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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>

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FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear Friends,

On 14 September, the Australian Catholic Bishops' 2010 Social Justice Sunday Statement was launched by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales. The response was given by Mr Brendan McKeague of Pace e Bene Australia.

The Statement, *Violence in Australia: A message of peace*, considers how the Christian values of forgiveness and reconciliation lead to peace and non-violent ways of addressing conflict and highlights the role we all share in making a difference for peace as individuals, as a community and as a nation.

'Can we follow that light?'

In her speech at the launch, Professor Bashir referred to the document as 'an eloquent and compassionate statement'. She was reminded of Christ's message of

forgiveness, love and peace.

'These are the pillars of the Christian message which has strengthened and inspired Australian people for over two hundred years', Professor Bashir said.

The Governor referred to the significance of the family environment, where she said 'the most important early relationships and behaviours set the model for the years which follow' and where 'peace-building, resilience, love of humanity, empathy and the value of trust' are nurtured. She compared that example with its opposite – families where 'anger and violence are the presiding model – an environment which humiliates, denigrates, debases – and tragically implies that such behaviour is critical for survival.'

'Above all self-destructive and family violence – domestic violence – is affecting a significant proportion of our Australian families. Such violence initiates and perpetuates psychological vulnerability and in some circumstances depression and even suicide, and so often may follow with recourse to alcohol or other drugs to ease the emotional pain.' She went on to point out that the cost of all the services called upon in times of crisis, often to preserve life, is incalculable.

But the trauma of violence, Professor Bashir said, is not only interpersonal trauma, but 'is also a social problem of major concern across the wider society.' She referred to road rage, neighbourhood payback or retribution, and 'the volatility and misunderstandings which can occur even between strangers, when self-

control has been dissolved in excessive alcohol.'

Most Australians, she said, have felt a sense of shame at attacks on international students or upon 'our Aboriginal sisters and brothers, the first Australians, who continue to forgive, and who teach us so much, if we open our minds and our hearts.'

'But perhaps', Professor Bashir continued, 'this violence and anger may present the opportunity to rebuild constructively'. She looked forward to 'a peace which evolves through nurturing a genuine development of the individual, a healing and regrowth, in the spirit of Jesus Christ.'

Her Excellency then issued a challenge:

'So, *can* we follow that light and contribute – each of us – to peace in our communities, our land ... to foster and to support the rights and dignity of those in our society who are being marginalised, excluded?'

She cited the words of the Statement:

'We have a duty to help build up and share our nation's political, legal, economic and social structures and to identify where exclusion, oppression and violence occur in Australian society'.

In closing, Professor Bashir recalled Blessed Mary MacKillop, soon to be canonised:

'For us, she is an Australian girl who became extraordinary in her commitment, inspiring the commitment of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart to serve the most vulnerable people at the margins of society.

'And her words, "Never see a need without trying to do something about it", are as much an encouragement as they are a challenge for each of us to bring

justice and peace to our world.'

'A way of life that permeates our whole being'

In his response to Professor Bashir's speech, Brendan McKeague asked:

'What does the message of "loving your enemies" really mean for us today? What is the peace we are speaking of here - and how do we how can we do this better, in a way that contributes towards what Christians refer to as the "reign of God" on earth?'

He outlined three dimensions that, he said, permeate the Statement. Those dimensions are intention, inspiration and transformation.

Brendan also emphasised:

'Conflict, from a positive perspective, indicates expression of individual freedom and diversity within communities. Conflict can be healthy, constructive, creative and can stimulate wonderfully rich and innovative transformation and growth. Conflict can also be unhealthy, destructive, abusive and lead to violence and harm.'

Brendan noted how society has not paid enough attention to investing in peace and educating in nonviolence. He noted the eloquence in a 13-word response that had been written by a student of writer and teacher Colman McCarthy:

Question: why are we violent but not illiterate?

Answer: Because we are taught to read.

He then emphasised that nonviolence is to be seen not simply 'as a tool or strategy to win over the enemy to our way of thinking, but rather as a way of life that permeates our whole being.'

In the case of Jesus, however, 'violence seemed to triumph over nonviolence as the crucifixion "proved" – the whistle-blower was silenced, the problem was

exterminated, the inconvenience buried and the world goes back to “business as usual.”

Brendan stressed that Jesus’ call to his followers to ‘love your enemies and to pray for those who persecute you’ (Mt 5: 38–44) was a radical challenge to the society around him and to its need for an enemy to hate. He also suggested some new ways to see Jesus’ teachings to people confronting violence – for example, the possibility that ‘turning the other cheek’ was, in the society of his time, an assertion of equality with the oppressor and a challenge to him to treat the oppressed person as an equal.

Concluding, Brendan said: ‘We can also pray that something new will emerge from this journey to the centre of the Christian narrative – where contradictions, the collision of oppositional forces, the often paradoxical nature of human good and evil converge and where the Spirit has been gifted with space to transform smaller truths into an ever-expanding, larger truth.’

‘Jesus modelled this journey, showing us that if we truly commit to nonviolence, we will likely face sufferings and deaths on a daily basis, letting go of the old comfortable ways ... We are called to witness this cycle of death and resurrection, this “Christing” in our everyday lives.’

Sacred destiny of peace and wholeness

In thanking and responding to both speakers, Bishop Christopher Saunders reminded the audience that we are coming to the end both of the United Nations’ *International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World* and the World Council of Churches’ *Decade to Overcome Violence*.

‘It is easy to think that we live in a world that encourages only aggression, reprisal and violence. One task of this Statement has been to look for examples of women and men who hear and act on Christ’s call for peace.’ He pointed out that the Statement opens with such a story – the mother of a young man fatally injured in a street fight who in her grief found time to think of the man who was responsible for her son’s death.

Bishop Saunders recalled other examples mentioned in the Statement: St Francis of Assisi, Dorothy Day, Pope John Paul II and Sister Irene McCormack, who stood and died in solidarity with the villagers she had been sent to help.

‘Here in Australia, in the field of Indigenous justice, there is the work of Mick and Pat Dodson, of Lowitja O’Donoghue, of Larissa Behrendt, and scores of other leaders who have been courageous, tireless, nonviolent workers for justice’, Bishop Saunders said.

He also honoured the work of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, founded by Mary MacKillop in 1866.

‘We should pay tribute to the commitment of these Sisters in East Timor, in my own diocese of Broome, and in South America’, Bishop Saunders said.

He also acknowledged the work of Brendan McKeague’s organisation, Pace e Bene, ‘who remind us that to work for peace is the opposite of passivity.’ He quoted the words of the Statement:

‘To work for peace is to build a robust, participatory and mature society that is respectful of human rights and the development of people as God intended.’

Bishop Saunders also congratulated the National Council of Churches of Australia for their Social Justice Sunday resource *Peace Be With You: Witnessing to peace*

in a violent world. 'We thank God for the work of all Christians in the cause of peace', he said.

In conclusion, he said:

'We are on earth to fulfil a sacred destiny of peace and wholeness - to fulfil, in the words of this Statement:

the sacredness that is in the deepest part of our being - the sacredness that is the presence of the God of peace in our world.'

Catholic Bishops' Statement and associated resources

Social Justice Sunday was celebrated on 26 September. There are many ways the message of the Bishops' 2010 Statement can be promoted throughout the year and beyond.

The Secretariat still has copies of the Statement for those who would like to

place an order. The Statement can also be downloaded from the ACSJC website: www.acsjc.org.au

There are other resources that are ideal for prayer, worship, and personal reflection, and for discussion in classrooms and among groups. Prayers, teachers' resources, liturgy notes, the Ten-Steps leaflet and prayer card, and a PowerPoint presentation can be accessed via the ACSJC website.

John Ferguson (National Executive Officer)



Current Issues / Resources

NEWS & EVENTS ON THE CANONISATION OF MARY MACKILLOP

Right around the globe celebrations are being planned for Cathedrals, parishes, religious communities and local areas for October 17. Post Canonisation events are also being planned. Information has been provided by organisers and it will be updated on receipt of new information. It is arranged by location. For further information, visit: www.marymackillop.org.au

Also visit the 'journey to canonisation' webpage to keep in touch and subscribe to the 'Canonisation E-newsletter' (refer: http://www.marymackillop.org.au/canonisation/landing_eneews.cfm?loadref=71)

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NT VISIT
On 13 September, an international team from the WCC left Darwin for the

Aboriginal Community of Wadeye as part of a week-long investigation into Australia's treatment of the nation's Indigenous people. Over a week, the 'Living Letters' team visited communities at Galiwink'u, Mapuru, Wadeye, Hermannsburg, Amoonguna and Mount Nancy Town Camps. They expressed concern about the discrimination, oppression and racism observed during the visit. The team particularly commented on the failure of the Federal Government to "reset the relationship" with Aboriginal people as it had promised to do and noted that life had not improved under the Intervention, but rather it has deteriorated. For further information and to access a statement issued on 17 September, visit: <http://www.ncca.org.au/home/media-releases/570-world-council-of-churches-living-letters-visit>

NEW WEBSITE: 'CONCERNED AUSTRALIANS'

'Concerned Australians', are an informal group who have been working with many individuals, groups and communities to give voice to what many Aboriginal people feel about the NT Intervention. The group is supported by a broad group of churches, social justice groups and individuals across the country who care about human rights. To find out more about the work of 'concerned Australians', their publications and the impact of racial discrimination under the Northern Territory Emergency Response, visit their website:

<http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au/>

FEATURE WEBSITE: PACE E BENE AUSTRALIA

Pace e Bene Australia was established in early 2006 as an associated body to the US-based Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service. Pace e Bene Australia facilitates the 'Engage', 'From Violence to Wholeness' and 'Traveling with the Turtle' workshops around Australia. You can find out about planned workshops in your area by visiting the workshop schedule, or contact the nearest member of the steering committee to discuss the workshops and how you can be supported – either by facilitating a program for your community or just providing some advice on how to do it yourselves. Website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/juswhe/>

YOUNG WOMEN'S INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP

The Office for the Participation of Women in collaboration with Australian Catholic University has announced the fourth Young Catholic Women's Interfaith Fellowship which will run between January and May 2011 in Canberra. The program aims to enhance the participation of young women in the Catholic Church, and foster both academic and faith formation for future

female Church leaders. The fellowship is a live-in experience which includes academic, theological and spiritual formation components. All accommodation, food and tuition are covered as part of this program, which is sponsored by some religious orders, Catholic agencies and foundations. Applications are open from until 8 October 2010 for young Catholic women from mid-20's to mid-30's who are passionate about the involvement of women in Church. The flyer, application form and referee form are now available for download at: <http://www.opw.catholic.org.au>. Call 0408 357 811 for further details.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On 3 December every year International Day of People with Disability is celebrated worldwide recognising the achievements and contributions of people with disability. To promote and celebrate this day the Disability Projects Office of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life is producing a bookmark. Two bookmarks will be sent to every parish in Australia with a supporting letter from Bishop Peter Elliott to celebrate the day on or close to 3 December. The bookmarks are 20 cents each plus postage and handling. The theme is "Jesus said ... 'Be Open'". Parishes/dioceses are encouraged to celebrate the day on 4/5 December but flexibility is encouraged to celebrate it whenever it is most appropriate for the parish/dioceses. To find out more about this day, visit:

<http://www.idpwd.com.au/Pages/default.aspx>

To order bookmarks, call (02) 6201 9868 or email disability@catholic.org.au

101 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR A PEACEFUL REFERENDUM

On 21st September *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* began its campaign '101 days of prayer for a peaceful referendum

in Southern Sudan'. The campaign is based in Southern Sudan, but its outreach is worldwide, mobilising religious congregations, NGOs and people of all religions to ensure that peace prevails no matter the outcome of the elections. After two decades of civil war, over two million deaths and more than four million displaced persons scattered across the world, Sudan has arrived at a critical juncture in its history. On January 9, 2011 Southern Sudan will vote to either stay united with Sudan or to secede and form a new country. *Solidarity with Southern Sudan* in conjunction with the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development has pledged to accompany Sudan with prayer. The campaign will conclude on January 1st, 2011, the Vatican's World Day of Peace. Visit the campaign website for information and to find out how you can be involved: www.solidarityssudan.org
<http://www.solidarityssudan.org>

REPRINT: 'TEN THINGS EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT ISLAM'

Re-printed by the Columban Mission Institute with the permission of the author, Professor Esposito - one of the leading experts in Islam in the English-speaking world. After the 2001 terrorist attacks in the US he was called on by the media and government and other audiences seeking explanation of those events. He collated the questions his audiences constantly asked him and in 2002 published his considered answers. This small 29 page booklet is an extract from that book and presents his answers to the ten most burning questions that are on everyone's mind. His answers are clear, direct, balanced and informative. An important resource for teachers, social workers, parish workers, priests, religious leaders, and community organisers.

Cost: \$4 plus postage. Contact the Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations at CMI: Ph: (02) 9352 8000 or cmr.cmi@columban.org.au (web: <http://www.columban.org.au/assets/files/bridges/2010/Bridges%20September%202010.pdf>)

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK: 17 – 23 OCTOBER
Anti-Poverty Week focuses on poverty around the world, including Australia. Its main aims are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship and encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. Last year, at least 1,000 organisations and more than 10,000 people were involved around the country. Everyone is welcome to organise activities or join in something being organised by other people. The activities can be large or small, and activities at local levels are especially welcome. The website <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au> includes basic fact sheets, promotional material, a calendar of activities and links to other sources of info and ideas.

2010 HUMAN RIGHTS MEDALS AND AWARDS

The Australian Human Rights Commission is accepting nominations for men and women and organisations committed to issues of human rights, social justice and equality through the annual Human Rights Medals and Awards. Award categories include: Law, Community (Organisation), Community (Individual), Literature (non-fiction), Print Media, Television and Radio. The AHRC website has details on how to enter and where to buy tickets to the awards ceremony on Friday 10 December. Nominations close at 5pm on Monday, 4 October, 2010. Visit: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards/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/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

2010 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT – ORDER NOW!

This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'Violence in Australia: A message of peace'. The ACSJC is now taking orders for the Statement.

An order form and other information/resources are available on the ACSJC website:

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards being a peacemaker. Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Teachers' Notes, PowerPoint Presentation – now available at:

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Ecumenical resource: 'Peace Be With You'. Download from the National Council of Churches website:

<http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/social-justice>

SERIES PAPER – 'MERCY AND JUSTICE EMBRACE'

Sr Marie Farrell rsm considers the vast range of people and organisations working for justice in today's Church in Australia. Together, she says, they make up a mosaic of social justice. Her search leads to the mystery of the Eucharist, the symbol of God's bond with humanity. This paper is a meditation on Christ's call to justice and the mystery of the gift of the Eucharist. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

SERIES PAPER – 'WOMEN IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA'

Catholic Social Justice Series paper No. 67 is a collection essays by women engaged in wide-ranging areas of Church life. A collection of eight papers. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage – postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers: \$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)

This Month's Notices

UNTIL 10 OCTOBER. CHECKOUT FAIRTRADE (NATIONAL). Fairtrade are searching for Australia's most Fairtrade friendly supermarket and you can help. To get involved visit your local supermarket before 10 October 2010, find all the Fairtrade Certified products and fill out an online form or postcard telling how many you found. In addition to

helping find Australia's most Fairtrade friendly supermarkets, the entry with the best idea for making supermarkets more Fairtrade friendly will win a holiday package. Web:

<http://www.checkoutfairtrade.org.au/>.

UNTIL 24 OCTOBER. DESERT MOB EXHIBITION (NT). Showcasing Aboriginal

artworks from central Australian artists. Will feature more than 300 recent works from 34 Aboriginal Art Centres in Central Australia. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Araluen Arts Centre, Larapinta Drive, Alice Springs. Contact: 08 8951 1120. Web: <http://www.amnesty.org.au/sa/event/23758/>.

1 - 10 OCTOBER. EXHIBITION: 'TEARS FROM THE HEART - CLOSED DOORS OR A SAFE HARBOUR?' (VIC). An exhibition combining paintings, fibres, graphics and text, to examine the ongoing plight of people seeking refuge from war and persecution. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Uniting Church Hall, corner Stokes and Hesse Streets, Queenscliff. Contact: 03 5258 3193. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/events/index.html>.

2 OCTOBER. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE. The first International Day of Non-Violence was on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. According to General Assembly resolution A/RES/61/271, the International Day is an occasion to 'disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness'. The resolution reaffirms 'the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence' and the desire 'to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence'. Information: <http://www.un.org/events/nonviolence/>.

2 OCTOBER. JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION CONVENTION: 'CONSUMING PASSIONS' (VIC). We are all conscious that over-consumption is bad for the environment and can be bad for our health. This convention will explore ethical consumerism and what biblical and theological insights will help us. Speakers: Janette Gray RSM, theology lecturer, United Faculty of Theology, Parkville; Jane Caro, communications consultant and lecturer, Advertising

Creative, School of Communication Arts, UWS; Professor Sandra Jones, Director, Centre for Health Initiatives, Wollongong University; etc. Cost: \$30, concession \$20. 9.30 am to 4.30 pm, Centre for Theology and Ministry, 1 Morrison Close, Parkville. Contact: 03 9251 5271 or jim@victas.uca.org.au. Web: http://wr.victas.uca.org.au/assets/2105/2010convention_brochure_no_bleed_FINAL_3.pdf.

2 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: 'FLOOD OF SUPPORT' (WA). Bring your compassion as Perth reaches out to flood-ravaged Pakistan. This is a night of not only fantastic food, delicious drinks and enjoyable entertainment, but a suite of sought after auction items and much more. 100% of funds raised will go directly to the Oxfam Pakistan Flood Appeal. Cost: \$150. 9 Mary's, corner Hay and Milligan Streets, Perth. Contact: 08 9262 8200. Web: <http://www.floodofsupport.org/>.

2 - 4 OCTOBER. ART GALLERY FAMILY OPEN WEEKEND: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ART AND CULTURE (NSW). Three full days include free performances, talks by artists, curators and celebrities, music, films, workshops and more. The centrepiece of the Open Weekend is the free major exhibition 'art + soul', showcasing over 100 works by more than 40 leading Indigenous artists. Over 25 artists, many who are featured in the exhibition, have been invited for the weekend from all around Australia to share their culture. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery Road, The Domain, Sydney. Contact: 1800 679 278. Web: <http://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/open-weekend/>.

3 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: CONCERT FOR CENTACARE (VIC). See acclaimed singer/songwriter Deacon Robert Galea,

Australia's Got Talent stars - singer Mark Vincent and harpist and vocalist Alana Conway. Funds raised directed to Centacare's Alcohol & Other Drug Family Service. Cost: \$35, concession \$25. 2.30 pm, St Patrick's Cathedral, Cathedral Place, East Melbourne. Contact: 03 9287 5517. Web: <http://www.centacaremelbourne.org/fundraising-events/concert-in-the-cathedral-2010.html>.

5 OCTOBER. WORLD MATTERS FESTIVAL: TARIQ ALI LECTURE (VIC). Diamond Valley Oxfam, Monsalvat and the Eltham bookshop present this lecture where Tariq Ali will talk about why war is unwinnable and can only lead to a bloody stalemate. Tariq will sign his book *The Obama Syndrome: Surrender at Home, War Abroad*. Cost: \$10. 7.00 pm, Monsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Avenue, Eltham. Contact: 03 9439 8700. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/tariq-ali-lecture>.

6 OCTOBER. REFUGEE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION (WA). This discussion is with advocates and experts on refugee issues including barrister Julian Burnside, former Senator Andrew Bartlett and WA Law Reform Commissioner Mary Anne Kenny. They will be initiating a discussion about the obstacles and opportunities in WA to effectively campaign for change in federal policy and laws in the new political context; change public attitudes; support people in detention; and cope with the rapidly expanding number of detention centres in WA. 6.00 pm, Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth. Web: <http://www.greenleft.org.au/node/45475>.

6 OCTOBER. LAUNCH OF THE BRAVE FOUNDATION: 'FROM UNPLANNED PREGNANCY TO HAPPY AND HEALTHY FAMILIES' (TAS). This is a national initiative raising funds to increase

awareness of the difficulties of unplanned and teenage pregnancies and the support available. It will be launched by Larissa Bartlett (wife of Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett). 5.30 to 7.00 pm, The Odeon, 167 Liverpool Street, Hobart. Contact: bernie@bravefoundation.org.au or 0404 060 507, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.bravefoundation.org.au>.

7 OCTOBER. BROTHERHOOD OF ST LAURENCE RESEARCH AND POLICY CENTRE LUNCHTIME SEMINAR: 'RESIDENTS EXPERIENCES OF REPUTATION, STIGMA AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD' (VIC). A stigmatised neighbourhood can affect access to employment and other opportunities, business and government investment in the neighbourhood and residents' ability to reach their full potential and become socially included. The seminar explores the impact of changes to social mix in neighbourhood regeneration on social housing tenants, home owners and private renters' perceptions of neighbourhood stigma. Speaker: Kathy Arthurson, Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity, Flinders University of South Australia. 12.00 to 1.00 pm, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Fr Tucker's room, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. Contact: kphilipp@bsl.org.au or 03 9483 1364. Web: <http://www.bsl.org.au/About-the-Brotherhood/Whats-on.aspx?id=99&dt=7/10/2010>.

7 OCTOBER. FAIR TRADE FORUM (WA). Learn more about fair trade, the movement and how you can get involved. Topics covered: What is fair trade (commodities and crafts); how individuals and groups can support fair trade; and examples of networks, events and FT communities in WA. Organised by Western Australia Fair Trade Collective and FTAANZ. Enjoy some Fairtrade tea and coffee. 9.30 to 11.30 am, Reception Room, City of South Perth Civic Centre, corner Sandgate Street and South

Terrace, Perth. Contact:
daniel@fairtrade.com.au or 0401 634 467.
Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/507>.

7 OCTOBER. DISCUSSION: SUSAN METCALFE'S BOOK 'THE PACIFIC SOLUTION' (ACT). Louise Maher, 666 ABC Drive Presenter, will facilitate a discussion on this book and our responses to refugees and asylum seekers. Panel includes: Professor William Maley, ANU; Kate Gauthier, Refugee Council of Australia; Zerghona Jawadi, refugee from Afghanistan held in Nauru for three years; and Susan Metcalfe. 5.45 pm, Manuka Paperchain Bookstore, 34 Franklin Street, Manuka. Contact: 02 6295 6723 or info@paperchainbookstore.com.au, RSVP by 6 October. Web: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/news/events/index.html>.

8 OCTOBER. DINNER: 'WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY' (QLD). Australian Lawyers for Human Rights and Aussies against Capital Punishment are holding this dinner with speaker, David Marr, journalist and author. Cost: \$80, concession \$70. 6.30 pm, Rydges Southbank, 9 Glenelg Street, Brisbane. Contact: elisa.petranich@uqconnect.edu.au, RSVP by 3 September. Web: http://aacp.files.wordpress.com/2010/08/death_penalty_flyer.jpg.

8 OCTOBER. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'AFGHANISTAN - FOR PITY'S SAKE BRING THE TROOPS HOME!' (NSW). Speakers: Phil Glendenning, Director, Edmund Rice Centre; Patricia Garcia, Act for Peace, International Programs Director, National Council of Churches. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

9 OCTOBER. WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH ECO-FESTIVAL (VIC). Eco-Fest will have a Green Market, kid's activities, discussion forums, speakers, movies, great food, Fairtrade products etc. 10.00 am,

Western Heights Uniting Church, Douglass Street, Herne Hill, Geelong. Contact: 0438 537 787 or ecofest.wh@gmail.com. Web: http://www.arrcc.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=388:sat-9-oct-2010-geelong-qwestern-heights-uniting-church-eco-festivalq&catid=45:victoria&Itemid=19.

9 OCTOBER. SEMINAR: 'MULTICULTURAL PASTORAL CARE' (QLD). Hear renowned speaker Professor James Haire, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Canberra, speak on aspects of pastoral care and reconciliation in multicultural Australia. Events by Queensland Churches Together members and friends. Cost: \$36. 10.00 am to 3.00 pm, Merthyr Uniting Church, 58 Merthyr Road, New Farm. Contact: krlyon@iinet.net.au, RSVP by 30 September. Web: http://www.qct.org.au/component/option,com_jcalpro/Itemid,126/extmode,view/extid,267/.

9 - 15 OCTOBER. RIDE TO WORSHIP WEEK (NATIONAL). People of all religions are encouraged to leave the car at home and cycle to their faith-based activities. Ride to Worship Week is an initiative of multi-faith network, Australian Religious Response to Climate Change. ARRCC President Thea Ormerod said the inaugural event is an opportunity for religious communities to reduce their carbon footprint and promote the benefits of regular exercise. Ride to Worship Week also coincides with the 350.org International Day of Climate Action (10 October). On the day, local communities will have the opportunity to contribute to a photo petition demonstrating that they are taking action on climate change, and calling for bold leadership. Information and resources: <http://www.arrcc.org.au>.

10 OCTOBER. LAUNCH - AYCW NATIONAL 2010 CAMPAIGN (NSW) The Australian Young Christian Workers are launching their 2010 National Campaign. Members, past members, friends and supporters are invited to attend this launch, which will be held at The Centre, 14 Frances Street, Randwick on Sunday 10th October from 12 noon. Please feel free to forward this to others who may be interested

in attending. For catering purposes, RSVP by Monday 4th October is essential. RSVP to Samantha.tyler@ycw.org.au

10 OCTOBER. MICAH CHALLENGE: 'SAVE THE DATE 10.10.10' (NATIONAL). Micah Challenge Australia is calling on churches and Christians around the country to SAVE THE DATE (10.10.10) to pray, speak and act against poverty as part of a global Micah Challenge initiative. On 10 October 2010 millions of Christians around the world will unite for a BIG day of Prayer and Promise to see half a billion people released from extreme poverty. 100 million Christians will pray for fresh vision to take action on poverty, and more than 10 million will take part in the BIG Promise. Register and resources:

<http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/micah2010>.

10 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: MELBOURNE MARATHON - 'RUN FOR REFUGEES' (VIC). Make a real difference to the lives of refugees by simply walking or running at the St George Melbourne Marathon and get people to sponsor you to raise money for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Cost: \$20-\$130. 9.00 am to 12.00 pm, Batman Avenue, near Rod Laver Arena entrance, Melbourne. Contact: 03 9864 1118 or Genevieve.dunn@imgworld.com. Web: <http://www.gofundraise.com.au/-run4refugees>.

12 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE: 'AFTERNOON TEA FOR THE FUTURE: RECYCLING PLASTICS' (NSW). We will look at the varying local government take up of plastic recycling, and also look at ways we can decrease our use of plastics and increase the percentage of plastic reuse and recycling. Relaxed small group discussion. Cost: \$2 or \$5. 2.00 to 4.00 pm, 15 Henley Road, Homebush West. Contact: leoniec@erc.org.au. Web: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=page&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=54.

12 OCTOBER. IQ² DEBATE: 'WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT OUR ARMED FORCES' (NSW). St James Ethics Centre organised this debate that ponders whether Australia's defence

budget could be better spent on health, education and the security of our energy, food and water. The debate will provide an opportunity for participants to listen to views from both sides, and engage in the debate. Speakers for: Alison Broinowski, author, former diplomat; Ratih Hardjono, author, Indonesian public affairs expert; Edison Yongai, editor of Sierra Leone's newspaper. Speakers against: James Brown, Iraq War veteran, Lowy Institute Military Associate; Jim Molan, retired Major General, author, military commentator; Ian McPhedran, author of *Soldiers without Borders*. Cost: \$32, concession \$22. 6.30 pm, City Recital Hall, 2 Angel Place, Sydney. Contact: 02 8256 2222. Web: <http://www.iq2oz.com>.

13 OCTOBER. INSTITUTE FOR MISSION LECTURE: 'FOR ALL THE SAINTS - BLESSED MOTHER MARY MACKILLOP' (NSW). Celebrating the canonisation of Blessed Mother Mary MacKillop - Australia's first Saint will be canonised in Rome on 17 October. What do you know about Mary MacKillop, her spirituality and her legacy? Hear one of her Sisters respond to these questions. Speaker: Sr Bridie O'Connell RSJ. No cost. 7.00 to 9.00 pm, Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9831 4911 or ifm@tpg.com.au, RSVP essential. Web: <http://www.instituteformission.com.au/courses/one-off-courses/for-all-the-saints/for-all-the-saints.aspx>.

13 - 26 OCTOBER. MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION: 'BLUEPRINT FOR A BETTER WORLD' (NSW). Caritas Australia and AusAID are exhibiting this display around Australia. It highlights the Millennium Development Goals and the promise of world Governments to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Video, photographs, visual installation as well as contributions (such as posters, baskets, school books, readers) from Caritas partner communities make up the installation. No cost. Lysaght Room, Wollongong Entertainment Centre, corner Crown and Harbour Streets, Wollongong. Contact: 02 8306 3490, siobhanj@caritas.org.au, alexandrae@caritas.org.au or 02 8306 3456. Web: <http://www.caritas.org.au/blueprint/Venues/index.html>.

15 OCTOBER. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'TIBET - THE STRUGGLE FOR CULTURAL SURVIVAL' (NSW). Speakers: Mr. Jigme, President of the Tibetan Community; Tenpa Dugdak, Tibet Effect. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

15 OCTOBER. GLOBAL MARKET DAY (QLD). Avoid the Christmas shopping crowds by coming to Global Market Day and purchasing fair trade, unique and ethical presents and you will be directly supporting disadvantaged communities around the world. Global Market Day (GMD) is an initiative of Arana Hills Church of Christ and is an ethical, fair trade market. 5.00 to 9.00 pm, Arana Hills Church of Christ, 2 Bringelly Street, Arana Hills. Contact: admin@globalmarketday.org or 0417 560 888. Web: <http://www.fta.org.au/node/483>.

16 OCTOBER. GRAIL WORKSHOP: 'THE STORIES WE TELL.....' (NSW). The session is titled 'Strong Women's Business: The Story of Ruth and Naomi'. First time author, Mary-Ellen Mullane, and story teller, Donna Jacob Sife, will explore the story of Ruth and Naomi and its relevance to people's busy modern lives. Cost: \$15, concession \$10. 3.00 to 5.00 pm, The Grail Centre, 22 McHatton Street, North Sydney. Contact: 02 9955 3053 or grailsydney@ozemail.com.au.

16 OCTOBER. MANNING CLARK HOUSE 'DAY OF IDEAS: THE IDEA OF REFUGE' (WA). In recent times discussion has centred on asylum seekers seeking refuge in a safe haven such as Australia. There is much confusion about who is a refugee or an asylum seeker, and who has a right to refuge in Australia. This will include a range of speakers to provide insight to discuss the 'Idea of Refuge' from a wide perspective. The audience will also be invited to participate in the discussion. Cost: \$65, concession \$45. 10.00 am to 4.30 pm, University Club Theatre Auditorium, University of Western Australia. Contact: 08 6488 1340 or ias@uwa.edu.au Web: <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/conf/doi10>.

17 OCTOBER. QUEENSLAND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL (QLD). Cultural diversity through food, art, craft, music, dance and traditional activities. Performers, artists, food and craft stallholders and community groups representing Queensland's many cultural groups will be there. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Roma Street, Parkland, Brisbane. Contact: 07 3227 7219. Web: <http://www.multicultural.qld.gov.au/be-involved/events/queensland-multicultural-festival/>.

17 & 21 OCTOBER. ANTI-POVERTY WEEK PALMS AUSTRALIA INFORMATION WORKSHOP (NSW). Palms Australia's global volunteers assist sustainable development by sharing skills and experiences, in communities in Asia, Africa and the Pacific. Volunteers receive a living/local wage, accommodation, airfares, insurance and pre-departure cross-cultural training. 2A Woolley Street, Glebe. 17 October, 2.00 pm. RSVP by 15 October. 21 October, 6.30 pm. RSVP by 19 October. Contact: 02 9518 9551 or culture@palms.org.au. Web: <http://www.palms.org.au>.

17 – 23 OCTOBER. ANTI- POVERTY WEEK (NATIONAL). The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; and encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organise their own activities during the Week or attend events. For events and resources: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>.

17 – 23 OCTOBER. CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY 7 DAY CHALLENGE (NATIONAL). In conjunction with the National Anti-Poverty Week, this Challenge is a revolutionary campaign to

not only raise funds and make a difference in the lives of desperately poor Australians, but also to educate those who are fortunate enough to not have to worry about how we will eat or provide for our children, what life is like under the poverty line. Every dollar donated will go towards helping thousands of Australians in desperate need. Web: <http://www.7dc.org.au/challenge.html>.

20 OCTOBER. UNISA LECTURE: 'JUST CITIZENSHIP – REFLECTIONS ON CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE' (SA). This lecture is jointly presented by The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and the Centre for Work and Life UniSA. The speaker, Ruth Lister, Emeritus Professor in Social Policy, Loughborough University, UK has published widely in the areas of citizenship, gender, poverty and welfare reform. 5.30 pm, Allan Scott Auditorium, Hawke Building ground floor, UniSA City West Campus, 50 – 55 North Terrace, Adelaide. Register: http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawkecentre/events/2010events/CW_L_RuthLister.asp.

20 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: PALESTINE SOLIDARITY FILM NIGHT (ACT). Two films will be shown, *Palestine Oktoberfest* produced and directed by Canberra's Lara Van Raay, and *Hope in a Slingshot*, directed by Inka Stafrace. *Palestine Oktoberfest* is about a Palestinian festival in a Christian town in the West Bank and *Hope in a Slingshot* is the recording of Inka Stafrace's visit to the West Bank, also with a historical perspective. They are very different films which complement each other, both made by Australian women film makers. A fundraiser for Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine. Cost: \$15. 6:45 to 8.30 pm, Dendy Cinema, Canberra Centre. Contact: ajpp@riseup.net or 0417 269 984. Web: <http://www.ajpp.canberra.net.au/AJPP/Events.html>.

21 OCTOBER. JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE CELEBRATION: MOVIE EVENT (VIC). This year JRS commemorates 30 years of accompaniment, service and advocacy on behalf of asylum seekers, refugees and forcibly displaced people around the world. As part of the celebrations, JRS will screen the latest film by young Australian filmmaker, Khoa Do, former refugee and 2005 Young Australian of the Year who will introduce the film *Mother Fish*. Cost: \$15. 7.00 pm, Kino Cinema, 45 Collins Street, Melbourne. Contact: jrsreception@jrs.org.au. Book: <http://www.trybooking.com/5399>.

21 OCTOBER. ECUMENICAL EVENT: 'COME CELEBRATE' (NSW). Sponsored by the Australian Church Women Inc, this is a chance to meet Christians from the local area, participate in the Fellowship of the Least Coin and support the work of the Asian Church Women's Conference. 10.00 am morning tea, 10.45 am Service, Northmead Uniting Church, Hammers Road, Northmead (opposite Fire Station). Contact: 02 9873 1701. Web: <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/news--events/events/events.aspx/-come-celebrate---ecumenical-event-in-northmead.aspx>.

21 OCTOBER. LECTURE: 'LIFE IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE' (WA). Speaker: Anna Baltzer, Jewish American former Fulbright scholar, award-winning lecturer, granddaughter of Holocaust refugees, and author of *Witness in Palestine*. The book gives first-hand reports on the conflict and the exciting nonviolence movement, followed by ways people can contribute to a just peace. Copies of *Witness in Palestine* will be available on the night. Cost: donation. 5.30 pm, University of WA, Austen Lecture Theatre, Arts Faculty, next to Reid Library. Contact: 0449 028 894 or FriendsOfPalestineWA@gmail.com. Web: http://perth.indymedia.org/?action=calendar&ss_date=2010-10-21#event2833.

23 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (ERISJ) COURSE: 'EXEMPLARY SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION: WHAT WORKS AND WHY?' (WA). This Intensive will give a deeper understanding of: important social justice campaigns, Aboriginal led self-advancement, the defence of asylum-seekers and refugees who arrive in Australia, and UN-supervised self-determination for East Timor. It will look at challenges encountered, what worked and why, and what in retrospect could have been done better. Speakers: Mary Anne Kenny, founder CASE; Clem Riley, Cultural Corridors; and John Waddingham, coordinator, Clearing House for Archival Records on Timor. Cost: \$25-\$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/certificates>.

23 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: 'PINK DIAMOND CHARITY BALL' (NSW). Hosted by the Cathy Tate, Lady Mayoress of Newcastle, with money raised going to Penola House, Josephite Refugee Support Network. Entertainment by Allan Ward's Big Band. There will be a charity auction and raffle on the night with special guest auctioneer Allan 'Robbo' Robinson. Cost: \$100. 6.30 pm to 12.00 am, The Brennan Room, Newcastle University. Contact: 0421 957 378. Tickets: <http://www.pinkdiamondball.com>.

23 OCTOBER. RALLY: STAND UP FOR REFUGEE RIGHTS (NSW). This rally is planned to coincide with the anniversary of the SIEV-X tragedy in which 353 refugees drowned. Speakers: Lee Rhiannon, NSW Greens; Phil Glendenning, Edmund Rice Centre; and refugee speaker. 1.00 pm, Sydney Town Hall. Contact: 0413 003 148. Web: <http://refugeeactioncoalitionsydney.wordpress.com/>.

25 OCTOBER. COMMUNITY FORUM: 'OUT OF THE DARK' (WA). Australian of the Year, Patrick McGorry will be the guest speaker at this year's forum, organized by CASE and CARAD. Patrick has spoken out about the treatment of asylum seekers and the link between mental illness and detention centres. Professor McGorry together with a panel of experts and refugee advocates will open the debate about refugee issues in our community. The forum will be chaired by Janet Holmes à Court AC. Cost: \$20. 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Winthrop Hall, UWA. Contact: 08 9227 7311. Web: <http://www.caseforrefugees.org.au/>.

26 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE CENTRE BREAKFAST: 'IF DOING THE RIGHT THING IS SEEN AS WEAKNESS ...' (NSW). When Skilling took over as CEO of ENRON, he created a committee that reviewed every employee every year and sacked the bottom 15%. The idea was to create a lean mean competitive machine. But the "smartest men in the room" were on the road to destruction and took a lot of others with them. Speaker: Kate McKenzie, Telstra's Chief Marketing Officer. Cost: \$40, concession \$25. 7.30 to 9.00 am, Gilbert and Tobin lawyers, L37, 2 Park Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 8762 4200 or reception@erc.org.au. Web: <http://www.erc.org.au/ERBEI/?p=930>.

27 – 31 OCTOBER. WORLD MATTERS FESTIVAL 2010 (VIC). Diamond Valley Oxfam, Montsalvat and Eltham bookshop present this Festival featuring a number of notable speakers including Tim Flannery, Julian Burnside, Arnold Zable and MAPW's Bill Williams discussing topics from sustainable living to the Kosovo War and the Pacific Solution. Cost: \$10-\$55. 970 Main Road, Eltham. Contact: 03 9439 8700 or elthambookshop@bigpond.com. Web: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dvoxfam/WoWldMatters2010/index.html>.

29 OCTOBER. FUNDRAISER: MARIST YOUTH CENTRE (MYC) MYSTERY GALA EVENT (NSW). MYC provides services to at risk young people in 26 locations across Western Sydney, providing services to over 1000 young people and their families each year. This gala event will be held in a fabulous mystery location in the centre of Sydney - to be revealed prior to the event. Cost: \$195. 7.00 pm arrival for pre-dinner drinks. Contact: 0400 881 779 or christinem@maristyc.com.au. Web: http://www.maristyc.com.au/MYC/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=82&Itemid=136.

30 OCTOBER. PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS TRAINING (NSW). The Institute for Mission (IFM) will be conducting this course to help caregivers develop their practical skills, as well as a deeper understanding of the philosophy of pastoral care. The course will be presented by Catholic Healthcare Service Mission and Pastoral Services Manager, Dominic Arcamone. Key components to be covered in the day course encompass skills, philosophy, core conditions and faith. Cost: \$40, concession available. 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown. Contact: 02 9831 4911 or ea@instituteformission.com.au. Web: <http://www.instituteformission.com.au/courses/events-and-course-dates/events-and-course-dates.aspx/pastoral-care-volunteers-training.aspx>.

30 OCTOBER. EDMUND RICE INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (ERISJ) COURSE: 'UTOPIA'S SHADOW: JUST SOCIETIES, NEW POSSIBILITIES OLD PATHOLOGIES' (WA). Everybody knows that there is poverty, suffering, inequality and indignity and that the world would be better without them. Yet they persist. Several ERISJ Intensives examine the role

of power and wealth in perpetuating these problems. This Intensive asserts a second set of causes, emanating from the social justice side of the fence. Presenters: Peter Beilharz, Professor of Sociology, La Trobe University, Melbourne; and David Freeman, Director of ERISJ. Cost: \$25-\$150. 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: 08 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/certificates>.

2 NOVEMBER. JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE: MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON (NSW). Event includes a lovely three course luncheon and drinks, fantastic fun, prizes and sweeps. A fabulous day out for a worthy cause. All proceeds will go to support JRS in their mission to accompany refugees. Cost: \$120. 11.30 am, The Balcony Level, Dockside, Cockle Bay Wharf, city side of Darling Harbour. Contact: 02 9356 3888. Web: <http://www.stickytickets.com.au/4172>.

3 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SEMINAR: 'INVESTING IN ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON' (NSW). The Australian Institute of Criminology suggests that the overall imprisonment rate per 100,000 of the adult prison population increased from 88 to 168 between 1984 and 2008, an average growth rate of five percent per year. This seminar will look at the costs of imprisonment and consider how limited public funds could be invested in alternatives to imprisonment. Speakers: The Honourable Harold Sperling QC, Convenor, Crime and Justice Reform Committee; Mr Peter Achterstraat, Auditor-General, Audit Office of NSW; Emeritus Professor David Brown, NSW University. No cost. 5.30 to 8.00 pm, Law Annex SR 340, Sydney Law School, New Law Building (F10), Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0238 or law.events@sydney.edu.au, RSVP essential. Web:

http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#altprison.

3 NOVEMBER. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: MICK GOODA, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER JUSTICE COMMISSIONER (ACT). Mick Gooda is a descendent of the Gangulu people of central Queensland. He is a senior executive with 25 years experience and a record of attaining high-level goals and leading multi-million dollar service programs and organisational reform. Cost: \$55 members, \$75 guests. 11.45 am to 1.30 pm, National Press Club, 16 National Circuit, Barton. Contact: 02 6121 2199 or npc@npc.org.au. Web: <http://www.npc.org.au>.

3 NOVEMBER. STARTTS FUNDRAISER: REFUGEE BALL (NSW). This annual event aims to raise money and awareness of the work STARTTS (Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) does with refugees. There will be dinner, dancing, speeches, entertainment and raffles to be won. The Refugee Ball is a Friends of STARTTS event. Cost: \$150. 7.00 to 11.00 pm, The Balcony Level, Dockside, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney. Contact: refugeeball@friendsofstartts.org. Web: <http://www.friendsofstartts.org>.

4 NOVEMBER. SACRED MUSIC OF THE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS: 'ONE GOD, MANY VOICES (QLD). Annual evening of Jewish, Christian and Muslim Sacred Voices and music followed by a Kosher-Halal Supper. The programme will include contributions by Christian school voices, a breathtaking Muslim chant, lively Jewish groups, Queensland Churches Together's Georgia Corowa, Coordinator of the Churches Together Indigenous People's Partnership (CTIPP) and a professional musician. Hosted by the Multi-Faith Centre of Griffith University and the Qld Forum for Christians, Jews and Muslims. No cost,

donations welcome. 7.30 to 9.30 pm, Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre, Nathan Campus. Contact: 07 3735 7051 or multi-faith-centre@griffith.edu.au, RSVP by 29 October. Web: http://www.qct.org.au/component/option,com_jcalpro/Itemid,126/extmode,view/extid,269/.

4 - 5 NOVEMBER. ACTCOSS CONFERENCE: 'DEFINING DIVERSITY' (ACT). The ACT Council of Social Service Biennial Conference is an opportunity to engage in leadership development, discussion on cutting edge ideas and practices, and to network with colleagues. The conference will focus on the theme of 'defining diversity' and how, as a sector, to lead the development of social change through diversity and equality. Key sessions will include a focus on mental health, working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the experiences of refugees. Speakers: Professor Kerryn Phelps, University of Sydney; Cassandra Goldie, Australian Council of Social Service; Clare Doube, Companion House; etc. Cost: \$195-\$300. K Block, Canberra Institute of Technology, Reid Campus, Constitution Avenue, Reid. Contact: 02 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.actcoss.org.au/>.

4 – 6 NOVEMBER. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACE AND INTERCULTURE DIALOGUE (NSW). The conference has been organised in response to the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education to advance human rights education, in particular in Australia and Asia Pacific region. Conference workshops and world class speakers will focus on the contribution of human rights culture to the good functioning of civil society; highlight key trends and achievements in human rights education and in particular, aim to secure greater commitment for future human

rights education. It will also have a strong development and Indigenous component. Cost: \$250-\$650. Parramatta Campus, University of Western Sydney, Victoria Road, Parramatta. Contact: julie@conferenceonline.com.au. Information and register: <http://www.humanrightseducationconference2010.com.au>.

5 NOVEMBER. POLITICS IN THE PUB: 'WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST?' (NSW). Speakers: Steve Marks, Legal Services Commissioner NSW, Chair, International Commission Jurists; and Edward Santow, UNSW Law School. 6.00 to 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills. Contact: 02 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au. Web: <http://www.politicsinthepub.org.au/>.

9 NOVEMBER. WATAC SCHOOLS' INTERFAITH SYMPOSIUM: 'WOMEN, RELIGION AND PEACE' (NSW). Speakers: Tamkin Ansari (Muslim), involved with Christian and Muslim youth from the Northern Beaches, working on a project aimed at getting youth together to discuss faith and spirituality from their respective faith traditions; Jan Barnett rsj (Christian), Sister of St Joseph and has worked in secondary and tertiary education for most of her religious life; Rabbi Jacki Ninio (Jewish), one of the first female rabbis in New South Wales, at Emanuel Synagogue Jacki has focused on work with youth and young adults. Cost: \$20. 12.00 to 3.00 pm, Theatre of NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney. Contact: 02 9520 9409 or watac@watac.net. Bookings: <http://www.watac.net/upcomingevents.php>, RSVP by 1 November.

9 - 10 NOVEMBER. NSW COMMUNITY HOUSING CONFERENCE: 'COMMUNITY

HOUSING - THE FUTURE IS NOW!' (NSW).

NSW Federation of Housing Associations hosts this conference that reflects on the enormous change to the sector that has occurred in the past 2 years, and sets a vision for community housing into the future. The conference is a key event for community housing workers, tenants and board members; relevant state and local government employees; academics and students working in the housing field; peak community organisations; affordable housing stakeholders such as those from the private sector; and anyone with an interest in social and affordable housing. Newcastle. Web: <http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/conferences/housing2010/communityhousing/program>.

11 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SEMINAR: 'JUVENILE OFFENDING - WHAT ARE THE FACTS?' (NSW). The expert panel of speakers will review available evidence on juvenile crime trends, consider factors associated with involvement in crime and discuss what appears to work most effectively in preventing juvenile offending. Speakers: Peter Muir, Chief Executive, NSW Juvenile Justice; Dr Eric Heller, Manager of Research, NSW Juvenile Justice; Jessie Holmes, Information Officer, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research; Rachel Alders, Senior Project Manager, Child and Youth Welfare Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Sponsored by Department of Human Services NSW - Juvenile Justice. No cost. 5.30 to 8.00 pm, Foyer (Level 2), Sydney Law School, New Law Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney. Contact: 02 9351 0248 or law.events@sydney.edu.au. Web: http://sydney.edu.au/law/criminology/seminars_events/#altprison.

News Monitor

Aussie delegation to visit Kiribati over climate change

The Edmund Rice Centre will take a delegation of Australian community leaders to Kiribati, led by one of the most senior indigenous leaders, Patrick Dodson, and ERC director Phil Glendenning.

Bishop calls for tolerance towards refugees

Wollongong's Bishop Peter Ingham celebrated Refugee and Migrant Sunday at his diocese with a call for openness and tolerance towards new arrivals.

Sth African bishops say proposed law could curb press freedom

The Southern African Bishops' Conference expressed "serious concerns" about a proposed Protection of Information Bill, which they say is so broad that it threatens the freedom of press.

Cuban dissidents campaigners back Church role

Campaigners of imprisoned dissidents in Cuba backed the Church's role in negotiating for the release of prisoners.

Peace requires inclusion and development, say bishops

Peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but entails the true development of people, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference said in a statement for 2010 Social Justice Sunday.

Wealth is best predictor of health: CHA report

A report by Catholic Health Australia shows that socio-economic status, rather than ethnicity, is a better predictor of a person's chances of dying from cardiovascular disease than blood pressure, cholesterol levels and smoking combined.

- Courtesy CathNews, details at <http://cathnews.com>

Social Justice Calendar

1 FRI

International Day for Older Persons
Second Bali bombing, 2005

2 SAT

Mahatma Gandhi born, 1869
International Day of Non-Violence
Shooting in Amish Community,
Pennsylvania, USA, 2006

3 SUN

Day of Jewish and Christian Dialogue
Intergeneration Day: Connecting
Generations through Communication,
Celebration, and Education!

4 MON

Feast of St Francis of Assisi
World Habitat Day
World Space Week commences: First
space Sputnik launched by the Soviet
Union, 1957
World Animal Welfare Day

5 TUE

UN World Teachers Day

9 SAT

World Post Day

10 SUN

Treaty on the Exploration and Use of
Outer Space, 1967
World Mental Health Day

11 MON

Opening Session of Vatican Council II,
1962

12 TUE

Bombs explode at Bali's Kuta Beach, 2002

13 WED

International Day for Natural Disaster
Reduction

15 FRI

UN International Day of Rural Women

16 SAT

World Food Day
Rigoberta Menchu Tum (Guatemala)
receives Nobel Peace Prize, 1992, in
acknowledgement of her work for human
rights of indigenous people – first
Indigenous recipient

17 SUN

International Day for the Eradication of
Poverty
National Anti-Poverty Week commences
International Week Without Violence

19 TUE

Beatification of Mother Teresa of
Calcutta, 2003
Sinking of Siev X, 2001

24 SUN

World Mission Sunday
United Nations Day
Disarmament Week commences
World Development Information Day

26 TUE

Uluru handed back to traditional owners,
the Mutijuli people, 1985

27 WED

Universal Children's Day (Australia)

These dates are taken from the ACSJC's 2010 Social Justice Calendar. The 2011 Calendar is being prepared and will soon be available to order.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015.

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<http://www.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 welcome.