



# Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Autumn 2006

## National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

39 Eccleston Square  
London SW1V 1BX  
Tel: 020 7901 4864  
Fax: 020 7901 4821  
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk  
Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK  
A UK Registered Charity no. 1114947  
Company no. 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**  
**FEBRUARY**  
**COPY DATE**  
**8 JANUARY 2007**

## NJPN BECOMES A CHARITY



**NJPN EXECUTIVE:**  
Mike Clarke, Claire Lawrence, Alison Gelder, Kevin Burr, Anne Peacey, Eddie Slawinski, Steve Atherton

The National Justice and Peace Network has been granted Charity Status and is Charity No. 1114947.

As the main forum for J&P activists in England & Wales for nearly thirty years NJPN has grown over the years, both in membership and in the range of services to all those engaged in the prophetic ministry of proclaiming the Gospel values of justice and peace.

NJPN's most public activity is its annual conference, which from relatively small beginnings, now regularly attracts between 300 and 400 participants, including many families, where the children and young people have their own programme throughout the weekend.

This Newsletter, circulated with Vocation for

Justice, also has a distribution of 7400 people.

All major decisions are taken by NJPN members at Quarterly meetings, but most important projects and developments require the detailed scrutiny of a small voluntary Executive. As Directors and Trustees, members of the Executive have clearly laid out responsibilities before the law and NJPN's members, but also a defined framework in which to operate. Training for these roles will become a feature of NJPN's development. Ideally, a future Executive will consist of members with the range of skills and backgrounds not only to represent the diversity of the J&P community, but also to run a successful company and charity.

A word of thanks:

- ❖ To our members who have patiently supported the executive during these testing times, with prayers, encouragement and advice;
- ❖ To those who have served on the Executive, and have contributed their efforts, time and skills;
- ❖ To all our 'stakeholders' who have contributed time, advice and in some cases funds to facilitate our reorganisation and re-skilling.

If you would like to support the work of the Network and get the Government to support us, it is now possible for us to receive Gift Aid. If you are a UK tax payer please consider donating to the network on the Gift Aid Form below.

Thank you.

<b>National Justice and Peace Network</b> Instructions to Bank or Building Society to pay by standing order Charity No: 1114947 Company No: 5036866 <b>PLEASE RETURN TO:</b> National Justice and Peace Network 39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX	Name and full postal address of your bank/building society Name ..... Address ..... ..... Post Code .....	Instructions to your Bank/Building Society Please pay National Justice and Peace Network Sort Code 16 31 15 Account No. 10006157 the sum of £ ..... Amount in words ..... Per calendar month / quarter / year (delete as appropriate) First payment date .....
	Name(s) of account holder(s) Name ..... Address ..... ..... Post Code .....	I am a UK tax payer and by making this declaration I give permission for the named charity to reclaim tax on: 1. Whatever donations I have made to NJPN since 31 July 2006 and all future donations, until further notice. <input type="checkbox"/> 2. All donations I make from the date of this declaration until further notice. <input type="checkbox"/> 3. The enclosed lump sum donation. £ ..... (Please tick / complete the above boxes as appropriate)
	Bank/Building Society: Account Number ..... Sort Code .....	Signature(s) ..... Date .....

# SCATTERING SEEDS OF HOPE

National Justice and Peace Network Conference - 2006

"Our world today, marked as it is by poverty, hunger in all its senses, corruption, oppression, war and the abuse of women, could well cause us to despair of mutual understanding and lasting solutions. But we are an Easter People, a people of hope because of our faith and our commitment to justice for all..."

These words formed the framework of the National Justice and Peace Network's annual conference held on 21-23 July 2006 in Swanwick, Derbyshire. More than 300 delegates attended the meeting, whose keynote was encapsulated in one simple, evocative concept: *The Desert will bloom, scattering seeds of Hope*. Fr Jim O'Keefe from the diocese of Hexham-Newcastle,

which organised this year's conference, likened the word of scattering seeds of hope to looking for the workings of the Holy Spirit everywhere in our daily life.

In view of its deep concern about the current situation in the Middle East the National Justice & Peace Network issued the following statement at the beginning of the conference:

"This conference is alarmed by the escalating conflict in Lebanon and Israel/Palestine. We support fully Kofi Annan's call for an immediate ceasefire. We offer solidarity to all, regardless of race or religion, who are suffering because of the actions of those who use violence as the means of settling differences. We acknowledge that there are deep seated historical differences in this confrontation. We call on our government to use all its influence and every means at its disposal to ensure that this conflict is resolved through political and not military means (so as to protect civilian life and bring about a return to normality.)"

Few would doubt that these are "messy times" - but God's Holy Spirit is there in the heart of the mess, working through us in so many different ways to bring justice and peace to troubled communities all over the world.

Bread is one of the most potent symbols of life and was central to the liturgy section of each session. Conference members had been asked to bring with them a tablespoon of wheaten flour. At the start of the first session the flours were gathered and placed in a clay bowl. Symbolically, that bowl is both receptive and empty, ready to receive "God's whisper, the cry of the world". Once the different flours were mixed together in the bowl, they lost their separate "identities" and became one flour for the one bread. Salt, which flavours, preserves and acts as a catalyst on the gluten in the flour, was added to give the bread flexibility. Next came the leavening agent. When combined with water, leavening (whether yeast or soda) activates the bread and enlivens it.

Just as Jesus called his disciples the "salt of the earth", so we too are called to be both the salt and the leavening

needed to activate the bread of life that feeds all victims of injustice and violence with courage and renewed hope.

This leavening effect was manifest in the workshops discussing the justice and peace activities of the many groups. Some, like the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, are dedicated to restoring dignity and healing to the lives of women and girls trapped in prostitution in Thailand and India. They give them a chance to earn a living by making crafts for sale, enabling them to support their families and start a new life. Similarly, the Mill Hill Missionaries are helping communities in Africa cope with the devastating scourge of AIDS. Other groups, like Pax Christi, are actively engaged in peace and reconciliation. Still

others, such as the Asylum Seekers and Refuge project, the Jesuit Refugee Service, or Housing Justice work closely with asylum seekers, refugees and the homeless. The Open Gate Project mentors women on release from prison, the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture helps men, women and children who have been tortured and persecuted. Another issue very much linked to justice and peace, ethical investment, was discussed at length. Its pluses, its minuses and the need for charity investments to strike a right balance in order to promote the common good.

Ecology and the environment are also very much part of the leavening process. The impact that human mismanagement of the planet has on all aspects of life (human and non-human) can no longer be swept under the carpet. Like social justice, "green" justice is another of the Catholic Church's best kept secrets! From Cafod, this year presenting its Unearth Justice project on the cost of irresponsible gold mining, to the Christian Ecology Link working for greater environmental awareness, and the group Live Simply Project -- the Church's "green footsteps" are leaving their healing imprint everywhere.

A feature of NJPN conferences is the participation by children and this year was no different. Their laughter and enthusiasm, the colourful banners they brought to the closing ceremony were happy reminders that God's kingdom of joy flourishes even in "messy" times.

On the final day, Sunday, the bread baked from our many contributions of flour was consecrated and broken. So too must we be broken and scattered like seeds to plant new hope wherever we are sent. The challenges are many, yet we are all working together as one body. This indeed is the grace that moves and inspires the Justice and Peace Network. At Swanwick, on this hot July weekend, 300 people came together with the same focussed intent: to learn from each other, to share our experiences and to celebrate our hope for the future.

by Diana Mills



Back row: Fr Jim O'Keefe, Bishops Kieran Conry, Kevin Dunn, John Rawsthorne, John Marshall. (Chair Hexham & Newcastle J&P) Anne Peacey(NJPN Chair), Helen Costigan, Sr Lucina Wogan



## Empowering young people to challenge discrimination amongst their peer groups

## PEACEMAKER

### PeaceMaker

103 Union Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1QH  
Tel 0161 628 8786  
email: info@peace-maker.co.uk  
www.peace-maker.co.uk

Charity No: 1106283

My name is Laura Richardson and I got involved with Peacemaker through my school, when I was 12. Since then I have taken part in many projects with Peacemaker including attending the World Social Forum, speaking at various venues of conferences throughout England and delivering training and workshops to my peer group. My most recent accomplishment with Peacemaker was two friends and I, Josie Tyas and Emily Willows attended the National Justice and Peace Conference in Derbyshire. Josie and I delivered a presentation on the Saturday evening about what Peacemaker is to the conference.

Peacemaker is an award winning community cohesion organisation that offers a portfolio of specialist programmes. We work within and around Oldham supporting children and young people to successfully overcome racism and prejudice, and build cohesive communities. We have been doing so for ten years. Peacemaker aims to support the development of inclusive communities where people from all backgrounds are encouraged to feel they belong and are able to contribute to the development of our community.

Peacemaker achieves its aims through creating opportunities for shared learning where people can work together to challenge and overcome prejudices-both their own and that of the communities in which they live. Since 2003, Peacemaker has increasingly been supporting young people from asylum seeking and refugee backgrounds. We embarked on this work with new communities as a consequence of discrimination against asylum seekers and refugees amongst the people we already worked with.

Peacemaker's programmes support individuals and community groups at local, regional and national levels in promoting community cohesion. Peacemakers work supports children and young people from



Josie Tyas & Laura Richardson address Conference

various communities in Oldham to become Peer Educators and support in the delivery of anti-racist work. I am part of the Peer Education programme and have a group of young people that come to Peacemaker every week and one other Peer Educator and I deliver training to these young people on a number of modules. These modules are Communication and Teamwork, Cultural Diversity and Peer Education. A course lasts twelve weeks and a level 1 qualification is gained at the end of the course for the young people.

Through training, young people from single cultured backgrounds learn to take responsibility for their actions, help themselves and others to understand and overcome fears and prejudices of other cultures and religions and most importantly promote the anti-racist message within their own lives. Peacemakers work with young people is delivered at all key stage levels within the national curriculum through a combination of activities for different age groups. Young people volunteer their time to deliver this training. This role of active citizenship has been developed through 10 years of practice and is now recognised nationally as a model of good practice by a range of Government departments.

I very much enjoy working for Peacemaker and would not have gained half of the opportunities I have, if I did not work for them.

Laura Richardson

## ACTION !



PORT Ref: TN4/821985  
HOME OFFICE Ref: C1166150

**ROGER CIRUZI MONGA** was a Justice & Peace Executive Secretary in Bukavu (Eastern Congo). His role involved the organisation of conferences on Active Non Violence and denouncing the attacks of rebel groups, who assaulted civilians and threatened members of the Justice and Peace Commission locally. Roger, his wife, mother, and four children were detained by the Interamwe rebel group. They were released with the help of Archbishop of Bukavu, and the MONUC (the UN force in Congo). Consequently Roger and family had to leave the country because they were at great risk. Roger successfully managed to flee to the UK.

Roger arrived in the UK in September 2005

and claimed asylum the same day. Her was detained at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre. He was told he had committed a crime in entering the UK without proper documentation, and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment. After this he was re-detained under immigration rules and his asylum was rejected. On his release he volunteered with the Jesuit Refugee Service. He now has a legal adviser, but despite fresh evidence, his case has been refused again.

He receives £35 in vouchers per week for food, but he receives no cash and is not allowed to work.

Please appeal to the Home Secretary to allow Roger to stay in this country.

# DIARY

Prayer . . . .

Information . . . .

Reflection . . . .

Action . . . .

## OCTOBER

- 6 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** 020 7733 7900 & [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)
- 7-13 Keep Space for Peace** – International week of protest against nuclear weapons and power in space, [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)
- 14-15 CND Conference** – Bradford University, 020 7700 2393, event email: [genia@cnduk.org](mailto:genia@cnduk.org)
- 17 International UN Day for Eradication of Poverty**-  
[www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/) & [www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/poverty.html)
- 22-29 One World Week** *Mind the Gap*, 0118 939 4933 & [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)
- 22-29 Week of Prayer for World Peace** – 01666 825249
- 24 United Nations Day** – [www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/)
- 26 Housing Justice AGM.** 020 7723 7273 & [www.justhousing.org.uk](http://www.justhousing.org.uk)
- 28 "Refugees and Health"** - NCRF Forum Day, Our Lady Help of Christians Church Hall, 44 Falkland Road, Kentish Town, London, NW5 2XA, 10-4.0pm

## NOVEMBER

- 4 Global Climate March**—Rally at US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London, 12.00 noon
- 10 CAFOD Pope Paul VI Lecture** – *“Impoverished by wealth: Mama Africa and her experience of poverty”* Sr. Teresa Okure, SHCJ The Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, 7.15pm. Tickets: 020 7095 5568 or [tickets@cafod.org.uk](mailto:tickets@cafod.org.uk)
- 11 Church Action on Poverty (CAP) Annual Conference** *Just Churches, Faithful Cities,*

*Dignified Lives* Manchester 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 0161 236 9231 & [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

- 19-26 Landmine Action Week** – 020 7820 0222 & [www.landmineaction.org](http://www.landmineaction.org)
- 12 Remembrance Day** – Peace Pledge Union white poppies, 0207 424 9444 & [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk)
- 20 Prisons Week & Prisoners’ Sunday – PACT** (Prison Advice & Care Trust) – 020 490 3139 & [www.ccjf.org/what/psunday.html](http://www.ccjf.org/what/psunday.html)
- 26** Launch of *livesimply* project

## DECEMBER

- 1 Prisoners for Peace Day** – Amnesty 0207 814 6200 & [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)
- 1 World Aids Day** – WHO 0207 814 6726
- 3 World Migration Day** – National Catholic Refugee Forum 07871 646224 & [www.refugee-forum.org.uk](http://www.refugee-forum.org.uk)
- 6 National Poverty Hearing** – Westminster Central Hall, London 10 a.m-5 p.m. 0161 236 9321 & [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

## 2007

### JANUARY

- 14 Peace Sunday** *“The Human Person:Heart of Peace”* – Pax Christi 020 8203 4884 & [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)
- 28 Homelessness Sunday** – 020 7723 7273 & [www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk](http://www.homelessness-sunday.org.uk)

Many of the above websites may be accessed via links from our website  
[www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)



*A call for true progress, not just economic growth*

NJPN is one of the organisations and agencies involved in planning the ‘*livesimply*’ project.

The idea that God calls us to live simply is radical, and in direct contrast to what Western society demands of us – to earn more and more in order to consume on an ever grander scale.

The *livesimply* project, which launches this Advent and runs through 2007, takes up that radical idea. It calls on us to look hard at our lifestyles, and to choose to **live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.**

Living simply in this sense is not just about money. There are too many people who wish they could live a little *less* simply than they are forced to, both in our own country and of course in the developing world. Instead, this is a challenge to reflect, celebrate and take action in order to work for justice, and to be happier in ourselves as a result. It’s about identifying what we need rather than grasping for more – sharing rather than hoarding.

The inspiration behind *livesimply* comes from a prophetic document, written by Pope Paul VI. It lays out the social teaching of the Church in face

of the growing poverty and injustice of the developing world. “On the Development of Peoples” (*Populorum Progressio*) is a clarion call for us to live a new kind of life, in a spirit of solidarity with the community, motivated by faith.

“God intended the earth and everything in it for the use of all human beings and peoples” states the encyclical, an assertion as politically challenging today as it was four decades ago when it was written, in 1967.

Look out for more information after the launch on 26 November 2006.