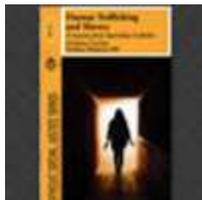


# ACSJC Monthly Briefing December 2016 No 185



## From the Secretariat December 2016

Dear Friends,

‘Human trafficking and similar forms of exploitation affect every country on earth. They flourish because of society’s greed for cheap goods and services and because it is so easy to forget that those who meet these needs are human beings with their own innate God-given dignity.’

Those are the words of Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, in his foreword to *Human Trafficking and Slavery: A response from Australian Catholics*. The paper, the latest in the ACSJC’s Catholic Social Justice Series, is written by Christine Carolan, Executive Officer of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH), and Sister Noelene Simmons SM, ACRATH’s Project Officer for NSW.

The paper looks at slavery and related crimes in the modern world, at the Church’s teaching, and at the international and Australian laws that deal with this abuse. The paper then discusses ACRATH’s work advocating on behalf of victims of human trafficking, educating Australians, and working alongside organisations here and overseas to shut down human trafficking.

‘Many people don’t realise that human trafficking affects us in Australia,’ says Christine Carolan. ‘There is the ever-present reality of women who are trafficked for sexual exploitation, but people are also regularly trafficked into Australia in industries such as agriculture, hospitality, construction, mining and fishing.’

‘Many Australians are now asking whether their clothing and food – chocolate, for example – have been produced by forced or trafficked labour. ACRATH has campaigned successfully for ethical sourcing of food and clothing.’

‘Forced marriage is another area where young people, overwhelmingly young women, need help and support. People often don’t realise that forced marriage is illegal in Australia and that help is available for those who are facing that possibility.’

ACRATH has developed a set of study notes that can be used for senior schools or for any groups wanting to explore the issue of human trafficking.

In his foreword, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen says that ACRATH’s ‘tireless networking, education, research, advocacy and accompaniment have made a huge difference for people who have been trafficked and exploited in Australia.’

*Human Trafficking and Slavery*, Catholic Social Justice Series No. 79, is available from the ACSJC for \$7.50. [LINK](#)

John Ferguson



## Current Issues/Resources December 2016

### CHRISTMAS WISHES

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and its Secretariat wishes all our subscribers the blessings of Christmas and every best wish for the New Year. Thank you for your great support and for all of your work for justice throughout the year.

This office will be closed from 23 December and will open again on Monday 16 January 2017.

### AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS: 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II'S VISIT TO ALICE SPRINGS

On Sunday 27 November 2016, Church leaders, parishes and Indigenous communities commemorated the 30th Anniversary of Saint John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs. It was an opportune time to remind ourselves of the important words of Pope St John Paul II: 'You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you.' Bishop Eugene Hurley said, 'Not only is this commemoration a call to inspire faith communities to promote a greater contribution for First Nations peoples within our Church. It is also a call to actively face the massive assault and injustices on the very lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Those assaults include the high rate of suicide and incarceration among our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'. [Visit here](#) to find out more.

### MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS TO NATSICC

As the 27 November commemorations approached, Pope Francis issued a letter to the Chairperson of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council. The Holy Father said, 'This anniversary affords me the happy opportunity to express my deep esteem for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and your ancient cultural heritage. Uniting my voice to that of Saint John Paul II, I encourage you in his words: "Your culture, which shows the lasting genius and dignity of your race, must not be allowed to disappear ... Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost." For when you share your noble traditions of your community, you also witness to the power of the Gospel to perfect and purify every society, and in this way God's holy will is accomplished.' [Visit here](#) to read the Holy Father's letter

### NEW REPORT: 'OVERCOMING INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE 2016'

The Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report is produced by the Productivity Commission for the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians involved in its development. The 2016 report is the seventh in the series. It shows some positive trends in the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, but also shows outcomes have stagnated or worsened in some areas. Two years on from the previous report there continues to be improvement in many areas of health, economic participation and aspects of education. But areas such as justice and mental health remain concerning, with increases in imprisonment rates and hospitalisations for self-harm. To download the report, [visit here](#).

### LAW REFORM COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO INCARCERATION

On 27 October, the Attorney-General George Brandis QC and Senator Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, announced that the Turnbull Government will ask the Australian Law Reform Commission to examine the factors leading to the over representation of Indigenous Australians in the prison system, and consider what reforms to the law could ameliorate this tragedy. 'It has been 25 years

since the final report of the landmark Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, but Indigenous Australians are still overrepresented in Australia's prisons. In 1991, Indigenous Australians made up 14 per cent of our nation's prison population; by 2015, this had increased to 27 per cent,' they [said](#). While welcoming the announcement of the Inquiry, the Change the Record Coalition of Indigenous representative groups have called for the Inquiry to focus on identifying tangible solutions that address the underlying causes of imprisonment. The Coalition's Co-Chair Shane Duffy said, 'This year marks 25 years since the landmark Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, but our people continue to experience imprisonment and violence at crisis rates. The new ALRC inquiry offers an important opportunity to shine a comprehensive light on these issues at a national level, and identify tangible actions for all levels of government.' To find out more [visit here](#).

#### **AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS: ON PROPOSAL FOR PERMANENT BAN ON ASYLUM SEEKERS**

'The announcement by Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, and Minister for Immigration, Peter Dutton that the Government will introduce proposed legislation banning those who have arrived to Australia by boat from 19 July 2013 onwards from ever being able to apply for a visa to Australia is deeply disappointing,' says Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen. 'Seeking asylum even by boat is not illegal. It is a basic human right. Yet not content with demeaning them, the Australian government now want to introduce laws that will ban them from ever coming here. The motives for these measures, in light of the current situation on Manus Island and Nauru, and in light of the bigger challenges facing Australia, are questionable at best and sinister at worst. Domestic advocates and international agencies have been appalled by the conditions under which asylum seekers live and the effects on their health, spirits and self-respect. To single out and punish further a small number of people who came by boat, even if they are found to meet the refugee definition is deliberately cruel and un-Australian.' [Visit here](#) to read more.

#### **FUNDRAISING: CATHOLIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM**

The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) is a national initiative to influence hearts and minds in the Catholic community towards a more just, compassionate and humane welcome of people seeking asylum. CAPSA recognises that our current Australian government policy towards people seeking safety on our shores is in stark contrast to the core Gospel-teachings and recent messages of Pope Francis. The group envisages a community that values the fair and humane treatment of people seeking asylum and for a society where our government welcomes and supports people seeking asylum into our community. CAPSA is currently seeking donations to help expand their work across Australia. Your donation will help us run events in schools, facilitate meetings with politicians, create useful resources and videos, and run workshops with community members. All donations to CAPSA are tax deductible through Jesuit Social Services. To help continue this important work, please donate via [this website](#).

#### **ACOSS REPORT: 'POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA 2016'**

In October 2016, ACOSS released a new report revealing that poverty is growing in Australia, with an estimated 2.9 million people or 13.3 per cent of all people living below the internationally accepted poverty line. The report provides the most up to date picture of poverty in the nation drawing on new data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Income and Expenditure surveys for 2013–14 and previous years. It found that 731,300 or 17.4 per cent of all children were living in poverty in Australia. To download the report, [visit here](#).

### **FUNDRAISING: CARITAS GLOBAL GIFT**

Hope is one of humanity's most precious aspirations. It can transform lives and bring joy. Around the world the need for hope is on display in many poor and vulnerable communities, and there is no better time to reflect on this than at Christmas. A Caritas Australia Global Gift helps make lasting change to some of the world's poorest communities. Global Gifts, spanning the range of Caritas Australia's development programs are available for purchase, from water, food and agriculture to healthcare, education and emergency relief. Gifts can also be made to entire communities. Supporters can select their gift amount, making it possible to tailor gifts to suit any budget. Global Gifts can be purchased [here](#) or by calling 1800 024 413.

### **NEW REPORT: ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN OCEANIA**

Caritas Australia has joined with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Tonga to produce the publication *Hungry for Justice, Thirsty for Change: Caritas State of the Environment Report for Oceania 2016*. The report details the significant impacts of climate change across the Pacific region in the past year. Some of the issues the report addresses include widespread thirst and hunger and rising sea levels. The Caritas Australia is asking people to stand in solidarity with our Pacific neighbours and send a letter to their MPs and Senators. To download the report and take further action, go to the [webpage](#).

### **RAFFLE: KEEP EUREKA STREET FREE**

For 24 years *Eureka Street* has been the destination of choice for Australians who enjoy conversations about politics, religion and current events with a hefty dose of ethical thinking. There is no cover charge, no paywalls. *Eureka Street* is free and open to all, compliments of the Australian Jesuits. Twice a year we seek your support. We are currently running our Christmas Raffle, to be drawn on 8 December 2016: 1st Prize: \$7,500 Visa Gift Card; 2nd Prize: \$2,500 Visa Gift Card; 3rd Prize: \$1,000 Visa Gift Card; 4th Prize: \$500 Visa Gift Card. A book of 5 tickets is \$25. Click here and you will be taken directly to our raffle site where armed with your credit card you can [buy](#) a book of tickets.

### **PALMS AUSTRALIA: SEEKING VOLUNTEERS**

Palms Australia is a lay Catholic organisation that, for six decades, has been sending Australian volunteers overseas and to assist communities who request Australian volunteers to help foster peaceful development and poverty reduction. Palms Australia is recruiting volunteers to assist the development of communities during 2017 in Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Samoa. Professions and skills sought include teachers, finance and admin officers, medics and tradies. For details on these placements please call (02) 9560 5333 or enquire [here](#). Palms is also offering its *Encounters* short-term immersion tours to Timor Leste from 2–14 April, 2–14 July and 24 September – 6 October 2017. Find out more [here](#).

### **NEW REPORT: 'GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX 2016'**

The Institute for Economics and Peace has released their Global Terrorism Index 2016. In the current climate, a crucial challenge facing all nations is how to effectively address the threat of terrorism. Understanding the trends, correlates and drivers of terrorism is vital to developing appropriate policy responses. Key findings from this year's report include: improved ratings in 76 countries, while 53 countries deteriorated; Iraq and Nigeria recorded the biggest decreases in the number of deaths, constituting a 32 per cent reduction from the previous year; the global economic impact of terrorism reached US\$89.6 billion in 2015. This year's findings show that, while there was a notable fall in the

number of deaths attributed to terrorist incidents in 2015, the overall GTI score deteriorated by 6 per cent due to many countries experiencing record levels of terrorism. Access the report [here](#).

### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE CSocD55 PHOTO EXHIBITION**

For 2017, the 55th session of the UN's Commission for Social Development (CSocD55) has selected the priority theme: 'Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all'. As part of its activities for CSocD55, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) is hosting a photo exhibition at UN Headquarters in New York City from 1–10 February 2017, during the Commission. Photos must depict a strategy/policy/practice for the eradication of poverty in the categories of Ageing, Cooperatives, Persons with disabilities, Families, Indigenous peoples, and Youth. [Visit here](#) to find out more and submit an image by 5 December.



### **ACSJC Publications December 2016**

#### **ORDER NOW! – 2017 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY**

The 2017 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. The Diary provides a social justice resource 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: \$7.50 (including postage). To download an order form, [click here](#).

#### **SERIES PAPER 79 – ‘HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY: A RESPONSE FROM AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS’**

This paper is written by Christine Carolan, Executive Officer of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) and Sr Noelene Simmons SM, NSW Regional Co-ordinator for ACRATH. It describes the forms that slavery and related crimes take in the modern world, the Church's teaching on and response to slavery and other forms of exploitation, and the international and Australian laws that deal with slavery. It also describes the work of organisations committed to combating slavery and helping its victims – in particular, ACRATH's efforts to educate Australians, to advocate on behalf of victims, and to work with similar organisations here and overseas to shut down human trafficking and help its victims. The paper discusses particular problems faced by those who experience trafficking and exploitation, including people who may be subject to forced marriage. It also gives suggestions for people interested in supporting the work of ACRATH and similar organisations. [LINK](#)

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2016–2017**

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement is entitled 'A Place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society'. PDF and Word versions of the Statement as well as a range of print and multimedia resources. [LINK](#).

#### **DISCUSSION GUIDES: DIGNITY AND WORK 2016**

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has issued three short discussion guides that address critical issues concerning justice for Australia's most vulnerable workers or for those who confront the reality of unemployment. These vital aspects of work and dignity in our country address: the inadequate levels of income support offered to people who are unemployed; the risk that penalty rates will be cut for vulnerable workers; and the increasing intrusion of work demands into family time and weekends. We encourage you to promote these documents in your networks and publications. We hope that they

will be a valuable resource for anyone who wants to be informed about the Church's commitment to justice and fulfilment in the workplace. The discussion guides can be accessed [here](#).

### **SERIES PAPER 78 – 'PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST: PASTORAL LETTERS FOR THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2010-2015.'**

In this series paper, the ACSJC has brought together a collection of the Pastoral Letters issued by Bishop Christopher Saunders. *Putting People First: Pastoral Letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker 2010-2015*, provides an invaluable record of the significant issues relating to work and justice in that five-year period: the global financial crisis; the Northern Territory 'intervention' and the future of remote communities; the Insecure Work inquiry of the ACTU; and the public outcry at the inadequacy of allowances for the unemployed and sole parents. The letters include succinct and accurate summaries of the arguments with sufficient, reliable statistics. Professor Paul Smyth provides an extensive introduction to the series paper. [LINK](#).

### **BUILDING BRIDGES**

The book, *Building Bridges: Social Justice Statements from Australia's Bishops 1988 to 2013*, brings the Statements together in an attractive and readable format. The publication is fully indexed, making this an exceptional resource for education and research. It offers an invaluable insight into Catholic social teaching brought to life in an Australian context over the past 26 years. This collection is a vital resource for anyone interested in the Church's teaching on justice. It is of special interest to schools and universities and to parish and diocesan groups.

*Building Bridges* is available from the ACSJC for \$35.00 per copy including postage anywhere in Australia. Order forms are available [here](#).

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$7.50 a copy, including postage)



### **News Monitor December 2016**

#### [Catholic workers make pledge against domestic violence](#)

More than 100 people made a human ribbon outside St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane on White Ribbon Day last Friday, followed by a public pledge from all the men in the group to support women in vulnerable and dangerous situations.

#### [Alice Springs address 30 years on: 'There is so much to do'](#)

"I am amazed how many of us still have yet to make real friends with Aborigines," Archbishop Christopher Prowse said yesterday on the 30th anniversary of St John Paul II's address in Alice Springs.

#### [Pope: Courage needed to fight scourge of drug trafficking](#)

Pope Francis has called for courage and measures to be taken to act against drug-producing mafias, and especially against distributors, in a meeting with judges, doctors, politicians, and experts

#### [Vatican urges action against abuses in fishing industry](#)

Vatican and United Nations officials are calling for intensified efforts to end forced labour and human trafficking in the world's fishing industries.

### [Celebrate God's creation, says eco-theologian](#)

World renowned eco-theologian Fr Sean McDonagh, who helped contribute to early drafts of Laudato Si', has just finished a speaking tour of Australia to spread its message.

### [Human trafficking a global evil that must be tackled: Bishop](#)

"Human trafficking and similar forms of exploitation affect every country on earth," writes Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC), in a new report on human trafficking and slavery.

### [JSS warns of risks over Barwon prison solution](#)

Jesuit Social Services has warned the Victorian government that its move to transfer 40 children and young people to a unit at Barwon Prison could be counter-productive unless strict conditions are followed.

### [Bishops urged to make quick response on racism](#)

US Bishops need to publish their thoughts on racism sooner rather than later to help calm the "post-election uncertainty" and rising tensions following the election of Donald Trump, according to a leading Archbishop

### [The Church can play vital role in healing US social fabric](#)

"Now that the election is over, the Church needs to play a positive role in healing the nation's severe divisions. It is uniquely placed to do so," writes Thomas Reese SJ

### [Pope will look at how Trump policies affect the poor](#)

Pope Francis declined to offer any comment about Donald Trump in a new interview, but said he was concerned about how political policies may affect the lives of the poor

### [Caritas urges greater assistance for climate change victims](#)

Caritas Australia has urged the Australian government to provide greater financial assistance to countries struggling to adapt to climate change.

### [ACRATH launches 16-day campaign against human trafficking](#)

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans is calling on parishes, schools, and community organisations to join in the global campaign to mark its campaign later this month, 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

### [Bishop Brady reaches out to prisoners: 'We've all made mistakes'](#)

Bishop Terry Brady, Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Prisoners, and 50 inmates, volunteers, and prison chaplains gathered to celebrate Mass on Sunday in Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre in Sydney's west.

### [Bishop Long: 'I urge Australians to reject these cruel measures'](#)

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Con, Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Refugees, has condemned the Federal government's decision to ban those who arrived by boat from ever applying for a visa.

### [Abbott: Asylum-seeker policy was 'least worst' option](#)

Former prime minister Tony Abbott said his government's policy on asylum-seekers was "essentially a case of choosing the least worst approval – a very difficult problem," in a speech to the Assembly of Catholic Professionals.

['Scandalous sums' devoted to saving banks, not people](#)

The Pope has described money as a god who terrorises humanity, and complained that “scandalous sums” are devoted to saving banks from bankruptcy, but nothing comparable to saving suffering people

[Pope appeals for better living conditions for prisoners](#)

Pope Francis has appealed for better living conditions for prisoners after he welcomed 1,000 inmates into St Peter’s Basilica yesterday to celebrate a special Mass for the Jubilee of Mercy year.



## Social Justice Diary December 2016

December 2016

1	Thu	<a href="#">World AIDS Day</a>
2	Fri	<a href="#">International Day for Abolition of Slavery</a> - ACSJC resources on <a href="#">Trade Justice</a>
3	Sat	<a href="#">International Day of Persons with Disabilities</a> <a href="#">1854: Battle of the Eureka Stockade</a>
4	Sun	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
5	Mon	<a href="#">International Volunteer Day for Economic &amp; Social Development</a> <a href="#">World Soil Day</a> - ACSJC resources on the <a href="#">Environment</a>
6	Tue	<a href="#">St Nicholas</a> (Santa Claus)
7	Wed	1965: Vatican II Pastoral Constitution <a href="#">Gaudium et Spes</a> ('Joys and Hopes')
8	Thu	
9	Fri	<a href="#">International Anti-Corruption Day</a>
10	Sat	<a href="#">Human Rights Day</a> 1948: <a href="#">Adoption of United Nations Declaration of Human Rights</a>

		1992: <a href="#">Redfern Speech by Prime Minister Paul Keating</a> , at launch of International Year of the World's Indigenous People - ACSJC resources on <a href="#">Justice for Indigenous People</a>
11	Sun	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>
12	Mon	1831: <a href="#">Sisters of Mercy founded by Catherine McAuley</a>
13	Tue	
14	Wed	
15	Thu	
16	Fri	
17	Sat	
18	Sun	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <a href="#">International Migrants Day</a> - ACSJC resources on <a href="#">Refugees</a> 1894: <a href="#">South Australian Parliament the first in Australia to give women the right to vote</a>
19	Mon	
20	Tue	<a href="#">International Human Solidarity Day</a>
21	Wed	1991: <a href="#">Dissolution of the USSR and the founding of the Commonwealth of Independent States including Russia</a> 1993: <a href="#">Native Title Bill passed by the Australian Senate</a> - ACSJC resources on <a href="#">Justice for Indigenous People</a>
22	Thu	
23	Fri	1901: <a href="#">Immigration Restriction Act (White Australia Policy) enacted</a> - ACSJC resources on <a href="#">Refugees</a> 1996: <a href="#">Wik High Court decision</a>
24	Sat	Christmas Eve

25	Sun	<p><b>Christmas Day</b></p> <p><b>READ MORE ↓</b></p> <p>First day of <a href="#">Hanukkah</a> (Jewish Feast of Dedication)</p>
26	Mon	2004: <a href="#">South Asia devastated by tsunami, killing 200,000 to 300,000 people</a>
27	Tue	
28	Wed	
29	Thu	
30	Fri	<p><b>Feast of the Holy Family</b></p> <p>1987: Pope John Paul II's encyclical <a href="#">Sollicitudo Rei Socialis</a> ('<a href="#">The Social Concerns of the Church</a>')</p>
31	Sat	1946: <a href="#">Paid annual leave granted to workers in Australia</a> - ACSJC resources on <a href="#">Workplace Justice</a>