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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>

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- From the Secretariat
- Current Issues/Resources
- Latest Publications
- This Month's Notices
- News Monitor
- Social Justice Calendar

Dear Friends,

Three events have taken place recently, all of them related to the promotion of a culture of peace, for which the ACSJC has campaigned since its beginning. These issues relate specifically to preconditions for peace as outlined in the aims of the United Nations Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, coinciding with the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence (2001 - 2010).

The preconditions concern respect for life, the ending of violence, the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and challenging the growing militarisation of our world.

Church supports banning bombs

In December, the Vatican signed and ratified the international convention banning the use and stockpiling of cluster munitions. The Vatican has been concerned with this issue for some years, and it was a participant in the negotiations that took place in Ireland in May 2008.

At the signing ceremony at the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo in December, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Vatican secretary for relations with states, said the Vatican chose to sign and ratify the convention to send 'a strong political signal' to the rest of the world to ban cluster bombs.

The convention stresses 'the role of public conscience in furthering the principles of humanity as evidenced by the global call for an end to civilian suffering caused by cluster munitions and recognising the efforts to that end undertaken by the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Cluster Munitions Coalition and numerous other non-governmental organisations around the world'.

Cluster munitions can leave a terrible legacy to civilian populations for decades. They consist of a main bomb that scatters up to 100 smaller explosives over a wide area, each of them capable of spraying shrapnel in all directions. Their most insidious aspect is that some of these 'submunitions' can fail to explode immediately and can remain for up to 30 years as a deadly threat to civilians - farmers, passers-by and especially children, who can mistake them for toys or scrap metal. One survivor described them this way:

'They look like sweets scattered from the sky. You don't realize what they are until they touch you. You know it when they make you bleed. They massacre people in minutes.'

Huge areas of once-productive farmland can be made unusable by these weapons. Laos remains one of the countries most affected by cluster munitions, decades after the war in Indochina. They have also been used in the Russia-Georgia conflict and the 2006 Israeli incursion into Lebanon, where more than 200 civilians died after the ceasefire.

Sadly, countries dealing in this weapon, including the United States, Russia, China and Israel, have not signed the convention, which will come into effect in mid-2009. Australia has signed, though it insists that its anti-tank SMArt 155 weapon is exempt.

Further details about the convention can be found at: www.clusterconvention.org/index.php

The Church's involvement in these negotiations, incidentally, is discussed in Duncan MacLaren's Catholic Social Justice Series paper *Towards a More Just World: The social mission of the Church and new Catholic approaches*.

Terrorism, counter-terrorism and human rights

A recent report of the International Commission of Jurists has investigated the global response to the threat of terrorism following the events of 11 September 2001.

It is a confronting document. The report presents alarming findings about the impact of counter-terrorism policies worldwide and calls for remedial action. The report is based on sixteen hearings covering more than forty countries in all regions of the world.

The Commission's Chair, Justice Arthur Chaskalson, says:

'Many governments, ignoring the lessons of history, have allowed themselves to be rushed into hasty responses to terrorism that have undermined cherished values and violated human rights. The result is a serious threat to the integrity of the international human rights legal framework.'

The Commission's communiqué refers to 'the consequences of notorious counter-terrorism practices such as torture, disappearances, arbitrary and secret detention, unfair trials, and persistent impunity for gross human rights violations in many parts of the world.'

The ACSJC has raised concerns over the possible impact of anti-terror legislation on civil liberties and the rule of law. The ACSJC also campaigned for a long time for the rights of those imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay.

These issues, as the Commission of Jurists report shows, are only a few aspects of where 'fighting for freedom' has involved an attack on that very freedom.

In the words of said Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, former President of Ireland and current President of the ICJ:

'It is now absolutely essential that all states restore their commitment to human rights and that the United Nations takes on a leadership role in this process. If we fail to act now, the damage to international law risks becoming permanent.'

The report and associated materials can be downloaded the International Commission of Jurists website at: http://ejp.icj.org/hearing2.php3?id_article=167&lang=en

Demilitarisation and nuclear non-proliferation

The Australian Government is to be applauded for its drive to establish the International Commission for Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), which is co-chaired by former Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and former Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi. The Commission's office is in Canberra.

Jessica Morrison, the Outreach Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), suggests this is part of a growing international will to limit and perhaps even eliminate nuclear weapons.

In the March issue of the ACSJC's newsletter *Justice Trends*, she points to President Obama's intention to 'set a goal for a world without nuclear weapons', strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and stop the development of new US nuclear weapons. She also says that Prime Minister Kevin Rudd 'has also directed a review of all nuclear treaties to which Australia is a party'. A public consultation process is underway, and a number of groups and individuals have made submissions.

In these times of economic instability and fear of terrorism, the threat of nuclear attack

seems to belong to another decade - indeed to another century. It doesn't, however. We need to remember how many nations, including nations in the most politically unstable regions, possess nuclear weapons. If the words 'a culture of peace' are to mean anything, they must include a culture free of weapons that can exterminate whole countries. We can be proud that on this issue, Australia is taking an important initiative.

In the broader context of world poverty, it is worth remembering the words of Pope Benedict in this year's World Day of Peace Message. He emphasises how global military expenditure has diverted resources from development projects, especially for those who need aid most. 'This state of affairs does nothing to promote, and indeed seriously impedes, attainment of the ambitious development targets of the international community,' he says.

'What is more, an excessive increase in military expenditure risks accelerating

the arms race, producing pockets of underdevelopment and desperation, so that it can paradoxically become a cause of instability, tension and conflict'.

Instead of pouring more money into the development, production and trade of weapons of mass destruction, the Pope challenges all nations - particularly the wealthy and powerful ones - to 'reflect seriously on the underlying reasons for conflicts, often provoked by injustice, and to practise courageous self-criticism'.

The Holy Father's Peace Message, *Fighting Poverty to Build Peace*, can be found at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20081208_xlii-world-day-peace_en.html

The ACSJC Discussion Guide on the Pope's Message can be accessed at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/World-Day-of-Peace-09.pdf>



Current Issues / Resources

MEDIA RELEASE - 'BACK NATIONAL APOLOGY WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'

ACSJC chairman Bishop Christopher Saunders has called on Federal Government to shift the Northern Territory Emergency Response into its community development phase. 'It is vital that Indigenous peoples have a national voice. As last year's Independent Review of the Northern Territory Emergency Response said: "The single most valuable resource that the NTER has lacked from its inception is the positive, willing participation of the people it was intended to help." Achieving justice for Indigenous people will flow from working alongside individuals and communities. It requires less bureaucracy, genuine dialogue and enduring partnerships,' Bishop Saunders said. (refer: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/Content/media_releases/2009_02_13_12567891121.html)

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - PROJECT COMPASSION

Project Compassion was launched on Monday 23 February. This year, the theme for Project Compassion is *An Environment to Grow In*. This encompasses not only the physical conditions, but all the circumstances that surround us as we strive to live life to the full.

Project Compassion highlights six Caritas Australia projects: Building food security in Uganda; Bringing Green Hope to drought prone areas in tribal India; Helping former 'street boys' in Papua New Guinea; Supporting Indigenous Indonesian communities to participate in a future of ecological justice; Developing and training local community members in Indigenous Australia; and building community capacity in Bolivia. To find out more and make a donation, visit http://www.caritas.org.au/project_compassion_09/index.html and call 1800 024 413.

CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA - 'THE CENTRAL PLACE OF HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL INCLUSION AGENDA'

In Catholic Health Australia's latest policy paper, Martin Laverty considers the importance of addressing the social determinants of health to achieve social inclusion. The paper discusses how socioeconomic factors have a direct bearing on how long a person lives and the burden of disease they will be exposed to. The social determinants of health include early childhood experiences, educational attainment, employment status, income, and living conditions. Most social determinants of health can be modified to improve personal and population health outcomes. Yet modifying the social determinants of health requires action outside the boundaries of the traditional health system. Marin Laverty argues that addressing the social determinants of health through the Federal Government's social inclusion agenda will be the most practical method by which a socially inclusive society can be achieved. The paper can be accessed at: <http://www.cha.org.au/>

CHURCH PROVIDERS ADDRESS GLOBAL CRISIS

A new paper has been issued by Catholic Social Services Australia, Anglicare Australia, the Salvation Army and UnitingCare Australia. The discussion paper, *Averting the Social Impact of the Global Financial Crisis*, follows a major church welfare providers summit in November last year and a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard in January. Recommendations in the paper outline the next steps as the Federal Government moves beyond immediate stimulus packages to the longer-term needs of vulnerable Australians and of the social services agencies that serve them. The paper - a framework for ongoing discussion - has been distributed to all senators and members of Federal Parliament. It can be downloaded from the CSSA website at: http://www.catholicsocialservices.org.au/system/files/Churches_response_GFC.pdf

PUBLICATION - 'LET THE SON SHINE'

Columban Missionary Fr Charles Rue is the author of a new publication - *Let the Son Shine: An Australian Catholic Response to Climate Change*. This paper explores two major ways to address Catholic thinking and

acting on climate change in the light of faith: prayer at every stage of the response; and a systematic response using the see-judge-act model. Fr Rue argues that, just as climate change is being caused by a breakdown of earth's temperature regulation system, so a Catholic response must be equally systematic. Catholics must: understand patterns of climate change; challenge consumerism and energy-intensive lifestyles; and act to address the human causes of climate change. Cost \$15 incl. postage (less for multiple copies) - 36pp, A4, full colour. For copies contact: Columban JPIC Office, c/- ACU, Locked Bag 2002, Strathfield NSW 2135, Ph: (02) 9352 8000 or email: cmi@columban.org.au

PUBLICATION - 'ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS'

The Australian Muslim Civil Rights Advocacy Network has produced the third edition of the publication, *Anti-Terrorism Laws: ASIO, the Police and You*. The publication is designed to educate the community on their rights and responsibilities under Australia's counter-terrorism laws. It answers general questions about the laws, including an explanation of the extended powers and functions of ASIO and the AFP. It is available in English, Arabic, Bahasa and Urdu. Hard copies of the booklet can be ordered at amcran@amcran.org or downloaded at <http://amcran.org>

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATIONS

A National Human Rights Consultation was announced by the Attorney-General Robert McClelland on Human Rights Day, (10 December 2008). The Consultation is seeking the community's views on human rights in Australia. The Committee, headed by Fr Frank Brennan, is running community consultations and seeking views (including written submissions) around the following questions: 1. Which human rights and responsibilities should be protected and promoted? 2. Are these human rights currently sufficiently protected and promoted? 3. How could Australia better protect and promote human rights? For further information, visit <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/>

PUBLICATION - 'PEOPLE OF COMPASSION'

TEAR Australia's national educator Dave Andrews explores the lives of 40 Christians

who have left their mark on the world. Ranging from the generous St Nicholas to the brave Helen Keller, *People of Compassion* unpacks the meaning of love, peace and justice - prompting readers to reflect on their own lives. There are 'suggestions for meditation' at the end of each biography, as well as Gospel quotes to help people consider how they can be the good news. 'When I think of people making a difference in the world, I think of John Wesley and Caroline Chisholm. These great Christian figures were people just like you and me, but they saw a need and they did something about it,' says Andrews. Cost: \$20.00 from TEAR Australia's National Office on 1800 244 986. (refer: <http://www.tear.org.au/resources/items/people-of-compassion/>)

EDMUND RICE CENTRE - ONLINE PETITION

Following the screening of *A Well-Founded Fear* on SBS, Edmund Rice Centre director, Phil Glendenning has called for Australians to make known to the Federal Government their support for the process of reform of the Howard Government's immigration regime and its inhuman treatment of asylum seekers. Three ways people can help are: to sign the online petition on the Edmund Rice Centre's website; to write to your Federal MP and to Senator Evans, calling for an urgent reopening

of the cases of the asylum seekers removed to danger from Nauru; and/or to make a donation via the Edmund Rice Centre website www.erc.org.au/donate Phone: (02) 8762 4200. Web: www.erc.org.au

WEBSITE 'SETTLEMENT SERVICE LOCATOR'

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has released the Settlement Service Locator on the DIAC website. This tool will tangibly improve how individuals can locate services in their area, and assist DIAC settlement service providers to refer clients onto other local services. Web: <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/settle-in-australia/find-help/where-to-help/index.htm>.

CAMPAIGN - 'STOP THE CELL-OFF'

The NSW Government has announced it plans to privatise two of the State's prisons - Cessnock and Parklea. The Government also wants to privatise vital prison functions across the state, including prisoner transport and court security. NSW prison officers have initiated a campaign to oppose these plans on the grounds that they do not believe corporations should be trusted with a fundamental part of the justice system. To find out more, visit: <http://www.stopthecelloff.org.au/file.php?file=/index.html>

Latest Publications

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

SERIES PAPER - 'REFUGEES AND AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE'

David Holdcroft SJ provides readers with a valuable guide to the historical, legal and ethical issues at the heart of Australia's immigration policy as the nation begins to

assess the impact of the Rudd Government's approach to refugees and asylum seekers. Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.65 considers how many refugees in dire need are denied asylum status because of strict adherence to legal definitions and explores the way Australia can choose how many people it may reasonably accept as part of its humanitarian program, balancing humanitarian imperatives with its right to assert territorial and cultural sovereignty. "The true test, however, will come only if the Australian

electorate is asked either to respond to large numbers of irregular arrivals or to accept larger numbers of people in its offshore humanitarian program, all in the context of economic insecurity associated with the world financial crisis,” Fr Holdcroft writes. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT DISCUSSION SERIES

The ACSJC is launching a new and additional resource for the Social Justice Sunday Statement. This Discussion Guide is based on the current Social Justice Sunday Statement and is designed to be used with the Statement. The Discussion Guide Series can be used for 3 sessions and is suitable for small group discussion in parishes, schools, communities and other organisations or gatherings. The 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement Discussion Guide Series could be used for Lent, or for any time in the Church Year. It can be downloaded from the ACSJC website at <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. Hard copies may be ordered.

DISCUSSION GUIDE - WORLD DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE 2009

On 1 January, the Holy Father delivered his World Day of Peace message. The theme of his message is *Fighting Poverty to Build 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/>

ORDER NOW! - 2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2009 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It highlights the theme of young people and justice today. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. 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

SERIES PAPER - ‘A GOD MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS’.

In Catholic Social Justice Series No.64, Old Testament scholar Mark O’Brien invites readers to consider the roots of our modern concepts of justice and mercy. The Old Testament’s account of justice is often regarded as full of God’s anger and vengeance. Fr O’Brien considers the challenges and obligations faced at the time: the challenge to establish a coherent law and theology, the constant threat of violence from neighbouring superpowers, God’s covenant with his people, rivals to the covenant, and the prophetic contribution reintegrating justice and mercy into the life of the community. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER - ‘TOWARDS A MORE JUST WORLD’.

Duncan MacLaren examines how the Church can confront new problems concerning social justice and human rights. The paper explains how Catholic social teaching and its basis in the Gospels makes Catholic NGOs different from other agencies. It also suggests areas where Catholic social teaching has to be expanded to address some of the deep-seated problems of the modern world. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER - ‘PALESTINE AND ISRAEL’.

In Catholic Social Justice Series No.62, journalist and author Peter Manning provides a comprehensive analysis of the issues behind the Middle East conflict. His detailed examination of the key causes of the conflict helps readers understand the reasons for the impasse. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT

- ORDERS STILL BEING TAKEN. This year’s Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled ‘A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia’. The ACSJC is taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website. The easiest way to order is to download the order form, make a credit card payment and fax it to (02) 8306 3498. Refer: <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 copies \$1.45; 3-5 copies \$2.45)

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3481 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. CLEAN UP DAY (NATIONAL). Clean up Australia welcomes everyone to join in making Australia a better place to live. To help, contact 1800 282 329. Web: www.cleanup.org.au.

1 MARCH. LAUNCESTON CLIMATE FESTIVAL (TAS). Local supporters of Make Poverty History have organised this festival to see the bigger picture of climate change and to give an opportunity to talk to some local politicians, write to others, sign petitions and make pledges. Featuring free rickshaw rides, family fun/learning activities, live music, short films, BBQ food available. 12.00 - 4.00pm, Royal Park Regatta Grounds, Park St, Launceston. Contact 0437 741 677. Web: <http://www.climatelaunceston.com/>.

1, 6 MARCH. DOCUMENTARY: 'VOICES FROM THE CAPE' (NATIONAL). This is about a Community Prophets program in the Aboriginal community of Aurukun (Cape York-far north QLD) in 2007, engaging young people to make films and music. Produced by Anna Kaplan and Directed by David S Vadiveloo. Screening times: Episode 1 - 6.00pm, 27 February, ABC 1; Episode 2 - 1.30pm, 1 March, ABC 1; or 5.00pm, 2 March, ABC 2. Web: <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/>.

1 - 3, 5 - 8, 13, 14, 16, 17 MARCH. FORUMS: 'GM CROPS: THE BENEFITS AND RISKS' (SA, WA, AND NSW). Before Australian farmers decide to go down the GM path; they need to be aware of all the issues with growing these crops. Speakers are Moe Parr and Ross Murray, farmers from North America, where GM crops

are grown commercially. The tour is being hosted by individual farmers throughout Australia, with support from a range of groups, including the Network of Concerned Farmers, WA Conservation Council and Greenpeace.

SA: Contact: (03) 5386 6261 or Waipali@bigpond.com.

1 March. 2.00 - 3.30pm, The Keith Institute, Heritage St, Keith.

2 March. 7.00 - 8.30pm, The Saddleworth Institute, Burra Road, Saddleworth.

3 March. 2.00 - 3.30pm, Cummins Bowling Club, 60 Bruce Terrace, Cummins.

5 March. 9.30 - 11.30am, The Plaza Room, Parliament House, North Terrace, Adelaide.

RSVP necessary: parnell@parliament.sa.gov.au or (08) 8237 9111.

WA:

6 March. 7.00 - 8.30pm, Taylor St Jetty Café and Restaurant, Taylor St, Esperance (light breakfast provided). Contact: 0427 087 357.

7 March. 10.00 - 11.30am, Scots Hall, 168 York St (behind Scots Uniting Church), Albany. Contact: (08) 9848 2397.

8 March. TBC.

NSW: Contact: (02) 6959 8656 or 0428 598 656.

13 March. 10.00 - 11.30am, Waratah Room, NSW Parliament, Macquarie St, Sydney.

14 March. 10.00 - 11.30am, Stephen Ward Room, Cootamundra Library, corner of Wallendoon and Thompson St, Cootamundra.

16 March. 7.00 - 8.30pm, Commercial Club, 77 Gurwood St, Wagga Wagga.

17 March. Moresby Room, Orange Ex-services' Club, 231 - 243 Anson St, Orange.

2 MARCH. SPIRITUALITY OVER SUPPER (TAS). Emmanuel Pastoral and Spirituality Centre is holding an evening where you are invited to join in conversation with Janet O'Sullivan, who has completed an internship with Richard Rohr in New Mexico and offers courses in the Challenges of Globalisation. Donation 7.00 - 9.00pm, 123 Abbott Street, Newstead. Contact (03) 6334 1082 or ssjemmanuel@bigpond.com.

2 MARCH. MORNING TEA: 'WRAP WITH LOVE' (NSW). Thousands of people die from cold each day. Millions die each year. Wrap with Love is a voluntary organisation who "turn cold into cosy" by providing blankets to the less fortunate all over the world. All are welcome to hear more about this fantastic project from Annette Bennett, bring your knitting gear and enjoy a chat and morning tea. 10.00 am - 12.00pm, Level 1, 280 Pitt St, Sydney. Web: <http://www.sydneymsa.com.au>.

2 - 4 MARCH. CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION: 'EVERY SECOND COUNTS' (NSW). APCO Australia presents this conference to discuss 'Natural disasters and the changing climate: Are we prepared?' Experts from around the world, presenting on the latest in emergency response and planning, mission critical solutions, technological innovation, health, the environment and much more. Cost: please see website for details. 8.30am - 5.00pm, Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh, Sydney. Contact: 1300 796 668 or eventscoordinator@apcoaustralia.com.au. Web: <http://www.apcoaustralia.com.au/2009/>.

2-4, 10-12 MARCH. TALK: 'HOW PROJECT COMPASSION SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES IN AFRICA' (VIC). Caritas Australia invites you to hear how your generosity and commitment to Project Compassion is providing for communities throughout the world. Speaker: Lulu Mitshabu, Caritas Australia's Programs Coordinator for Democratic Republic of Congo and Botswana shares some very practical experiences of community development through partnerships, men, women and children are claiming back their lives, lives with dignity and hope for the future. 2 March 7.30pm, Kildara Centre rear 47 Stanhope Street, Malvern; 3 March 7.30pm Mary Help of Christians Church, 97 Railway Street, Altona; 4 March 12.30 - 1.30pm, CKC

383 Albert Street, East Melbourne; 10 March 7.30pm, St Theresa's, Lincoln Road, Essendon; 11 March 7.30pm St. Bede's, Severn Street, North Balwyn; 12 March 7.30pm, Kilbreda College, Mentone Parade, Mentone. Contact (03) 9926 5786. Web: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=What_s_on&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=5251.

3 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'HOME OWNERSHIP AS A (CRUMBLING) FOURTH PILLAR OF SOCIAL INSURANCE IN AUSTRALIA' (NSW). Unlike most other rich nations, almost all people over retirement age in Australia own their own home. Nonetheless, the Australian model means that those who miss out on home ownership are multiply disadvantaged and projections suggest that this group will grow in size in the coming decades. Speaker is Bruce Bradbury, Senior Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW and Judy Yates, Honorary Associate Professor, University of Sydney. 12.30 - 1.30pm, University of NSW, Level 2, Room 250, Webster Building, Kensington, NSW. RSVP: Megan Griffiths (02) 9385 7817 or sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au by 27 February 2009. Web: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/>

3 MARCH. BOOK LAUNCH: 'KILL KHALID: MOSSAD'S FAILED HIT... AND THE RISE OF HAMAS' (NSW). Gleebooks presents Paul McGeough talking about his new book and about the current situation in Gaza. The incredible true story of the attempted assassination of Palestinian, Khalid Mishal. Paul McGeough is the author of In Baghdad - A Reporter's War and of Manhattan to Baghdad: Despatches from the Frontline in the War on Terror. McGeough's many domestic and international journalism awards attest to his position as Australia's most prominent foreign correspondent. Cost \$10, \$7 concession. 6.30 for 7.00pm, Upstairs @ 49, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: (02) 9660 2333 or morgan@gleebooks.com.au. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

4 MARCH. CARITAS INAUGURAL LECTURE: 'INDIGENOUS RIGHTS: BEYOND SYMBOLISM' (NSW). All are welcome to hear prominent Indigenous activist, recipient of the 2008

Sydney Peace Prize and proud Yawuru man, Patrick Dodson speak on how the Australian Government can move beyond symbolism to a framework ensuring accountability for Indigenous justice. Bring a guest. No cost. 6.00 - 7.30pm, St Benedict's Hall, Notre Dame University, corner of Broadway and Abercrombie St, Broadway. RSVP: (02) 8306 3400 or caritasaustralia@caritas.org.au. Web: www.caritas.org.au.

4 MARCH. LAUNCH: 'SISTERS ON THE PLANET' (WA). Share in the stories of "Sisters" from around the world as they take action on climate change. 5.30 pm for 6.10 - 8.00pm, 51 James St, Alexander Library, Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge. RSVP: (08) 9262 8200 by 18 February. Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/events/>.

4 MARCH. FORUM: 'EXPLORING QUALITY WITHIN THE DISABILITY SECTOR' (VIC). A forum exploring a range of perspectives regarding what constitutes a quality disability service and clarifies DHS funding expectations and forthcoming Quality Framework audit processes. The forum will provide all participants with resources that will assist agencies to both understand and comply with Quality Framework audits 2009. Speakers: Arthur Rogers, Executive Director - Disability Services Division DHS; Melinda Smith, Communication Resource Centre; Cath McNamara, Action for Community Living; Mary Nolan. Cost: \$55. 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm (Registration opens at 1.00pm, Forum commences at 2.00pm sharp), Grevillea Room, Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre, corner Bell St & St Georges Rd, Preston. Contact: 0438 846 584. Web: www.field.org.au/events/forums/quality/form.php.

5 MARCH. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'JOURNEYS OF LOVE AND ACTIVISM: ABORIGINAL WOMEN SHARING THE CARING' (WA). In this lecture Dr Tamara Mackean, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, UWA will explore the contemporary nature of Aboriginal family and kinship; the role Aboriginal women have played and continue to play in reducing disparities in life experienced by Aboriginal people; and the healing journeys many Aboriginal women take not only for themselves but for their

communities. 6.00 - 7.00pm, University Club Theatre Auditorium, University of Western Australia. RSVP (08) 6217 8211 or Jayde.Fuller@communities.wa.gov.au.

5 MARCH. PRESENTATION: 'A HUMAN RIGHTS ACT, THE COURTS AND THE CONSTITUTION' (NSW). The Australian Human Rights Commission is presenting this lecture by The Hon Michael McHugh AC, QC, a distinguished jurist and former Justice of the High Court of Australia, who will present his views on human rights in Australia and their protection through a Human Rights Act. Chair: The Hon Catherine Branson QC, President, Australian Human Rights Commission. Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion. 5:15 - 7.00pm, The Hearing Room, Australian Human Rights Commission, Level 8, Piccadilly Tower, 133 Castlereagh St Sydney. Contact: associate@humanrights.gov.au . Web: http://humanrights.gov.au/letstalkaboutrights/events/McHugh_2009.html.

5 MARCH. BREAKFAST: 'ETHICAL DECISIONS IN SPORTS BUSINESS' (NSW). The Edmund Rice Business Ethics initiative presents Des Hasler, Coach of the Manly Sea Eagles, speaking about business ethics. Cost: \$40 members, \$25 students. 7.30 - 9.00am, Gilbert and Tobin offices, 2 Park St, Sydney. Contact: (02) 8762 4219 or marisab@erc.org.au. Web: www.erc.org.au

5 - 6 MARCH. CONFERENCE: 'MAKING A DIFFERENCE: RESPONDING TO NEED IN DEVELOPING, IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATING CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS' (VIC). The conference will bring together policy makers, practitioners, researchers, academics and others with an interest in correctional programs and services to share current knowledge and directions. There will be a strong emphasis on evidence based outcomes of correctional programs and improving reintegration/re-entry strategies. Key themes of the conference will be the rehabilitative needs of Indigenous offenders and young people. Registration: \$350, concession \$310; Conference dinner \$100. 5 March 8.30am - 6.00pm, dinner 6.30 - 10.30pm (at Old Melbourne Jail), 6 March 8.30am - 4.00pm, Victorian Department of Justice, Level 27, 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne.

Contact: (02) 6260 9272 or aic.events@aic.gov.au. Web: <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/corrections/index.html>

6 MARCH. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(NATIONAL). People from 107 countries will be taking part in the day of prayer which has a tradition dating from 1927. Each year a nation is chosen to be the centre piece of the service. In 2008, it was Guyana. This year it will be Papua New Guinea and the service for the Day of Prayer has been written by the women of PNG. There are many services taking place across Australia. Contact: 03 9842 2995 or NLO@worlddayofprayeraustralia.org. Web: <http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/worlddayofprayer/world-day-of-prayer-2009.html>

6 - 7 MARCH. CONFERENCE: 'FECCA - ECCWA 2009 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE' (WA). The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia and Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia are holding a women's conference on 'Refugee and Immigrant Women - Setting the Social Inclusion Agenda'. Speakers will include leading women from politics, business and the community. Contact: (08) 9227 5322 or eccwa.women@inet.net.au. Web: www.fecca.org.au.

6 - 7 MARCH. HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL (QLD). For the first time in Brisbane, this Festival bringing films, artwork and music from all over the globe that challenge, touch and inspire audiences from all walks of life. Films include 'Different Kind of Gun' and 'The Day after Peace'; shorts include 'Reel Change' and 'Kicking It'. Action hubs include Make Poverty History, Amnesty International and Caritas Australia. Single tickets \$15 full, \$13.50 concession; festival pass \$38 full, \$35 concession. Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington Street, New Farm. Web: www.hraff.org.au/brisbane.html.

7 MARCH - 4 APRIL. RETREAT: 'A RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE FOR BUSY PEOPLE' (WA). Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW) Perth is offering a Lenten Retreat designed for anyone who wants to learn to pray better, help to link prayer with daily life and to recognise the presence of God in the events of each day. While continuing your ordinary daily work,

you commit yourself to 20 minutes each day praying the Scriptures. You meet with your director for 20-30 minutes weekly for 4 weeks by telephone. The Director is Sr Kathleen Brennan IBVM. 10.00 - 11.00am, 7 March and 4 April, introductory and concluding sessions, Unit 47/27 Pearson Drive, Success. Cost: \$30.00 or whatever you can afford. Contact: (08) 9498 7377.

7, 21 MARCH, 4 APRIL. PROGRAM:

'INTRODUCTION TO THE GRAIL' (NSW). The Grail in Sydney offers this program for women interested in knowing more about this women's movement. The Grail is an international spiritual, cultural and social movement of women with its roots in Christian faith, at the same time open to women following other spiritual paths. The program consists of 3 meetings for shared reflection and discussion on such themes as: a vision to live by; spiritual search and living faith; the world today and our response; action in the Grail; and will offer possibilities for prayer, ritual and celebration. We would ask you to bring food for lunch. Drinks will be available. 10.30am - 3.30pm, The Grail Centre, 22 McHatton Street, North Sydney. Contact: (02) 9955-3053 or grailsydney@ozemail.com.au.

8 MARCH. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (NATIONAL). The theme for International Women's Day 2009 is "Unite to End Violence Against Women." There are many events taking place across Australia. Web: <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/search.asp?country=13> or UNIFEM, contact: (02) 6285 8254 or admin@unifem.org.au. Web: <http://www.unifem.org.au/node/271>.

8 MARCH. DOCUMENTARY AND DISCUSSION: FOCUS ON EAST TIMOR WOMEN (NSW). Mary Mackillop East Timor Mission presents Fernanda Borges (an East Timorese politician) speaking on the critical role played by women and the call for justice for the crimes against humanity perpetrated against the people of East Timor. There will be a screening of the film "Heru Ini Lafu: Weaving Life" - on the beauty of East Timorese culture. No cost. 7.30pm, Bonnyrigg Community Centre, Bonnyrigg Avenue, Bonnyrigg. Contact: (02) 9623 2847. Web: <http://www.mmiets.org.au>.

9 MARCH. KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 'INDIGENOUS HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA' (VIC). This event is a part of the SheppARTon Festival in partnership with The University of Melbourne. The speaker, Professor Ian Anderson is the foundation Chair in Indigenous Health at the University of Melbourne. His family are Palawa Trouwunna: Plaimairrenner and Trawlwoolway clans. In this thought provoking address, he will challenge us to consider the tragic state of Indigenous health in Australia and his vision for a way forward to a critically important 'New Horizon'. 11.00am - 12.30pm, School of Rural Health, 49 Graham Street, Shepparton. Contact: (03) 5823 6614 or gatley@unimelb.edu.au. Web: <http://www.sheppartonfestival.net.au/events.asp?id=67>.

9 MARCH. COMMONWEALTH DAY MULTI-FAITH CELEBRATION (ACT). The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture are holding a Multi-faith Celebration of the Commonwealth. The Celebration is modelled on the Commonwealth Observance which Her Majesty the Queen attends in Westminster Abbey each Commonwealth Day. The theme for this year is: The Commonwealth @ 60 - serving a new generation. Local leaders of major world religions will participate, and there will also be Indigenous participation, cultural performances, a Tongan Choir, a Chinese group, a Ugandan quartet and the Woden Valley Youth Choir. 11.00am - 12.30pm, Chapel of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, corner King's Avenue and Blackall Street, Barton. Web: <http://www.crtanet.au/NewsCtre/CRTannounce.htm>.

9 MARCH. NEW AID/WATCH CAMPAIGN COLLECTIVE (NSW). The campaign collective is a great way to be more involved in our campaigns and actions to ensure that aid is determined by the needs of communities. This will be the first meeting of the collective. In 2009 a key focus for AID/WATCH will be the Pacific, in particular AusAID funded Pacific land reforms. Everyone interested to learn more about this issue and become active in community education and actions are welcome to come along from 6.00pm, 19 Eve Street Erskineville. Contact: lara@aidwatch.org.au. Web: <http://www.aidwatch.org.au/>.

10 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'SOCIAL CAPITAL AND WELFARE POLICY IN THE UK AND AUSTRALIA' (NSW). Building partnerships, networks and trust have recently become popular objectives in policy making. Behind these ideas lies research by Robert Putnam and others into the importance of 'social capital' in providing a whole host of benefits to the economic, political and social life of a nation, not least to its effective governance. This presentation will look at the policies in education, health, and the voluntary and community sector in Britain and Australia. The presenter is Chris Wood, Doctoral Candidate, University of Nottingham. 12.30 - 1.30pm, University of New South Wales, Room 250, Level 2, Robert Webster Building (G14), UNSW. To confirm the location, date, and time of a seminar, contact: (02) 9385 7817, (02) 9385 7819 or (02) 9385 7802. Web: <http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/>

10 MARCH. FORUM: 'BEYOND THE VEIL' (VIC). Prioletti Consultants present this cross cultural forum on understanding Islam, the Muslim community and the impact on services. The speakers are Mrs Manar Chelebi - Executive Officer, Australian Council for Islamic Education in Schools and Diversity Consultant and Mr Yasser Soliman - President of Islamic Family and Child Care Agency. Cost \$55. 10.00am - 12.00pm (registrations open at 9:30am), Studio Room, Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre, corner of Bell St & St Georges Rd Preston. Contact: 0438 846 584 or josie@prioletticonsultants.com.au. Web: www.prioletticonsultants.com.au.

11 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'STRENGTH OF THE WOMEN OF BOUGAINVILLE' (NSW). Humanist Society of NSW, United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA NSW) and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) present this seminar about the women of Bougainville who made world history. Waratah Rosemarie Gillespie will share some of her experiences on Bougainville - woven with the wisdom of the women of the land. Sworn Statements of eyewitnesses in Bougainville will be read out. A short documentary film will be screened. The event will be opened by Lee Rhiannon, MLC, and Dr. Affie Adagio as MC and there will be speakers from

Bougainville. Valerie Weekes will present a talk on the rights of women in conflict situations. Cost: \$10, \$5 students. 2.00 - 5.00pm, Theatre, State Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney. Contact: (02) 4787 1446 or BougainvilleWomen@gmail.com, RSVP for catering purposes by 4 March.

11 MARCH. PARISH FORUM: 'FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE' (ACT). The first St Thomas More's Parish Forum for 2009 will feature the head of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Michael L'Estrange. Cost \$10, \$3 concession. 7.30 - 9.00pm, St Thomas More Parish Hall, 30 White Crescent, Campbell. Contact: sttmforum@home.com.au, please book for catering purposes. Web: <http://www.stthomasmores.cg.catholic.edu.au/parish/parishmain/parishforummain.htm>

11 MARCH. LECTURE: 'COUNTDOWN TO APARTHEID IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE' (VIC). Retired Professor Jeff Halper has been a peace and human rights activist for more than three decades. He immigrated to Israel in 1973, and has organised Israelis, Palestinians and internationals to help rebuild demolished Palestinian homes. Dr Halper's latest book "An Israeli in Palestine" can be purchased and signed by him after the lecture. Sponsored by Asia Institute, University of Melbourne, Australians for Palestine and Women for Palestine. No cost. 6.30pm, University of Melbourne, Elisabeth Murdoch Theatre A, Elisabeth Murdoch Building (turn first left off Tin Alley entrance from Swanston Street, Carlton). Contact: (03) 9818 5080. Web: www.australiansforpalestine.com.

11 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'CHANGING FRAMES OF INTERACTION IN COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING' (QLD). The Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies are holding this seminar on Creative Dialogue and Design (CDD). The seminar will explore resolving conflict comparing results with North American Indian tribes and culturally diverse communities in Australia. The speakers are Polly Walker, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, ACPACS and Serge Loode, Senior Research Technician, ACPACS. No Cost. 12.00 - 1.30pm, Don Carruthers Room, Level 5, Dorothy Hill PSE Library, Hawken Bldg (50), University of QLD. Contact: (07) 3346 8742 or acpacs@uq.edu.au. Web: <http://www.uq.edu.au/>.

12 MARCH. BOOK LAUNCH: 'BLACK POLITICS: INSIDE THE COMPLEXITY OF ABORIGINAL POLITICAL CULTURE' (NSW). Drawing on extensive interviews with activists and politicians, Black Politics explains the dynamics of Aboriginal politics. It reveals the challenges and tensions that have shaped community, regional and national relations over the past 25 years. Sarah Maddison of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of NSW will be in conversation with Tom Calma, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. Cost \$10, \$7 concession. 6.30 for 7.00pm, Upstairs @ 49, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: (02) 9660 2333 or morgan@gleebooks.com.au. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

12 MARCH. LECTURE: 'HEARING VOICES': THE INCARCERATION OF WOMEN (NSW). Sydney Law School Distinguished Speakers presents this lecture based on in-depth primary research with women in prison in the North of Ireland and ahead of publication of The Incarceration of Women (with Linda Moore, Palgrave Macmillan) this talk focuses on key issues regarding women's imprisonment. The speaker is Phil Scraton PhD, Professor of Criminology in the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, School of Law, Queen's University, Belfast. No cost. 5.30 - 7.45pm, Law School Building, F10 Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: (02) 9351 0238 or law.events@usyd.edu.au. Web: <http://www.criminology.law.usyd.edu.au/scratonseminar.pdf>.

13 MARCH. LECTURE: 'A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT: THE BEST PROSPECT FOR PEACE' (SA). Australian Friends of Palestine presents guest speaker, Dr Jeff Halper, retired Israeli Anthropologist Professor and Coordinator of the Israeli Committee against House Demolition. The event will include entertainment by the wonderful Emily Davis, one of Adelaide's most popular musicians and a three course meal. Cost: \$70, \$35 student. 6.30pm, Botanic Garden Restaurant, Botanic Gardens, (entrance via Friend's Gate, Plane Tree Drive). Contact: secretary@friendsofpalestine.org.au (please book early to secure a seat). Web: <http://www.friendsofpalestine.org.au>.

14, 28 MARCH. TALK: 'SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE LIGHT OF THE HEBREW PROPHETS' (TAS). The Hebrew Prophets and Social Justice - weird and confusing - or an inspiring lesson for us in today's society. How do the Scriptures impact on our lives? Is change possible and can our lives impact on others? The Presenter is Mary-Anne Johnson. Cost: \$5. 2.00 - 4.00pm, Emmanuel Spirituality Centre, 24 Hopkins Street, Moonah (the red brick building beyond the church/school car park.). Contact: (03) 6278 1460 or (03) 62721375, bookings are essential, RSVP March 6. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

14 MARCH. INTENSIVE: 'AID OR DEVELOPMENT; CHARITY OR SOCIAL JUSTICE?' (WA). This Intensive explores techniques and understandings that are already building a world in which poverty need not be. The presenter is Janeen Murphy, Global Education Advisor for Caritas Australia, including working in Uganda, Timor-Leste (East Timor), Cambodia and India. Janeen runs education programs in schools and higher education institutions, providing pathways to engage with justice issues. Cost: \$50, \$25 concession, \$100 NGO, \$150 Corporate. 10.00am to 5.00pm, ERISJ, 24 High St, Fremantle, (Between Henry & Mouat Streets). Contact: (08) 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/event/2009/03/14/day>.

15 MARCH. BLACK HARMONY GATHERING (VIC). Multicultural Arts Victoria in association with Victorian Multicultural Commission, City of Yarra and VicHealth presents this event for the Elimination of Racism Day & Cultural Diversity Week 2009. The event includes a traditional welcome by Auntie Joy Murphy and a smoking ceremony by Robbie Thorpe. It will feature Indigenous artists and also friends from Sudan, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Ethiopia, West Papua and East Timor. There is a Koori BBQ, African food stalls and a market place of Indigenous and African wares. No cost. 2.00 - 6.00pm, Fairfield Amphitheatre, Heidelberg Rd, Fairfield. Contact: (03) 9417 6777 or office@multiculturalarts.com.au. Web: www.multiculturalarts.com.au.

16 MARCH. SEMINAR: 'WHO AM I? RELIGION, IDENTITY AND PUBLIC LIFE' (VIC). Stephen Crittenden, religious affairs journalist, ABC and Waleed Aly, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University in conversation. This seminar is co-sponsored by the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology, Monash University and the State Library of Victoria. This series of ten monthly conversations will create public dialogue between people of different backgrounds and religious traditions. No cost. 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Village Roadshow Theatre, State Library of Victoria. Bookings recommended. Contact (03) 9905 2172 or Susan.Grist@arts.monash.edu.au. Web: <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/index.cfm?n=6&sn=9>.

16 MARCH. LECTURE: 'A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT: THE BEST PROSPECT FOR PEACE' (QLD). Evan Moorehead MP, State Member for Waterford will host the lecture from Israeli Anthropologist Professor Jeff Halper, Coordinator of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). The event is organised by Just Peace Queensland and Labor 4A Just Palestine. 6.00 - 8:00pm, Undumbi Room, Level 5, Queensland Parliament House, (entry via Parliamentary Annexe). Contact: 0431 597 256 or 0413 874 008, RSVP: Waterford@parliament.qld.gov.au or (07) 3200 3477.

16 - 20 MARCH. PASTORAL CARE TRAINING 2009 (ACT). The Canberra and Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education Inc, ACT Health, & The Canberra Hospital are offering this training for people interested in becoming a Pastoral Carer in the community, to affirm the power of love and care through the Spirit of God in the community. Supervisor: Judith Dunbar (CPE supervisor Royal North Shore). Cost: Introductory \$200, Basic \$1000, Advanced \$1000. 9.30am - 4.30pm, Introductory - 16 to 20 March, Extended Basic - Fridays, 27 March until 4 September. Contact: (02) 6244 2261 or lyn.kelly@act.gov.au. Website: www.pastoralcareact.org/cpe.

19 MARCH. BOOK LAUNCH: 'HIJAB AND THE REPUBLIC: UNCOVERING THE FRENCH HEADSCARF DEBATE' (NSW).

The hijab is arguably the most discussed and controversial item of women's clothing today. It has become the primary global symbol of female Muslim identity for Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and is the focus of much debate in the confrontation between Islam and the West. Nowhere has this debate been more acute or complex than in France. The author, Bronwyn Winter will be in conversation with Shakira Hussein. Cost \$10, \$7 concession. 6.30 for 7.00pm, Upstairs @ 49, gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Contact: (02) 9660 2333 or morgan@gleebooks.com.au. Web: <http://www.gleebooks.com.au/default.asp?p=events/events4.htm>.

19 MARCH. LECTURE: 'SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA: JUSTICE AND RITUAL IN HUMAN RIGHTS AFTER CONFLICT' (ACT).

The Centre for International & Public Law presents Professor Hilary Charlesworth, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow, Professor in the Regulatory Institutions Network, Director of the Centre for International Governance and Justice at the ANU. Michael Kirby was the Special Representative for Human Rights of the UN Secretary-General in Cambodia from 1993-1996. This lecture will begin with Michael Kirby's contributions to peace building in that context and then consider the role of international institutions in building peace more generally. This lecture is free and open to the public. 6.00 - 7.30pm, Law Theatre, ANU College of Law, Bldg 5, Fellows Road, The Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: (02) 6125 1096 or rsvp@law.anu.edu.au, RSVP by 16 March. Web: <http://law.anu.edu.au/Cipl/Lectures&Seminars/2009/Charlesworth.pdf>.

19 MARCH. SPECIAL BENEFIT SCREENING: 'SOLDIERS OF PEACE' (NSW). This Australian documentary has a powerful and moving message on the vital importance of peace to

world sustainability, 'Soldiers of Peace' shows the extraordinary peace efforts of ordinary individuals across the globe. Speakers at the screening include Director Tim Wise, Professor Jake Lynch, Director Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, and Professor Stuart Rees Director of Sydney Peace Foundation, Cost: \$15, book online at Moshtix <http://www.moshtix.com.au/event.aspx?id=25289>. 7.00pm, Footbridge Theatre, Parramatta Road, Sydney University. Web: <http://www.soldiersofpeacemovie.com/>.

20 MARCH. LECTURE: 'ISRAEL'S DEMOLITION OF PALESTINIAN HOMES: THE ESSENCE OF THE CONFLICT' (NSW). Centre for Middle East & North African Studies presents a lecture from Israeli Anthropologist Professor Jeff Halper, Coordinator of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). His book, *Obstacles to Peace*, is a resource manual of articles and maps on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and is published by ICAHD. 7.00 - 9.00pm, TBA, Macquarie University, North Ryde. Web: <http://www.mq.edu.au/mec/>.

21 MARCH. HARMONY DAY (NATIONAL).

Harmony Day is celebrated on 21 March each year. It is managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and celebrates the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. DIAC supports a range of community events and activities held to celebrate Harmony Day by providing free promotional products.

The key message of Harmony Day is 'Everyone Belongs'. Contact: 1800 331 100 or harmonyday@immi.gov.au. Web: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day/whats-on.htm>

22 MARCH. WORLD WATER DAY (NATIONAL).

Another opportunity to highlight the importance of water comes on World Water Day. Ecumenical Water Network has already put together a collection of resources and links that can help congregations address the issue, inspired by prayer, biblical texts on justice and on water, and the experiences of church agencies with the challenges posed by unequal access to freshwater and sanitation. Web: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/activities/ewn-home/resources-and-links/ewn-resources.html>.

23 MARCH. EXHIBITION: 'WILD PLACES - FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE' (VIC).

Celebrate some of Australia's most important wild places with a photographic exhibition by renowned Wilderness photographers. The evening will include a Green Carbon presentation from Wilderness Society forest campaigners detailing recent scientific findings about the potential of forests to mitigate dangerous climate change. Exhibition viewing and drinks 6.30pm, presentation 7.00pm, Packer Park Hall, Leila Road, Carnegie VIC. Contact: amelia.young@wilderness.org.au or (03) 9038 0888. Web: http://www.wilderness.org.au/events/?utm_source=apache&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=upcoming_events.

24 MARCH. TRAINING: 'GETTING IT RIGHT: EFFECTIVE NGO ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING' (VIC).

ACFID presents this training which examines the secrets behind effective lobbying approaches and builds skills for advocacy engagement in Canberra. The speakers include - Tim Costello, Chief Executive of World Vision Australia; Sabina Curatolo, Adviser to the Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance; Megan Anderson, Director of Community Partnerships, AusAID and many others. Registrations close 13 March. Cost: \$80 member, \$100 non member. 9.30am - 5.00pm, Australian Volunteers International, 71 Argyle Street, Fitzroy, VIC 3065. Contact: (02) 6102 5510 or rebecca.bartholomew@worldvision.com.au. Web: <http://www.acfid.asn.au>.

25 MARCH. FORUM: 'CAUSES AND THE SOLUTIONS OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS' (NSW).

The Edmund Rice Business Ethics Initiative is convening a panel discussion including: Federal Minister for Small Business and Deregulation, Craig Emerson; CEO of the Australian Bankers' Association, David Bell; General Manager from the financial regulator APRA, David Lewis; and Director of the Welfare Rights Centre, Maree O'Halloran. The evening's discussion will be compered by prominent business journalist, Michael Pascoe. Cost: \$50 General, \$40 ERBEI Members, \$35 Full-time students. 6.00pm - 9.30pm, Theatrette, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: Marisa Brattoni (02) 8762 4219 or

marisab@erc.org.au. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/news_events/events-at-ACU-National/.

27 MARCH. DISCUSSION: CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GLOBAL RECESSION - RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES' (NSW).

Politics in the Pub presents ARC Professorial fellow and Immediate past Executive Director of the UN's World Climate Research Program and Ben Spies-Butcher, lecturer in Economy and Society, Macquarie University. Cost: \$5. 6.00 - 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9358 4834 or tomspandb@bigpond.com; (02) 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au; (02) 9518 5560 or katebarton3@optusnet.com.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

27 MARCH. TRAINING: 'GETTING IT RIGHT: EFFECTIVE NGO ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING' (NSW).

ACFID presents this training which examines the secrets behind effective lobbying approaches and builds skills for advocacy engagement in Canberra. Registrations close 13 March. Cost: \$80 member, \$100 non member. 9.30am - 5.00pm, World Vision Australia NSW State Office, Boardroom, Mezzanine level, 134 William Street, Potts Point. Contact: (02) 6102 5510 or rebecca.bartholomew@worldvision.com.au. Web: <http://www.acfid.asn.au>.

27 - 29 MARCH. FUNDRAISING EVENT: 'OXFAM TRAILWALKER' (VIC).

Oxfam TRAILWALKER is the world's greatest team challenge, and also one of the toughest. The challenge is to get a team of four across 100km of Australian bush in less than 48 hours - and, collectively, to raise at least \$1,000 to help to overcome poverty and suffering around the world. OXFAM are looking for committed and energetic volunteers to fill a range of roles across the event weekend. Jells Park, Wheelers Hill. Contact: (03) 9289 9218 or trailwalkermelbourne@oxfam.org.au. Web: www.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker/melbourne.

27 MARCH. COURSE: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS - TRAIN THE TRAINER WORKSHOP (NSW).

Public Interest Advocacy Centre is holding a one-day workshop on skills to conduct human rights training in your network, group, organisation or sector. The workshop

content includes: understanding human rights and the international human rights framework; rights protected and not protected in Australia; human rights protections and gaps in NSW; and considerations in legislating to guarantee human rights in Australia. Cost \$80. 9.00am - 5.00pm, Sydney CBD. To register contact kaki@piac.asn.au.

28 MARCH. EARTH HOUR (NATIONAL).

Created to take a stand against the greatest threat our planet has ever faced, Earth Hour uses the simple action of turning off the lights for one hour to deliver a powerful message about the need for action on global warming. 8.30 - 9.30pm. Contact: Green Cross Australia (07) 3003 0644. Web: <http://www.greencrossaustralia.org/events/2009/03/earth-hour.aspx>.

28 MARCH - 5 APRIL. NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK (NATIONAL). This year's theme is 'Make a Move'. Youth can be a part of it by hosting their own event, entering the National Talent Competition, or taking part in an online poll. There is an events calendar listing all registered NYW 09 events happening around the country. Contact: 1300 363 079. Web: <http://www.youthweek.com/events.html>.

28 MARCH. JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER (VIC). This year the guest speaker will be Waleed Aly, a lawyer, journalist and social and political commentator. Waleed's view on a range of topics including Islam and Australian multiculturalism are often seen and heard in media across Australia. He will explore the important role that inclusion plays in building a just society. Cost: \$150. 7.00pm, Melbourne Town Hall. Contact: (03) 9427 7388 or betty.munckton@jss.org.au, RSVP by 13 March. Web: <http://www.jss.org.au>.

28 MARCH. TEACH-IN 'ECONOMICS FOR ORDINARY FOLK' (NSW). Find yourself tongue-tied when you argue with economists? 'Economics for Ordinary Folk' is a 1 day teach-in hosted by AID/WATCH and The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET). The day is aimed at skilling-up participants on economics and the impact of orthodox economic theories on the peoples of the world,

particularly the majority world. Cost: \$15 (concession), \$25 (waged), \$40 (passionate). 10.00am - 4.00pm, Amnesty International, level 1, 79 Myrtle St, Chippendale. Contact: (02) 9212 7242 or lara@aidwatch.org.au or campaign@aftinet.org.au. RSVP by Monday 16 March. Web: <http://www.aidwatch.org.au/events/economics-for-ordinary-folk>

1 APRIL. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB ADDRESS: PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DISABILITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ACT). Address by The Hon. Bill Shorten MP. The Rudd Government has set up an inquiry into how to increase investment into the chronically under-funded disability sector and has promised to revamp the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement, the national policy and funding framework for services to 220,000 Australians with severe disability. Cost \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45am - 1.30pm, 16 National Circuit, Canberra. To book contact: (02) 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Web: www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html.

2 APRIL. FORUM: 'MERCY FOUNDATION 'HOUSING WHEN?' (NSW). The City of Sydney and the Mercy Foundation invite you to attend a one day forum with local and international speakers on evidence based actions towards solving homelessness. This will be a practical forum and highlight actions towards great services and outcomes for people who are homeless. Contact the Mercy Foundation (02) 9699 8726. Web: http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/news_events/events-at-ACU-National/.

2 - 3 APRIL. CONFERENCE: ACOSS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 'BUILDING A FAIR AUSTRALIA IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES' (NSW).

This major annual event will examine the impact of the economic downturn on fairness in Australia. The annual ACOSS Conference brings together ACOSS members, community sector leaders, academics, non profit organisations and philanthropic organisations with an interest in social justice as well as federal and state government representatives. Registrations close 20 March. Cost conference: \$440 member, \$550 non-members, \$90 concession; Dinner: \$90. 8.30am - 5.00pm,

Australian Technology Park Conference Centre, Sydney. 2 April dinner 7.00 for 7:30pm, Star Room, level 6 IMAX Theatre, 31 Wheat Road, Darling Harbour. Contact: (02) 9310 6200 or conference@acoss.org.au. Web: <http://users.tpg.com.au/adsl444m/bulletinfinal.htm>.

3 APRIL. DISCUSSION: 'TACKLING POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA' (NSW). Politics in the Pub presents John Falzon, National CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society and Maree O'Halloran, Director, Welfare Rights Centre. Cost: \$5. 6.00 - 7.45pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9358 4834 or tomspond@bigpond.com; (02) 9692 0005 or

odl_bradley@pacific.net.au; (02) 9518 5560 or katebarton3@optusnet.com.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au>.

3 - 4 APRIL. CONFERENCE: SOCIAL JUSTICE - 'I'LL FIGHT' (NSW). The Salvation Army presents this conference covering topics including - human trafficking, youth homelessness, mental health, indigenous Australian issues and more. Cost: \$40 full conference, \$30 one day. Salvation Army, 34-38 Smith St, Parramatta. Contact: (02) 9635 7400 or melanie.cotton@aue.salvationarmy.org. Web: <http://www.parramattasalvationarmy.org.au/newsevents/>.

News Monitor

Grim Pell warns of erosion of "social capital"
Sydney Cardinal George Pell told the Australian Workers Union's national conference that the world's economic problems are extreme and have been radically worsened by the erosion of "social capital".

ACU launches mountain program for Burmese refugees

Twenty-one Burmese students from the Thai-Burma border refugee camps are following a liberal studies diploma program organised by the Australian Catholic University in the mountain areas of northern Thailand.

Share don't shed jobs: Sunshine Coast dean

Brisbane's North Coast dean Fr John Dobson, who is also chancellor of the University of the Sunshine Coast, said that workers and employers should consider developing job pacts to minimise the effect of a tightening economy.

Sydney targets 600 indigenous students

Enrolments at most Sydney Catholic systemic schools are up this year with indigenous enrolments up from 432 in 2008 to 519 and a target for next year set at 600.

Telstra stuns Brennan with human rights submission

Telstra surprised national human rights

consultation chair, Fr Frank Brennan, by lodging a submission backing a national human rights charter to redress the alleged "racist" underpinnings of Australia's constitution.

South Korea's democratic cardinal dead

Korean human rights defender and democracy champion, Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan, who vowed upon his appointment as archbishop of Seoul to level the "high walls" of the Church, has died aged 86.

Military threaten Filipino nuns

A Filipino Benedictine nun accused government soldiers of harassing her and other environmental activists after they held a forum on mining and sustainable agriculture in a southern Mindanao village.

Bishop Manning slams migrant worker deaths

Parramatta Bishop Kevin Manning joined members of the Filipino community and the CFMEU at the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the lives of five Filipino guest workers killed in Australia.

Lent "an environment to grow in" for Caritas

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, the largest fundraising event for aid and development in the country, is underway for 2009 focusing on the theme "an environment to grow in".

Women still suffering in Church: Malone

In a new parish kit released by the ACBC Office for the Participation of Women for this year's International Women's Day, Bishop Michael

Malone said that "deep injustice" against women is still continuing in the Church.

- Courtesy CathNews, click on headlines for details or go to <http://cathnews.com>

Social Justice Calendar

1 SUN

1st Sunday of Lent
International Death Penalty Abolition Day
International Treaty to Ban Landmines, 1999
Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Day
Landcare Month, Australia
Clean Up Australia Day

5 THU

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

6 FRI

World Day of Prayer

8 SUN

2nd Sunday of Lent
UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace - International Women's Day

15 SUN

3rd Sunday of Lent

16 MON

Federal Parliament passed the ATSIC Amendment Bill, repealing provisions of the ATSIC Act and abolishing ATSIC, 2005

17 TUE

St Patrick (Solemnity)

19 THU

St Joseph, husband of Mary (Solemnity)
US and allies invade Iraq, 2003

20 FRI

World Day of Planetary Consciousness - Equinox

21 SAT

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Week of Solidarity with the Peoples struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination

National Harmony Day (Australia)

World Poetry Day

World Forestry Day

22 SUN

4th Sunday of Lent
World Day for Water

23 MON

World Meteorological Day

24 TUE

Assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, 1980

25 WED

The Annunciation (Solemnity)
Death of Caroline Chisholm, 1877

29 SUN

5th Sunday of Lent
National Youth Week commences - Theme: *Make a Move*

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.

