



No. 101 – May 2009

*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 CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

Below is the text of a Pastoral Letter issued to mark the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (1st May), which I invite you to circulate in your parish and local communities. The formatted letter can be downloaded from: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

'Working families' and the minimum wage at a time of financial crisis

Australia is starting to suffer the impact of the global financial crisis. At a time when our political leaders are considering how the community will bear the costs of the crisis, it must be remembered that wage justice for the most vulnerable is more important than ever.

The Australian Fair Pay Commission is undertaking its annual minimum wage review just as the crisis is having profound effects and unemployment is on the rise. Economic conditions worldwide are unstable and there is continuing debate about the way forward.

While the community struggles with the news that the rolling good times are over, we might remember the workers and families who have been struggling for years on the fringes of the

labour market. These are Australia's working poor - workers who rely on low wages topped up with government payments, have little or no bargaining power and are susceptible to unemployment. They are the most vulnerable among those our politicians call 'battlers' or 'working families'.

Ensuring a decent minimum wage safety net will be a most important factor in providing security for working families and alleviating the impact of what our Prime Minister has said will be the worst economic downturn in 75 years.¹

The inadequacy of the minimum wage

A wages safety net must meet basic needs of workers and their families relative to general living standards in the community. It should keep pace with price increases and keep workers and their families out of poverty.

These expectations are not being met for many of those who comprise the one-eighth of the workforce dependent on minimum safety net wages. These workers have no bargaining power and do not receive the extra benefits provided by, for example, collective employment agreements.

For years now, the Church's industrial relations body, the Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations (ACCER), has argued that the federal minimum wage and other low paid classifications are inadequate to meet the needs of individuals and their families.

To estimate the costs of living, the Fair Pay Commission uses Henderson Poverty Line measures that are based on research undertaken in the 1960s. ACCER and other community groups have repeatedly called for new research that would update and replace these measures, which have led to a serious underestimation of the costs of living. In particular, the skyrocketing costs of housing have not been properly taken into account.²

The Fair Pay Commission has maintained that the minimum wage, with government support, will allow single income families to meet their needs and should provide income well above poverty.³ It has been shown, however, that an average-sized family of four with two school-aged children, relying on the federal minimum wage, will fall into poverty if their rent exceeds \$215 per week. It is clear that in the current rental market, many working families will be below the poverty line. In mid-2008, at the time of the last minimum wage decision, median asking rents in the major cities ranged from \$285 to \$420 for houses and \$240 to \$400 for units.⁴

The minimum wage safety net is failing these low income families. It is not enough to keep their children fed, clothed, housed and educated, let alone meet the costs of childcare or emergency situations like unforeseen health problems.

The Church has long maintained that a wage should meet the needs not only of the worker but also the worker's family,⁵ and that the minimum wage, including benefits, should meet these needs without requiring the other parent to take up employment if this is not the parents' choice.⁶ According to these principles, ACCER has opposed from the beginning the use of the benchmark of the single person without dependants when assessing needs and setting the minimum wage. A wages policy that is set on this basis ignores the family responsibilities of workers.

The adoption of a single-person wage will only be viable if there is also government assistance that is sufficient to meet the needs of a worker's dependants. So far, this precondition has not been met. The adoption of the single person test in the absence of this undertaking to top up the minimum wage to adequate levels discriminates against workers with family responsibilities. This can have the effect of pressuring parents into work irrespective of other needs of the family including the care of children.

Wage setting at times of financial crisis

In the 2008 Minimum Wages Review, some parties argued that the Fair Pay Commission

should award wage increases less than the rate of inflation in order to restrain wage inflation in other sectors of the labour market. The Commission's decision had the effect of reducing real wages for many low-paid workers; for example, by \$3.54 per week for workers on \$600 and \$7.44 per week for those on \$700. The rationale for those reductions was the tax cut package introduced in the May 2008 Budget. The result was that, unlike other workers, these safety net workers lost most of their tax cuts.

This is how safety net workers were treated in the best of economic times, only twelve months ago. How will they be treated when times are bad? Will they now be required to endure another cut to their real wages in order to assist economic recovery?

In the current round of wage setting, the Fair Pay Commission will hear arguments that minimum wages should be frozen or even reduced to ease cost pressures on employers and slow the rate of job loss. Some may even identify the Government's one-off payments of \$900 to low-income earners as a justification for a reduction.

Effectively, such arguments suggest those who rely on safety net wages should carry the costs of job protection and the Government's fiscal stimulus package. But we know that these workers have little or no discretionary income and a limited capacity to bear this cost.

Those seeking work, too, need to be assured they will be protected from poverty and hardship. What real benefits and opportunities would an insecure job on poverty wages offer parents and children already living a hand-to-mouth existence on allowances? I refer also to single parents, many of whom are now required to re-enter the labour market. What benefit is there in a job that does not pay enough to meet the needs of their children?

Pope John Paul II observed how poverty most often results from the violation of the dignity of work, either through unemployment or the denial of a just wage.⁷ In addressing these ills we must respect the needs of both low-paid and unemployed workers. It is not

acceptable, for example, to attempt to lower unemployment or preserve jobs by reducing the wages of the low-paid below what is required for a decent standard of living. This applies in good times and bad.

It was in times of great financial uncertainty - not unlike those we experience today - that the Church advocated steadfastly for an adequate family wage. During the global economic shock of the 1890s, Pope Leo XIII called for a basic wage protected from competitive bargaining that would provide for a family and allow them to live in basic comfort, acquire property and accumulate some savings.⁸ Pope Pius XI renewed this call as families around the world were beginning to feel the effects of the Great Depression of the 1930s.⁹

Today we face similar economic uncertainty. Australia needs a minimum wage that ensures families are protected from poverty and have the ability to nurture and care adequately for each family member. The fundamental rights of families to create a home, to welcome the sacred gift of life and raise a family require the guarantee of a decent family wage.

The need to restore confidence in the safety net

The Church maintains that a minimum wage and social safety net that actually meet the needs of workers and their families is the basis for checking the justice of our entire social-economic system. Pope John Paul II said that 'this means of checking concerns above all the family'.¹⁰

Assessing the true costs of living, striking a national minimum wage adequate to family needs, and support for single-income families are issues in urgent need of our immediate attention.

Today, the global economic crisis has shaken our confidence in the economic system. For those who have lost their jobs or who know they may soon lose them, there is grave doubt about the capacity of the modern economic order to provide them with work and a decent standard of living. For the many families now affected by the global economic crisis, this

is not a question of economic theorising or ideological debate. It is a crisis about their own futures.

The Australian Fair Pay Commission is soon to be replaced by a new wage setting authority, Fair Work Australia. However, working families cannot wait for that. They look to governments and statutory authorities to protect and support them in times of economic stress.

The Federal Government and the Fair Pay Commission must bear in mind those who have struggled to survive on low wages and income support when most benefited during the years of prosperity. This financial crisis was not of their making. They should not be deprived of the wage increases they need to meet their basic costs of living.

Most Rev Christopher Saunders, DD
Bishop of Broome
Chairman, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

The ACSJC gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the Australia Catholic Council for Employment Relations. For further information about ACCER's policies visit www.accer.asn.au

Notes

¹ 'Recession is inevitable: Rudd', ABC, 20 April 2009, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/20/2547691.htm>

² ACCER (2009) Submission to the AFPC Minimum Wages Review 2009, p.10

³ Ibid p.17 & ACCER (2008) Submission to the AFPC Minimum Wages Review 2008, p.17

⁴ ACCER (2009) p.23

⁵ Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (2004) *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Citta del Vaticano, n.91

⁶ Pope John Paul II (1981) *Laborem Exercens*, Encyclical letter, n.19

⁷ Pope John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens*, n.8

⁸ Pope Leo XIII (1891) *Rerum Novarum*, Encyclical letter, nn.43-47

⁹ Pope Pius XI (1931) *Quadragesimo Anno*, Encyclical letter, n.61

¹⁰ Pope John Paul II, *Laborem Exercens*, n.19



Current Issues / Resources

MEDIA RELEASE - 'HARD TIMES DEMAND JUSTICE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE WORKERS' 1 MAY 2008. Media release issued on the launch of the Pastoral Letter marking the Feast of St Joseph the Worker (<http://www.acsjc.org.au/content/mediareleases.html>)

VALE FRANK COSTIGAN QC

Fr Frank Brennan reflects on the life and commitment to justice of the late Frank Costigan QC who passed away in April. A reproduction of Fr Brennan's eulogy at St Patrick's Cathedral, 20 April 2009 is available on the *Eureka Street* website at <http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=13103>

PRAYERS FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY BOAT EXPLOSION

The Church has offered prayers and sympathy for those who were killed and injured in the explosion on board a boat carrying asylum seekers near Ashmore Reef in April. Bishop Joseph Grech, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference delegate for immigration issues, said the explosion was a tragedy for all involved. Bishop Grech said, 'We are reminded in the most terrible way today of the dangers that people face when they seek to flee their homeland because of conflict or persecution... At times like this, it is necessary for all parties concerned to sit down together and, with goodwill, continue to examine whether what we are doing as a nation in this area is the best thing for the welfare of people who find themselves in such dire situations.' (<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/famlife/20090417913.htm>)

RESOURCE FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission of the NCCA has produced a prayer resource for the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation (26 May - 3 June). The Week of Prayer for Reconciliation, and National Sorry Day which occurs during the week, remind us of

unfinished business concerning the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia. Christ calls us to actively work for reconciliation and forgiveness, and to address the hardships and injustices experienced by our Indigenous sisters and brothers. This resource has also been prepared to compliment the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which overlaps from the 24th May to the 31st May. Resources for this can be found at http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/faith_and_unity/weekofprayer

PUBLICATION - 'FOOD: THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT'

Caritas Australia has called for a new system of agricultural production, distribution and allocation as the number of people on the brink of starvation hits 1 billion. Mr Jack de Groot, Caritas CEO said, 'The convergence of the food and financial crises has had a catastrophic effect on the most marginalised in our world. This staggering statistic calls for a reorientation of how we consider global food production and distribution'. The paper documents the latest episode in the ongoing food crisis, the causes of which involve complex and interrelated environmental, social and economic factors. Detailed case studies contained in the report from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Uganda and East Timor illustrate that a community centred approach is fundamental to building food security. This report can be downloaded from the Caritas website at http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Food_The_Fundamental_Right

PUBLICATION - 'LET THE SON SHINE'

Columban Missionary Fr Charles Rue is the author of a new publication - *Let the Son Shine: An Australian Catholic Response to Climate Change*. This paper explores two major ways to address Catholic thinking and acting on climate change in the light of faith: prayer at every stage of the response; and a systematic response using the see-judge-act model. Fr Rue argues that, just as climate

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

MERCY JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER The Mercy Justice Conference, an initiative of

the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia, will be held in Queanbeyan NSW (near Canberra) on 6 - 8 November 2009. The Conference will highlight the complex issues of social justice, drawing on research, stories and experiences. It aims to lead those passionate about social justice to further understanding and will offer participants opportunities for a merciful response through action. The outstanding line-up of speakers includes this year's Australian of the Year, Professor Mick Dodson and the 2007 Australian of the Year, Professor Tim Flannery. Details of Conference, Speaker's Bios and Registration Form can be found at: <http://www.mercy.org.au/mercyinaction/default.cfm?loadref=197>

Latest Publications

(Orders: phone (02) 8306 3499 or download an order form from our website [to fax to (02) 8306 3498]: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/PDF/ORDER_FORM.pdf)

PASTORAL LETTER - FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER 2009

The Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker for 2009 is entitled '“Working Families” and the minimum wage at a time of financial crisis'. It is available for download in regular and 'three-column' versions at: <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

SERIES PAPER - 'REFUGEES AND AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE'

In Catholic Social Justice Series paper No.65, David Holdcroft SJ provides readers with a valuable guide to the historical, legal and ethical issues at the heart of Australia's immigration policy as the nation begins to assess the impact of the Rudd Government's approach to refugees and asylum seekers. (\$6.60 a copy, plus postage - postage rates listed below)

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY STATEMENT DISCUSSION SERIES

The ACSJC is launching a new and additional resource for the Social Justice Sunday Statement. This Discussion Guide is based on the current Social Justice Sunday Statement

and is designed to be used with the Statement. The Discussion Guide Series can be used for 3 sessions and is suitable for small group discussion in parishes, schools, communities and other organisations or gatherings. Available for download at <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au>. Hard copies may be ordered.

ORDER NOW! - 2009 SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

The 2009 Social Justice Diary provides a social justice program for the full year. Information and ideas for prayer and reflection are included. It is essential for teachers and parishes. Cost: \$6.60 (inc. GST), plus postage. To download an order form, go to: http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html

SERIES PAPER - 'A GOD MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS'

In Catholic Social Justice Series No.64, Old Testament scholar Mark O'Brien invites readers to consider the roots of our modern concepts of justice and mercy. (\$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 copies \$1.45; 3-5 copies \$2.45)



This Month's Notices

1 MAY. WORKERS' MASS: FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER (VIC). The mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Hart, honouring the dignity of human work. It will be held in Australia's largest parish church which was built by workers from around Melbourne. You are invited to join the offertory procession by bringing a symbolic "tool of your trade" e.g. building workers - hard hat; transport workers - safety vest; clerical workers - computer mouse etc. Those wishing to participate in the offertory procession would leave their items around the altar and collect them later. 12.30pm, St Mary Star of the Sea, corner Victoria Parade and Howard Street, West Melbourne; after mass, lunch at Royal Standard Hotel, 333 William Street, West Melbourne. Contact: christine.campbell@parliament.vic.gov.au, RSVP.

1 MAY. CHOIR PERFORMANCE: 'TWO CULTURES COMMUNICATE THROUGH SONG' (QLD). The visiting Chinese International School Choir from Hong Kong will join with the choirs from All Hallows School and St Laurence's College for a program that includes commissioned arrangements of Chinese and Australian Folk Songs. 'Two Cultures communicate through Song' is part of a project supported by the Australian Government Australia-China Council to provide cross-cultural exchange through music. No cost. 2.00 - 3.00 pm, Room 23-1, Abel Smith Lecture Theatre, Campbell Road, St Lucia. Contact: (07) 3365 6314 or joanne.hopper@uq.edu.au. Web: <http://www.slccs.uq.edu.au>.

1 MAY. DISCUSSION: 'AUSTRALIA - US WARGAMES: A MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORM OF DEFENSE' (NSW). Politics in the Pub presents Dr Hanna Middleton, Sydney Peace Foundation; Dennis Dougherty, Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition; and David Bradbury, award-winning Australian film-maker. Cost: \$5 to become social member of Gaelic Club. 6.00 - 7.45 pm, Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire

Street, Surry Hills. Contact: (02) 9358 4834 or tomspandb@bigpond.com; (02) 9692 0005 or odl_bradley@pacific.net.au; or (02) 9518 5560 or katebarton3@optusnet.com.au. Web: www.politicsinthepub.org.au.

1 MAY. PERTH COMMUNITY SECTOR WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION (WA). The Australian Government has announced a National Human Rights Consultation. This is an opportunity for all people in Australia to have their say about human rights and how they should be protected. The Australian Human Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia organised this workshop for community sector organisations to equip them to participate in the consultations. 10.15 am - 12.30 pm, Equal Opportunity Commission of Western Australia, Level 2, 141 St George's Terrace, Perth. Contact: (08) 9216 3900 or eoc@eoc.wa.gov.au, RSVP by 26 April. Web: http://www.humanrights.gov.au/letstalkaboutrights/workshops/20090501_WA_community.html.

1 MAY - 7 JUNE. EXHIBITION: CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL YOUTH (CMY) 20TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION: 'PARTICIPATION AND DIVERSITY AMONG YOUNG VICTORIANS' (VIC). Celebrate CMY as it supports the needs of migrant and refugee young people. The exhibition includes: 'Voices of Young Australia' - stories of strong, inspiring young people; and 'Multicultural Youth-led Futures' - a poster series of leadership initiatives by migrant and refugee young people. Cost: \$8 museum entry. 10.00 am - 5.00 pm, Immigration Museum, Old Customs House, 400 Flinders St, Melbourne. Contact: 13 11 02. Web: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/ImmigrationMuseum/>.

2 - 17 MAY. FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT (NATIONAL). A number of Fairtrade events will be held throughout Australia, visit the website for more details. Web: <http://www.fairtrade.com.au/ftf09>.

2 MAY. MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE SA ARTS: SILK ROAD PERFORMANCES (SA). Afghan Cameleers and Descendants Festival. Open to the public. 11.00 am, Regional Art Gallery, Mary Elle Street, Port Pirie. Contact: (08) 8217 9522 or keith@mrca.com.au. Web: <http://www.mrca.com.au/may.html>.

4 MAY. SEMINAR: HIGH COURT'S JUDGMENT IN WURRIDJAL V COMMONWEALTH (NSW). The traditional owners of the Maningrida land, in Arnhem land, challenged the constitutional validity of the NT intervention legislation partly on the grounds it discriminated against Indigenous people. Bret Walker SC, who was acting for the Northern Land Council, has agreed to share with us his thoughts and views on the findings by the Court and especially the implications of this decision on Indigenous native title rights. 5.30 - 6.30 pm, DLA Phillips Fox, Level 38, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Contact: tbabu@lawsocnsw.asn.au.

4 MAY. LAUNCH: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND NATIVE TITLE REPORTS 2008 (NSW). The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is holding the launch which will include: introduction by The Hon Catherine Branson QC, President, AHRC; opening address by The Hon Robert McClelland MP, Attorney-General, keynote address by Mr Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner; and a panel speaking on 'A new agenda for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?' 10.30 for 11.00 am, Turner Hall, Building B - Ultimo College, MaryAnne Street, Ultimo. Contact: (02) 9284 9603 or socialjustice@humanrights.gov.au

4 MAY. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (TAS). The National Human Rights Consultation Committee will be visiting places throughout regional and remote Australia as well as major towns and cities during the first half of 2009. Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website. 12.00 - 2.00 pm or 6.00 - 8.00 pm, Hobart Function and Conference Centre, Sovereign Room, Elizabeth Street Pier, Hobart. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

4 MAY. MARCH FOR REFUGEE RIGHTS ON LABOUR DAY (QLD). In the light of recent events, there is more than ever a need to uphold the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees. The vast majority of refugees are workers and seek decent employment in their new country. They are often vulnerable to exploitative workplace practices by bosses hoping for cheap easy labour. The Refugee contingent of the march will be organised by Refugee Action Collective. 10.00 am, corner of Wharf & Turbot Streets, Brisbane. Contact: (07) 3392 3843 or paul@rac-qld.org. Web: www.rac-qld.org.

4 - 6 MAY. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE, NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEDIA CONGRESS 2009: 'THROW OPEN THE DOORS' (NSW). Whether you put the parish newsletter together, are involved in Catholic print, television, radio, film, websites or other new media, or simply have an interest in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the public sphere, you are invited to attend. Speakers include: Tom Peterson, President of the US-based 'Catholics Come Home'; Professor Greg Craven, ACU Vice-Chancellor; Fr Tom Rosica, CEO Canada's Salt and Light Television, etc. Cost \$695. The Menzies Hotel, 14 Carrington Street, Sydney. Contact: (02) 9923 8820 or alison.peters@cievents.com.au. Web: <https://events.cievents.com.au/ei/cm.esp?id=1753&pageid=2KI0OWL3I>.

5 MAY. TALK: 'ROLE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MINISTRY IN THE PRISON SYSTEM' (TAS). Sr Mary O'Shannassy, director of Catholic Prison Ministry Victoria, will talk about her work and the role of social justice in prison chaplaincy. 7.00 pm, Murphy Room, Catholic Diocesan Centre, 35 Tower Road, New Town. Contact: (03) 6208 6271. Web: <http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html>.

5 MAY. SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: 'BIG BROTHER OR A FAIR GO: CAN SURVEILLANCE OF SOCIAL SPACES PROTECT OUR RIGHTS?' (VIC). Professor Graham Sewell will undertake a critique of the conceptual and practical assumptions about the purpose and consequences of surveillance that have been used to justify its massive expansion in Australian society. Professor Sewell currently teaches Organisational Behaviour in the

Department of Marketing and Management.
1.00 - 2.00 pm, eZone Theatre, Architecture
Building, Room103, Floor 1, The University
of Melbourne. Contact: (03) 8344 3203 or
jmoss@unimelb.edu.au. Web: [http://www.
socialjustice.unimelb.edu.au/events/Social
Justice_Seminar_May.pdf](http://www.socialjustice.unimelb.edu.au/events/SocialJustice_Seminar_May.pdf).

**5 MAY. HYPOTHETICAL: 'AUSTRALIAN
INDIGENOUS ARTS AND THE LAW' (VIC).**

A lively performance presented by Monash
University will debate how Indigenous arts
and culture are recognised in the Australian
community, and what sorts of protections
are provided by Australian laws. Judges,
lawyers, artists, archaeologists and others
will take part, using the dramatic format
of this hypothetical. No cost. 6.00 - 8.00
pm, Faculty of Art and Design Room G1.04,
Building G, Caulfield campus, 900 Dandenong
Road, Caulfield East. Contact: [marketing@
law.monash.edu.au](mailto:marketing@law.monash.edu.au) or (03) 9905 2326. Web:
[http://www.law.monash.edu.au/news/
events/](http://www.law.monash.edu.au/news/events/).

**6 - 8 MAY. FRANCISCAN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA
CONFERENCE: 'OUR SISTER, MOTHER EARTH:
FRANCISCAN CREATION SPIRITUALITY' (NSW).**

Keynote speakers include Sr Ilia Delio osf,
author and speaker, from Washington DC and
Fr Denis Edwards, senior lecturer, School
of Theology, Flinders University. Workshops
leaders include Jacqui Remond, Catholic
Earthcare Australia and Paul Lucas, Principal
of Holy Spirit Primary School, Townsville. Cost:
\$455. Centre for Reflective Living, corner
Mackillop Drive and Barina Downs Road,
Baulkham Hills. Contact: (07) 3350 5117 or
probinson@fsa.asn.au. Web: www.fsa.asn.au.

**6 MAY. DISCUSSION: 'WHAT'S SPIRITUALITY
GOT TO DO WITH THE LAW?' (NSW).**

Paddington Spirituality in the Pub presents
Hadia Mukhtar, Lebanese-born lawyer and
medical practitioner, and Justice Terry
Sheahan, former NSW Attorney General and
Judge in the Land and Environment Court.
7.30 - 9.00 pm, Bellevue Hotel, 159 Hargrave
St, Paddington. Contact: (02) 9387 3152. Web:
[http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/
spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm](http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au/spirituality%20in%20the%20pub.htm).

**6 MAY. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES
(NSW/QLD).** Everyone interested in attending
a Community Roundtable is encouraged
to register at the website. 12.00 - 2.00
pm, South Tweed Sports Horizons Function
Centre, 4 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads
South. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: [http://
humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/
community.nsf/calendar](http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar).

**7 MAY. QUEENSLAND COUNCIL OF SOCIAL
SERVICE SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY
FORUM (QLD).** Community service providers,
management committees, local government
agencies and interested members of
the community will have an opportunity
to comment on social issues, workshop
recommendations and discuss QCOSS's
advocacy work. No cost. 9.30 am - 1.30 pm,
Nambour Community Centre, 2 Shearer St,
Nambour. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or
(07) 3004 6900. Web: [http://www.qcross.org.
au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636](http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636).

**7 MAY. THE STORY OF THE SCHOOL OF ST
JUDE, AFRICA: 'FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH
EDUCATION' (TAS).** Gemma Sisia will tell her
story of establishing the School of St Jude,
which provides young Tanzanian children with
the chance to receive a quality education.
Gemma has received an Order of Australia and
was featured on the ABC's 'Australian Story'
program. No cost. 7.30 - 8.30 pm, Royal Yacht
Club of Tasmania, Marieville Esplanade, Sandy
Bay. Contact: (03) 6248 5123 AH, (03) 0419 890
914 AH or rsvp-gemma-hobart@hotmail.com.
Web: [http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/
whatson.html](http://www.hobart.catholic.org.au/whatson.html).

7 MAY. FAIR TRADE FIESTA (NSW). Come
along and enjoy delicious Fair Trade food and
beautiful Fair Trade gifts (in time for mother's
day). Includes enriched education sessions on
Fair Trade. Cost: \$15 (evening). 1.00 - 3.00
pm for schools; 3.00 - 5.00 pm for church/
community groups; 6.00 - 9.00 pm for the
general public, Paddington Town Hall, Oxford
St, Paddington. Contact: [nsw@fairtrade.com.
au](mailto:nsw@fairtrade.com.au) or (02) 9401 9209, bookings required. Web:
<http://www.fairtrade.com.au/>.

8 MAY. INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS (ICAN) FUNDRAISER MOVIE: 'SOLDIERS FOR PEACE' (WA). 'Soldiers of Peace' illustrates beautiful and inspiring examples in which people and communities around the world are solving conflicts through active principles of non-violence. Narrated by Michael Douglas, and featuring 14 inspiring stories from around the world. Cost: \$20 or \$15 concession. 6.45 - 9.00 pm, The Astor Cinema, 659 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley. Purchase tickets online from: www.moshtix.com.au. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/soldiers-peace-ican-fundraiser-0>.

9 MAY. MANLY FAIR TRADE MARKET (NSW). As Manly has recently been accredited as the first Fair Trade community in NSW, second in all of Australia, the markets are a celebration of this achievement. A range of Fair Trade vendors are showcased including Alter Eco Pacific, Andino Designs, along with entertainment, kid's activities, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate and much more. 9.00 am - 4.00 pm, Manly Wharf Forecourt. Contact: (02) 9976 1658 or volunteering@manly.nsw.gov.au if you are a vendor, performer or volunteer and you would like to participate. Web: <http://www.manly.nsw.gov.au/Manly-Fair-Trade-Markets.html>.

10 - 16 MAY. NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK (NATIONAL). UN International Day of Families, 15 May, marks the importance that the international community places on families as the most fundamental units of society, as well as to draw attention to the plight of families in many parts of the world. The aim of NFW 2009 is to encourage all Australians to think about and celebrate the many different people within families who make families united and strong and the many different types of families across society, each deserving respect and acknowledgement. Resources for events are available at <http://www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index.htm>.

10 MAY. MICAH CHALLENGE: 'MOTHER'S DAY ECARD' (NATIONAL). The Micah Challenge campaign wants to make the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a reality - to see poverty halved by 2015.

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality. Cut infant and child deaths by 2/3 by 2015.

MDG 5: Improve maternal health. Reduce by 3/4 the proportion of women dying in childbirth. This Mothers' Day is a chance to bring hope to women and their families and put a stop to the threat of illness and unnecessary death. To make sure these issues stay on the minds of our leaders in 2009, you can visit <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/mothersdayecard> and send an ecard to a politician. Contact: (02) 9453 1586 or info@micahchallenge.org.au. Web: <http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/health>.

10 MAY ONWARD. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (WA). Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website. Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Busselton, Paraburdoo, and Perth. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

11 MAY. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). This forum will provide an opportunity to comment on social issues faced by the community and workshop recommendations to address them. Also discussed will be QCOSS's advocacy work. No cost. (Multicultural Employment Focus) 10.00 - 11.00 am, MEAN, Multicultural Development Agency, 512 Stanley St, South Brisbane. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or (07) 3004 6900. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

11 MAY. ONE JUST WORLD FORUM: 'WORKERS OR SLAVES? HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND WORLD POVERTY' (QLD). One Just World is an initiative of International Women's Development Agency, World Vision Australia and AusAID. The OJW series aims to inform and provide ways to get more involved in making the changes needed to end global poverty and inequality and together build a more just and sustainable future. 6.00 - 7.30 pm, Conservatorium Theatre, QLD Conservatorium of Music, Russell St, South Bank. Contact: (07) 3387 2700 or (07) 3365 1671 or Brisbane@onejustworld.com.au, RSVP required. Web: <http://www.onejustworld.com.au>.

12 - 13 MAY. TRAINING SEMINAR: 'SERVICE PROVIDERS AND MUSLIM CLIENTS' (NSW).

The al-Ghazzali Centre for Islamic Sciences and Human Development will run a short course designed to suit all service providers, government and private sector organisations working with Muslim clients. Cost: \$120. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, Al-Ghazzali Centre Academy, 1021A Canterbury Road, (corner Willeroo Street), Lakemba. Contact: (02) 9708 1539 or academydirector@alghazzali.org. Web: <http://alghazzali.org/events/spmc1>.

12 MAY. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). A no-cost event concerning social issues and QCOSS's advocacy role. 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, QCOSS Office, 20 Pidgeon Close, West End. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or (07) 3004 6900. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

13 MAY. MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING SEMINAR (SA). Conducted by the Northern Area Migrant Resource Centre, Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service (STTARS) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to support the health and wellbeing of humanitarian new arrivals. 2.00 - 5.00 pm, Salisbury venue to be confirmed. Contact: (08) 8217 9518 or joseph@mrcsa.com.au. Web: <http://www.mrcsa.com.au/may.html>.

13 - 21 MAY. PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION: 'WOMEN AND WAR' (VIC). The collection portrays women from Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Sudan, exploring the ways in which women are affected by war, such as loss of contact with loved ones, physical and sexual violence, detention and displacement. It also honours the accomplishments of women during war, acknowledging their resilience and courage. The event is organised by the Red Cross. 9.00 am - 5.00 pm, The Atrium, Federation Square, corner Swanston and Flinders Streets, Melbourne. Web: <http://www.mapw.org.au/events/women-and-war-photo-exhibition>.

14, 20 AND 27 MAY. LECTURE SERIES: 'GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS' (NSW). The Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE) is holding a series of free public policy lectures

to help people know more about the global financial crisis. The speakers are experts in the field of macroeconomics and bring a refreshing viewpoint on the state of the global economy, how it got into such a mess and what is the way out of it.

14 May. Lecture 1 - An introduction to the Global Financial Crisis. Room UNH416, University House.

20 May. Lecture 2 - Macroeconomics for beginners 1. Room V101, Maths Building.

27 May. 2009 Lecture 3 - Macroeconomics for beginners 2. Room V101, Maths Building. No cost. 5.30 - 7.00 pm, UNEW, corner of King and Auckland Streets, Newcastle. Contact: (02) 4921 7283 or coffee@newcastle.edu.au. Web: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/>.

14 MAY. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). This forum will have a multicultural health focus. No cost. 10.30 - 11.30 am, Combined Health Agencies Group (CHAG), Multicultural Development Agency, 512 Stanley St, South Brisbane. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or (07) 3004 6900. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

15 MAY. PLAY: 'THE MAGIC WATERHOLE' (SA). Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) Arts present the launch and preview of this African children's play by Abdullah Teia. From 1.00 pm, MRC SA Hall, 59 King William Street, Adelaide. Contact: (08) 8217 9522 or keith@mrcsa.com.au. Web: <http://www.mrcsa.com.au/may.html>.

15 - 17 MAY. SEMINAR: 'COMMUNITY IN MISSION' (NSW). The Broken Bay Institute presents Prof Stephen Bevans SVD, Professor of Mission and Culture at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Cost \$295. 9.00 am - 4.00 pm, 125 Barney Street, Armidale. Contact: (02) 9847 0030 or info@bbi.catholic.edu.au. Web: <http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au>.

16 MAY. ERISJ ONE DAY INTENSIVE: 'NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE' (WA). Investigating non-violent struggles for justice, their relation to various spiritual persuasions and how they can be

put into practice effectively. The presenter, Khristo Newall, Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice (ERISJ) Immersions Coordinator has a vast background in youth work and community development. Cost: various. 10.00 am - 5.00 pm, ERISJ, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: (08) 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: http://erisj.org.au/090516_intensive.

16 MAY. DANCE PERFORMANCE EVENT: 'DANCE FOR YOUR WORLD' (QLD). Join the audience to watch a dance spectacular showcasing ten incredible dance styles. Donations on the day will go towards supporting Oxfam's life-saving work in Cambodia. No cost, donations welcomed. 12.00 - 3.00 pm, Reddacliff Place, Queen Street Mall, Brisbane. Contact: 0430 389 397. Web: <http://www.oxfam.org.au/events/>.

17 MAY. JUBILEE SUNDAY: 'DIGGING TO THE ROOTS OF POVERTY' (NATIONAL). Growing income disparity is a sign that there is something terribly wrong with the global financial system. When poverty becomes so entrenched, we need to dig to find the answers. How can a productive healthy country be built upon a mountain of debt? Learn more about the cycle of debt trapping millions of poor people today. Reflect on this situation in the light of scripture and Church social teaching. Put your faith into action this year. Urge your parish to get involved in Jubilee Sunday. Liturgy Resources are available at www.jubileeaustralia.org, (02) 9352 8021 or annelanyon.cmi@columban.org.au.

17 MAY ONWARD. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (QLD). Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website. Mount Isa, Thursday Island, Great Palm Island, Charleville, Atherton, Horn Island, Weipa, Townsville, Yarrabah, and Caloundra. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

18 MAY. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). No-cost event. 1.00 - 5.00 pm, Resort Bamaga, corner Lui & Adidi Streets, Bamaga. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or

(07) 3004 6900. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

18 MAY. THE EDMUND RICE NETWORK PRESENTS: CIARON O'REILLY (NSW). Ciaron is a well-known Christian peace activist, non-violent resister and active member of the Catholic Worker movement. He will speak about his radical form of activism and answer questions on non-violence and activism in the lead-up to this year's US-Australian war-games at Shoalwater Bay. 7.00 - 8.30 pm, Christian Brothers Centre, 2 Thames Street, Balmain. Contact: (02) 9810 3922 or 0488 295 190 or dmulhearn@edmundrice.org. Web: http://www.edmundrice.org/index.php?option=com_events&task=view_detail&agid=60&year=2009&month=05&day=18&Itemid=0.

19 MAY. ERISJ INFORMATION SESSION (WA). This session will explain the Edmund Rice Institute's vision and direction, Immersion Programs, volunteering opportunities and Social Justice education and training courses. No cost. 6.00 - 8.00 pm, ERISJ, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: (08) 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/freeinfoflight>.

20 MAY. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). No-cost event. 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, Cairns City Library, 151 Abbott St, Cairns or 10.30 am - 2.30 pm, Department of Primary Industries, Landsborough Highway, Longreach. Contact: (07) 3004 6900 or allysons@qcross.org.au. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

20 MAY. SEMINAR: 'PRISONS, PRIVATIZATION - THE PEOPLE AND THE POSSIBILITIES' (NSW). Catholic Leaders of Religious Institutes (NSW) Social Justice Committee invites congregational social justice coordinators and congregational members to this seminar. The speakers are Kep Enderby QC, former Federal Attorney General, former judge; and Michael Poynder, former Special Counsel, Justice Action Australia Coordinator, Community Justice Coalition member. Cost \$35.00. 1.30-5.00 pm, Good Samaritan Centre, 2 Avenue Rd, Glebe. Contact: (02) 9663 2199 or clrinsw@ozemail.com.au, RSVP by May 6. Web: http://www.faithdoingjustice.com.au/docs/Social_Justice_Seminar_Registration_Sheet_May_09.pdf.

20 MAY. SEMINAR: 'MARKET RESEARCHING "RECONCILIATION": THE AUSTRALIAN RECONCILIATION BAROMETER' (ACT).

The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) at Australian National University presents Tim Rowse, Professorial Fellow, Centre for Citizenship and Public Policy, University of Western Sydney, speaking on Reconciliation Australia's 'Australian Reconciliation Barometer'. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: (02) 6125 0587 or email: admin.caep@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caep/events09.php>.

21 MAY. SEMINAR: 'CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY: FAILED RHETORIC OR FUTURE REMEDY?' (NSW).

The role of business in protecting human rights will be a key focus of this seminar. Speakers are from the Office of the United Nations Special Representative on Business and Human rights, Australian Human Rights Commission, Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership, Allens Arthur Robison, Australian Human Rights Centre and Gilbert & Tobin Centre for Public Law. 5.30 - 7.45 pm, Allens Arthur Robison, Level 28, Deutsche Bank Place, corner of Hunter & Phillip Streets, Sydney. Contact: ahrc@unsw.edu.au, RSVP by 14th May. Web: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/events/index.html>.

23 MAY. ERISJ ONE DAY INTENSIVE: 'POLITICS, PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE' (WA). The presenter, Khristo Newall, ERISJ Immersions Coordinator has a vast background in youth work and community development. Cost: various. 10.00 am - 5.00 pm, ERISJ, 24 High Street, Fremantle. Contact: (08) 9432 2400 or admin@erisj.org.au. Web: http://erisj.org.au/090523_intensive.

24 MAY ONWARD. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (VIC). Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website. Ballarat. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

24 MAY. DINNER: 'WOMEN OF FAITH: "CREATING A BETTER FUTURE"' (NSW).

An evening that combines the intellectual, cultural & spiritual richness of women from diverse faith and backgrounds. Dinner and cultural entertainment included. Cost \$35. 6.00 pm, Bosphorous Reception Lounge, 7 Station St., Auburn. Contact: (02) 9702 0789, RSVP by 15 May. Web: http://www.affinity.org.au/html/cultural/intercultural/dinner/Year2009/WOF_dinner09_Flyer2.pdf.

26 MAY. SORRY DAY: 'SHARING A JOURNEY OF HEALING' (NATIONAL). The Historic National Apology initiated a new step toward the healing needed for Stolen Generations, their families and communities. It also united Australians through out the nation in a shared Journey of Healing. The National Sorry Day Committee invites all Australians to come together and to share a morning tea or lunch as a way to commemorate this special day. Web: http://www.nsd.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=58&Itemid=26.

26 MAY. SEMINAR: 'THE WELFARE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: REGULATIONS AND SOCIAL POLICY FOR NON-CITIZENS?' (NSW). The Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, presents this seminar examining a report of a study of international student welfare in Australia and New Zealand, utilising 300 in-depth interviews across the two countries. Presenter: Gaby Ramia, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Level 2, Room 250, Robert Webster Building (G14), UNSW, Kensington. Contact: (02) 9385 7817 or sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au, RSVP by 22 May. Web: http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/seminars/2009%20Program/Ramia_Flyer.pdf.

26 MAY. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). No-cost event. 10.00 am - 2.00 pm, Roma Neighbourhood Centre, 44 Quintin Street, Roma OR (Multicultural Focus) 11.00 am - 12.00 pm, Toowoomba Multicultural Network, 17 Long St, Toowoomba. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or (07) 3004 6900. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

27 MAY. BENEFIT CONCERT FOR RAPE VICTIMS OF WAR IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: 'GIVING A VOICE' (NSW). Jazz concert to raise funds for Caritas development programs in DRC. All the musicians are donating their time, along with a designer, publicist, and the venue (which is only taking a small ticket fee). Lulu Mitshabu (Caritas) will be speaking on the night and there will be a Caritas information stall as well. Cost: \$60. 8.00 pm, The Sound Lounge, Seymour Centre, corner of City Road and Cleveland Street, Chippendale. Book: (02) 9351 7940 or <http://www.seymourcentre.com.au>.

27 MAY. NORTH SYDNEY SOCIAL JUSTICE YOUTH FORUM (NSW). Secondary school students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of lectures and workshops conducted by various social justice groups and ACU National staff and students. These workshops aim to stimulate awareness within the field of social justice. This year's keynote address will be delivered by 2007 Young Australian of the Year, Tania Major. 8.30 am - 2.30 pm, North Sydney Campus (MacKillop), 40 Edward Street, North Sydney. Contact: (07) 3623 7498 or sjyf@acu.edu.au. Web: www.acu.edu.au/sjyf.

27 MAY - 3 JUNE. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK: 'SEE A PERSON, NOT A STEREOTYPE' (NATIONAL). Each year NRW celebrates the rich culture and history of the First Australians. May 27 marks the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum in which more than 90 per cent of Australians voted to remove clauses from the Australian Constitution which discriminated against Indigenous Australians. June 3 marks the anniversary of the High Court's judgment in the 1992 Mabo case. NRW and other events are posted on an Online Events Calendar at <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/get-involved/events-calendar>. Web: <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-resources/nrw-resources>.

NATSIEC has produced a resource for the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation now available on its website <http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec>.

27 MAY. ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: 'SORRY AFTER THE APOLOGY . . . A WAY FORWARD' (VIC). Vicki Clark,

Coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne will be the speaker. 12.10 - 1.00 pm, Pastoral Centre, St Francis, 326 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. Contact: (03) 9663 2495 or pastoralcentre@blessedsacrament.com.au. Web: http://www.blessedsacrament.com.au/_uploads/nwslt/00127.pdf.

28 MAY. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). No-cost event. 10.00 am - 3.30 pm, Juwarki Kapu-Lug Corporation, 175 East St, Rockhampton. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or (07) 3004 6900. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

28 MAY - 20 JUNE. PLAY: 'MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE' (NSW). In 2003, Rachel Corrie left her American hometown and went to Palestine as a part of peaceful demonstrations in the Gaza Strip. In March that year she was killed by an Israeli Defence Force bulldozer. This play is the story of this individual's journey in the global struggle for sense and justice. Cost: \$20 - \$34. The Seymour Centre, corner of City Road and Cleveland Street, Chippendale. Contact: (02) 9351 7940. Web: <http://www.seymourcentre.com.au>.

28 - 29 MAY. FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE, SETTLEMENT SERVICES: 'BUILDING A FUTURE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION' (ACT). Hosted by the Settlement Council of Australia (SCoA), the conference will bring together recipients of settlement grants funding, client groups and policy makers to share models of good practice, as well as to identify issues and gaps and ways in which these can be addressed in the future. It will also focus on community development approaches as well as highlight and address the needs of women and young people. Cost \$330. Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Level 2, 180 London Circuit, Canberra. Contact (02) 8065 5225 or andrew@scoa.org.au. Web: http://www.cnet.ngo.net.au/images/stories/05_settlement_council_conference_2009.pdf.

29 - 31 MAY. SISTERHOOD CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (NSW). The conference seeks to equip, empower and inspire women between the ages of 17-40 to

return to their own parish, community and work place to make a difference. Cost: \$170. Friday 6.30 pm - Sunday 2.00 pm, Collaroy Centre, Homestead Avenue, Collaroy Beach. Contact: info@sisterhood.org.au. Web: www.sisterhood.org.au.

29 MAY. BRISBANE SOCIAL JUSTICE YOUTH FORUM (QLD). Secondary school students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of lectures and workshops, conducted by various social justice concern groups and Australian Catholic University National staff and students. These workshops aim to stimulate awareness within the field of social justice. This year's keynote address will be delivered by 2007 Young Australian of the Year, Tania Major. 7.30 am - 2.30 pm, Brisbane Campus (McAuley at Banyo), 1100 Nudgee Road, Banyo. Contact: (07) 3623 7498 or sjyf@acu.edu.au. Web: www.acu.edu.au/sjyf.

29 MAY. ASYLUM SEEKERS CENTRE FUNDRAISER: BOLLYWOOD QUIZ NIGHT (NSW). This is the Centre's annual fundraiser to raise much needed capital to assist in their compassionate and humanitarian work. HG Nelson and Tony Squires are Quiz Masters. Prizes for best dressed Bollywood style. Cost: \$55 donation each. 7.30 pm, North Sydney Leagues Club, 12 Abbot Street, Cammeray. Contact: 0407 892 532 or ascquiznight09@gmail.com, booking required. Web: <http://www.asylumseekerscentre.org.au/>.

30 MAY. REFLECTION: 'ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION' (NSW). Opportunities for personal reflection and sharing on how we can make a difference in the way we cherish the whole of creation and contribute to sustaining our world for future generations. The speaker is Pat O'Gorman, Good Samaritan Oblate, Leader for Catholic Life and Religious Education, CEO, Wollongong. Cost: \$30. 9.30 am - 3.30 pm, Mt St Benedict Centre, Hull Road, Pennant Hills. Contact: (02) 9484 6208 or mtstbenedict@bigpond.com.au. Web: http://www.goodsams.org.au/html/what/st_benedict.html.

31 MAY - JUNE. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (NT). Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website. Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Maningrida, Wadeye, Tennant Creek and Kintore. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

31 MAY ONWARD. NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES (WA). Everyone interested in attending a Community Roundtable is encouraged to register at the website. Broome. Contact: 1800 086 134. Web: <http://humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/community.nsf/calendar>.

3 - 5 JUNE. NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE: 'SPIRIT OF COUNTRY: LAND, WATER & LIFE' (VIC). This conference will provide the opportunity for diverse peoples to come together and engage in debate, including - native title holders and claimants, traditional owners, native title representative bodies and service agencies, Commonwealth and State government agencies, academics, etc. The conference sub themes include: Strengthening communities; Rivers, Lakes and Sea country; Respectful engagement; Economies, ecologies and ideologies; Connecting throughout diversity; and Stories to learn from. Cost: \$720. Melbourne Cricket Ground, Brunton Avenue, Richmond, East Melbourne. Contact: (02) 6246 1161 or ntru@aiatsis.gov.au, RSVP by 22 May. Web: <http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/>.

4 JUNE. QCOSS SOCIAL POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM (QLD). A no-cost event. 9.30 am - 1.00 pm, Mount Isa RSL, 89 Barkly Highway, Mount Isa. Contact: allysons@qcross.org.au or (07) 3004 6900. Web: <http://www.qcross.org.au/Article.aspx?type=event&id=5636>.

6 JUNE. JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS) BALL (QLD). The inaugural JRS Ball in Brisbane will seek both to raise funds and awareness to support the work of JRS in Australia and internationally. Cost: \$120. 7.00 pm - 12.00 am, Stuartholme College, Birdwood Terrace, Toowong. Contact: JRSBallBrisbane@gmail.com or 0415 358 679. Web: <http://www.jrs.org.au>.

9 - 11 JUNE. AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PROFESSIONAL AND APPLIED ETHICS SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 'PROFESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY' (NSW). The AAPAE Conference welcomes practitioners and academics from various disciplines and professions for discussion of interests and issues in applied and professional ethics. Speakers will include Commissioner John Pritchard, Police Integrity Commission; Associate Professor Gillian Cowlshaw, University of Technology, Sydney; Dr Brian Steels, Murdoch University; and Mr Stephen Keim SC. Cost \$400 (members \$290). Best Western CentreTown, Lagoon Street, Goulburn. Contact: (02) 4824 2523 or acorbocrehan@csu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.csu.edu.au/faculty/arts/policing/aapae/index.htm>.

9 JUNE. SEMINAR: 'THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN CHINA' (NSW). The Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW, presents this seminar exploring the experiences of children and young people with disability in China and examining the impact on three dimensions of social participation - communication, social relationships and interest representation. Speakers are Xiaoyuan Shang and Karen Fisher, Senior Research Fellows, Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Level 2, Room 250, Robert Webster Building (G14), UNSW, Kensington. Contact: (02) 9385 7817 or sprcseminars@unsw.edu.au, RSVP by 5 June. Web: http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/seminars/2009%20Program/Ramia_Flyer.pdf.

10 JUNE. SEMINAR: 'WELLBEING, CAPABILITIES AND INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS: CAN INDIGENOUS WELLBEING BE MEASURED AND, IF SO, HOW?' (ACT). The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, CAEPR, at Australian National University presents speakers including Kirrily Jordan, Post-Doctoral Fellow CAEPR, and Geoff Buchanan, Research Officer, CAEPR, speaking on the notions of wellbeing on Indigenous policy in Australia and the implications for policy development. 12.30 - 1.30 pm, Humanities Conference Room, First Floor, A.D. Hope Bldg #14 (opposite Chifley Library), The Australian National University, Canberra. Contact: (02) 6125 0587 or admin.caepr@anu.edu.au. Web: <http://www.anu.edu.au/caepr/events09.php>

27 JUNE - 18 JULY. ERISJ: TIMOR-LESTE (EAST TIMOR) IMMERSION (NATIONAL). Experience a life-changing journey to Timor Leste. The program includes some time spent in the capital Dili, as well as visits to various places of significance in the recent history of Timor, and time staying in the villages outside of Dili. Here you will be hosted by local families, and live and work alongside the community to get a genuine insight into the lives of people in Timor Leste. The Immersion facilitators are Samuel Drumm from New Zealand, and Khristo Newall from Australia. This immersion will provide you with a real insight into Timorese daily life, engagement with community, NGOs, history and culture, as well as a profound engagement with Timor's natural beauty. The costs (ex Perth) are: Waged \$2995. Contact: (08) 9432 2411 or immersions@erisj.org.au. Web: <http://erisj.org.au/timor>.

News Monitor

Job service changes "madness": Quinlan
Catholic Social Services Australia head Frank Quinlan slammed Federal government changes to job placement and training programs, describing comments by Minister for Employment Participation, Brendan O'Connor, as "madness".

MacKillop attacks Vic government over failure
MacKillop Family Service director of services, Helen Burt, said the organisation was devastated at the failure of Victoria's Department of Human Services to disclose that a 12 year old year placed in their care had been accused of rape.

Re-open Afghan asylum seeker cases:

Glendenning

Afghani refugee, Asmatullah Mohammadi, said that 11 asylum seekers detained on Nauru had been killed by the Taliban after they were sent back to Afghanistan but Edmund Rice Centre director Phil Glendenning said he believes the true figure was even higher.

Remember Africa at G20: Pope tells UK's Brown

In a letter to Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Pope Benedict urged the United Kingdom to set the tone for world leaders and remember the poor at the Group of 20 summit in London.

Don't forget the developing world at the G20

Caritas Australia called on G20 leaders to put the poor in the developing world front and centre at this week's London Summit.

Mary MacKillop Mission nominates East Timor for Australian honour

The Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission announced that it will nominate Timor-Leste for the award of Companion of the Order of Australia (Honorary) in recognition of the unique contribution of the Timorese people to Australian soldiers during World War II.

Australian community service industry group formed

Catholic Social Services Australia joined with other service organisations to launch the Australian Community Services Industry Group.

Peace activist in new Christian Brothers role

Peace activist and former Iraq human shield, Donna Mulhearn, was to take up a role as Regional Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network in NSW and the ACT.

Brazil court to retry Stang accused

A Brazilian court ordered the arrest and retrial of a rancher previously acquitted of the murder of US born, Sr Dorothy Stang.

Volunteers sought for last frontier

The De La Salle brothers were seeking volunteers

for their education programs at a Papua New Guinea high school.

Four shot in Indonesian Papua protest: Activist

At least four people were wounded when police opened fire on demonstrators calling for independence and an election boycott in Indonesia's Papua region, a local Catholic activist said.

Sri Lankan asylum seekers charged

Three Sri Lankan fishermen were the first asylum seekers on Christmas Island to be charged with escaping custody when they allegedly went in search of a Catholic priest after being informed their asylum applications had been rejected.

Boat explosion a reminder of dangers: Grech

The explosion on a refugee boat near Ashmore Reef was a tragedy for all involved and a reminder of the dangers people face in fleeing their homeland, ACBC spokesman, Bishop Joseph Grech said.

Leaders establish religious liberty centre

Prominent Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders, including Sydney Cardinal George Pell, have joined to form a lobby group, the Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty, to fight what they say was the growing threat to religious freedom in Australia.

Chennai archbishop denounces Sri Lanka failure to act

Chennai, India, Archbishop Malayappan Chinnappa denounced the international community's failure to act to prevent a "mass massacre" in northern Sri Lanka while people were killed when a shell struck a church in the conflict zone.

Aussie miner accused over Malawi mine safety

Australian owned uranium miner, Paladin (Africa) Limited pledged to fulfil its social responsibilities after the local Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace accused the company over alleged injuries and deaths at a Malawi mine.

Like another tsunami: Sri Lankan priest says

Tamil Catholics mobbed Trincomalee priest, Fr Ajith Perera, demanding Mass when he arrived at a refugee centre on Sri Lanka's north-east coast.

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

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.



Social Justice Calendar

1 FRI

St Joseph the Worker
International Workers Day
Save the Rhino Day

2 SAT

Fair Trade Fortnight commences

3 SUN

4th Sunday of Easter
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
World Press Freedom Day

8 FRI

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day
War ends in Europe, 1945
First Anti-Vietnam War Moratorium March in
Australian cities, 1970

10 SUN

5th Sunday of Easter
Mothers Day
Nelson Mandela's Inaugural Address as
President of South Africa, 1994

12 TUE

International Day for Nurses (Anniversary of
Florence Nightingale's birth)
Doctors for Doctors Day

13 WED

International Conscientious Objectors Day

15 FRI

UN International Day of Families

17 SUN

6th Sunday of Easter
World Telecommunication Day
Death of Fr Ted Kennedy, 2005

20 WED

Timor-Leste becomes fully independent, 2002

21 THU

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue
and Development

Murder of Australian Josephite Sister Irene
McCormack in Peru, 1991

22 FRI

International Day for Biological Diversity.
Theme: Biodiversity and Invasive Alien Species

24 SUN

The Ascension
World Communications Day
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity commences
Mary Help of Christians, Patron of Australia
Foundation of World Council of Churches, 1948

25 MON

Bringing Them Home Report released, 1997
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of
Non-Self-Governing Territories Fighting for
Freedom, Independence and Human Rights
commences
Africa Day

26 TUE

National Sorry Day
Referendum allows Federal Government to
grant citizen rights to Indigenous Australians,
1967
National Reconciliation Week begins
Week of Prayer for Reconciliation begins

29 FRI

Sacred Heart of Jesus
Torres Strait Islander flag launched
International Day of UN Peacekeepers

31 SUN

Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)
World No Tobacco Day

Notes on these dates are available in the printed ACSJC's Seasons of Social Justice Diary. The cost is \$6.60. To order go to http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/content/publications/social_justice_calendar.html, or call 02 8306 3499.