-100. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Aerial UTS Function Centre, 235 Jones Street, UTS Building 10, University of Technology, Broadway. Contact: fgiven@ddlcnsw.org.au. Web: <http://www.ddlcnsw.org.au/newsandevents/equal-rights-for-people-with-a-disability/>.

18 APRIL - 26 JUNE. EXHIBITION: 'CARVED TREES - ABORIGINAL CULTURES OF WESTERN NSW' (NSW). Ronald Briggs, exhibition curator and a Gamilaroi man (from Moree) is hoping to renew interest in tree carvings because 'they remain as tangible evidence of our past and that has changed so much over time.' The Clifton Cattie Towle collection includes hundreds of rare surviving photographs including carved trees from central and north-western NSW photographed between about 1920 and 1940. Exhibition Galleries, Mitchell Library, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9273 1566 or vbond@sl.nsw.gov.au. Web: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/exhibitions/future.html>.

20 - 21 APRIL. TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL WEAVING WORKSHOPS FOR WOMEN AND MEN (NSW). Join Steven Russell (Dharawal) and Kristine Stewart (Yuin) from the Boolarng Nangamai Aboriginal Art and Culture Studio in Gerringong as they share their hands on skills in the traditions of weaving from both an Aboriginal male and female perspective, demonstrating weaving using traditional and contemporary materials. No cost. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Blacktown Arts Centre, 78 Flushcombe Road, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9839 6230 or andrea.james@blacktown.nsw.gov.au, RSVP essential. Web: http://www.artscentre.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/programs-&-workshops/traditional-aboriginal-weaving-workshops.cfm?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=april.

21 - 24 APRIL. PILGRIMAGE: 'LIGHT TO THE NATIONS EASTER YOUTH PILGRIMAGE' (NSW). A chance to find Jesus in a new way through the celebration of the Easter Liturgies. Join in experiences of personal sharing, prayer,

pilgrimage, drama, music and devotion, reviving your love for God. Step away from everyday life, rediscover faith and return on fire to your community. For young people (16 and over) and the young at heart. Begins with registration and setting up tents from 3.00 pm 21 April, Ends at 12.30 pm Easter Sunday, Galong. Cost: \$175, concession \$145. Contact: lttnrego@dojcanberra.com or 02 6227 0917. Web: <http://www.catholiclife.org.au/>.

22 - 25 APRIL. NEW WAY SOVEREIGNTY SUMMIT (ACT). A national grass roots summit for Aboriginal rights. These are unique meetings on the status of Aboriginal people in contemporary Australia, and beyond. These Summits bring together the collective minds of Aboriginal Individuals, Activists, Academia, Professions and Community representatives to find and share solutions to key issues. Convened by Michael Anderson (Nyoongar Ghurradjong Murri Ghillar). 10.00 am to 5.00 pm. 22 - 23 April meetings will be at the Haydon Allen Tank, Australian National University, Canberra. 24 - 25 April will be at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy opposite Old Parliament House. Contact: 0427 292 492 or ngurampaa@bigpond.com.au. Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/calendar/2011-04/>.

24 APRIL. CSSV'S ANNUAL COMMISSIONING MASS AND AGM (VIC). Professor Ruth Webber, ACU, will talk on rebuilding communities after natural disasters - lessons from community sector responses to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires. 4.30 pm, All Saints Church, Fitzroy. The AGM will be followed by a light supper at St Mary's House of Welcome, 165 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: esilvius@css.org.au or 03 9287 5566. Web: http://www.cam.org.au/index.php?option=com_eventlist&view=details&id=162&Itemid=393.

27 APRIL. MATT LAFFAN MEMORIAL ADDRESS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE: 'IN SEARCH OF ORIGINS: BLINDNESS IN HISTORY AND LAW' (NSW). In order to bring to people's attention the contributions of persons with the disability of blindness, the lecture will unpack the lives of some extraordinary blind people in history from the time of the Gospels to the present day. Speaker: Ron McCallum AO. No cost. 5.30 to 7.30 pm, Sydney Law School, Lecture

Theatre 101, New Law Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0248 or law.events@sydney.edu.au. Web: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/law/457.html?eventid=5406>.

28 APRIL. RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTRE LUNCHTIME SEMINAR: 'SHARING OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES - INCREASING THE BENEFITS' (VIC). A public inquiry investigated the sharing of government and community facilities in Victoria, for example using school buildings after hours or local council neighbourhood houses. There is potential for increasing the sharing of facilities and the associated social inclusion benefits but control from the top would be unwise. Speaker: Robert Kerr, economist, Honorary Research Fellow, Brotherhood of St Laurence. His career was in the Commonwealth Treasury and the Productivity Commission, and latterly as a Commissioner of the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Fr Tucker's room, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: kphilipp@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 1364. Web: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=125&dt=28/04/2011>.

28 APRIL. NCOSS WORKSHOP: 'PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES: HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY AND MAXIMISE YOUR INFLUENCE' (NSW). The workshop is aimed at people working in policy or management in the community sector, whose work potentially involves taking part in parliamentary inquiries. The emphasis will be on practical tips for effective participation, including: what inquiries can achieve, how inquiries are initiated, the steps of an inquiry, maximising the impact of a submission, and giving effective evidence at a hearing. Facilitation will be by parliamentary committee staff and representatives of NCOSS. 8.45 am to 12.45 pm, Jubilee Room, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: wendy@ncoss.org.au or 02 9211 2599 (ext. 118), RSVP by 21 April. Web: <http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/content/view/52586/450/>.

30 APRIL. HILLS JUSTICE PROJECT FAIR TRADE MARKET (NSW).

Organisation: Hills Justice Project. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Dural Sport and Leisure Centre, 1 Pellitt Lane, Dural. Contact: hjp.ft@hotmail.com or 0413 122 103. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/537>.

30 APRIL. FILM: 'COUNTDOWN TO ZERO' (VIC). MAPW Geelong presents the prize-winning film 'Countdown to Zero' (from the makers of 'An Inconvenient Truth'). Introduced by Senator-elect Dr Richard Di Natale. Cost: \$20, concession \$15.7.30 to 10.00 pm, Theatre 1, Deakin Clinical School, Ryrie Street, Geelong. Contact: 0430 861 621 or email geelong@mapw.org.au. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/countdown-zero-film>.

2 MAY. FILM SCREENING: 'OUR GENERATION' (NSW). A journey into the heart of Australia's Indigenous relations, a hidden shame that is pushing the world's oldest living culture to the edge. Through the stories of the Yolngu of Arnhem Land, the film looks at the Government's ongoing policies of paternalism and assimilation, examines the real issues underlying Indigenous disadvantage, and opens dialogue on ways forward that respect Aboriginal culture and dignity. Jeff McMullen, former ABC Foreign Correspondent, will be speaking before the film. Hosted by Hornsby Area Residents for Reconciliation. No cost. 6.30 pm, Hornsby RSL (Acacia room), 4 High Street, Hornsby. Contact: 02 9482 2994 or dbabb@bigpond.net.au. Web: <http://www.ourgeneration.org.au/>.

2, 23 MAY. CULTURE OF PEACE: 'MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEACE, ECOLOGY AND JUSTICE' (NSW). A formation program for educators offered by the Columban Mission Institute Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice. Cost: \$220. Columban Mission Institute, 167 Albert Road, Strathfield. Contact: 02 9352 8021 or pej.cmi@columban.org.au. Web: <http://www.justiceandpeace.org.au/home.shtml>.

3, 4 MAY. FILM SCREENING: 'OUR GENERATION' (NSW). A journey into the heart of Australia's Indigenous relations, a hidden shame that is pushing the world's oldest living culture to the edge. Through the stories of the Yolngu of Arnhem Land, the film looks at the

Government's ongoing policies of paternalism and assimilation, examines the real issues underlying Indigenous disadvantage, and opens dialogue on ways forward that respect Aboriginal culture and dignity. No cost. 6.00 pm, The Youthie, Nowra Youth Centre, 132 Kinghorne Street, Nowra. Contact: 02 4422 1988. Web: <http://www.ourgeneration.org.au/>.

6 MAY. TENISON WOODS EDUCATION CENTRE ANNUAL DINNER: 'HOW CAN WE BE PEACEMAKERS IN AN AGE OF VIOLENCE?' (NSW). Maitland born, Sydney based peace activist Donna Mulhearn was a human shield during the war in Iraq. She later returned as a humanitarian aid worker to set up a shelter for street kids and orphans. Donna will share from her experiences confronting violence in various war zones around the world, weaving in her spiritual journey of contemplation and action. Cost: \$55. 6.30 pm, Therry Centre, New England Highway, East Maitland. Contact: 02 4930 9601 or twec@ssjl.org.au. Web: <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/newsroom/pdf/TWEC%20Dinner%20Poster%202011.pdf>.

6 MAY. WORLDCHANGERS MARKET (NSW). The event promotes fair trade and ethical products from around the world. Live music, beautiful products for sale, fair trade kitchen and cafe, speakers, art exhibition, and children's activities. 5.30 to 9.00 pm, Wollongong Church of Christ, 25 O'Briens Road, Figtree. Contact: 0411 801 553 or anne@wgongcoc.org. Web: <http://www.wgongcoc.org>.

6 MAY. ABORIGINAL CULTURE, HISTORY AND HERITAGE TRAINING (ACT). This workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers gives participants a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. It aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explores ways the organisations might improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people. Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert. Cost: \$54-239. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach. Contact: actcoss@actcoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html>.

6 - 8 MAY. ECOXPO 2011 (NSW). This is a celebration of everything eco-friendly, sustainable and earth-friendly. Over 200 green exhibitors will showcase the rapidly growing number of eco-friendly products and services available in areas such as: business / electronics, home / building, transportation / travel and energy / conservation. A dedicated Kid Zone featuring a baby animal park, art competitions and face painting is sure to keep little ones entertained and encourage the whole family to have fun whilst learning about sustainable living. Cost: \$6-8, children under 14 free. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm, Royal Hall of Industries, Driver Avenue, Moore Park. Contact: info@ecoxpo.com.au or 02 8078 6187. Web: <http://www.ecoxpo.com.au/>.

7 MAY. SYMPOSIUM: 'CONFRONTING 21ST CENTURY INEQUALITIES: TOWARDS MORE JUST SCHOOLS AND SOCIAL SERVICES' (NSW). This symposium will be of interest to those working in all levels of education, social work, juvenile justice, community development and youth work. It will explore how inequalities manifest themselves across the spectrum; what role organisations and individuals might play in combating these; and success stories from a range of contexts. Cost: \$23-240. 8.45 am to 4.30 pm, University of Sydney, Camperdown. Contact: 02 9351 8521 or britt.putland@sydney.edu.au. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/education_social_work/professional_learning/conferences/2011/confronting_inequalities_schools_social_services.shtml.

7 MAY. MANLY FAIR TRADE FAIR (NSW). There will be many Fair Trade stalls selling a huge variety of high quality handmade Fair Trade products from around the world ranging from jewellery to clothing, accessories, toys, chocolate and sports balls. Adding to the excitement and fun of the markets will be a vibrant mix of free all day entertainment. Manly Council Forecourt, 1 Belgrave Street, Manly. Contact: carol.layton@manly.nsw.gov.au or 02 9976 1658. Web: <http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/whatson/fair-trade-markets/>.

7 - 22 MAY. FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT (NATIONAL). This Fair Trade Fortnight celebrate the life-changing difference fair trade makes for millions of developing country

farmers, workers, artisans and their families and communities. The fortnight is Australia's biggest annual celebration of all things fair trade. There will be events, activities and promotions: <http://www.fta.org.au/news-events>.

7 - 22 MAY. VICTORIAN FAIRTRADE ART COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION: 'SHOW OFF YOUR SWAP' (VIC). Fair Trade Fortnight is about inspiring people to spread the word about the difference that swapping to Fairtrade Certified products makes to producers in developing countries. The artwork must reflect what Fair Trade means to you. Artwork will need to be appealing, fun and have a positive message. There will be 3 categories of entries for the competition: schools and universities; organisations (business units, non-profit organisation, churches); and the general public. Submit entries before 30 April. Organisation: Moral Fairground Pty Ltd. Exhibition date: 7 - 22 May, Food Court area, Queen Victoria Market, Melbourne. Contact: art@moralfairground.com.au. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/561>.

11 MAY. CAEPR SEMINAR: 'WORKING WITH COMPLEXITY: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND THE MURDI PAAKI COAG TRIAL 2002-2007' (ACT). Achieving improvements in indigenous health and education and reducing the incidence of crime and domestic violence in indigenous communities has proved heartbreakingly difficult. A large part of the problem (certainly as perceived by many indigenous Australians) is that governments see themselves as doing things 'for' indigenous communities, rather than working with them to achieve change. The Murdi Paaki COAG Trial in western NSW aimed to break this pattern by tailoring flexible Commonwealth and State government support to indigenous communities, working within a framework of shared responsibility and community-initiated planning. Speakers: Wendy Jarvie and Jenny Stewart. 12.30 to 2.00 pm, School of Cultural Inquiry Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: 02 6125 0587 or admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: [\[caepr.anu.edu.au/Seminars/11/Seminar-Topics%E2%80%94Series-1/11_5_Seminar.php\]\(http://caepr.anu.edu.au/Seminars/11/Seminar-Topics%E2%80%94Series-1/11_5_Seminar.php\).](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

11 MAY. JUSTICE AND MERCY YWAM DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL: 'ACT JUSTLY. LOVE MERCY' (SA). This life changing school, is comprised of a lecture and outreach part. The lecture phase will have 12 different topics such as: The Father Heart of God by guest speaker Steve Aherne, YWAM Australia's National Director; Relationships by Glenda Watson, International speaker on Restoration; Transformation and Wholeness by Rose Rowson, clinical counsellor/ Elijah House Trainer; and Evangelism by Danny Taylor, YWAM Perth; etc. The mission phase is a 10-week practical mission outreach, where students go overseas and reach out with Jesus' love to those in lifestyles of brokenness, poverty, addictions and human trafficking. Certificate III in Discipleship - 52282. Contact: 08 8390 1040 or rebecca.palmer@ywamsa.org.au. Web: <http://www.ywamsa.org.au>.

13 - 15 MAY. SISTERHOOD CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (NSW). The conference is a mix of keynote presentations, workshops, time for personal prayer, reflection and adoration as well as an opportunity for reconciliation and Mass. Speakers: Sr Mary Rachel OP; Anna Krohn, Pontifical Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family; Karen Doyle, author and co-founder of Catholic media business Choicez Media; Fr Chris Ryan MGL; etc. Cost: \$195. The Collaroy Centre, Homestead Avenue, Collaroy Beach. Contact: info@sisterhood.org.au. Web: <http://www.sisterhood.org.au>.

22 - 24 JUNE. CONFERENCE: 'THE REINTEGRATION PUZZLE' (NT). The Reintegration Puzzle Conference brings together people working to support the reintegration of offenders into the community after release from prison. This year's conference will focus on partnerships and innovative practices that are achieving positive outcomes for people involved in the justice system. Cost: \$700, concession \$350. Crowne Plaza Alice Springs. Contact: 03 9251 7887 or jcrosbie@deakin.edu.au. Web: <http://www.reintegrationpuzzle.com.au>.

Vietnamese cardinal's portrait for Domus Australia

The Australian pilgrim centre in Rome, Domus Australia, will feature a portrait of the heroic Vietnamese prelate, Cardinal Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, in its chapel, said the Catholic Weekly.

Detention for asylum seekers a 'hard-hearted response'

The announcement of the construction of a 1500-bed detention centre on the outskirts of Darwin reveals, once more, Australia's 'hard-hearted' response to asylum seekers, said the Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) in a media release.

Pakistan's Asia Bibi fears she may be next target

The Pakistani Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy voiced her "pain and concern" over the assassination of the country's Catholic minister for minorities - and said she feared she could be the next target of extremists, reported the Catholic News Agency.

Help, don't punish, the extremely disadvantaged, said CSSA

If we want to give extremely disadvantaged people a better opportunity to live a decent life, we need to do more than threaten them with destitution, Catholic Social Services Australia executive director Frank Quinlan told The Catholic Weekly.

Visa rejections up at Curtin centre, said bishop

The Bishop of Broome, Christopher Saunders, said more asylum seekers are having their visa

applications rejected at the Curtin Detention Centre, reported the ABC.

Community supervision better for asylum seekers, said ERC

The Edmund Rice Centre called for a major policy overhaul of Australia's management of asylum-seekers, proposing that the country implements the community supervision method adopted by western nations, the Centre said in a media release.

Response to asylum seekers protest "highly inappropriate"

The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office described the response to the protests at the Christmas Island immigration detention centre as "highly inappropriate", according to a report on AdelaideNow.

Charities tell Vic govt to honour wage case promise

Victoria's biggest charities and employers in the community sector have called on the Baillieu government to honour its promise to fund an equal pay case, reported the Age.

Catholic Relief Services forced to close Darfur aid

Catholic Relief Services said it will be forced to close its food program in Sudan's Western Darfur at the end of March, said a Catholic News Service report in the National Catholic Reporter.

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



Social Justice Calendar

2	Sat	UN World Autism Awareness Day 2005: Death of Pope John Paul II	18	Mon	World Heritage Day International Guide Dogs Day 1955: Death of Albert Einstein
3	Sun	Fourth Sunday of Lent			
4	Mon	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	19	Tue	2005: Pope Benedict XVI elected
			21	Thu	Holy Thursday
7	Thu	World Health Day UN Day of Remembrance of the victims of the Rwandan genocide	22	Fri	Good Friday International Mother Earth Day
10	Sun	Fifth Sunday of Lent 1972: Treaty banning biological warfare signed by 120 nations	23	Sat	Holy Saturday UN Global Road Safety Week begins World Book & Copyright Day
14	Thu	2002: First elections in East Timor: Xanana Gusmao elected as President 1964: Death of Rachel Carson, author of <i>Silent Spring</i> (1962), which alerted the world to the dangers of the use of chemical pesticides	24	Sun	Easter Sunday 1945: First United Nations Conference opens with 45 nations attending
			25	Mon	ANZAC Day
15	Fri	1991: Final Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody	26	Tue	1998: Bishop Gerardi murdered in Guatemala
17	Sun	Palm Sunday Commemoration of Rwandan genocide	28	Thu	1841: St Peter Chanel, first martyr from Oceania, killed in the New Hebrides

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.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: admin@acsjc.org.au Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website Comments and contributions are also welcome.