



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

(Embargoed until Wednesday, September 16, 2009)

Media Alert

Catholic Bishops release statement on young people and justice

The 2009 Social Justice Sunday Statement will be launched on Wednesday 16 September at the Campus Chapel of the Australian Catholic University, 25 Barker Road, Strathfield, at 11.30am. The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney, will launch the Statement. The respondent is Bec Bromhead, Youth and Young Adults Coordinator of Vinnies NSW.

In the Statement, *And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young people and justice*, the Catholic Bishops of Australia reflect of the events of World Youth Day in 2008 and support young people's commitment to social justice.

To people of all ages, the Bishops repeat the challenge of Pope Benedict during World Youth Day:

What will you leave to the next generation? ... What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?

In presenting the Statement, the Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, Bishop Christopher Saunders of Broome, said that all believers are called to witness to God's love for us and to act justly and be agents of hope and peace.

'Young people are among the strongest fighters in the cause of justice, but at the same time, they can be among the most vulnerable to injustice.

'This Statement is about youth, but it is for all of us', Bishops Saunders said. 'We must remain conscious of how many young people experience deprivation and injustice. All Australians have a responsibility to stand with our young people wherever they are affected by injustice.'

Among the issues addressed by the Bishops are the plight of young Indigenous people, those excluded from employment, the issue of mental health and the need to create safe environments for young people.

For more information, contact:

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Note to media: Contact Alisse Grafitti on 0407 845 634 or alisse.grafitti@acu.edu.au to confirm attendance at launch.

Social Justice Sunday is celebrated on 27 September 2009. **The Statement and associated resources can be downloaded at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au from 16 September.**