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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,

As the first anniversary of the Rudd Labor government approaches, it is timely to reflect on many advances made on pressing issues of social justice.

The National Apology to the Stolen Generations was deeply important. The Temporary Protection Visa system has been abolished and some aspects of the 'Pacific Solution' and WorkChoices have been wound back. Australia has the beginning of a policy of Social Inclusion and there has been some progress on matters relating to climate change. These are just some of the important events and initiatives that have established the social agenda of the new Government. Of course, much more needs to be fleshed out in this policy framework and the details remain a focus of attention as particular initiatives are developed and implemented.

At the same time as we reflect on this progress, we need to be mindful of some immediate issues of social justice that require urgent attention. Amid the current national preoccupation with the global credit crisis and economic slowdown, there are three immediate issues facing Australia that are competing for attention. Many would regard these issues as insignificant by comparison with the economic crisis. Others who have a concern for the most vulnerable would say that how we respond to these justice issues has a great bearing on our nation's character and reputation.

A story that must be told

The in-depth research, *Deported to Danger*, undertaken by the Edmund Rice Centre and Australian Catholic University, has exposed the treatment and plight of asylum seekers removed from Australia. From 2003, a number of reports have chronicled the fear, the deaths and disappearances, the imprisonment and torture of some of the people Australia removed after disallowing their claims for protection on refugee or humanitarian grounds. The research also came across evidence that Australian officials used false documentation and left asylum seekers in unsafe environments, often outside the law of the country they were returned to. (refer: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=80&MMN_position=83:79)

Following this research, Phil Glendenning of the Edmund Rice Centre led a small team through Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey and Iran in search of asylum seekers who were rejected by Australia. He met some former detainees and family members, who spoke of disappearances, persecution, unlawful detention on return, and death. Phil's travels have been recorded in the documentary film, *A Well-Founded Fear*,

directed by Bentley Dean and Anne Delaney, which will be screened on SBS at 8.30 pm on Wednesday 19 November.

In a *Sydney Morning Herald* article, Cynthia Banham reports that Senator Chris Evans has called on the Immigration Department to give a full briefing on the cases investigated by the Edmund Rice Centre, and has said that he has an 'open mind' about reopening some of the cases. Phil Glendenning says 'we now have the opportunity with the new Government to put the mistakes of the past to rest'. (refer: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/afghans-sent-home-to-die/2008/10/26/1224955853319.html>; see also: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/its-hell-for-afghans-we-rejected/2008/10/26/1224955854962.html>)

The Edmund Rice Centre has pursued this issue of deportation when it was regarded by many as being neither a popular cause nor a critical issue in the life of our nation. They have taken concerted action, with some risk to themselves, in seeking to reveal the circumstances faced by some of the most vulnerable people on the planet.

Not long ago, the research of the Edmund Rice Centre and Australian Catholic University, *Deported to Danger*, was attacked by politicians who, it seems, would have preferred that this story not be told. *A Well-Founded Fear* and the research behind it show how this is a story all Australians now need to hear.

Voices that must be heard

In his *Social Justice Report 2007*, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mr Tom Calma, raised concerns that key aspects of the Northern Territory intervention were inconsistent with rights to non-discrimination. He was critical of the absence of effective participation of Indigenous peoples in decision-making. Mr Calma proposed a ten-point action plan for protecting children and families while respecting the human rights of Indigenous people. Among the ten points were recommendations for the reinstatement of protections against racial discrimination and

the assurance of the effective participation of Indigenous peoples in all aspects of the intervention. (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/social_justice/sj_report/sjreport07/community_guide.html#4)

The Church has been among many organisations that supported the focus of the intervention both on the immediate issue of child abuse and broader concerns relating to poor health and entrenched poverty. It has been argued that more is needed than a law-and-order response and that, wherever possible, the communities themselves must be involved in the solutions, which will necessarily include the supply of a whole range of social services and resources. (<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bishops/confpres/20070705451.htm>)

There have been concerns that the removal of protections against racial discrimination would undermine the legitimacy of the intervention in the communities concerned. Responding to the findings of the Review of the Northern Territory intervention, Minister Jenny Macklin acknowledged that 'long term measures cannot rely on the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act', but that the current arrangements would remain in place for 12 months before 'transitioning to a long-term, development phase'. (http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/ntermeasure_23oct08.htm)

Mr Calma has described the 12-month time-scale as problematic: 'Effectively, we have ended up with a situation where it took two weeks to design a suite of discriminatory measures, but will end up taking more than two years to remove them.'

Mr Calma called for robust consultations on the Government's planning. 'This process must be inclusive of women and men, and the proposed changes to the intervention should be guided by the free, prior and informed consent of community members, particularly those most vulnerable.'

'Unless the government restores respect to and constructively engages with Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory, the community

ownership so essential for enabling functional, resilient communities will not be achieved,' he said. (refer: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2008/111_08.html)

A statement that needs to be made

Following numerous visits to Scott Rush in Kerobokan prison, Fr Frank Brennan SJ has called on Prime Minister Rudd to voice strong opposition to the death penalty on the grounds of the dignity of all human life and to affirm that this principle is universal.

'I had been troubled by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's response to the gloating Bali bombers at the end of Ramadan a couple of weeks earlier when he said, "The Bali bombers are cowards and murderers pure and simple, and frankly they can make whatever threats they like. They deserve the justice that we delivered to them." ...

'When Australian citizen Nguyen Tuong Van was facing the death penalty in Singapore back in 2005, Kevin Rudd had told Parliament: "We hold one fundamental human value to be true, and that is the intrinsic dignity of all human life. It is for this reason that we oppose all forms of capital punishment. For our policy to be credible, we must apply it universally. We must be credible in our opposition to capital punishment as a matter of policy wherever it occurs".' (refer: <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=9480>)

Clearly, in Australia and through international circles, that credibility is needed now.

With the imminent execution of Amrozi, Ali Ghufron and Imam Samudra for their part in the 2002 Bali bombing that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has written to the President of Indonesia acknowledging the

grave nature of the crime and appealing for their death sentences to be commuted to jail terms.

Debate surrounding Australia's position on the death penalty is being urged by Labor backbencher Chris Hayes MP. He recently lodged a notice of motion calling on Government to pass laws making it illegal for the States and Territories to reintroduce the death penalty. In effect, such laws would enshrine Australia's obligations under the Second Optional Protocol of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights into domestic legislation. This in itself would firm up Australia's opposition to the death penalty and provide a stronger base on which to make clear in overseas jurisdictions that this is the case. (refer: <http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/alp-split-on-death-penalty-stance/2008/10/20/1224351155171.html>; see also <http://www.reprive.org.au/reprive-supports-preventing-return-of-the-death-p/576150/news-item.htm>).

At the end of last year, Archbishop John Bathersby launched the ACSJC paper, *Confronting the Death Penalty*, in Brisbane's Corinda Parish in the presence of family and friends of Scott Rush. The Archbishop stated the position of the Church regarding capital punishment and made this call on the new Federal Government: 'Because Australia opposes capital punishment as a party to the United Nations Second Optional Protocol on Civil and Political Rights, I hope the Federal Government will speak out strongly against the death penalty, already used by too many nations throughout our troubled world.' (<http://www.acsjc.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/Launch%20Address%20of%20Archbishop%20John%20Bathersby.pdf>)

A clear, consistent and universal opposition to capital punishment is needed now.



Current Issues / Resources

CARITAS AUSTRALIA - GLOBAL GIFT 2008 CAMPAIGN

Caritas Australia has just launched the campaign whereby you can make a donation by purchasing a tax-deductible 'Global Gift' and a certificate will be sent to you inside a beautiful Christmas card, ready for you to write a personal message and send to friends and family. Each gift also has a magnetic strip on the reverse so it can be displayed on the fridge. Whether you purchase a collection of the gifts and support holistic community development, or choose just one of the focus areas such as food security or water; each Global Gift works together to make a considerable difference to the lives of individuals, families and entire communities around the globe. For more information visit http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Gifts&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=4546 or call 1800 024 413.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

The ACPA Awards for Excellence were presented at its Annual Conference in Brisbane from 1 to 3 October 2008. The Awards have twin aims - to encourage and to reward excellence in the field of Catholic publishing and the media. Ms Sandie Cornish of the Loyola Institute and former National Executive Officer of the ACSJC was named winner of the Best Editorial award for her editorial 'What a preferential option for the poor means' in the April edition of *Faith Doing Justice*. Congratulations Sandie! The editorial can be accessed at: http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/briefing/fdj_apr08.pdf

The ACPR Awards list can be found at: <http://www.acpa.asn.au/images/stories/2008%20acpawinners.pdf>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

The CSSA national conference was held in Brisbane from 13 - 15 October. The CSSA Awards were given to some outstanding service providers and programs that assist

the most vulnerable members of the community. Information about the awards and the 2008 winners can be found at: <http://catholicsocialservices.org.au/awards/2008>. Monsignor David Cappo AO, Vice Chair Australian Social Inclusion Board and Vicar General Archdiocese of Adelaide, delivered the annual McCosker Oration on the theme 'Social Inclusion: An Agenda for all Australians'. The oration can be downloaded at: <http://catholicsocialservices.org.au/node/14766>

RESOURCE - SAFETY FOR CHILDREN IN OUR FAMILIES

'Child Protection Sunday' was observed on 14 September. The theme for the National Committee for Professional Standards for Child Protection week was 'Safety for Children in Our Families'. Resources including liturgy and homily notes, an information sheet and PowerPoint presentation were developed for the week. The resources are aimed at engaging the broader Catholic community in education about abuse and the effects of abuse on individuals, families and communities. These resources are available by contacting the National Committee on (02) 9387 2400 or reception@ncps.org.au

CATHOLIC EARTHCARE AUSTRALIA SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Catholic Earthcare has a new sustainability initiative for the Catholic community in Australia: A Strategic Systems-based Integrated Sustainability Initiative (ASSISI) - for schools, parishes, congregations, health and aged care facilities and other church organisations. The ASSISI for Schools program is being piloted in four schools; Catholic Earthcare Australia is working with the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change, the Catholic Education Commission of NSW, a variety of organisations with technical knowledge, a variety of community organisations, Climate Coolers and Greening Communities. To find out more about ASSISI for Schools and to register your interest, visit: <http://catholicearthcareoz.net/assisi.html>

Latest Publications

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

ORDER NOW! - 2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2009 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It highlights the theme of young people and justice today. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html

LAUNCH OF SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

Addresses delivered at the launch of the 2008 Social Justice Sunday Statement by Professor Julian Disney AO, Ms Elizabeth Proust and Bishop Christopher Saunders are now available for download on the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER - 'TOWARDS A MORE JUST WORLD'

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

SERIES PAPER - 'PALESTINE AND ISRAEL'

In Catholic Social Justice Series No.62, journalist and author Peter Manning provides a comprehensive analysis of the issues behind the Middle East conflict. His detailed examination of the key causes of the conflict

helps readers understand the reasons for the impasse. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT

- ORDERS STILL BEING TAKEN. This year's Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement is entitled 'A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia'. The ACSJC is taking orders for the Statement. An order form is available on the ACSJC website. The easiest way to order is to download the order form, make a credit card payment and fax it to (02) 8306 3498. Refer: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Prayer Card & Leaflet: Ten steps towards eradicating poverty.

Now available. Call (02) 8306 3499

Ecumenical resource: 'Faces of Poverty'.

Now available for download on the National Council of Churches website: <http://www.ncca.org.au/>

Social Justice Sunday Statement Summary, Liturgy Notes, Teachers' Notes and Powerpoint presentation - now available at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

PAMPHLET - 'CALLED TO BE THE GOOD NEWS'

The ACSJC has issued a pamphlet 'Called to be the Good News', which outlines the key principles of Catholic social teaching. It draws on relevant Encyclicals and the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church to highlight the principles of human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. The document, which includes a prayer, is ideal for Catholic organisations, schools and parish groups. Cost 10 copies for \$1.50 including postage. Call (02) 8306 3499.

SERIES PAPER - 'CONFRONTING THE DEATH PENALTY'

Catholic Social Justice Series No.61 consists of four essays by authoritative writers on the

moral, legal and personal aspects of the death penalty. It considers capital punishment in the light of the attacks of September 2001, the international 'war on terror' and the moral and political problems thrown up as we see capital punishment rigorously applied in countries close to us. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

(Catholic Social Justice Series papers and

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

Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3481 or download an order form from the ACSJC website: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/CONTENT/PDF/TEMPLATE-ORDERFORM.pdf>



This Month's Notices

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER. 'CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA'S RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM' (National). As part of its annual national consultations, the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA) is running sessions concerning the functioning of the program and the provision of resettlement services. The RCOA invites people from across Australia to participate in its annual national consultations on the future of Australia's refugee and humanitarian program. These consultations inform RCOA's annual submission to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on issues the Australian Government should consider in planning the coming year's refugee program. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts, suggestions and concerns. If you would like to contribute ideas or find out details of the consultation process, please contact RCOA on (02) 9211 9333 or via info@refugeecouncil.org.au Visit the website to find out the details of consultations being run in your area: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/resources/consultations.html>.

3 NOVEMBER. SEMINAR ON COMPLEMENTARY PROTECTION (NSW). The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) will present the third of its seminar series celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Dr Jane McAdam, Senior Lecturer in the Law Faculty at UNSW, will discuss how other countries have created systems of complementary protection, and how these models can help us create a better system of protection in Australia.

Phil Glendenning, Director of the Edmund Rice Centre, will speak about the need for a complementary system of protection for asylum seekers who have been rejected under Australia's refugee determination system. The seminar will be chaired by Catherine Branson, President of the AHRC. The film *A Well-Founded Fear* will also be screened. Entry is free but places are limited. RSVP is essential. 12 noon - 3.00pm, Australian Human Rights Commission, The Hearing Room, Level 8, Piccadilly Tower, 133 Castlereagh St, Sydney. RSVP to krista.lee-jones@humanrights.gov.au. Web: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/events/index.html>

3 NOVEMBER. GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIALOGUES (NSW). Dialogues explore the environmental impact of climate change, war and social strife, and the wide range of political and religious influences that shape our attitudes, values, and subsequently our actions. 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm, Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Information: 0431 605 374; email dialogue_quest@hotmail.com. Web: <http://www.sydneymsa.com.au>.

3 NOVEMBER. FORUM, 'A RICH YOUNG NATION' (QLD). Reflecting on this year's Australian Catholic Bishops Statement on Social Justice, this forum at the Brisbane campus of ACU will look at the challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia. Featuring former ACOSS head and now Productivity Commissioner, Robert Fitzgerald as the keynote speaker, this is an opportunity to engage in discussion and

debate on this important matter. 6.00 for 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm, Room IB.12, Australian Catholic University, McAuley and Banyo Campus, 1100 Nudgee Rd., Banyo. RSVP on (07) 3623 7111 or Anne-Maree.Phillips@acu.edu.au (refer: <http://www.cathnews.com/article.aspx?aeid=9716>)

3 NOVEMBER. SEMINAR: 'MASCULINITIES AND CRIME' (NSW). For decades criminology neglected the relationship between masculinity and crime - why was it that men were responsible for the bulk of officially recorded crimes, and especially violent crimes? This seminar will consider questions of masculinity and violence and will examine the potential for preventing male violence. Presented by Professor Kerry Carrington (Acting Head of the School of Behavioural, Cognitive and Social Sciences at the University of New England) and Dr Michael Flood (Research Fellow at La Trobe University). This is a free event. 5.30 - 7.30 pm, Minter Ellison Room, Level 13, Law School University of Sydney. RSVP essential: law.events@usyd.edu.au or (02) 9351 0239.

5 NOVEMBER. 'ACOSS FUTURE OF THE SECTOR DAY' (NSW). The Australia Council of Social Service 'Future of the Sector Day' will include discussion about: The economic environment; CoAG; Valuing the sector: the national compact; Promoting the sector - career prospects; Impact of climate change on the community sector; Accountability and transparency - tax and disclosures; and Efficiency and effectiveness - some practical issues. You will hear from a range of speakers with time allocated for discussion of the issues. Cost: \$20 for ACOSS members; \$25 for non members. 9.30 am - 3.30 pm, Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Level 4 Meeting Room, 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills. Register by 31 October. For further information contact (02) 9310 4822 or info@acoss.org.au. Web: <http://www.acoss.org.au/>

5 NOVEMBER. CITY OF SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE LECTURE 2008 (NSW). Sydney Peace Prize winner, Patrick Dodson, will deliver the annual Peace Prize Lecture at the Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House. Aboriginal leader Patrick Dodson is the recipient of the 2008 Sydney Peace Prize for his 'courageous advocacy of

the human rights of Indigenous people, for distinguished leadership of the reconciliation movement and for a lifetime of commitment to peace with justice, through dialogue and many other expressions of non violence.' This important event will include appearances by singer/ songwriter Archie Roach and the children's choir Moorambilla Voices. 6.30 for 7.00 pm. Tickets: Adult: \$25; Concession: \$20; School group concession available. Bookings through the Sydney Opera House on (02) 9250 7777 or online at www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/index.shtml. Web: <http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/index.shtml>. for further information contact the Sydney Peace Foundation on (02) 9351 4468 or spf@arts.usyd.edu.au. Web: www.sydneypeacefoundation.org

6 NOVEMBER. WALK AGAINST WARMING (ACT). Join thousands of families, workplaces and communities in a walk for renewable energy and a safe climate future for our children. 11.30 am, City Walk, Canberra. Web: <http://www.walkagainstawarming.org>.

6 NOVEMBER. SYDNEY PEACE PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY & GALA DINNER (NSW). Award ceremony and gala dinner at the Great Hall, The University of Sydney. 7.30 pm. For more information contact Sydney Peace Foundation on (02) 9351 4468 or spf@arts.usyd.edu.au Web: <http://www.sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/index.shtml>

6 NOVEMBER. TALK: TACKLING MASS VIOLENCE THROUGH RECONCILIATION - BOLD ACTION IN NORTHERN NIGERIA (QLD). Imam Muhammed Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye, Founders and Joint Directors of the Interfaith Mediation Centre of the Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum, Kaduna, Nigeria. 12.00 - 1.30 pm, Don Carruthers Room, Level 5, Dorothy Hill PSE Library, Hawken Bldg (50), University of Queensland. Sponsored by Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. Information: <http://www.uq.edu.au/acpacs/seminars-in-brisbane>.

6 NOVEMBER. COLLOQUIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE (NSW). The Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales is hosting the Biennial Ingram Colloquium on 'International Law and Development on Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Challenges

for the Pacific'. Speakers will address issues relating to the legislative, regulatory, policy and technological measures that states are using or could adopt to meet these challenges, including issues of food security, energy security, geo-engineering solutions, mitigation technologies and adaptation strategies. 3.00 - 7.00 pm, Room G23, Faculty of Law Building, UNSW, Kensington Campus. For further information contact unsw.law@unsw.edu.au and to register online, visit: http://www.law.unsw.edu.au/News_and_Events/Events/Events.asp?type=&name=2108&year=2008

7 NOVEMBER. PUBLIC SEMINAR: 'DISINTEGRATION THROUGH LAW? ON THE DECOMPOSITION OF CITIZENSHIP IN EUROPE' (ACT). Delivered by Professor Dr Alexander Graser, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany. The law is widely seen as contributing to the integration of political communities and to the legitimatisation of political power. In recent times, however, the legal content of citizenship has undergone significant changes - a 'decomposition', as will be argued, which may in turn undermine the law's integrative and legitimator capacity. 1.00 - 2.00 pm, ANU College of Law, National Europe Centre, 1 Liversidge St, Building 67C, ANU (sandwiches from 12.45pm). Please RSVP (by cob 31 October 2008) to rsvp@law.anu.edu.au. Enquiries: (02) 6125 3487. This event is free and open to the public.

8 NOVEMBER. SCREENING: 'THE IMAM AND THE PASTOR' (QLD). Nigerians Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye, formerly bitter enemies, now advocates of a fear-free, hate-free society, will share experiences of their journey from vengeance and killing to healing and forgiveness. The short and powerful film *The Imam and the Pastor* will be screened on Saturday 8 November 2008 at 9 am, Daintree Room, Riverglenn conference centre, Kate St, Indooroopilly. Enquiries 07 3378 0357; web: <http://www.barc.org.au/cms/files/phatfile/The%20Imam%20and%20the%20Pastor.pdf>.

10 NOVEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'THE IMAM AND THE PASTOR' (ACT). The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Australian Federation of Islamic Councils and Initiatives

of Change invite you to hear two extraordinary Nigerians, Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye, about the inter-faith mediation work they started in Northern Nigeria some years ago following violent clashes between Christians and Muslims. They will also show excerpts from the award-winning film, *The Imam and the Pastor*, about their experiences and work. Entry by donation. 7.30 pm at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, cnr Kings Avenue & Blackall Street, Barton. For further information contact (02) 6281 2107 or andrew.lancaster@au.iofc.org.

10 NOVEMBER. LECTURE: THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS: AUSTRALIA ON THE ROAD TO COPENHAGEN (NSW). Presented by Cameron Eren of the Total Environment Centre. 2008 will go down as a historic year for Australian climate policy. The global climate talks will come to a crucial midpoint this December in Poland and will be concluded by December 2009 in Copenhagen and will decide whether, and how, the world responds to what has been described as 'the greatest challenge of our time'. 5.30 - 7.00 pm, Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street Sydney. Web: <http://www.sydneymca.com.au>

11 NOVEMBER. WALK AGAINST WARMING (NT, SA). Join thousands of families, workplaces and communities in a walk for renewable energy and a safe climate future for our children. Darwin: 5.00 pm, Nightcliff Jetty. Adelaide: 1.00 pm, Victoria Square. Web: <http://www.walkagainstawarming.org>.

11 NOVEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE, 'A HIGH WATER MARK: A LOW WATER IN OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS' (VIC). Reflecting on the Northern Territory intervention, Fr Hilary Martin OP will concentrate on how the intervention took up two large 'bundles' of issues. One bundle concerns the feeding, health, education and safety of Aboriginal children. The other deals with control and ownership of land by Aboriginal communities. Fr Hilary's visits to the Northern Territory over the past 25 years have enabled him to write and teach about land in sacred traditions. Entry by donation. From 7.30 pm, Study Centre of Yarra Theological Union, 98 Albion Rd, Box Hill (also accessible via 34 Bedford St). For further

information contact (03) 9890 1077 or info@socialpolicyconnections.com.au. Web: <http://www.socialpolicyconnections.com.au/Events/CurrentSPCEvents/tabid/325/Default.aspx>

12 NOVEMBER. THE 'COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH' IN CONFLICT AREAS: APPLICATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN (QLD).

Sponsored by the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, delivered by His Excellency, Mr Niek van Zutphen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Australia. 12.00 - 1.30 pm, Don Carruthers Room, Level 5, Dorothy Hill PSE Library, Hawken Bldg (50), University of Queensland. Information: <http://www.uq.edu.au/acpacs/seminars-in-brisbane>

12 NOVEMBER. FORUM, 'ESCAPING THE POVERTY TRAP' (NSW).

Guest speakers Prof. Tony Vinson and Dr John Falzon, both widely acknowledged researchers on poverty, advocates and social commentators, will address this forum. Hosted by the University of Western Sydney, this is the fifth forum of a series that deals with topical and contemporary social issues. 5.30 for 6.00pm start, Building EZ at the Female Orphan School UWS Parramatta campus of UWS. RSVP to d.mey@uws.edu.au or (02) 9852 5222 ext.7372

13 NOVEMBER. PUBLIC LECTURE: 'WHY HABEAS CORPUS SHOULD BE A *JUS COGENS* NORM IN INTERNATIONAL LAW' (ACT).

Jus cogens norms are rights or rules that can not be derogated even by treaty. They include norms against torture, genocide, apartheid, slavery and crimes against humanity. In this paper Professor May will argue that some procedural rights such as *habeas corpus* should also have the status of *jus cogens* norms. 1.00 pm (sandwiches from 12.45), Phillipa Weeks Staff Library, ANU College of Law (Bldg 5), Fellows Rd, ANU. Please RSVP (by cob 10 November) to rsvp@law.anu.edu.au. Enquiries: (02) 6125 0454. This event is free and open to the public.

15 NOVEMBER. CONCERT, 'ARA GEVORGIAN WORLD PEACE TOUR' (NSW). Famed Armenian artist Ara Gevorgian is bringing his 2008 World Peace Tour to Sydney. Featuring over 120 musicians and dancers on stage, audiences, will enjoy a mix of Armenian folk and modern

music. Accompanying is renowned conductor and composer Henrik Anassian, international singer Daniel Decker. Cost ranges from \$45 to \$250. For more information and bookings call 0423 979 089 or visit www.ara.nareg.com.au

15 NOVEMBER. EVENT: 'ETHIO UNITE' (QLD).

Welcome to the annual fundraising event of Ethio Unite! This year Ethio Unite has brought you a very entertaining and enjoyable performance that will have you on your feet all night. Yeronga State High School, 159 Villa Street, Yeronga, from 5.00 pm. Tickets available from any of our players or in Made in Africa Restaurant at Moorooka: Family: \$50 Adults: \$30 Students: \$20 (ID required). Web: <http://www.barc.org.au/cms/files/phatfile/Ethio%20Invite.pdf>.

15 NOVEMBER. WALK AGAINST WARMING (NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, TAS).

Join thousands of families, workplaces and communities in a walk for renewable energy and a safe climate future for our children. Sydney: 11.00 am, Martin Place. Melbourne: 1.00 pm, Federation Square. Brisbane: 12.30 pm, Queens Park. Perth: 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, venue TBA. Hobart: 12.00, venue TBA. Web: <http://www.walkagainstawarming.org>.

16 NOVEMBER. WORKSHOP, 'THE PROCESS OF FORGIVENESS' (ACT).

Fr William Meninger, an American monk from the Cistercian community in Snowmass, Colorado, will be visiting Canberra in November to run workshops on forgiveness, Sacred Scripture, and prayer. His workshop of the subject of forgiveness will be held on Sunday 16 November from 10.00am - 3.00pm in the Greg Collin's Room adjacent to St Benedict's Catholic Church, 10 Tallara Parkway, Narrabundah, ACT. Entry by donation. Morning and afternoon teas - tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch. For further information about this and other workshops, contact 0419 970 915 or sepp.babler@segar.com.au. Web: <http://www.epinoia.org/frmeninger/canberra>.

17 NOVEMBER. REFUGEE COUNCIL PUBLIC FORUM AND AGM (NSW). The Refugee Council of Australia invites members and friends to hear Senator Chris Evans speak about 'Refugee Policy Under the Rudd Government'. After nearly one year as Minister for Immigration

and Citizenship, Senator Evans will reflect on the changes which have taken place and the challenges which lie ahead in national refugee policy and in Australia's response to the global refugee crisis. 2.00 - 3.20 pm, Parramatta Town Hall, 182 Church Street Mall, Parramatta. After the forum, afternoon tea will be served. This will be followed at 3.45 pm by the AGM. RSVP to (02) 9211 9333 or admin@refugeecouncil.org.au by November 12.

19 NOVEMBER. SBS SCREENING, 'A WELL-FOUNDED FEAR' (National). *A Well Founded Fear* is the moving documentary film about the Edmund Rice Centre's research work to follow up on the fate of asylum seekers who are deported from Australia. With footage shot in Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Canada, the film shows part of the search led by ERC Director Phil Glendenning to find the asylum seekers Australia rejected. The film will screen nationally on SBS Television at 8.30pm. (refer: http://www.erc.org.au/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=85&MMN_position=88:79)

19 NOVEMBER. CONVERSATION: 'MECHANISMS OF SOCIAL CHANGE' (NSW). Speakers: Dr James Arvanitakis, Cultural and Social Analysis, School of Humanities and Languages, UWS; Don Maclurcan, Project Australia. Shifts or 'tipping points' leading to action for positive social change are now more likely to come from citizens rather than governments. Social change is as likely to come about through influencing behaviour as it is through regulation. What are the mechanisms of social change? 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney. Web: <http://www.sydneymsa.com.au>.

19 NOVEMBER. LECTURE: 'FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS' - THE RIGHT OF TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN TO BE RAISED WITHIN THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF THEIR SOCIETY (VIC). Sponsored by the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies; delivered by Paul Ban. 6.00 - 7.30 pm, Level 11, 14 Queens Road, Melbourne. RSVP: n.balvin@uq.edu.au. Web: <http://www.uq.edu.au/acpacs/seminars-in-melbourne>.

19 - 20 NOVEMBER. CONFERENCE, 'CHALLENGES TO SOCIAL INCLUSION IN AUSTRALIA: THE MUSLIM EXPERIENCE' (VIC). The National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies is hosting a two-day conference exploring issues of social inclusion and Muslim integration in Australia. Bringing together academic scholars, policymakers and community leaders, this two-day conference will discuss and explore issues such as access to education and employment as critical aspects of social integration. Cost \$165, concession \$77. Venue: Sidney Myer Asia Centre, The University of Melbourne. For further information contact (03) 8344 0895 or nceis-office@unimelb.edu.au Website: http://www.nceis.unimelb.edu.au/events/conference_2008/

20 NOVEMBER. STARTTS' 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (NSW). The NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS) celebrates its 20th anniversary and invites all of our clients (past and present), refugee service providers, friends, volunteers, politicians, councillors and others to join us to celebrate 20 years of our service. Special guest speaker is Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW. The celebration will include refugee, politicians and human rights speakers, lots of entertainment, food and loads of fun. 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Grand Paradiso Room, 118 Ware St, Fairfield. Information: (02) 9794 1900. Web: <http://www.startts.org.au/default.aspx?id=86>.

22 NOVEMBER. 'PRISONERS AID ORIENTATION DAY' (ACT). Prisoners Aid ACT is organising an orientation day. The program is designed for prospective volunteers of Prisoners Aid who will work at correctional facilities or make home visits to prisoners' families or who may wish to contribute other skills such as researching relevant issues or web design and maintenance. The program will also be of value to members of other organisations. The workshop anticipates the opening of the new ACT prison, the Alexander Maconochie Centre. 8.30 am - 1.30 pm at Volunteering ACT, Chandler St., Belconnen, ACT. For further details and application forms please contact (02) 6257 4866 or email prisonersaid@bigpond.com

25 NOVEMBER. MORNING TEA FOR WHITE RIBBON DAY (ACT). White Ribbon Day is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The White Ribbon Foundation of Australia aims to eliminate violence against women by promoting culture change around the issue. Morning tea hosted by the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services of the ACT Inc and The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia. 11.00 am at Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, 2nd Floor, North Building, 180 London Circuit, Civic. Please RSVP by Thursday 20 November to (02) 6248 8577 or (02) 6282 5755 or email mars@marss.org.au or admin@fecca.org.au. Web: http://www.fecca.org.au/PDF/WRD_Flier.pdf.

26 NOVEMBER. SEMINAR, RESEARCHING SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND TRAUMA (VIC). Presented by the LaTrobe University Refugee Health Research Centre, Dr. Colleen McFarlane and Dr. Ida Kaplan will discuss preliminary investigations about recovery outcomes for survivors of torture and trauma. 5.30 - 6.30pm, Foundation House, 6 Gardiner Street, Brunswick. For further information contact rhc@latrobe.edu.au or (03) 9479 5874. Refer: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/index.html>

28 NOVEMBER. YOUTH OFF THE STREETS ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT (NSW). Join us to celebrate our youth. Awards are given out to young people who are or have been associated with our programs for achievements such as school certificates, obtaining employment, sporting achievements, reunion with family, drug free lifestyle, and participation in special events. Supper kindly donated by Bankstown District Sports Club. RSVP: 21 November 2008. (02) 8332 5000 Fax (02) 8332 5050; Email: lynettel@youthoffthestreets.com.au. Seats are limited and we advise that you book early. 7.30 pm, The Showroom - Level 1, The Bankstown District Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown. Dress: Smart Casual. Master of Ceremonies: Mr John Stanley. Information, application form: http://www.youthoffthestreets.com.au/events/rev5_YOTS_2008_4pp_DL_Invite.pdf.

29 NOVEMBER. PROGRAM: 'OUR MISSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS' (NSW). Sponsored by the Loyola Institute. Explores the values and philosophy that underpin Jesuit works; the international human rights framework; dialogue with other faith and traditions; and critical engagement with diverse cultures. Canisius College, Mona Vale Rd, Pymble. Presenter: Sandie Cornish. Suggested donation \$50, no cost to people involved in the work of the Province. Information (02) 8918 4152. Email: Loyola@loyola.org.au. Web: http://loyola.org.au/index.php?option=com_extcalendar&Itemid=50&extmode=view&extid=109.

2 DECEMBER. WORKSHOP: 'TRAUMA AND THE MATTER OF FORGIVENESS' (NSW). Robert Grant, Director of Organisational Health and Development at The International Trauma Centre at St. John of God Health Care, will run this workshop for therapists, physicians, pastoral counsellors, spiritual directors and chaplains who work with victims and/or perpetrators of abuse. He will examine the journey that many victims of abuse and trauma embark on in relation to healing and forgiveness. Cost: \$250. 9.00 am - 5.00 pm, The Education Centre, St John of God Hospital, 13 Grantham St, Burwood. RSVP on (02) 9715 9212 by 28 November.

10 DECEMBER. 8TH ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORATION: HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (VIC). Presented by Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. Opening address: The Hon Rob Hulls, Attorney General. Oration: Dan Adams, Board Member, Oaktree Foundation. Venue: ZINC at Federation Square, Cnr Flinders & Swanston Streets, Melbourne. 12.30 - 1.30 pm (followed by light lunch). Free event: registration required by 3 December to liam.fitzgerald@veohrc.vic.gov.au or (03) 9281 7110.

18 DECEMBER. MARIST YOUTH CARE 'CHARITY GOLF DAY' (NSW). The fourth annual Charity Golf Day will raise much-needed funds for a wide variety of projects which assist 'at risk' young people living within the community. This year proceeds from the Charity Golf Day will go towards setting up a much-needed Specialist Alcohol and

Drug Intervention Service for 'at risk' young people aged 14-18 years living in Sydney's West. RSVP by 1 December. Cost: \$140 per player - includes 18 holes of golf, pre match refreshments and BBQ Dinner. Venue: Ryde

Parramatta Golf Club, 1156 Victoria Road, West Ryde, in Sydney. For further information contact 0400 340 564 or pauliner@maristyc.com.au. Web: <http://www.maristyc.com.au/index.htm>

News Monitor

Green Bible published

A new environmental edition of the Bible was published in the US using soy inks on recycled paper and features a foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Vinnies stays optimistic

Vinnies head Dr John Falzon said the Society is staying optimistic despite being swamped with calls for assistance in the wake of the economic crisis.

Caritas UK accuses BHP Billiton partner of mine "bribery"

Caritas UK launched a protest campaign against a local Philippines mining company partner of Australia's giant BHP Billiton claiming the protest was "imposed" on poor villagers.

Catholic Earthcare introduces "reefs of revelation"

Students can embark on a virtual tour of some of Australia's greatest reefs with Catholic Earthcare's latest interactive resource, director Jacqui Remond said.

Priest blesses live export cattle

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Fr Claude Mostowik blessed a consignment of export live cattle being loaded onto a ship in Fremantle, Western Australia.

Death cell visit "sobering": Brennan

On a trip to Bali to visit condemned drug mule Scott Rush, Jesuit Fr Frank Brennan called on Prime Minister Kevi Rudd to say that Australia does not support the death penalty in any circumstances.

Catholic schools cut fees for crisis families

Catholic schools in the Sydney area dioceses will cut fees to assist thousands of families hard hit by the economic crisis, Sydney Catholic Education Office Br Kelvin Canavan announced.

Mundine calls for rethink on intervention

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC) chief, Graeme Mundine, called for the Rudd Government to "rollback and rethink" the Northern Territory intervention.

Restorative justice pioneer awarded honorary doctorate

Australian Catholic University awarded former Wagga Wagga police officer, Terry O'Connell, with an honorary doctorate for his ground breaking work in restorative justice in Australian communities and abroad.

Bertone blames "short term profit" seeking

Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone blamed the short term search for profit for the current financial crisis.

Vatican solar panels installed

As Pope Benedict again called on young people to defend nature from a "correct ecological perspective", the first solar panels have been installed on the Paul VI auditorium at the Vatican.

Iemma joins Catholic Healthcare board

Former New South Wales Premier Morris Iemma will join the board of Catholic Healthcare.

- Courtesy CathNews, [click on headlines for story detail](#)



Social Justice Calendar

1 SAT All Saints Day (Solemnity)

2 SUN Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)

6 THU International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict

7 FRI World Community Day

9 SUN Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Wall separating East and West Berlin opened, 1989

10 MON Nine Nigerian environmentalists and human rights activists hanged, 1995

11 TUE Remembrance (Armistice) Day, commemorating the end of World War 1, 1918

12 WED Dili Massacre, 1991

13 THU Death of Karen Silkwood, 1975, en route to a meeting at which she planned to expose unsafe practices in a US nuclear facility

16 SUN 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

International Day for Tolerance

20 THU Universal Children's Day

Anniversary of Declaration of Rights of the Child (1959) and Convention on Rights of the Child (1989)

21 FRI World Television Day

23 SUN Christ the King (Solemnity)

25 TUE International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 1981

27 THU Inaugural Peace Prize, Sydney, 1998

29 SAT UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

Death of Dorothy Day, 1980, Founder of the Catholic Worker Movement

30 SUN 1st Sunday of Advent

ORDER NOW! - 2008 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2009 Social Justice Diary includes the dates of significant events, anniversaries and special days which celebrate particular aspects of social justice. It highlights the theme of young people and justice today. The Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. This is an essential resource for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL PO Box 7246, Alexandria NSW 2015. Tel: (02) 8306 3499, Fax: (02) 8306 3498, Email: admin@acsjc.org.au Website: <http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. ACSJC Briefing is sent by email at the beginning of each month (except January). To subscribe or unsubscribe, go to the front page of the website. Comments and contributions are also welcome.