

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin September 2022

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to anneoc980@hotmail.com

STRATOSPHERIC ENERGY BILLS WILL COMPLETELY WIPE OUT INCOMES FOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS - NEW JRF ANALYSIS

26 August 2022: New JRF analysis of today's Ofgem price cap and new Cornwall Insight forecasts shows energy bills will fast outstrip people's incomes to the point where paying them becomes fantasy.

- Average low-income family to pay four and a half times more for energy in 2023/24 compared to 2021/22
- Single parents will hand over almost two thirds of their income after housing costs making risk their children will go hungry very real
- Some single adults will see their finances wiped out by stratospheric energy bills that make up almost 120% of their income after housing costs, leaving many destitute

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) is warning energy may increasingly become a luxury only the wealthy can afford, as it reveals new analysis showing low-income families will endure unthinkable bills that take a bigger bite out of their household budgets than those of the better off.

The energy regulator Ofgem announced a new price cap this morning which could see bills rise to £3,549 on average from October. Ofgem themselves say "the market for gas in Winter means that prices could get significantly worse through 2023" with Cornwall Insight forecasting further extreme price rises forecast for January and April.

In 2023/24, the poorest fifth of families, forecast to have an average income of £11,600 after taxes and paying for housing, will pay out, on average, almost half (46%) of their income on energy bills. However, middle income families, with average incomes of £31,400, will spend less than half that share – a still historically large 19% – paying the same bills.

Many households will be put in impossible situations. The energy bill for a low-income single adult household is forecast to exceed the entirety (up to 120%) of their income after housing costs. This is a truly impossible situation leaving them having to cut down on energy use even to pay their bill and having no money whatsoever left over for food or other essentials. That means in order to pay energy bills alone, they would have to use their entire income and find even more money. They would almost certainly become destitute as a result.

Couples without children and lone parents on low incomes will hand over almost two thirds of their income just to keep the lights on or cook dinner every day. For pensioners in the same financial situation, energy will make up around 40% of their disposable income.

JRF is calling for a comprehensive emergency package to kick in as soon as possible that deals with the problem as creatively and as quickly as furlough did during the early stages of the pandemic.

Peter Matejic, Chief Analyst at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, said: "The Government devised its support package based on a previous energy price forecast made obsolete by today's extraordinary announcement. With the price cap very likely to increase significantly and forecast to remain high well throughout next year, our analysis shows it is a sheer fantasy to think struggling families can pay these stratospheric energy bills without further Government intervention on a significant scale.

"In all my years as an analyst, I haven't double-checked a piece of analysis as much as this one because it is so staggering, it feels incorrect. It is impossible to think a care worker or a shop assistant will have to scramble to find hundreds more pounds to pay for their heating or that the entirety of someone's income for a whole year will be less than their energy bill. But that's what these figures suggest will be the case unless significant further steps are taken quickly.

"Ministers have a choice about who shoulders most of the burden – families, businesses or the public finances. Whoever occupies number 10 next will be remembered for who they protect - they must make sure energy doesn't become a luxury only the wealthy can afford. The Government must immediately respond with a comprehensive emergency package to cover the period of these extreme price rises, just as they did so creatively and quickly with furlough during the early stages of the pandemic".

https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/stratospheric-energy-bills-will-completely-wipe-out-incomes-low-income-households-new-jrf?dm_i=7ADY,99SN,1RPCZS,141TR,1

TORY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES FAILING ON NET ZERO POLICIES, SAYS THINKTANK

Fiona Harvey Environment correspondent *The Guardian* 22 August 2022

The two Conservative leadership candidates are failing to promise the policies needed to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions, a right-leaning thinktank, Onward, has warned, despite a clear need for measures that would cut consumer bills as well as carbon. Insulating Britain's draughty homes would cost the government just over £1bn a year in grants plus a similar amount in subsidised loans, while a 50% cut in stamp duty could encourage people to install low-carbon heat pumps when they move house, according to the proposals from Onward. Ministers could also increase the uptake of electric vehicles and other green technologies through "salary sacrifice" schemes, and reduce the number of car journeys through "nudges" such as personalised public transport plans that inform people of their local public transport timetables and cycle routes.

However, while both Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak are committed to the UK's legally binding target for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, both want to curtail solar power and onshore windfarms, and support fracking and increased fossil fuel production. While Sunak has promised government support for insulation too, neither has set out a detailed plan on the issue, or on net zero generally. Alex Luke, author of the Onward report, said it was "natural" that the candidates were focused on immediate issues such as the cost of living crisis, but said the quest for net zero must be "a key priority" for the next prime minister. "I'm glad to see both candidates committed to the net zero target, but we need to hear more from both on how exactly they will do that," he said. "It's clear that retrofit [of homes, for energy efficiency] will need to be a massive part of reaching the net zero target." He pointed out that polling showed net zero was still a top five issue for most Tory voters, and a top four issue for the wider public.

The Onward report, *Going Green* found that an insulation programme for 15m households offering a combination of government grants and loans subsidised with very low interest rates through the government's Infrastructure Bank would cost the Treasury about £31bn in total by 2050, plus about £40bn in total by 2075 in subsidising low interest rate loans. Homeowners would save about £20 a month on their bills after the cost of repaying the loans each month at current energy prices, and far more if prices leap again as expected this autumn and next spring.

Luke said a previous attempt to do this, the "green deal" programme introduced under the coalition government but scrapped in 2015, had failed owing to "astronomical" market-based interest rates of more than 10%, which meant people barely saw any overall saving. Onward also suggested that "nudges" could play a key role in changing consumer behaviour, which will be needed to reach net zero. Luke said local authorities could offer personalised transport and commute plans. He pointed to a trial in Ipswich, costing £27 a person, which gives personalised information on public transport, walking and cycling routes, which resulted in an 11% fall in car journeys and a 14% increase in walking and cycling.

Luke added: "None of these nudges are a panacea, or an excuse for not thinking seriously about investment [in reaching net zero]. But they are small-scale interventions that are low-cost, that have an impact and bring about change." The government pulled the plug on its incentives to buy electric cars earlier this year, resulting in an uncertain outlook for the sector. Take-up of the cars had increased markedly, but they are likely to remain more expensive to buy than fossil fuel cars for the next decade, according to Luke.

Read the report *Going Green: New technologies and behaviour change for net zero*: <https://www.ukonward.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Going-Green.pdf>
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/22/tory-leadership-candidates-failing-on-net-zero-policies-says-thinktank>

UK COST OF LIVING CRISIS - OVER 500,000 PEOPLE SIGN UP TO ENOUGH IS ENOUGH CAMPAIGN

Chris Jarvis BRIGHT GREEN 30 August 2022

The Campaign group Enough is Enough has been gathering pace since launching earlier in August. Today, the group announced that over 500,000 people have signed up to the campaign. Announcing the milestone, the campaign group said, "We won't accept the misery forced onto our people by a greedy elite. We are building a mass movement to take our country back from the brink."

The rapid rise of the Enough is Enough comes off the back of the ongoing cost of living crisis, with the average household energy bill set to rise to over £3,500 by October. Polling from Survation has suggested that support for the group's demands is incredibly strong. Survation found that 84 per cent support capping energy bills, 76 per cent support pay rising with inflation, and 72 per cent support increasing taxes on the rich. Enough is Enough's announcement comes on the day that the group is set to host a rally in Manchester, which will be addressed by both the mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham, RMT general secretary Mick Lynch and Labour MP Zarah Sultana.

Last week, Enough is Enough issued its first call for a national day of action. On October 1, the group will be coordinating protests across the country on the day the energy bill rises are due to kick in. Making the announcement, the group said, "It's just been confirmed: energy bills will rise to £3,549 in October. This will be the biggest attack on living standards in decades. We're declaring a National Day of Action on October 1st with protests across Britain." The day of action will kick start an autumn of popular dissent against the cost of living crisis. On October 2, anti-austerity campaigners The People's Assembly are organising a demonstration at the Conservative Party Conference, followed by a national demonstration in London on November 5. The demonstrations will demand a series of measures to tackle the cost of living crisis, including taking energy, water and the railways into public ownership, and taxing company profits to fund fuel poverty alleviation. Alongside this, the ongoing wave of strikes are set to continue into the autumn, with firefighters, nurses and university lecturers among those set to ballot for industrial action.

<https://bright-green.org/2022/08/30/over-500000-people-sign-up-to-enough-is-enough-campaign/>

See also: <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/aug/24/enough-is-enough-movement-gathers-pace-with-andy-burnham-latest-backer>

AS DROUGHT BLIGHTS THE UK, OUR POLITICIANS HAVE THEIR HEADS BURIED IN THE SAND

Opinion: Caroline Lucas 12 August 2022

A drought has officially been declared across vast swathes of England. Rivers and reservoirs are evaporating in front of our eyes. Water may soon be rationed and crop irrigation restricted. Drought, and the extreme heat that exacerbates it, isn't some occasional freak occurrence that can be brushed off as "super scorchio" fun once or twice a year. It's a consequence of years of inaction on the climate emergency. This is producing a perfect storm of energy insecurity, food supply chaos and extreme weather that is wreaking havoc on society.

Getting a firm grip on this crisis requires both immediate and long-term solutions. Our lame duck government is offering neither. It's clear that the privatisation experiment for water companies has failed. They're fit for profit, not for purpose. The head of Thames Water – the company responsible for the supply fiasco at Northend in Oxfordshire – is set to receive a £3.1m "golden hello" for signing on as CEO. English water firms across the board have handed over £72bn to shareholders in dividends. Ed Vaizey claimed on Good Morning Britain this week that "you get better run companies in the private sector". Are these the same companies that dithered over hosepipe bans for fear of annoying customers, further intensifying our drought crisis? Companies that failed to meet their own targets on fixing leaks and faulty mains pipes? Companies whose incessant dumping of raw sewage has blighted our waterways?

All that profit, yet investment in our waterways is falling woefully short. Not a single new reservoir has been built in the past three decades, and our Victorian water pipes are being replaced at a rate 10 times slower than our European neighbours. So we need immediate action. The Green party is calling for an urgent enforcement order on water firms, a cut to bosses' obscene executive pay, an end to dividends to shareholders and for the water supply to be brought back into public ownership as soon as is practicably possible.

Public ownership works, and is popular. Publicly owned Scottish Water is the most trusted public utility in the UK, while not-for-profit Welsh Water has helped 60,000 low-income customers to pay their bills. They invest more, too. Scottish Water has invested nearly 35% more per household in infrastructure since 2002 than privatised firms in England; it charges 14% less in water bills; and it doesn't pay out costly dividends to shareholders.

Making ourselves more resilient to droughts in the future requires long-term solutions that tackle the climate emergency at its source. Yet just when we need real climate leadership to address this urgent crisis, our government has gone awol. During last month's heatwave, Boris Johnson ducked out of chairing several Cobra meetings, and has barely been seen in public since. Prospective leader Rishi Sunak thinks letting his daughters do the recycling will help us get to net zero. This is hardly the muscular and resolute decision-making we need to tackle the climate emergency.

Meanwhile, Liz Truss is on a bizarre crusade complaining about solar panels in fields, when solar is the cheapest form of energy and covers just 0.06% of UK land, far less than the amount of land used by airports. To top it all off, Truss has also refused to increase the windfall tax on energy companies, and has pledged to lift the ban on climate-wrecking fracking.

The solutions to this crisis are clear. We must keep fossil fuels in the ground and deliver a clean, green and affordable energy system. We need publicly owned utilities to do what they say on the tin, rather than simply siphon off obscene profits to shareholders. The climate emergency affects us all – and we can all be part of the solution.

• **Caroline Lucas** is the Green MP for Brighton Pavilion

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/aug/12/drought-uk-england-privatised-water-climate-emergency-government>

Read also: Drought declared across eight areas of England:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/12/drought-declared-england-hosepipe-ban-water-restrictions>

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LEADER URGES ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

12 August 2022: The World Council of Churches (WCC) is looking to its assembly at the end of August in Karlsruhe to raise up the issue of climate justice and underline the need to care for the creation, says the WCC's acting general secretary, Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca. "If we don't change our behaviour, in 50 years our planet will be uninhabitable," said Sauca. "We must act now."

More than 4,500 participants are expected at the WCC's 11th Assembly, which opens in Karlsruhe on 31 August and runs until 8 September around the theme "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity."

At the assembly, Sauca said, "leaders will be asked to act now to care for our common planet, the Earth." He said that holding the #WCCassembly in Karlsruhe would highlight the efforts of German churches and people to demonstrate care for creation. This went back to the 1970s when the WCC's commitment to the environment helped stimulate the ecological movement in churches in the German Democratic Republic, East Germany.

Read more here: <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/world-council-of-churches-leader-looks-to-assembly-in-germany-to-mobilize-action-for-climate-justice>

BISHOPS OF EUROPE STATEMENT ON SEASON OF CREATION

The Bishops of Europe issued the following statement on Saturday, 20 August 2022:

1 SEPTEMBER- 4 OCTOBER 2022: SEASON OF CREATION

Pope Francis' Message for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - to be held on 1 September 2022 - was published on 16 July. It has been a unique time that has seen various parts of the world devastated by the fires that have destroyed much of the planet's green areas.

In particular, our own Europe has been faced with a genuine environmental catastrophe that, in 97% of cases, is attributable to the actions of man. In the 27 countries within the European Union, according to a recent estimate, fires have already devastated a total of 517,881 hectares since the beginning of the year, compared to 470,359 the previous year.

It is worrying, moreover, that scholars are already hypothesising the transition from our era (Anthropocene) to the next one, to which they have already given the name "pyrocene", the effects of which are already visible considering that CO2 emissions have reached levels that the planet has not known for well over 3 million years.

To all this must be added the enormous, and perhaps still incalculable, damage to the environment caused by the ongoing wars in Ukraine as well as in other areas of the planet. As early as the 1960s, the term "ecocide" was coined in the wake of the military campaign in Vietnam. Since then, attention to the effects of wars on the environment has grown. One should not forget the heavy air pollution caused by the burning of oil installations in Kuwait during the Gulf War (1990-1991), and the wars in Yemen and Syria with the contamination of soil and waterways. Ukrainian experts currently estimate that the long-term effects of this conflict may cause cancer, respiratory diseases and developmental delay in children.

But, if the hand of man is the main cause of this current situation, it also bodes well that the same hand can find a resolution to all of this. And it is here that the Message of the Holy Father Francis takes on great importance: not a pious exhortation, but a real challenge launched to the powerful of the earth and to the leaders of the individual nations (be they rich or poor), each for their own part. This, added to his appeal to attitudes of conversion that are concrete on the part of all Christians, so that we may be that hand capable of putting a stop to a destruction that is foretold.

Thus, the next World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, as well as the entire Season of Creation, which, from 1 September, will stretch until 4 October, can be a time of prayer, but also a time of serious conversion of attitudes and habits.

We, European Bishops, join the appeal launched by Pope Francis, inviting all Christians to be spokesmen for these demands of the Planet, whose voice reveals "a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home".

May the Lord hear this cry and grant mankind a new heart, capable of showing compassion to the whole of creation, so that concrete gestures may be put in place to allow all creatures to return to praise the Creator and us to join in this "'grandiose cosmic choir' made up of countless creatures, all singing the praises of God".

Shkodër, 20 August 2022

+ Angelo Massafra OFM Metropolitan Archbishop of Shkodër-Pult President of the Albanian Bishops' Conference.
Member of the CCEE Pastoral Social Care Commission <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45326>

DEVASTATING FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

Washington Post: 31 August 2022

"Apocalyptic."

"Unprecedented."

"A monsoon on steroids."

Officials have struggled to put into words the scale of the flooding that has destroyed large parts of Pakistan. More than 1,000 people have died, and tens of millions more have been affected by months of incessant rain. The flooding turned catastrophic over the past few weeks as monsoon season rainfall overwhelmed low-lying areas near the Indus River. Water spilled from its banks into the surrounding plains, destroying infrastructure and homes.

As Pakistan grapples with the loss of housing and farmlands as well as the risk of disease, many fear the country's humanitarian disaster is only beginning. Exceptional rainfall began across Pakistan in June after months of historic heat waves and little precipitation. The ground was dry and loose from record heat, causing landslides across the country. Melting glaciers triggered floods. Rainfall picked up even more as monsoon season began in July, which became the wettest on record since 1961, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department. Pakistan has had eight rounds of widespread rain this monsoon season, about double the normal amount. There has been 190% more rainfall than average from the beginning of June to the end of August.

The extreme flooding has killed more than 1,160 people, many of them children, according to the Pakistani government. It estimates that 33 million people have been affected by the floods, about 13 percent of the population.

The World Health Organization said on Wednesday that 888 health facilities have been damaged, even as experts warned that the disaster could lead to an increase in disease and malnutrition. Standing water can act as breeding sites for mosquitoes that carry dengue fever and malaria.

The destruction has left parts of the country unable to function. Officials say 1 million houses have been destroyed, as well as 2,100 miles of road. Bridges and dams were also ruined. Pakistani Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said Monday that more than \$10 billion was needed to rebuild. Thousands of acres of farmland are underwater, and aid workers are struggling to reach isolated communities. "What lies ahead is food shortages affecting villages and cities alike," Khan said.

Sindh's agricultural economy "has totally collapsed," Iqbal said at a news conference on Tuesday. "Almost half of our cotton crop is destroyed," he said. Rice has also been damaged, and 700,000 livestock have been lost across the country. He called the flooding a "climate disaster" and said Pakistan, one of the world's lowest emitters of carbon dioxide per capita, was suffering the heaviest consequences of climate change.

"Someone is paying the price in the developing world," Iqbal said.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/31/pakistan-floods-photos-videos-maps/>

A PRAYER FOR PAKISTAN

*Father of Creation,
God of the Nations,
Words fail to describe the horrors of climate
breakdown
Unleashed upon Pakistan.
A photo,
A video,
A screaming child,
A vacant look of disbelief on a parent's face.
But even these are but a window,
A glimpse,
A snapshot,
Of the carnage and catastrophe,
That falls upon millions.
We live in our panelled houses,
Whilst 33 million lives are changed,
184,000 camped out in relief camps.
By extreme floods.
By extreme suffering.
Hundreds dead.
Do you care?
Is heaven silent?
We ask that you calm the raging sea,
But it seems you are absent without leave.
Asleep at the wheel.
In trembling faith,
We ask,
For mercy.
In the fragility of our brokenness,
We plead,
For mercy.
We cling tentatively to the hope and truth that you,
Really are as beautiful and loving as that which is
seen in Jesus.
Let your love be shown,
Let Pakistan hear your voice, saying,
Peace, Be still.
Wake up and set the world to rights.
And yet, we know,
We reap what we sow.
But this is not strictly true.
For we sow injustice and consumerism,
Yet the brown skin nations reap.
We have made our bed in unrestrained capitalism
But it is the most vulnerable who lie in it.
Those nations who have done the least per person to
contribute to climate breakdown,
Are those who suffer the most.
We are hypocrites,
Like sheep who have gone astray,
We call out the shepherd, 'Is he really good?'
Whilst embracing and maintaining economic systems,
That are driven by domination and bring destruction.
Lord, have mercy on Pakistan,
And have mercy on us. Amen.
Rev'd Jon Swales 27 August 2022*

Audio found here: "A Prayer for Pakistan" at
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1894040/11218254>

See also **Lament and Hope** - a podcast journey of prayer
with a focus on the climate and ecological emergency at
<https://lamentandhope.buzzsprout.com>

TELL THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER NOT TO LIFT THE FRACKING BAN

The government's dash for fossil fuels has taken a dangerous new turn. Candidates for the next prime minister - Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak - have both declared that they want to revive the failed fracking industry - even though their government was forced to ban fracking following a series of earthquakes in 2019.

Amid a cost-of-living crisis and record-breaking temperatures, the next prime minister must prioritise affordable renewable energy and home insulation, not dangerous fossil fuel extraction. Fracking won't meaningfully lower our energy bills. But it will be terrible for our climate. We do have a real chance to stop it though. Both candidates claim their support for fracking depends on local communities backing it too. Let's make sure the next prime minister hears loud and clear that no one wants fracking on their doorstep.

Add your voice by signing the Friends of the Earth petition: <https://action.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/tell-next-primeminister-not-lift-fracking-ban>

COUNTDOWN TO COP27 UN Climate Conference 7-18 November 2022

COP27 is due to take place in the coastal town of Sharm al-Sheikh, on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. Alok Sharma MP, the Glasgow COP26 president from the UK, continues to play a key role leading up to COP27. It is very important that Churches speak up and hold the UK government to account for delivering and building on COP26 commitments at COP27. This is a key chance to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Climate change is a global environmental problem, and we have learnt that the UK Government is failing to do what is needed to comply with its obligations. The June 2022 Progress Report of the Climate Change Committee - the UK's independent advisor on tackling climate change - warned that "current programmes will not deliver Net Zero." Indeed, all governments should be concentrating on a rapid and massive reduction of carbon emissions to allow us to keep to the 1.5°C recommended in the 2015 Paris Agreement and underlined at COP26.

Many hope that with Egypt hosting COP27 it will give a more powerful voice to African countries, which are among those most affected by climate change. However, the way in which the world responds to the climate emergency is crucial to all our futures. With the likelihood that countries will be asked at COP27 to ramp up their pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions within a year, instead of waiting another five, it is urgent that the UK steps up its domestic action before then to be in a position to commit more internationally.

Speaking at Chatham House in June 2022, COP26 President, Alok Sharma MP said: "Unless we honour the promises made, to turn the commitments in the Glasgow Climate Pact into action, they will wither on the vine." You can contact Alok Sharma MP at alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk and also your own MP. To help, suggestions for your correspondence are on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45206>

WALK2COP27 GLASGOW (COP26 to Sharm El-Sheikh COP27)

This initiative starts on the 1st September and ends in November. It is a virtual walk, whereby participants can sign up to walk, run, cycle or wheelchair as far as they can cover over the 45 days, in their chosen location.

Each country en route is hosting a hybrid or virtual Townhall meeting that showcases the way climate change is impacting that location and the solutions that are being deployed. The Townhalls will also include an update on Walk2COP27 and a deep dive on a particular COP27 issue. More details are available through their website. <https://www.walk2cop27.com/>

SUPPORT CREATION OF LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND AT COP27

The richest 10% globally have contributed seven times more carbon emissions than the poorest 50%. Blocs of countries, including the least developed countries and small island states, have regularly called for loss and damage finance at international talks. However, at COP26 and previous talks, rich countries have repeatedly blocked attempts to set up such a fund. At the latest climate talks in Bonn this June, rich countries tried to remove loss and damage from the agenda of COP27 altogether. With COP27 taking place in North Africa, there is growing pressure from the global climate justice movement to use this historic opportunity finally to set up a loss and damage fund. We need to stand in solidarity with the global south in their demands for loss and damage.

Tell the UK government to pay for their polluting and support an international loss and damage fund!
<https://act.globaljustice.org.uk/tell-rich-countries-pay-their-climate-damages> **SEASON OF CREATION 1**

SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER

"The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity."

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, para 201

This year's theme is *Listen to the Voice of Creation*. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT ON RAID AGAINST PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Pax Christi International stands in absolute solidarity with the seven prominent Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations whose offices were violently raided, contents confiscated, and office doors welded shut in the early morning hours of 18 August 2022.

We unequivocally condemn this physical assault by Israel and join the international community in demanding that it be held to account for its actions. Such repression and intimidation of respected civil society organizations must not be allowed.

In addition, the shameless destruction of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ramallah by Israel's occupying forces must be widely denounced, especially by faith leaders around the world. As a Catholic organization, Pax Christi International urges our bishops in particular to support the Diocese of Jerusalem, which called these attacks "a violation of international law and a terroristic act against the entire community."

Six of the organizations, Addameer, Al-Haq, Defense of Children International-Palestine (DCIP), the Bisan Center for Research and Development, the Union of Agricultural Work Committee (UAWC), and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (UPWC) were targeted last year by Israel when they were designated as terrorist organizations.

In the interim months, states and donors reviewed the dossier provided by Israel and determined these designations to be totally without warrant. In July, nine European countries officially rejected the Israeli designations having found "no substantial evidence." They pledged to continue their "cooperation and strong support for the civil society in the occupied

Palestinian territories." The lack of substantiated evidence should have resulted in the international community demanding that Israel immediately rescind its designation of these organizations as "terrorists" and reinstate them as part of the vital network of civil society organizations.

In the absence of substantial response, Israel was emboldened and appears ever more determined to criminalize and silence these organizations and to stop their critical work monitoring and documenting violations of human rights. By jeopardizing their ability to report such violations to international bodies such as the International Criminal Court and impede their partnership with other civil society and human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and B'Tselem, Israel poses an existential threat to Palestinian civil society.

As poignantly articulated by Khaled Quzmar, General Director of DCIP "Our human rights documentation and evidence-based advocacy exposing Israeli forces' grave violations against Palestinian children has made us a target of the Israeli government for years." Is it not time for the international community to ask: when will Israel consider the moral and ethical dimensions of its policies and actions toward the Palestinian people, rather than shield itself behind a self-established legal framework?

Pax Christi International supports all nonviolent measures to bring the occupation to an end and find a just resolution that secures the rights and dignity of all parties. We believe that such unprovoked, aggressive retaliation by Israel in demonizing such lawful, well-respected human rights and civil society organizations undermines any efforts to achieve a just peace

<https://risti.net/2022/08/24/statement-on-raid-against-palestinian-human-rights-organizations/?fbclid=IwAR2WXxKNekVwtIEERemLdnxz-FjU3BURMPjm5f5h6xKefopfTKQZ-bbrd0I>

HOLY LAND: 1.3 MILLION PALESTINIAN CHILDREN FACE RISKS AS THEY GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Source: UNOCHA 1 September 2022

Lynn Hastings, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Occupied Palestinian Territory issued the following statement on 28 August 2022.

This week, over 1.3 million Palestinian children from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip will go back to school. It is a moment to anticipate, with so many girls and boys eager to learn and thrive.

But children in the West Bank and Gaza face challenges that many children across the world cannot imagine. Since the beginning of the year, 20 children were killed in the West Bank, compared to 12 during the same period last year. Currently, there are 56 outstanding demolition orders against schools where at least 6,400 children are taught in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

In the first half of 2022 in the West Bank, the United Nations recorded 115 education-related violations including, direct or indirect firing of tear gas, stun grenades, and/or rubber-coated bullets, intimidating military and settler presences at schools, detentions, and movement restrictions preventing students from reaching their classes. Nearly 8,000 students have been impacted, increasing the risk they will drop out of school.

The latest escalation in Gaza claimed the lives of 17 children. Schools are overcrowded, with 65 per cent of schools operating on double shifts. The conditions in Gaza for children, including having lived through four escalations in hostilities during their lifetime, increase the need for specialized psychosocial support services.

Despite the many challenges faced, the youth literacy rate of Palestinians is over 99 per cent and 93.8 per cent of children graduating from primary school go on to a secondary education. Palestinian children hold in their hands the potential and drive to reimagine education, co-create new pathways for development, and transform their lives. They are tomorrow's leaders. We must do more to protect and support them, as children must not be exposed to violence or exploited for any purpose.

The United Nations wishes all children a successful and fun-filled year where their fundamental right to education is protected and realized by all. We remain committed to protect children from violence and support them to fulfill their potential. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45395>

JUDITH ELKAN OBITUARY | PEACE AND RECONCILIATION | *THE GUARDIAN*

Stefan Simanowitz 29 June 2022: My friend Judith Elkan, who has died aged 92, was an influential child and adult psychotherapist who helped shape attitudes to infant care. She also worked for peace in the Middle East, setting up and running the UK Friends of the Bereaved Families Forum (FBFF), to support the 650-strong network of Israeli and Palestinian families working together for reconciliation.

Judith was born in Jerusalem, the youngest of eight children. Her parents, Jamile (nee Catan) and Eliyahu Shamah, a businessman, were born in Aleppo, part of a thriving Jewish-Syrian community that had existed there for hundreds of years, but emigrated first to Jamaica, then New York, then to Brazil and ultimately in the 1920s to Palestine.

In 1938, when Judith was nine, she moved with her family to Britain so that her brother could have an operation. The second world war broke out and the family were unable to travel home. Judith stayed on after the war, to complete her secondary school education, and returned to what was now the new state of Israel in 1948 to study psychology at Jerusalem University. Whilst back in Britain to do postgraduate studies at the Tavistock Clinic in London, she met Geoffrey Elkan, and they married in 1961 and settled in London.

In the 1980s she made regular trips to Israel to teach the benefits of infant observation. She also made contact with Palestinian psychotherapists and began to cross to the West Bank to teach there. Speaking fluent Arabic and Hebrew, she applied her therapeutic skills to help towards healing the divide. While in Israel, she heard about the work of the Bereaved Families Forum, started in 1995 by an Israeli, Yitzhak Frankenthal, after his son was killed. In 2004, after a talk in London by a forum member, Judith set up the UK chapter of the organisation, which she chaired until her death. She arranged speaking tours in the UK for Israeli and Palestinian members and organised fundraising events. Judith used her charm and chutzpah to promote the work of the FBFF. While walking outside Kenwood House in Hampstead she spotted the actor Juliet Stevenson, and introduced herself. After half an hour of animated conversation, Stevenson had agreed to become a patron. Rowan Williams, then archbishop of Canterbury, was recruited as a supporter after she met him in a lunch queue at a seminar.

Judith's therapeutic work and her activism were indivisible – both were about helping people to discover how to build bridges across the fractures that exist within ourselves and in the world around us. She was optimistic about the possibility of change but also knew that change will only happen through action. A favourite saying of hers was from Rabbi Tarfon, dating back nearly 2,000 years: "You are not obliged to complete the job, but neither are you free to do nothing."

She dealt with grief in her own life. Geoffrey died in 2002, and her daughter Naomi, a doctor with the charity Medical Justice, died in 2018. She is survived by her children Daniel and Miriam and two grandchildren.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jun/29/judith-elkan-obituary>

RESOURCES FOR WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

27 August 2022: In a new video, Pope Francis speaks of the diversity of faith expressions and devotions as an opportunity to grow in catholicity. In preparation for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), which will be celebrated on the last Sunday of September, the Holy Father invites us to grow together as a Church, realising that many Catholic migrants and refugees revitalise the Christian communities that welcome them. In the video, you'll discover the witness of Saint Mary of the Lake and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Chicago, which even celebrates multicultural diversity in the sacraments. People from different countries, welcomed into the community, share their diverse religious traditions and cultures. The parishioners of St. Mary of the Lake speak of how their faith has been enriched by the presence of migrants and refugees.

Pope Francis asks us: How can we make migrants and refugees more involved in our communities?

Watch the video here: <https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2022/>

The Vatican's Migrants & Refugees Section has produced resources in preparation for WDMR, including ideas for Mass, prayers, activities for both young people and adults, and much more.

See: <https://migrants-refugees.va/resource-center/world-day-of-migrants-refugees-2022/>

We are all invited to answer Pope Francis' question! Send your reply in a short video or photo to media@migrants-refugees.va The Migrants and Refugees Section looks forward to receiving your videos and photos from the 2022 WDMR celebrations in your community!

The Migrants & Refugees Section is a small pastoral office of the Holy See, personally directed by Pope Francis, working to help the Church worldwide to accompany vulnerable people on the move, including those who are forcibly displaced by conflict, natural disaster, persecution or extreme poverty, refugees and victims of human trafficking.

More information at: <https://migrants-refugees.va/>
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45366>

#THURSDAYSINBLACK: STORIES FLOW FROM THE WATERFALL TAPESTRY

01 September 2022: The Waterfall Tapestry of Solidarity and Resistance supporting the “Thursdays in Black” campaign against gender-based violence has now been assembled and is on display at the World Council of Churches’ 11th Assembly, in Karlsruhe, Germany. The tapestry is designed as a waterfall with messages and images from around the world.

Do not break a woman's wings of flight...

I sewed wounds lived by my sister who was massacred by her partner...

Violence against women, rape and injustice, is nothing else but evil and darkness, and we ask Christ to bring light to those that suffer and to drive out the darkness.

Stop the violence because you are not only scarring us physically but emotionally also.

We will listen to you. We will respect you and we will believe you.

Not for one, but for all, we hope for justice!

Each of the panels woven into the tapestry represents a lived experience and a message of commitment to speak and act for a world without rape and violence. There are 181 blocks—and every single one tells a story. Arranged in colourful strips that flow like liquid, they will gently move when people pass by them.

The Waterfall is a tangible symbol of the Thursdays in Black campaign, in which individuals, churches, groups, and organizations show that they are a part of a global movement to eliminate gender-based violence.

The campaign is simple yet profound. Wear black on Thursdays. Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement working towards a world without rape and violence. Show respect for resilient women in the face of injustice and violence.

As one woman shared when she sent in her panel, “Thursdays in Black is a campaign that unites solidarity in this field of vulnerability. It gives not only victims like me but all people a platform of solidarity in the fight against rape and gender-based violence - not only for exchanging experiences, which is the focus in many other places, but in a multi-layered, intelligent and cautious activist way. At the same time, one feels - especially as a victim - a hopeful orientation, which goes hand in hand with joint, solidarity-based actions and statements.”

The Tapestry will continue to grow. More panels, more stories are coming to the Assembly. The power of the Waterfall Tapestry is not only in each panel, but in the story of its creation.

See: Carrying women's stories of survival and hope, Waterfall of Solidarity and Resistance makes its way to WCC 11th Assembly: <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/carrying-womens-stories-of-survival-and-hope-waterfall-of-solidarity-and-resistance-makes-its-way-to-wcc-11th-assembly>

Tapestry artist Janine Marja Schneider sews regret, hope, and love into “Waterfall of Solidarity and Resistance”: <https://www.oikoumene.org/news/tapestry-artist-janine-marja-schneider-sews-regret-hope-and-love-into-waterfall-of-solidarity-and-resistance>

Thursdays in Black: <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black>

UYGHURS: CHINA MAY HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN XINJIANG - UN

Matt Murphy & Flora Drury & Tessa Wong BBC News 1 August 2022

The UN has accused China of "serious human rights violations" in a long-awaited report into allegations of abuse in Xinjiang province. China had urged the UN not to release the report - with Beijing calling it a "farce" arranged by Western powers.

See: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/2022-08-31/22-08-31-final-assesment.pdf>

The report assesses claims of abuse against Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities, which China denies. But investigators said they found "credible evidence" of torture possibly amounting to "crimes against humanity". Human rights groups have been sounding the alarm over what is happening in the north-western province for years, alleging that more than one million Uyghurs had been detained against their will in a large network of what the state calls "re-education camps". The BBC's own reporting in recent years has uncovered documentation - including police files detailing those in detention - which appear to support the claims, as well as allegations of rape, torture and forced sterilisation.

China has always vociferously denied any wrongdoing. However, the UN's report concluded that "the extent of arbitrary and discriminatory detention of members of Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim groups ... may constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity".

It also found:

- "Allegations of patterns of torture or ill-treatment, including forced medical treatment and adverse conditions of detention, are credible, as are allegations of individual incidents of sexual and gender-based violence"
- "Credible indications of violations of reproductive rights through the coercive enforcement of family planning policies since 2017"
- "Similarly, there are indications that labour and employment schemes for purported purposes of poverty alleviation and prevention of 'extremism'... may involve elements of coercion and discrimination on religious and ethnic grounds"

The report recommended that China immediately takes steps to release "all individuals arbitrarily deprived of their liberty". Beijing has already rejected the findings, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin telling reporters the "so-called suggestions were pieced together based on disinformation to serve political objectives".

The World Uyghur Congress welcomed the report and urged a swift international response. "Despite the Chinese government's strenuous denials, the UN has now officially recognised that horrific crimes are occurring," Uyghur Human Rights Project Executive Director Omer Kanat said. There are about 12 million Uyghurs, mostly Muslim, living in Xinjiang. The UN said non-Muslim members may have also been affected by the issues in the report.

The US and lawmakers in several other countries have previously denounced China's actions in Xinjiang as a genocide, but the UN stopped short of making the accusation. Beijing - which saw the report in advance - denies allegations of abuse and argued that the camps are a tool to fight terrorism. China has always insisted that Uyghur militants are waging a violent campaign for an independent state, but it is accused of exaggerating the threat in order to justify repression of the Uyghurs. Its delegation to the UN human rights council in Geneva on Thursday rejected the findings of the report, which it said "smeared and slandered China" and interfered in the country's internal affairs.

The report has long been the subject of intense international attention, with UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet admitting last week she had been under "tremendous pressure to publish or not to publish".

Some Western human rights groups alleged Beijing was urging her to bury damaging findings in the report, especially after publication was delayed several times. Ms Bachelet defended the delay, arguing that seeking dialogue with Beijing over the report did not mean she was "turning a blind eye" to its contents. But Amnesty International called it "inexcusable". In the end, the report was made public just 13 minutes before the end of her four-year tenure.

And while it has been welcomed by many, some have expressed disappointment - including the World Uyghur Conference. Spokesman Zumretay Arkin said they had "expected her to be firmer on China overall". Olaf Wientzek, director of the Geneva office of the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation, went on to accuse Ms Bachelet of having "avoided the aftermath" of the report's publication. Ms Bachelet, meanwhile, has blamed the "politicisation" of the issue by some countries, saying it made "engagement more difficult and... trust-building and the ability to really have an impact on the ground more difficult".

Now attention will turn to what will happen next. Uyghur rights activists are calling for a commission of inquiry to be set up, and asking businesses around the world to cut all ties with anyone abetting the Chinese government in its handling of the Uyghurs. Tom Tugendhat, an MP and chair of the UK's foreign affairs select committee, said the findings of the report represented an "extremely serious charge" and rejected Beijing's argument that the allegations were stoking anti-Chinese sentiment. Germany has called for the release of all arbitrarily detained Uyghurs. However, there is unlikely to be much pressure from inside China: the issue of Uyghur human rights abuses has long been a taboo topic and heavily censored - as of Thursday afternoon, the UN report had yet to be mentioned in Chinese mainstream media or social media platforms.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-62744522>

SCOTTISH PREMIERE OF THE VOW FROM HIROSHIMA

1 September 2022: An uplifting and moving documentary. Told through the lens of the growing relationship between Setsuko Thurlow, Hiroshima survivor and Mitchie Takeuchi, filmmaker and daughter of a Hiroshima survivor, *The Vow from Hiroshima* will be screened on Saturday, 3 September 2022 at 1pm, as part of *Consequences - Art and Activism in the Nuclear Age* festival in The Out of the Blue Drill Hall 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh, EH6 8RG.

Setsuko was miraculously pulled out of a fiery building after the bomb was dropped and unable to save her other 27 classmates who were burned to death alive. That experience shaped her life forever and she endeavoured to keep a pledge she made to her friends - that no one should ever again experience the same horrible fate.

The film weaves the history of the post-nuclear era and the growing disarmament movement. It is a timely exploration of the global dangers of nuclear weapons and provides an insider's perspective as we see Setsuko campaign with ICAN. The culmination of Setsuko's decades of activism is her acceptance speech at the 2017 Nobel Peace Awards. The film was updated in 2021 to include an epilogue about the ratification and enactment of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 22 January 2021.

Matsui Kazumi, Mayor of the City of Hiroshima said: "This is the film I would highly recommend for our younger generations to see. Actually, this is a film I would like everyone in the world to see."

For more information and bookings see: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/consequences-art-and-activism-in-the-nuclear-age-exhibition-finissage-tickets-406257576347
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45394>

BOOK: BATTLES OF CONSCIENCE: BRITISH PACIFISTS AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR: TOBIAS KELLY

Waterstones review says: 'A ground-breaking new study brings us a very different picture of the Second World War, asking fundamental questions about ethical commitments

Accounts of the Second World War usually involve tales of bravery in battle, or stoicism on the home front, as the British public stood together against Fascism. However, the war looks very different when seen through the eyes of the 60,000 conscientious objectors who refused to take up arms and whose stories, unlike those of the First World War, have been almost entirely forgotten.

Tobias Kelly invites us to spend the war five of these individuals: Roy Ridgway, a factory clerk from Liverpool; Tom Burns, a teacher from east London; Stella St John, who trained as a vet and ended up in jail; Ronald Duncan, who set up a collective farm; and Fred Urquhart, a working-class Scottish socialist and writer. We meet many more objectors along the way -- people both determined and torn -- and travel from Finland to Syria, India to rural England, Edinburgh to Trinidad.

Although conscientious objectors were often criticised and scorned, figures such as Winston Churchill and the Archbishop of Canterbury supported their right to object, at least in principle, suggesting that liberty of conscience was one of the freedoms the nation was fighting for. And their rich cultural and moral legacy -- of humanitarianism and human rights, from Amnesty International and Oxfam to the US civil rights movement -- can still be felt all around us.

The personal and political struggles carefully and vividly collected in this book tell us a great deal about personal and collective freedom, conviction and faith, war and peace, and pose questions just as relevant today: Does conscience make us free? Where does it take us? And what are the costs of going there?

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/battles-of-conscience/tobias-kelly/9781784743949>

Ann Farr (Pax Christi Chair) adds: "Please source from independent book shops - and support them."

A CHALLENGE TO SELF-PROTECTION

Elaine Storkey: Some years ago, I was in Amsterdam to speak at an enormous celebration of Christian ecumenism. The speakers were billeted together in a pleasant retreat centre and enjoyed congenial international company. I breakfasted each day with a Roman Catholic monk who was on his way to serve a community in Sudan. The relaxed and warm atmosphere of the conference was very welcome to him; it provided a peaceful preparation for a future where he might be enveloped in conflict.

On the third morning, he disclosed to me that he would be leaving for the Sudan straight after the convention. He was to replace a colleague who had just been martyred. The colleague had refused to submit to the bullying of local militia. His commitment to truth had meant he was caught up in crossfire between rival forces. My face must have registered shock and concern, as I asked what kind of place he was going to. "Well, volatile, I suppose," he admitted, "but ordinary people are very needy too, and few "outsiders" ever go there." I wondered out loud what kind of protection the monks had. He shook his head at the word "protection", and said he preferred to talk about "trust." Smiling at my obvious fear on his behalf, he acknowledged, gently, that he was well aware that his own time there might also end in death. He explained quietly, "The Brothers rarely come home, you see."

His replacement of "protection" with "trust" was a rebuke to me, yet it was entirely in keeping with Christian discipleship. It sums up the commission that Jesus gave to his disciples as he sent them out into the towns and villages (Luke 10). They were to go in faith and vulnerability, seek out the people of peace, receive from those they ministered to, and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

The cultures they entered were not enemy territories, but communities where they healed the sick, and spread the good news. These communities might include people very different from themselves, with diverse views and attitudes, but God was sending them to work and serve in God's kingdom. This was true too of the monk. And what was clear in him was the same mindset that Jesus commended to the disciples; a readiness to speak truth to power in service of people; a mindset of trust in God that extended beyond suffering and death. For truth and trust alone, rather than concern for self-protection, could pivot him into the life-giving service that changes lives.

I fear we see something rather different in the way that we operate today in our Church. In a politically polarised context, where lies proliferate and truth is at a premium, many Christians have seemed preoccupied with self-protection. A need to ensure that our views are safeguarded, our ways are heeded, and our power exerted have replaced, in many quarters, the simple desire to speak truth and trust God. Christians have become defensive in response to secular culture, and have latched on to "trigger" issues which for them define Christian obedience. Yet they have also developed blind spots where we cannot see the Gospel imperative, and follow leaders who have no time for peace or neighbour-love. It is all too easy to become both aggressive and defensive when we have been blinded by the principalities and power operating in high places.

Especially within the Church, trusting God enables us to listen to those who disagree, and look for ways of working together. When we listen without defensiveness, we might find that we don't always see things aright. When we speak without aggressiveness, we might find that others are more ready to listen. We might find that even in a season of opposition, change can come. We might sometimes even be able to acknowledge that, although we do not convince others, or see the outcome we believe to be right, ultimately, God's will could yet be done.

But when we develop a siege mentality, we end the conversation, and draw to a swift separation. This can harm our culture, but it is even more harmful within our Church. In a climate where Christians seek power rather than vulnerability, guns rather than peace and scorn of others rather than respect, it becomes ever more difficult to trust those who claim to be believers. We can even see them as those we need to be protected from rather than brothers and sisters who love God and are called to love each other in God's service. So, we pull up the drawbridge, batten down the hatches, and retreat to the trenches, but in so doing become ineffective in proclaiming truth to power.

Perhaps we need to gain more insight from the way in which Jesus always spoke truth to power and refused to be drawn into self-protection. The Gospels record how he exposed the hypocrisy of religious leaders, identified the hollowness of those who made a show of faith, and denied the right of his followers to respond with violence. Even more, he did not allow his family to protect him from the crowds; he overruled his disciples, who wanted to protect him from the dangers ahead in Jerusalem; and he rebuked Peter, who tried to protect him from arrest by violence.

Everything about Christ speaks of truth, vulnerability and trust in God, even to the point of crucifixion. My breakfast friend, replacing his martyred colleague knew this so well. Most of us have barely begun that journey. It is an enormous challenge to follow Christ, but even more challenging when we set off in the wrong direction.

• **Elaine Storkey** is a broadcaster, lecturer and author. She was President of Tearfund from 1996-2014 and is an Ambassador for Restored <https://www.restored-uk.org/about/> Her most recent book is *Scars Across Humanity: Understanding and Overcoming Violence Against Women*. Re-printed with permission from a post first published on 8 February 2020. See more at: elainestorkey.com

SEASON OF CREATION EVENTS IN MACCLESFIELD

Keith Taylor writes: In the Season of Creation Christians come together in initiatives of prayer, sustainability and advocacy. Once again St Alban's J&P Group joins with other Churches in the Macclesfield area to propose a programme of reflection, enjoyment, learning and action for us all. The season starts with the annual World Day of Prayer on 1st September and ends on the Feast Day of the patron of the environment - Francis of Assisi - Tuesday 4th October. In the Programme something is proposed for each of the 34 days – an action or a theme for personal reflection. For Further information The calendar of the daily suggestion is freely available in printed form and also on line at <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation-calendar-2022/> The Season's Programme Coordinator is Bernadette Bailey, 07831 647 928 dwbailey@btopenworld.com

DIARY

SEPTEMBER

1 September – 4 October, Season of Creation theme: *Listen to the Voice of Creation*. Celebration guide at: <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

13 'Challenges of Global Politics – Mis-use and MisGovernance' talk by Dr. Mark Bendall 7pm at The Unity Centre in Cuppin Street, Chester organised by CWDF

21 International Peace Day Theme 'End racism, build peace' <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>

15-22 Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine & Israel "Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine" <https://tinyurl.com/3fddjupj> <https://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/israel-and-palestine/>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

16 CAFOD QUIZ in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a raffle with good prizes and entry is still only £3 -contact Tony Walsh 0151 355 6419

17 'Faith and Frontiers' - Christian Responses to the Migration Crisis. Free online conference from 10am to 4pm. Arranged by Project Bonhoeffer. Speakers include Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Dr Ulrich Schmiedel of the University of Edinburgh, an authority on religion and migration, and Rev Dr Keith Clements, a noted Bonhoeffer scholar, who will be joined by people from groups currently working to meet the needs of asylum seekers in Calais, Kent and the north of England. <https://www.projectbonhoeffer.org.uk/events/>

22 Walk2COP27 starts (see p.6)

24 Fairtrade Coffee morning 10-12 Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT in aid of Chifundo UK Empowering girls and women in Malawi www.chanasachifundomalawi.org stall selling bags, gifts, jewellery, cards, and fashion items; a cake stall; workshops & refreshments: Flower arranging workshop, Card making workshop, Sew a pin cushion workshop. Free admission small charge for workshops. Contact: chair@chanasachifundomalawi.org

24 Festival in Grosvenor Park, Chester 11am-4pm Many local organisations and community groups will be there with their stalls - including CWDF.

24 NJPN Open Networking Day in the North East. Darlington, working with Middlesbrough will host the event with Refugees and Migrants as the topic. <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/>

24 September – 2 October The Big Green Week <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

25 World Day of Migrants and Refugees. As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen "Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees". Pope Francis's message for 2022:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20220509-world-migrants-day2022.html> See also: <https://nationaltoday.com/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>

30 Sept to 2 Oct JUST PEACE – WORKING FOR PEACE, CHALLENGING THE ARMS TRADE AND MILITARISM hosted by FaithJustice, the Dandelion Community and Pax Christi in Wythenshawe, Manchester Location:

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZLNfu458njWLAqWQA> Join us for a weekend of stories, information, sharing and planning for the future. A place to find energy and inspiration. The weekend will bring together a wide range of people; those who are new to arms trade activism and those who have been involved for a long time. Wherever you are in your journey you are welcome. We are able to offer floor space to sleep. (please get in touch if you have a disability and need different accommodation). Food will be provided.... come willing to help. Cost: Free (Donations will be welcome) To register see <https://faithjustice.org.uk/justpeace>

OCTOBER

1 Christian CND Conference and AGM in Liverpool and on zoom C3 Church, Kempston Street, Liverpool L3 8HE 10.30 am – 3.30 pm Join us for speakers, workshops and a chance to share together. Register for free ticket

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-cnd-agm-2022-tickets-402279888977>

Also available to take part in through Zoom.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrce6rqTggHNIsfnRIEu4UYxNclr3hhjdz>

2 International Day of Nonviolence <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Prayer-Vow-October-2022.pdf>

4 St Francis Feast Day – Celebrate end of season of Creation

7 World Day of Prayer preparation day Manchester More details: <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/preparation-days/>

Theme for March 2023 'I Have Heard About Your Faith' Eph 1:15-19 Service prepared by the women of Taiwan

7-8 Green Christian Conference Friday 7.30 Zoom event. Saturday In-person day at Priory Rooms Birmingham.

Book at <https://greenchristian.org.uk/conference2022/>

8 CND annual conference and AGM To join Email: conference@cnduk.org <https://cnduk.org>

13 World Day of Prayer preparation day Liverpool (see details for Manchester 7 October above)

14 CAFOD QUIZ see September 16

15 World Day of Prayer preparation day Preston (see details for Manchester 7 October above)

15 LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S PEACE: Exploring the Gospel Non-Violence' Pax Christi Day in Liverpool

Organised by Merseyside Pax Christi. Please bring food for a shared lunch; tea/coffee are provided Suggested offering £10 or £5 unwaged. Venue : Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Rd L22 1RD (nearest station : Waterloo on Merseyrail) For information and booking contact Jan Harper 07591 082195 janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

16 NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT NOT NUCLEAR WAR! CND public conference for discussion and debate (see 8 Oct above)

16-23 Week of Prayer for World Peace <https://weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk/> Annual Gathering will again this year only be on line. This is to allow as many as possible to participate. Sunday, 16 October at 3:30pm. Zoom link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82952967543?pwd=bmJWSzA3U1d3ZzVocDlzbkQ5K3dTz09>

Meeting ID: 829 5296 7543 Passcode: 549956

17-23 Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales - an opportunity to highlight the incredible work being done by community groups around the country, and to show what can and must be done differently. It's an opportunity for voices that are often ignored to be heard loud and clear. It's a chance to focus attention on the need to tackle poverty – and to show the immense difference we could make to our society if we do.

<https://challengepoverty.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Challenge-Poverty-Week-England-Wales-2022-toolkit.pdf>

NOVEMBER

8 'The Impacts of Climate change on Migration' talk by Paul Tacon CWDF Forum meeting. Paul works in the Migration Team based at the Geneva head-quarters of the International Labour Organisation. He will talk on zoom. This meeting will be in conjunction with the University of Chester Department of Social and Political Science, and will be held on the university campus at 7pm. Details of the venue will be confirmed later. Contact Ann McCarthy mccarthyj@talktalk.net

7 -18 COP27 in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt (see p.6)

9 Finish of Walk 2COP27 (see p.6)

18 CAFOD QUIZ (see September 16)

● **Read the Autumn issue of MouthPeace** the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Mouthpeace-Autumn-2022.pdf>

● **Read NJPN's weekly column** online on Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com or find articles be uploaded onto our website at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

● Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.

● **Sign up** for regular news and information from NJPN including **a new fortnightly e-bulletin with a comprehensive round-up of current events, campaigns, e-petitions and resources** (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or contact ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org or admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk 020 7901 4864

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN