



## No. 88 – March 2008

*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,

What a momentous day it was when we finally heard the words of the Prime Minister expressing the National Apology to the Stolen Generations. Parliament's unanimous support for that motion of apology on 13 February served to emphasise the importance of the occasion.

The word sorry, said three times, acknowledged the deep pain and suffering caused by the policies of forced separation of Indigenous children from their families. And in saying sorry, the dignity and respect for an ancient culture, and the damage done to it, were also acknowledged:

'For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

'To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

'And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.' (refer: [http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Speech/2008/speech\\_0073.cfm](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Speech/2008/speech_0073.cfm))

Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, welcomed the Apology as 'an historic and prophetic moment in the life of the Australian nation' and recalled the Catholic Bishops' apology of 1998. The Archbishop said, 'A decade on, we reaffirm the sentiments expressed in that statement, that "the Catholic Bishops of Australia wish to record our commitment to continue the healing process for the benefit of victims of the unjust policies of the past, to support the just needs of Indigenous people today and to contribute to the quest for national reconciliation".'

Highlighting the progress needed in the broader work of National Reconciliation, he said, 'For true healing to take place we must also acknowledge that this National Apology is a point not only of arrival, but a point of hope and a point of departure.

'Having arrived at this point of healing, we must not fall into the trap of thinking that reconciliation is complete and our obligations as a nation are fulfilled. Rather, we must take the hope that this Apology represents and move forward, determined to increase our efforts to improve the practical circumstances of our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

'This must be done by addressing the fundamental causes of entrenched disadvantage, in full consultation and collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Appropriate resources must be made available to achieve real outcomes,' the Bishops' Statement said. (refer: <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bishops/confpres/200802131369.htm>)

### **Unfinished business**

There remains the question of compensation. This is part of the challenge of implementing the recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home* report, which was released by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in 1997. That report recommended 'that reparation be made to all who suffered because of forcible removal policies'.

In particular, the report recommended that reparation should consist of:

1. acknowledgement and apology;
2. guarantees against repetition;
3. measures of restitution;
4. measures of rehabilitation; and
5. monetary compensation.

*(Recommendation 3)*

It recommended that reparation be made to:

1. individuals who were forcibly removed as children;
2. family members who suffered as a result of their removal;
3. communities which, as a result of the forcible removal of children, suffered cultural and community disintegration; and
4. descendants of those forcibly removed who, as a result, have been deprived of community ties, culture and language, and links with and entitlements to their traditional land. *(Recommendation 4)*

The proposed 'National Compensation Fund' would be administered by a Board consisting of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people appointed by the Council of Australian Governments and in consultation with Indigenous organisations and individuals. (refer: [http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social\\_justice/bth\\_report/index.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/bth_report/index.html))

Subsequently, the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee, in its 2000 Report - *Healing: A Legacy of Generations* - also recommended the establishment of a 'Reparations Tribunal' to provide an effective

process of reparation. (refer: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon\\_ctte/completed\\_inquiries/1999-02/stolen/report/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/legcon_ctte/completed_inquiries/1999-02/stolen/report/index.htm))

Among various groups and officials now calling for the recommendations of *Bringing Them Home* to be implemented and the issue reparations to be placed back on the national agenda is Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. He has called for all States and Territories, and the Commonwealth Government, to follow Tasmania's example of legislating for a compensation scheme. Queensland and Western Australia have also set up some schemes. (refer: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/01/23/2144601.htm>)

Interviewed after the delivery of the Apology, Patrick Dodson said that services or benefits specifically made to members of the Stolen Generations, particularly for those in remote communities, would bring a practical benefit and could be regarded as an element of reparation. He gave the example of extending something like the military service gold-card as a way for the Government and the people of Australia to say that, as a nation, we are going to take care of members of the Stolen Generations. (refer: <http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2162037.htm>)

Amid the wide ranging debate and various proposals that will be made, it is apparent from previous experience that the establishment of a method of reparations outside the legal system will be less painful and costly to victims than the alternative of having to pursue compensation through the courts.

### **A bi-partisan commitment**

It is hoped that the Apology will inspire a renewed and united commitment to move beyond the current law and order approach of the Northern Territory intervention to address the fundamental causes of family and social breakdown, as well as the denial of social and economic opportunities to Indigenous communities.

The Prime Minister announced a special joint committee of Parliament, to be co-chaired by the Leader of the Opposition, to develop and implement an effective housing strategy for remote communities over five years. The Prime Minister called it 'a new partnership for closing the gap'. The political will to address the dire circumstance concerning housing, health and education, and with bi-partisan support, is encouraging. So is the fact that it will be underpinned by thorough consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about the issues they see as important and how we can address these issues together.

Advocates for resolution of the broad range of issues concerning National Reconciliation will be hopeful that the spirit of the Apology will pave the way for these issues to also be a focus of attention.

In November last year, when the Catholic Bishops joined with others in welcoming the new Government into office, they emphasised the importance of a fresh approach for Indigenous justice. With reference to the Northern Territory intervention, they said that that 'there is much more to be done to address fundamental causes of entrenched disadvantage and that this must be done in full consultation and cooperation with Indigenous communities.'

In particular they highlighted the following six areas for continuing action:

- tackling key causes of child abuse and poverty such as housing, poor employment opportunities, substance abuse and community breakdown;
- going beyond a law-and-order response to provide a full range of culturally appropriate support services to foster strong families and communities;
- respecting Indigenous culture and identity through full and genuine partnership with Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal leaders and Church and community organisations working with Aboriginal communities;

- providing adequate funding to secure these goals;
- paying attention to the concerns raised by Indigenous leaders and others about the compulsory land acquisition provisions in the Emergency Response laws;
- the decision to remove the permit system needs to be reconsidered because the removal has made Indigenous communities vulnerable to negative influences.

When they raised these issues last November, the Bishops said, 'The Emergency Response has had the support of both major political parties. We now urge the Federal Government to pursue the even more challenging task of addressing the underlying causes of disadvantage in our Indigenous communities. In this way the healing process required at the heart of our nation can be furthered.' (refer: <http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bishops/confpres/20071130684.htm>)

Let us continue our prayer and efforts to secure justice and dignity for our Indigenous sisters and brothers.

### **Prayer for Reconciliation**

In the midst of conflict and division,  
We know it is You  
Who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.  
Your spirit changes our hearts:  
Enemies begin to speak to one another,  
Those who were estranged join hands in  
friendship,  
And nations seek the way of peace together.  
Let Your spirit be at work in us.  
Give us understanding and put an end to strife,  
Fill us with mercy and overcome our denial,  
Grant us wisdom and teach us to learn  
From the people of the land.  
Call us to justice.

*(ACSJC Prayer Card)*

John Ferguson  
National Executive Officer



## Current Issues / Resources

### **PLEASE NOTE - ACSJC NEW CONTACT DETAILS** For written correspondence and other postage:

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council  
PO Box 7246  
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

The street location is: 24 - 32 O'Riordan  
Street, Alexandria  
Phone: (02) 8306 3499  
Fax: (02) 8306 3498

**PROJECT COMPASSION 2008 - 'JUST WANT JUSTICE: A CALL TO ACTION'**. Project Compassion 2008 began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday 23 March 2008. During these six weeks of Lent, Catholic schools and parishes throughout Australia will receive and use educational materials aimed at broadening the way we view the world. The theme for Project Compassion this year is 'just want justice - a call to action'. In marking World Youth Day, this year's Project Compassion campaign also explores the role of young people around the globe empowering their communities and being advocates for change. To find out more and support the cause of reducing world poverty, visit: [http://www.caritas.org.au/project\\_compassion\\_08/](http://www.caritas.org.au/project_compassion_08/)

**POSTCARD CAMPAIGN - 'CLOSETHEGAP ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH'**. Now is the time to show your support for the apology of 13 February and urge the Government to carry forward their promises. The Social Action Office of the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, Queensland, has launched an e-card urging the government to allocate the additional \$460 million (the amount recommended in the Oxfam CLOSETHEGAP campaign) in this year's federal budget to set up the action plan and programs to achieve better health outcomes for Indigenous

Australians. There are 2 cards - one to the Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and the other to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Jenny Macklin. To access the e-card, visit [http://sao.clriq.org.au/indigenous\\_issues.html](http://sao.clriq.org.au/indigenous_issues.html) or call (07) 3891 5866.

**REQUEST - INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE CULTURE PROGRAM (Vic)**. The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages is looking for Aboriginal people in Victoria who can share knowledge of traditional Victorian Aboriginal languages as part of the Indigenous Language Culture Program at the Malmsbury Youth Juvenile Justice Centre. They are in need of community members from regional and metro Victoria who can work with youth to be confident in their heritage and their identity through their traditional languages. There is a fund to help community members attend meetings and visit the Malmsbury Youth Juvenile Justice Centre. For more information, contact Kooramyee Cooper or Alex Blaszak on (03) 9600 3811 or [vacl@vaclang.org.au](mailto:vacl@vaclang.org.au)

**CAMPAIGN - 'KEEP POWER IN OUR HANDS'**. The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET) is supporting a community campaign against NSW electricity privatisation. Responding to the NSW Government's plan to sell its electricity retail business and lease its power generating plants to private companies, Dr Patricia Ranald says that privatisation will not increase government income, it will mean that profits will come before the environment, and the government will have less ability to regulate a vital public service. Privatisation will mean higher prices for an essential service and the likelihood of more blackouts. The campaign website provides the means to send a message to the Premier and to get a petition to sign, and take to your family, friends and community group. Visit [www.stoptheselloff.org.au](http://www.stoptheselloff.org.au) for more information.

## **CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Catholic parishes are invited to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday, March 7 with the assistance of a kit filled with resources to help parishioners pray for all women who contribute to the Church through a great diversity of roles and tasks. The kit contains a parish bulletin notice and liturgy notes. In the homily suggestions by Bishop Michael Malone, the Chair of the Bishops' Commission for Church Ministry, we're reminded that the 'season of Lent encourages everyone to confront areas of injustice in themselves and their communities'. Included in the kit is a brochure entitled 'Decisions and Proposals of the Social Justice Statement 2000'. For more info contact the ACBC Office for the Participation of Women on 02 6201 9864.

## **CAMPAIGN - 'SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'**

The United Nations Development Fund for Women is running this web-based campaign to stop violence against women. Nicole Kidman, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, says 'the campaign counts on each of us to speak out by signing up. Now, the United Nations Foundation is counting too. It has issued a challenge: for each of the first 100,000 signatures to the campaign, the UN Foundation will donate \$1 to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. We need everyone's help to get 100,000 people to sign on to the UNIFEM campaign so that \$100,000 will be contributed to the Trust Fund for local initiatives working to prevent human trafficking, assisting survivors of domestic violence or helping implement laws against rape.' To sign on visit <http://www.saynotoviolence.org> or <http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/vaw/>

## **WORLD YOUTH DAY COMMITTEE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.**

With only months to go, the countdown to World Youth Day Sydney 2008 (WYD08) is on, and organisers are offering 8,000 domestic and international volunteers the exciting opportunity to help run the largest event Australia has ever hosted. Volunteers will help in many areas including operations and crowd management, customer service, language and translations, staffing, hospitality & catering, accommodation, production, communications, liturgy and evangelization. Volunteers can either work during the event week, 14 - 20 July, or in roles available in the months preceding WYD08. All volunteers must be over the age of 18. WYD08 is taking applications now. For more information and to apply, visit [www.wyd2008.org/volunteer](http://www.wyd2008.org/volunteer) or call 02 9390 5997.

## **NSW SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR REFUGEE WEEK (JUNE 15-21)**

Refugee Week provides a unique opportunity for refugee communities to hold events and functions, which highlight the culture and contribution of refugees. To encourage community groups and organisations to hold events and functions during Refugee Week, the Refugee Council of Australia and the NSW Refugee Week Committee will be administering a limited number of small grants of \$250 and \$500 each. These grants are made possible through the generous support of the NSW Community Relations Commission and are only available for activities in NSW. Applications close on Wednesday, 30 April, 2008. For more information, contact [admin@refugeecouncil.org.au](mailto:admin@refugeecouncil.org.au) or (02) 9211 9333. To download an application form, visit: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/refugeeweek.html>



# Latest Publications

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>

## ORDER NOW! - 2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2008 Diary focuses on the theme of poverty and affluence. It includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice and highlight the theme. It provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social\\_justice\\_calendar.html](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html)

## DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2008

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *The Human Family, A Community of Peace*. The ACSJC discussion guide consists of a brief overview of the Pope's message, some points for reflection and prayer. A helpful resource for group and classroom discussion. Download at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

## SERIES PAPER - 'CONFRONTING THE DEATH PENALTY'

The latest paper in the Catholic Social Justice Series consists of four essays by authoritative writers on the moral, legal and personal aspects of the death penalty. It considers capital punishment in the light of the attacks of September 2001, the international 'war on terror' and the moral and political problems thrown up as we see capital punishment rigorously applied in countries close to us. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

## SERIES PAPER: TRAUMA AND FORGIVENESS: LESSONS FROM EAST TIMOR AND SOUTH AFRICA

Catholic Social Justice Series Paper No.60. Dr Mark Byrne considers the attempts of nations to heal the wounds left by violence by seeking "transitional justice" and setting up truth commissions. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

## 2007 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT

The 2007 Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled *Who Is My Neighbour? Australia's role as a global citizen*. An order form is available on the ACSJC website. A pdf and Word version of the Statement is also available at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: *Ten steps towards Australia becoming a global citizen*  
Ecumenical resource: 'In Whose Interest? Australia as a global citizen'  
Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary and Liturgy Notes

Now available at: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers and the Social Justice Diary: \$6.60 a copy, plus postage. Postage rates for Catholic Social Justice Series Papers: 1 copy \$1; 2-3 copies \$1.45; 4-5 copies \$2.45)

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>



# This Month's Notices

**1 MARCH. WOMEN'S DAY OUT AND RECIPE FOR COMMUNITY HARMONY FILM LAUNCH (VIC).** Coordinated by the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition. 9.30 am to 12.00 pm, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Cinema 1, Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne. Details: (03) 9654 1243. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**1 - 2 MARCH. 'FRINGE FAMILY DAY' AND AFRICAN CONCERT (SA).** Presented by the Adelaide Migrant Resource Centre as a South Australia Fringe Festival Event. Venue: Rymill Park. Concert from 2.00 pm. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**2 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'WATER, POLICY NEEDS AND THE FUTURE' (TAS).** Keynote speaker: Dr David Leaman, noted hydrologist and author. No charge, but donations will be gratefully received. 1.30 - 5.00 pm, Launceston Environment Centre, 72 Tamar Street, Launceston. Registration in advance is necessary: (08) 6331 9658. Web: <http://www.nowwethepeople.org/tasmania>.

**2 MARCH. LECTURE: 'HOLISTIC PEACEKEEPING' (ACT).** Roy Skinner served in military and civilian UN appointments, including Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria for four UN agencies, and is author of 'Jerusalem to Baghdad 1967-1992'. 2.00 pm, Australian War Memorial, Canberra, in support of its new galleries. No booking required. Web: <http://www.awm.gov.au/events/whatson/index.asp>.

**3 MARCH. GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIALOGUES FOR MARCH (NSW).** Dialogues will explore the environmental impact of climate change, war and social strife, and the wide range of

political and religious influences that shape our attitudes, values and actions. Enquiries: 0431 605 374; email: [dialogue\\_quest@hotmail.com](mailto:dialogue_quest@hotmail.com). 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm. Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Web: [www.sydneymsa.com.au](http://www.sydneymsa.com.au)

**4 MARCH. AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: 'CORPORATIONS: WHAT ARE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE?' (NSW).** The Edmund Rice Centre is proud to announce the 2008 series of Afternoon Tea For the Future. 2.00 pm, 1st floor, 9 Alexandria St Croydon. \$5, \$2 Concession. Enquiries: [leoniec@erc.org.au](mailto:leoniec@erc.org.au).

**4 MARCH. EXHIBITION OF AFRICAN MASKS (SA).** A Northern Multicultural Youth Mask Exhibition organised by Northern Youth Power in partnership with Primary Health Care Services North-Salisbury. The Mawson Centre, 2-8 Main Street, Mawson Lakes. RSVP (08) 8281 7644. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**4 MARCH. LECTURE: 'RELIGION, RELIGIOSITY & THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN AUSTRALIA AND CANADA' (NSW).** Delivered by Jeffrey Reitz (Professor of Ethnic Immigration and Pluralism Studies, University of Toronto) and Jock Collins (Professor of Finance and Economics, University of Technology, Sydney). 4.30 - 6.00pm, Lecture Theatre, Building 4, Level 2, Room 3, Broadway campus, University of Technology, Sydney, 745 Harris Street, Ultimo. Web: <http://www.shopfront.uts.edu.au/news/ccs.html>.

**5 MARCH. LECTURE: 'PRIORITIES IN THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME' (NSW).** The Australian Institute of International Affairs presents Linda

Petersen, Manager of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Human Development Programme (HDP). She will discuss some HDP priorities: research into gender violence in Kiribati and Solomon Islands; improved statistics on life expectancy, education and standards of living in the Pacific; implementation of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010. AIIA members \$10; Associate members \$5; Students \$10; Visitors \$20. 6.00 pm for 6.30 - 7.30 pm, The Glover Cottages, 124 Kent Street, Sydney. Telephone: (02) 9247 2709; email: [aiaansw@bigpond.com](mailto:aiaansw@bigpond.com); web: [www.aiaansw.org.au](http://www.aiaansw.org.au).

**5 MARCH. LAUNCH OF REPORT: 'REFUGEE CONSULTATIONS IN BANGLADESH' (NSW).**

Keynote speech by Dr. Eileen Pittaway, Director, Centre for Refugee Research, University of NSW. 10.00 am, Council Chambers, Chancellery Ground Floor, University of NSW, Kensington. RSVP [rebecca.eckert@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.eckert@unsw.edu.au) or (02) 9385 1961. For more details visit: <http://www.crr.unsw.edu.au>.

**5 MARCH. RAYMOND GAITA SPEAKS ON 'MULTICULTURALISM AND THE WAR ON TERROR' (NSW).** The inaugural lecture in the Aquinas Academy's series of public lectures focusing on the common good. 6.00 pm, The Dixon Room, NSW State Library, Macquarie St, Sydney. Tickets \$20; reservations essential. Contact [Sandra@aquinas-academy.com](mailto:Sandra@aquinas-academy.com).

**5 MARCH. THE UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ADELAIDE BREAKFAST 2008. (SA).** UNIFEM is the UN Development Fund for Women. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security in more than 100 countries. Hosted by Senator Penny Wong; Guest speaker: Margaret Pomeranz (ABC At the Movies). 6:30 am for 7:00 am, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide. Tel: (08) 8223 3388; email: [adelunifem@unifem.org.au](mailto:adelunifem@unifem.org.au). Web: [www.unifem.org.au/adelaide](http://www.unifem.org.au/adelaide).

**5 AND 6 MARCH. JESUIT LENTEN SEMINAR SERIES: 'CLIMATE CHANGE: WHO PAYS THE PRICE?' (NSW & VIC).** This year's Jesuit Lenten Seminar Series looks at the established and potential effects of climate change, particularly those who will be left paying the price of our actions. Speakers at the seminars include prominent environmentalist Don Henry, social welfare expert Michael Raper, refugee expert Dr Maryanne Loughry and Fr Michael Kelly, S.J. No bookings are needed and donations can be made at the door. MELBOURNE: 5 March, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm, Great Hall, Xavier College, Barkers Road, Kew. SYDNEY: 6 March, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm, Lavalla Hall, Marist Brothers College, Miller Street, North Sydney.

**6 MARCH. THE UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BRISBANE BREAKFAST 2008. (QLD).** Guest speakers: members of the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace (IWC). Phone (07) 3324 8848. Email [gpickers@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gpickers@bigpond.net.au). Booking form: [http://www.unifem.org.au/events/UNIFEM\\_International%20Womens%20Day%20Brisbane.pdf](http://www.unifem.org.au/events/UNIFEM_International%20Womens%20Day%20Brisbane.pdf).

**6 MARCH. THE UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CANBERRA BREAKFAST 2008. (ACT).** Guest speakers: Wafa' Abdel Rahman and Romy Shapira of the International Women's Commission (IWC) for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace. MC: Virginia Haussegger (ABC News and Canberra Times columnist). Tel: (02) 6288 3998; email: [unifem@abcon.biz](mailto:unifem@abcon.biz); or register online at [www.abcon.biz/unifem08.htm](http://www.abcon.biz/unifem08.htm).

**6 MARCH. TWILIGHT MARCH TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (SA).** Join members of the Women's Group to celebrate International Women's Day with a Twilight March starting in Victoria Square (Tarndanyangga) and walking to Hindmarsh Square for performances and refreshments. 5.30 pm. Information: (08) 8110 8100. Web: <http://sant.amnesty.org.au>.



**7 MARCH. THE UNIFEM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SYDNEY BREAKFAST 2008. (NSW).** MC: Philippa McDonald (ABC News reporter). 7.00 am - 8.50 am, Bayside Grand Hall, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Phone: 0415 972 281. Email [iwdsydney@unifem.org.au](mailto:iwdsydney@unifem.org.au). Booking form: <http://www.unifem.org.au/events/Sydney%20Invitation.pdf>.

**7 MARCH. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE REFUGEE ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICES INC (NSW).** Celebrate the work of Australia's oldest refugee law centre, which has given free legal advice to thousands of refugees in detention and the community for over two decades. Guest Speaker: Thomas Keneally, author and refugee advocate. \$45.00 (\$25.00 student and unwaged). 7pm, Royal Marigold Restaurant, Level 5, 683-689 George St, Sydney. Phone: (02) 9211 4001; Email: [admin@racs.org.au](mailto:admin@racs.org.au). Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**7 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'IRAQ - ENDING THE WAR, BUILDING THE PEACE' (NSW).** Prof. Stuart Rees, Director of the Sydney Peace Foundation, and Ian Bickerton, Fellow in History UNSW, consider the impact of the war in Iraq and possibilities for a future characterised by development and peace. 6.00 - 7.45pm, Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9358 4834. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

**8 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DINNER (NT).** Coordinated by the Multicultural Council of the Northern Territory and the NT Anti-Discrimination Board. Tickets \$25. 6.00 pm to 12.00 am, Italian Club, 219 Abala Rd, Marrara. Enquiries: (07) 8945 9122. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**8 MARCH. MEETING: 'RESISTING THE WAR MACHINE - VOICE FROM THE US ANTIWAR MOVEMENT' (NSW).** Antiwar activist and workers' rights advocate Kathy Black tells how trade unions in the US are resisting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the cost for ordinary

working people in the US in terms of massive cuts to healthcare and other government services. 4.00 pm, Tom Mann Theatre, 136 Chalmers St, Surry Hills. Contact 0413 976 638. Web: [www.stopwarcoalition.org](http://www.stopwarcoalition.org).

**9 MARCH. BOOK AND CD LAUNCH: 'FOLLOWING FIRE, HOW THE SPIRIT LEADS US TO FIGHT INJUSTICE' (ACT).** You are welcome to attend this launch, with 'Urban Neighbours of Hope' founder and director, Ash Barker, and Irish singer/songwriter Sammy Horner launching the latest book *Following Fire, How the Spirit leads us to fight injustice* and CD *Following Fire: Spirit led songs of justice*. Both the book and CD are compilations that feature some of the leading Christian writers, activists and performers of our time. 7.30pm, Kippax Uniting Church, Hardwick Crescent, Holt, ACT. Please RSVP to [rtulip2005@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rtulip2005@yahoo.com.au)

**15 MARCH: PILGRIM WALK FOR ST JOSEPH (ACT).** The walk will commence at St Christopher's Cathedral at 7am and go to St Benedict's Church, Narrabundah for 8am Eucharist. After Mass, return to St Christopher's to the statue of St Joseph and Mary MacKillop's window for a short prayer. The walk will end with brunch at Manuka. Inquiries: 0419 499 638 or email: [neil.harrigan@centacare-canberra.org](mailto:neil.harrigan@centacare-canberra.org)

**10 MARCH. SUDANESE COMMUNITY AWARENESS NIGHT (NSW).** To promote the images, values and identity of the Sudanese community to the wider Australian community. Photographic exhibition, music, dances, food, information stalls. 3.00 pm - 8.00 pm, Bowman Hall, Campbell St, Blacktown. Adults \$10, Family (2 adults + 2 kids) \$20, Children (up to 14 yrs) \$5. Contact 0432 369 338 or email: [equatoriacommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:equatoriacommunity@yahoo.com). Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**10 MARCH. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'ABORIGINAL FOOTBALL, SPORT, CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BUILDING' (NSW).** Presented by Barry Judd and Heidi Norman. The Cosmopolitan Civil Societies research centre

(UTS) presents two studies on Aboriginal participation in rugby league and Australian rules. Barry Judd's doctoral thesis examined the significance of Australian football, and its overwhelming Aboriginal participation. Heidi Norman's study reveals the significance of rugby league in community development, capacity and the renewal of cultural practices and identity. 12.00 pm to 1.30 pm, Broadway campus, University of Technology, Sydney Building 4, Level 2, Room 11, 745 Harris Street, Sydney (a short walk from Central Railway Station). Registration: [ccs@uts.edu.au](mailto:ccs@uts.edu.au).

**10 MARCH. COMMONWEALTH DAY MULTI-FAITH CELEBRATION (ACT).** Hosted by the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. Modelled on the Commonwealth Observance which Her Majesty attends in Westminster Abbey each Commonwealth Day. The theme for this year is: 'The Environment: Our Future'. Local leaders of major world religions will participate. Celebration features Indigenous participation, cultural performances from Tonga, China and Uganda and the Woden Valley Youth Choir. All invited; parking available. 10.00 am, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (corner King's Avenue and Blackall Street, Barton).

**10-12 MARCH. CONFERENCE: 'DIVERSITY IN HEALTH' (NSW).** The Diversity in Health Conference incorporates the Multicultural Mental Health Australia national conference and the NSW Transcultural Mental Health Centre conference. The Conference will bring together Australian and international leaders in diversity health practices across Australia and internationally. Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. Information: (02) 9840 3800; email [dhi@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dhi@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au). Web: <http://www.dhi.gov.au/conference>.

**13 MARCH. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'MULTICULTURALISM AND THE "ISLAMIC QUESTION"' (VIC).** Why do western multiculturalists find it hard to extend their famed 'recognition and tolerance' to embrace people from Islamic culture? Presented by Ghassan Hage, Future Generation Professor of

Anthropology and Social Theory at the University of Melbourne. 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, Wood Theatre, Economics & Commerce Building (bldg 148), Parkville. Enquiries: (03) 8344 0895. email [nceis-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:nceis-info@unimelb.edu.au); web: <http://www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au/events/seminars.html>.

**14 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION - WHAT SHOULD IT DELIVER?' (NSW).** Addressing issues concerning the intervention will be Ms Linda Burney, NSW Government Member for Canterbury and Prof. John Altman, Aboriginal Economics Policy, ANU. 6.00 - 7.45pm, Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9358 4834. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

**14 MARCH. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'CULTURES OF WAR, CULTURES OF PEACE' (VIC).** Speaker: Dr Anthony Marsella will explore the relations between culture and conflict that emerge when parties with differing constructions of reality come into contention regarding the distribution of power, control and influence. 2:15 pm - 4:00 pm, Sunderland Theatre, Medical Building (bldg 181), Parkville RSVP: (03) 8344 6376 or email [wtfong@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:wtfong@unimelb.edu.au). Web: <http://www.psych.unimelb.edu.au/news/Lecture%20by%20Dr%20Anthony%20Marsella.pdf>

**15 MARCH. TEACHERS BREAKFAST: 'WHOM THE SON SETS FREE IS FREE INDEED' (ACT).** Miracle Education prayer network presents a guest speaker. 8.00 am to 10.30 am, University House, ANU. Miracle Education, PO Box 736, Newport NSW 2106. Tel (02) 9973 1568. Register at: [www.mired.com.au/breakfasts.html](http://www.mired.com.au/breakfasts.html)

**16 MARCH. RALLY AND MARCH FOR PEACE (NSW).** Speaker: Rev Dr Niall Reid, Moderator, Uniting Church. Sponsored by NSW Ecumenical Council; organised by Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition. 2.10 pm: March through Parramatta, then rally. Contact: 0412 803 457; 0411 450 953; 0418 312 301. Web: [www.nswpeace.org](http://www.nswpeace.org).

**16 MARCH. PALM SUNDAY PEACE RALLIES (NATIONAL).**

MELBOURNE: State Library at 1.45pm, organised by: Melbourne Palm Sunday organising committee. Details: [melbournepalmsunday2008@gmail.com](mailto:melbournepalmsunday2008@gmail.com) or 0431 519 577.

SYDNEY: 1pm at Belmore Park. Organised by: Sydney Peace & Justice Coalition & Stop The War Coalition Details: [admin@search.org.au](mailto:admin@search.org.au).

BRISBANE: 1.30pm, Queens Park, Organised by: Rally for Peace and Disarmament. Details: [jshears@powerup.com.au](mailto:jshears@powerup.com.au)

DARWIN: Details: [ecnturanium@iinet.net.au](mailto:ecnturanium@iinet.net.au).

ADELAIDE: Organised by: Palm Sunday organising collective. Details: [admin@ecosouth.com.au](mailto:admin@ecosouth.com.au)

**17 MARCH. LISTENING TOUR BY HREOC COMMISSIONER FOR SEX DISCRIMINATION AND AGE DISCRIMINATION (WA).** Co-presented by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC), WiSER - Women in Social & Economic Research at Curtin University of Technology and the Equal Opportunity Commission, Western Australia. 10.45 am for 11.00 am to 1.00 pm (light refreshments provided). Curtin Graduate School of Business, 78 Murray Street (cnr Pier Street), Perth. RSVP by Friday 14 March 2008 to (08) 9266 7755 or email [wiser@cbs.curtin.edu.au](mailto:wiser@cbs.curtin.edu.au). Web: <http://humanrights.gov.au/listeningtour/events.html>.

**18 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS' (VIC).** Speaker: Professor Martin Scheinin, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights while Countering Terrorism. From 1997-2004, Prof Scheinin served as an independent expert on the UN Human Rights Committee. Prof Scheinin has recently attended and observed military commission hearings in Guantanamo Bay. 5:45 pm - 8:00 pm, Clayton Utz, Level 18, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne Enquiries: Human Rights Law Resource Centre, (03) 8344 6589 or email [hrlrc@vicbar.com.au](mailto:hrlrc@vicbar.com.au).

**18 MARCH. PARTY IN RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE WORK OF REPRIEVE AUSTRALIA (VIC).** A cocktail party will be held to recognise the work of those who have made significant contributions to the aims of Reprieve Australia, including those who worked for the abolition of the death penalty in Victoria and those who are committed to advocating on behalf of people facing the death penalty today. 6.00 pm, State Library of Victoria, Rotunda Room (entrance 1 off Swanston St). RSVP [executive.officer@reprieve.org.au](mailto:executive.officer@reprieve.org.au) by 11 March 2008. Web: <http://www.reprieve.org.au/5903865/reprieve-australia-honorary-memberships-ceremony.htm>.

**19 MARCH. ADDRESS: 'WHAT DOES THE ACT GOVERNMENT AIM TO ACHIEVE WITH THE NEW PRISON?' (ACT).** Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture presents ACT Attorney-General Simon Corbell and Professor David Biles. 7.30 pm, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, King's Ave, Barton. Questions from the floor; tea and coffee with light refreshments available afterwards. Tel: (02) 6291 4537 or 0419 970 915.

**19-28 MARCH. HARMONY DAY PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, 2008 (NSW).** Supported by Sydney Multicultural Community Services and Randwick City Council, this exhibition aims to showcase originality and expression of culture among community members of Inner and Eastern Sydney. Launch, 19 March, Bowen Library, Maroubra. For entry forms and further details, contact (02) 9663 3922. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>.

**21 MARCH. EXHIBITION OPENING: 'YINALUNG YENU: WOMEN'S JOURNEY' (NSW).** Discover Indigenous women's contribution to the Australian community through a new exhibition opening at the Powerhouse Museum on 21 March. The exhibition will take visitors on a journey into the sometimes unknown and often unexplained world of Indigenous Australian women. It also features the stories of six prominent Indigenous Australian women: Dr

Marlene Kong and Dr Marilyn Clarke; Bronwyn Bancroft; Professor Larissa Behrendt; and respected elders Aunty Beryl Carmichael and Aunty Sue Blacklock. Admission: \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$6 concession and \$25 family. Powerhouse Museum members and children under four admitted free. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris Street, Ultimo, Sydney. Telephone: (02) 9217 0111 or (02) 9217 0444. Web: [www.powerhousemuseum.com](http://www.powerhousemuseum.com).

**25 MARCH. APPLICATIONS CLOSE PASTORAL CARE TRAINING 2008 (ACT).** Applications are invited from people in the Canberra region to train as Pastoral Carers. Training courses are planned at Introductory and Basic levels. Introductory course commencing Monday April 28th; Basic course will continue after Introductory. Applications close 25th March 2008. Further information and application forms: (02) 62442261 or [lyn.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:lyn.kelly@act.gov.au). Web: [www.pastoralcareact.org](http://www.pastoralcareact.org)

**27 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'FAITH-BASED INTERVENTIONS - THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN CORRECTIONS' (NSW).** The Institute of Criminology, University of Sydney and the NSW Department of Corrective Services present a seminar: 'Faith-based interventions - the role of religion in corrections'. Speakers include Associate Professor Eileen Baldry, Reverend Rodney Moore, Father Michael Whelan SM, Nada Roude, Judge Chris Geraghty. 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm, Assembly Hall, Level 4 (entry level), Sydney University Law School, 173-175 Phillip Street, Sydney. This seminar is free; please register for catering purposes by contacting [R.Miller@usyd.edu.au](mailto:R.Miller@usyd.edu.au) or (02) 9351 0239.

**28 MARCH. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'SEE GAZA AND CRY' (NSW).** Addressing the human tragedy of Gaza and the complexities of Jewish-Palestinian relations will be Ross

Burns, former Australian Ambassador to Israel and Dr Izzat Abdelhadi, Palestinian Authority representative in Australia. 6.00 - 7.45pm, Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9358 4834. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org>

**30 MARCH. SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW - DAY OF CULTURES: DID YOU KNOW? EXHIBITION (NSW).** Call for Exhibits. A unique opportunity for community groups and organisations to showcase their culture and their work with the community. For more information, please contact Fadi Nemme, Strategic Project Officer, NSW Community Relations Commission, (02) 8255 6725 or [fadi.nemme@crc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fadi.nemme@crc.nsw.gov.au).

**1 APRIL. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS' (VIC).** Speaker: Ms Hina Jilani, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders. Free public lecture on the role of human rights defenders in promoting the international human rights framework. 6.30 pm, University of Melbourne Law School, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton. RSVP essential by 27 March to [human-rights@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:human-rights@unimelb.edu.au) with 'Jilani' in the subject line. Web: <http://www.law.monash.edu.au/castancentre/events>.

**9-10 APRIL. ACOSS CONFERENCE: 'TAKING STEPS FOR A FAIR GO FOR ALL' (VIC).** This conference will examine taking steps for a fair go for all social inclusion policies and practices. Input from Federal and State Governments, the community services and welfare sector, corporate and philanthropic organisations. The conference will also look at the meaning and scope of social inclusion and poverty. Further details soon. Venue: Sebel Albert Park, Melbourne. Online registration opens shortly, or email [conference@acoss.org.au](mailto:conference@acoss.org.au) and request a registration form.

**Indigenous women to share stage with Pope**  
An Indigenous women's singing group from the Tiwi Islands will be making the journey to Sydney to sing for the Pope during World Youth Day.

**Pine Gap Four acquitted**  
The Northern Territory Court of Criminal Appeal acquitted the Pine Gap Four Christian peace activists.

**Caritas helps out in Bangladesh rat flood**  
Caritas Australia came to the rescue of more than 3000 families in Bangladesh, providing food supplies for the next four months, after they were swamped by a rat plague.

**Film on sex trade takes Catholic gong**  
The Australian Catholic Film Office awarded its 2007 Film of the Year to Dee McLachlan's *The Jammed*.

**Brennan urges Nelson to apologise**  
Australian Catholic University's Fr Frank Brennan urged the opposition leader and the coalition to support the Prime Minister's apology to the 'Stolen Generations'.

**Bishops say apology will mend "broken lives"**  
The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference was optimistic that the Federal Government's apology to Indigenous Australians will help break the impasse and bring about new opportunities to mend "broken lives."

**Caritas donations soar**  
Caritas chief Jack de Groot was thrilled with the growing support for campaigns helping the poor in the world, saying contributions have grown by 10 per cent every year since 2000.

**Older Australians doing it tough: CSSA**  
Catholic Social Services Australia said older Australians are facing mounting pressures due to the cost of living.

**Josephites "rejoice" in apology to Stolen Generations**  
The Sisters of St Joseph welcomed the Government's decision to apologise to the members of the Stolen Generations.

**Non-violent action required: Philippines Bishops**  
The Bishops in the Philippines urged people to undertake "communal action" after details emerged exposing government corruption.

**More Catholic support for apology**  
Australia's Catholic Bishops, Catholic agencies and religious orders wholeheartedly threw their support behind the Federal Government and affirmed the historic and long-awaited apology made yesterday to the Stolen Generations.

**Indigenous Aussies get a boost to attend WYD**  
Indigenous Australians isolated from the mainland on Tiwi Islands will be sharing their traditions and faith with other World Youth Day pilgrims after being partnered by three Sydney Catholic schools to attend.

**Pine Gap Four arrested**  
The Pine Gap Four Christian Pacifists were taken into custody in the Northern Territory to serve short sentences for not paying fines imposed last year.

*Courtesy of Church Resources' CathNews - Go to <http://cathnews.com>*



# Social Justice Calendar

1 **SAT** International Death Penalty Abolition Day; International Treaty to Ban Landmines, 1999; Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day; Landcare Month, Australia

2 **SUN** 4th Sunday of Lent; Clean Up Australia Day

5 **WED** International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1970; Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) commenced, 1990

7 **FRI** World Day of Prayer

8 **SAT** UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace - International Women's Day

9 **SUN** 5th Sunday of Lent

15 **SAT** St Joseph, husband of Mary (Solemnity)

16 **SUN** Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) marks the beginning of Holy Week; Federal Parliament passed the ATSIC Amendment Bill,

repealing provisions of the ATSIC Act and abolishing ATSIC, 2005

19 **WED** US and allies invade Iraq, 2003

20 **THU** Holy Thursday; World Day of Planetary Consciousness - Equinox

21 **FRI** Good Friday; International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Week of Solidarity with the Peoples struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination begins; National Harmony Day (Australia); World Poetry Day; World Forestry Day

22 **SAT** Holy Saturday; World Day for Water

23 **SUN** Easter Sunday; World Meteorological Day

24 **MON** Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, 1980; ATSIC ceased operations, 2005

25 **TUE** Death of Caroline Chisholm, 1877

31 **MON** The Annunciation (Solemnity)

*Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC Social Justice Diary (cost \$6.60, to order go to [http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social\\_justice\\_calendar.html](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](mailto: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.