



# Justice & Peace

News from National Justice and Peace Network

Autumn 2004

## National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

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**NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK**  
A company limited by guarantee  
Registered in England and Wales  
Company number 5036866  
Registered Office  
39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

The National Justice & Peace Network co-ordinates and encourages work for justice and peace within the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales.

*This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.*

Editor  
Maureen Matthews

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**NEXT ISSUE DATE**  
**JANUARY 2005**

**COPY DATE**  
**10 DECEMBER**  
**2004**

## THE WAY FORWARD — NJPN 3 YEAR PLAN



*The Executive with Louise*

At the beginning of September members of the Executive met together at Park Place Pastoral Centre in the Portsmouth Diocese. The meeting took place over a period of three days with a very intensive agenda and a tight schedule. The aim of the exercise was to put together the backbone of a comprehensive long term plan for the continued progress of the network.

The task was facilitated by Louise Zanre of Jesuit Refugee Service, whose great skill lead us so positively and in such a supportive manner in what was a mammoth task to be completed in a limited amount of time.

The need for a precise, detailed and realistic long term plan had become evident for the following reasons:

- As a matter of good practice for an independent company with legal responsibilities.
- To enable The Network to move forward in an effective and focused manner and achieve a higher profile as a grass roots organisation within the Church.
- To be in a strong position to apply for and attract substantive funding.

The weekend meeting was part of a process which had been ongoing for more than a year. During the quarterly meeting of September 2003 there was an opportunity for group discussion on ways in which the Network could continue to be an effective channel for promoting Gospel values of Justice and Peace.

In January 2004, members of the Executive

had a productive meeting with Jane Leek of the Derwent trust, reflecting on the position of the Network and possible ways forward. At this meeting we took account of the notes from the group discussions of the September meeting. The Fieldworkers undertook an analysis which considered strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. The outcome of this analysis informed our deliberations. In March 2004 there was a consultation with representatives of some twenty Agencies and Religious Institutions involved in working for Justice and Peace. In this forum views were sought as to how each wished to see The Network develop over the following three year period. During this meeting key areas for development were identified and further informed our planning.

Questionnaires were included in the last edition of this Newsletter and also circulated at Conference in July 2004. As with all previous consultation exercises these initiatives informed the planning process.

By September 2004 the Executive had consulted widely and brought to the planning weekend a wide range of data to be collated, considered and acted upon.

At the heart of the deliberations were the Vision, Mission and Values Statements. There was a need to revisit and establish their continued relevance.

Accepting the validity of the Vision, Mission and Values the priority was to remain faithful to these. There was also the need to be realistic in our expectations of ourselves and others. By the end of the weekend the Executive had completed a draft plan, which was delivered verbally at the quarterly meeting in September 2004.

What has been produced as a result of many hours of consultation, deliberation and decision making is an ambitious flexible action plan, to be continually evaluated and adapted. If the planned objectives are to be achieved completely or in part we must continue to work where we are able and travel in Hope.



*planning*



*presenting*

## CONFERENCE REPORT - "Catch the allergy of Jesus to any kind of discrimination"



Fr Ed O'Connell, Bishop Keiran Conry and Fr John Fuellenbach at conference

The Christian community must demonstrate compassion and a thirst for justice and "catch the allergy of Jesus to any kind of discrimination" said Fr John Fuellenbach. The Divine Word priest who lectures at the Gregorian University in Rome was speaking at the 26th annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) which took place in Swanwick, Derbyshire on 16 - 18 July. He went on to say that if Christians forget the victims of injustice, Christianity has "lost the plot".

Another keynote speaker, Fr Ed O'Connell SSC, a Columban missionary priest based in Peru, suggested that parishes should be "schools of formation" to educate Catholics to be missionary disciples in the world. He stressed the importance of the Justice and Peace networks at national and diocesan level in Britain. In his own parish of Lima the 50,000 parishioners reflect on the Scriptures and life of Jesus and then apply the values they find to the struggles experienced and witnessed in their everyday lives.

The Conference entitled: "*Bringing forth the Kingdom: Love and Justice in a Broken World*", was attended by 350 justice and peace activists from all 22 dioceses of England and Wales who enjoyed the Saturday afternoon of conference attending a Global Village Fete. By bursting balloons representing popular prejudices such as racism, putting mock guns through a mangle, knocking down 'nuclear weapons', playing a trade justice game of snakes and ladders and experiencing a time in prison, those present were reminded in a graphic way of what they had heard of Kingdom values during the weekend.

This year it was the turn of Arundel and Brighton Diocese to do the hard work of organizing the conference alongside the NJPN National Administrator Maureen Matthews. Its bishop Kieran Conry participated throughout the weekend and described the conference as "a useful reminder that although we have focused traditionally on sacramental life and put the emphasis on personal salvation the fundamental mission of the church is to go out and preach". The message is "that God loves us all equally".

## J & P action for a whole parish

The Justice and Peace Group at St. Mellitus church Tollington Park has a variety of ongoing activities, but one of them really caught the imagination of the whole parish. It was the case of Kathy Gun, the woman who blew the whistle on the government's eavesdropping unit at Cheltenham, officially known as the GCHQ.

In the build up to the war on Iraq, she realised that underhand pressure was being put on half a dozen members of the U.N. Security Council, to give approval to the American led invasion. She alerted the press, and within a few days the whole world knew. Her cause was taken up by Liberty (the Council for Civil Liberties), and no fewer than 143 other organizations, including the J & P group from Tollington Park.

Our J&P group decided to give public support to her stance, because an important issue of truthfulness was at stake. To be precise, she was living out the words which Jesus said in front of Pontius Pilate, "For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth."

We made a poster for the church porch incorporating her photo and a statement of why we were supporting her. On the day of her hearing at the Old Bailey two members of the group demonstrated outside the Court with a poster urging the government to drop the charges against her. As is well known the charges were dropped because the government was hopelessly compromised by their own lack of truth. They just could not risk exposure in open court, when the Attorney General's advice on the legality of the war might be used as evidence. That advice had to be kept concealed for reasons which must be obvious.

After her acquittal, we realised that the previous nine months must have been traumatic in the extreme so we composed a letter pledging our continued moral support, and this letter was signed by sixty of the parishioners at Tollington Park.

The whole incident is an illustration of Gandhi's contention about the power of simple truth.

*This action could be replicated on other issues by other parishes and groups*

## OSCOTT ACTION FOR J&P



For many years there has been a justice and peace group at St Mary's Seminary in Oscott. During the last year this group has re-established itself, joining with a fundraising group and coming together every month to look at the issues and to try and fundraise and get involved with various campaigns. The group meets once a month and comprises both students and staff. The college has allocated a room dedicated to Oscar Romero to be a J&P base and the students have been busy setting it up for their activities.

The group have been busy fundraising for its four chosen charities: CAFOD; Aid to the Church in Need; Fireside Centre and a project in Uganda run by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa. The promotions team and the prayer team were both involved in raising funds and the groups Co-ordinator, second year student John Paul Lyttle chose to fall from the sky in an effort to boost the fundraising. His skydiving adventure raised a total of more than £8000 and a celebration on Pentecost Sunday saw cheques totaling £11,000 handed over to representatives of the four charities.

'Our aim is to support and to promote awareness of the work of Justice and Peace because we know that Justice and Peace are not extras but are fundamental to being a Christian as they are Gospel values', says Mr Lyttle.

During the next academic year the students will be supporting the work of Brushstrokes, a local charity run by a Sister and a team of people reaching out to those most in need. The doors are open and food, clothes, advice and education are offered to anyone who comes. Fr Mark Crisp, the Rector of Oscott, is keen to encourage the students to get involved in a practical way in a local soup kitchen and in other 'hands on' activities. As John Paul says "Praying and fundraising are very important but action naturally is a part of the J&P triad. Recent contact with the National Justice and Peace Network has been very beneficial and has given an understanding of Justice and Peace in the wider church."

# JRS

## JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

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www.jrsuk.net

Country Director  
Louise Zanre

***This is the eighth  
report from an  
agency whose work  
we promote and  
support***

# JP

JUSTITIA  
ET PAX

**CONFERENCE OF  
EUROPEAN JUSTICE  
AND PEACE  
COMMISSIONS**

***Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is an international Catholic non-governmental organisation, at work in over 50 countries, with a mission to accompany, serve and defend the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced people.***

With a priority to working wherever the needs of displaced people are urgent and unattended by others, JRS offers an individual and pastoral service to refugees and the communities who host them through a wide range of rehabilitation and relief activities. Services — pastoral care, education for children and adults, social services, counselling, and health care—are tailored to meet local needs according to available resources.

In the UK, JRS fulfils this mission on behalf of asylum seekers from their first arrival until they are satisfactorily settled. This work is carried out in collaboration with other JRS offices round the world, other Church and secular organisations, voluntary and governmental, which are active in the same field. Our main areas of work are with asylum seekers who are detained, and with those who are left destitute by the asylum system here in the UK.

There are currently around 2000 bed spaces available for detainees in immigration removal centres around the UK. Despite the name of the centres, about two thirds of detainees at any one point are asylum seekers, many of whom are still having their claims for asylum considered. A small proportion are awaiting removal from the UK. Immigration detention in the UK is arbitrary: it is not ordered or supervised by a court and can occur at any point from arrival in the UK onwards. Most immigration removal centres are not easy to get to; and many people do not realise they even exist. Asylum seekers in the UK are among the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in our society. Those in detention are also isolated. It is difficult for them to communicate with the outside world; to find a solicitor to pursue their asylum claim or to communicate with their solicitor if they have one.

In a modest way JRS tries to break down that isolation — through visits, correspondence, sending phone cards, and sending newspapers in their own languages or newsheets from their own home countries.

In a similar way, through modest action we try to accompany those who are left destitute by the system. In practice many of the asylum seekers in this position who come to us are right at the end of their cases and have been granted temporary admission to the UK (permission to be here pending removal, but with no right to work or to benefits or to accommodation). Many asylum seekers in this position are totally reliant on friends and family and charity to live. They are too frightened to return home. Some of them have not exhausted all their appeals but cannot find a solicitor to take their case forward. And some are from countries the UK recognises to be unsafe and will not enforce removals to, but they are left without any status here.

We offer friendship, a safe place for them to meet and a simple shared lunch in the office. Many of our supporters send us nectar vouchers, which we send on to the destitute around the country.

Because we realise that the only way to appreciably change things for the better for our refugee friends is to have policy change and legislative change, the final part of our work is focussed on awareness raising and lobbying. We produce a free quarterly newsletter highlighting current asylum issues; we produce briefings for MPs and Members of the House of Lords on legislation going through parliament; we respond to government consultations; and we provide speakers and workshop leaders for events around the country.



*Msgr Frank J. Dewane of the Pontifical Council & Josef Bieger Chair Juspax*

The meeting of the Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions took place this year at the end of

September in Sarajevo. Present at the conference were representatives from nineteen European countries and twenty-five agencies. Maureen Matthews, Administrator of National Justice & Peace Network attended for England & Wales.

During the course of the meeting it was agreed that the Ukraine should become a member of the Conference.

The study days which followed the meeting heard of the need, still felt ten years on, for there to be a Truth and Reconciliation process in Bosnia-Herzegovina and of the ongoing problems of getting new laws implemented. A visit to a multi-ethnic school of more than a thousand pupils and run by the Catholic Church showed some of the bridge-building efforts being made between the diverse communities.

# DIARY

Prayer . . Information . . Reflection . . Action . .

# BURMA UPDATE

2004

(Please check all details with organisers before using this information)

- Oct 17 **International Day for Eradication of Poverty**  
UK Coalition Against Poverty Save the Children 020 7703 5400
- Oct 17-22 **ICON of Peace Week**, St Ethelburga's Church, London  
Pax Christi 020 8203 4884
- Oct 17-24 **One World Week Your Move!** 0118 9394933 [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)
- Oct 23 **Fellowship of Reconciliation 90th Anniversary Celebration.** 01832 720257
- Oct 24 **United Nations Day** [www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/)
- Oct 26 **Urban Poverty Round Table** Contact: 020 7901 4831, [zipfelr@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:zipfelr@cbcew.org.uk)
- Oct 30 **"Act for Change"** Church Action on Poverty Annual Conference, Methodist Central Hall, Birmingham. 0161 236 9321
- Nov **Will Aid.** Make a will during November through participating solicitors to benefit charity. Contact: [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) or Tel: 0870 6060 239
- Nov 1-7 **Landmine Action Week** Landmine Action 020 7820 0222
- Nov 8 **Peacemaking in Israel/Palestine** with Eilyah McLean from Jerusalem. Worth Abbey, West Sussex. Contact Paul Fleetwood 01342 710331 8.00pm
- Nov 10 **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel** Cathedral Parish Centre, Leeds 7.30pm. Contact: [joeandcarol@lineone.net](mailto:joeandcarol@lineone.net)
- Nov 12-14 **British Liberating Theologies Now** Wistaston Hall, Crewe 01270 629710 [sdjp@fish.co.uk](mailto:sdjp@fish.co.uk)
- Nov 13 **Bridges not Walls** seminar with Pat Gaffney & Pat Price Tomes. 10.30 - 1.30pm Parish Hall, St Mary's Church, West Croydon. Contact: 020 8688 8406
- Nov 14 **Remembrance Day** Peace Pledge Union white poppies 020 7424 9444
- Nov 18 **Columbia Solidarity Campaign** speaker Fr Janvier Giraldo. Diocesan Centre, Mackworth, Derby 7.30pm. Contact: 01332 293836
- Nov 21 **Prisoners' Sunday** PACT (Prison Advice & Care Trust) 020 7582 1313
- Nov 27 **'Refugees and Conflict'** a forum day - Heythrop College, 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HN Email: [mary.horbury@refugee-forum.org.uk](mailto:mary.horbury@refugee-forum.org.uk) or [www.paxchristi.org.uk/events](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/events) or Tel: 07789 014819
- Dec 1 **Prisoners for Peace Day** Amnesty 020 7814 6200
- Dec 1 **World Aids Day** World Health Organisation 020 7814 6726
- Dec 10 **UN Human Rights Day (UN)** [www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/)
- Dec 18 **World Migration Day** Contact: [international@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:international@cbcew.org.uk)
- 2005**
- Jan 16 **Peace Sunday. "Do not overcome evil by evil, overcome evil with good"**  
Pax Christi 020 8203 4884
- Jan 18-25 **Week for Prayer for Christian Unity 'Christ the one foundation of the church'**  
CTBI 020 7654 7254
- Jan 30 **Homelessness Sunday** Contact Housing Justice: 020 7723 7273
- Feb 6 **Poverty Action Sunday** (formerly Unemployment Sunday) 0161 2369321
- Mar 12 **Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Conference**, Crewe. Contact: 01270 620584
- April 10-16 **A Week of Action** where as many campaigns as possible across the world active on trade and neo-liberalism come together in united action.
- July 8-10 **"We are Stewards of Creation"** 27th Annual National J&P Conference, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Contact: 020 7901 4864

## EU PUTS TRADE BEFORE HUMAN RIGHTS

European Union Foreign Ministers met and decided they would allow Burma to join the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEM holds biannual summits to foster good relations between Asia and the European Union. The decision is disappointing, as the EU had promised not to let Burma join unless certain conditions were met first, including releasing Aung San Suu Kyi.

## VOTE FOR SUU KYI

The people of Burma are not allowed to vote for Aung San Suu Kyi, but Time Asia magazine have conducted a website poll of Asian heroes. At the close of the voting on 3 October Aung San Suu Kyi had gained the highest number at 41.4% of the total of 86645 votes cast.

Aung San Suu Kyi remains under house arrest. The regime has banned her from all contact with the outside world. No-one is allowed to visit her, and her phone line has been cut.

## BURMA DIRTY LIST

The Burma Campaign UK has published a new edition of the 'Dirty List' of companies directly or indirectly funding the regime in Burma. Almost 100 companies are on the new list.

You can view the new 'Dirty List' on our website at: [http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/dirty\\_list/dirty\\_list.php](http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/dirty_list/dirty_list.php)

There is a special edition of the 'Dirty List' with the contact details of each company so that it is easy to write to them and ask them to end their involvement in Burma. Priority companies to write to include DHL, Noble Caledonia, Aon Corporation, and Lloyd's of London.

# NEWS

## NEW FIELDWORKER FOR LIVERPOOL

Steve Atherton has been appointed the Justice and Peace Fieldworker for Liverpool. He can be contacted at J&P Office, LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, L17 1AA or Email: [s.atherton@rcaol.com](mailto:s.atherton@rcaol.com) or 0151 522 1081. Welcome.