



# Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Autumn 2007

## National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

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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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## 21st Century Slavery - on the street where you live!

At a recent quarterly meeting of National Justice & Peace Network our invited speaker was Detective Inspector Nick Kinsella of United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre.(UKHTC)

For the last year Nick Kinsella has been head of the Human Trafficking unit in Sheffield. He gave a graphic account of the work of their first major project, 'Operation Pentameter' tracking down those involved in trafficking women, principally from eastern Europe, for prostitution in the UK. A recent court case has resulted in the ring-leaders being sentenced to 19 years in jail. The work of this unit is revealing how extensive are the criminal networks for trafficking, the appalling ways the victims and their families at home are deceived in the first instance and the brutal way young women are forced into, and kept in prostitution.

*Trafficking in persons "shall mean the recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery, servitude or the removal of organs".*

UN protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons.

Trafficking is not just a problem for young women. Children as young as five are made to beg and steal and are forced into sexual slavery and pornography. Grown men and teenage boys are used for forced labour, older women as domestic workers. Young women are at greater risk. They are often naïve and willing to believe the promises of traffickers. And they have no shortage of ambition for a better life. Their youth makes them more desirable to traffickers looking for young girls to service their male clientele.

### Maria's Story

*My name is Maria and I am 24 years old. I have been raped, beaten, sold, cut with knives and threatened. I have scars and I am depressed.*

*I come from a very poor family in and grew up in the countryside of an Eastern European country, I did not regularly attend school and did not have a good formal education. When I lived at home my father used to drink a lot. He would beat me and my family. When I was 13 my sister sold me, to a man I did not know. He took me to Italy by boat, which was very dangerous. I did not know where I was going. Once we arrived in Italy I was sold again,*



*to a different man. He took me to a house and raped me.*

*I was a virgin until then.*

*It was then that I realised what was happening to me. I started crying and the man started to beat me, hard. But neighbours overheard me screaming and called the police, who took me away and left me in a nunnery for protection. I was returned home to my family after two years. But just four days later I was sold again.*

*This time by my father.*

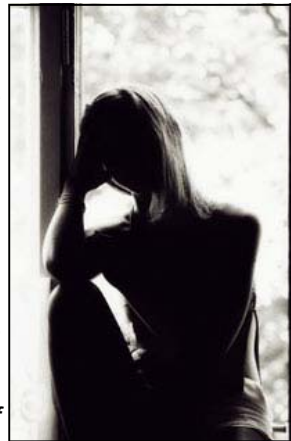
*He sold me to a different man, but now I knew what was happening to me. Again we went by boat to Italy, where I was kept prisoner for seven months. They controlled my eating and made me drink vinegar. Finally I was smuggled into the UK in a lorry. I was in London for five years. I worked every day, seeing 65 to 70 customers a day. I could earn up to £1,000 per day, but I had to pay £400 every day in 'rent' and £60 for a maid, as well as 20% of everything else I earned.*

*The men who came to me were of all different nationalities. I did not ask any of them for help. I was too frightened. My traffickers threatened to kill me, and they threatened to take my sister too and do the same to her. I was beaten often, very badly. I have scars from it now, especially from my broken arm. I have been raped many times. I finally escaped with the other women in my house. We ran away with the owner's boyfriend and went to the police.*

*Although I am now free I am depressed. I will never forget what they did to me.*

As Nick Kinsella told the meeting this is a widespread problem. It is not happening somewhere else; it is happening in every area in our country. One of the difficulties in dealing with the women and girls who are rescued is the lack of where to place them when they are freed.

For more info visit: [www.ukhtc.org](http://www.ukhtc.org)



## 'Called to be Peacemakers - who me?' Conference 2007

On a wet Friday evening over 360 adults and children set out on a journey to Swanwick willing and prepared to be challenged and inspired as each one accepted the call to be a peacemaker.



Zoughbi Zoughbi, Chris Cole (FoR), John Dear SJ, Pat Gaffney (Pax Christi), Anne Peacey (NJPN)

For one family the journey ended in a sports hall in Worcester where they were obliged to spend the night, having been stranded for a number of hours. Another hopeful traveller spent eight hours travelling from Fishguard to Newport and finding that there was no passable road out of that area of Wales very reluctantly had to return home. The prize for perseverance, however, must surely go to the couple from Southampton who were obliged to turn back, arriving home after 11pm only to leave again early the following morning, finally arriving in Swanwick at 8am having missed breakfast yet raring to go.

During the welcoming session we were invited to journey the way to peace, encouraged by music, word and visual image. The scene for Conference was set as we listened to a short history of the work of The Fellowship of Reconciliation from Chris Cole and from Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi who, together with the National Justice and Peace Network, were the conference organisers. The formal session ended with prayer as we were urged to 'recognise in those with whom we sit, eat and drink the divine presence of Christ'.

Saturday opened in smaller groups to listen to the word of God and to take time to reflect and share our thoughts. We then gathered together to listen to one of our keynote speakers; Fr. John Dear, S.J. peace activist, lecturer and author, currently coordinator of Pax Christi New Mexico, who shared something of his own journey, which led to the Church of the Beatitudes and from there on to the path of 'continuous, non-violent resistance' to the 'culture of perpetual war'. We were urged to recognise and learn from the gift of many prophets of peace and justice – Martin Luther King, Ghandi, Dorothy Day – and to spread the message that violence doesn't work and that war sows the seeds of future wars. John believes strongly that war cannot be the will of God and indeed is the very definition of mortal sin. We were challenged to fulfil our initial calling to be peacemakers and to be faithful to our calling.

Our second keynote speaker; Zoughbi Zoughbi founder and Director of Wi'am, The Palestinian Centre for Conflict Resolution brought greetings from the Holy land and thanks for support given to the beleaguered people of that troubled land. Zoughbi shared with us something of the painful reality of living under occupation. His journey to Swanwick was not

constrained by rain and floods but rather by checkpoints and closed borders.

His journey towards social activism began at the age of thirteen with an experience of being held and abused at a checkpoint when attempting to travel to celebrate Good Friday in Jerusalem. This experience left him full of anger but he was able to turn this anger into action, working as a social activist, developing an understanding of others and struggling to overcome hate and learning to respond in a non violent way to situations of injustice. The situation remains complicated with more checkpoints, the separating wall and displaced people becoming more angry and desperate. Bethlehem has changed 'from grotto to ghetto' There is no freedom of movement and it is easier to travel to Swanwick than to Jerusalem. The Stations of the Cross are being walked daily in Bethlehem, there is no need to go to the Via Dolorosa.

Zoughbi continues to journey in hope, with the image of the empty tomb and the inevitability of resurrection remaining strong. He believes that the solution lies in learning to live together, recognising that dwelling on 'victimhood' will increase the cycle of violence and that the people of that holy place have become indirect victims of the holocaust.

He believes that restorative justice based on forgiveness is the only possible way of breaking this cycle of violence. Zoughbi feels that we need to 'change our glasses'.

The sharing of personal stories can be both powerful and enabling experiences and over the weekend we heard testimonies from three committed activists who have been led by their own life experience into working for social justice. Maya Evans from Justice Not Vengeance, Ihtisham Hibatullah, a member of the Muslim Association of Great Britain and Roula Marrouf a third generation Palestinian from Lebanon shared part of their journey with us, each one demonstrating the effect of conflict on the lives of individuals.



Saturday evening social

The opportunity to enjoy the company of friends old and new is fundamental to personal development and so the importance of coffee and meal breaks, time for dancing and sharing conversation over drinks must not be underestimated. A fundamental belief in the spirituality of peace and social justice is what draws us to gather together in an atmosphere of mutual support to learn from each other and to celebrate with words and music. During the weekend we were refreshed and encouraged by our Liturgies whilst at the same time challenged and made to feel uncomfortable and saddened by the reality of being a worshipping community united yet still divided. We must also continue to journey in hope.

CONFERENCE 2008  
**"HERE MY PEOPLE CRY"**  
18-20 JULY 2008

## Burma Update



'I deeply deplore the Burmese government's violent suppression of peaceful demonstrations. I call upon the Burmese authorities to release immediately all those detained merely for protesting at the hardship imposed on them . . .'

Gordon Brown

## Opening doors, Opening hearts

[www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)



## Cut the Carbon March



## NJPN News

Tel: 020 7901 4864

## Unrest in Burma — Echoes of '88

The doubling of fuel prices on 15 August, without warning or explanation, has sparked many peaceful demonstrations in Burma. These protests have met with a widespread violent crackdown by the authorities. More than 100 of the protesters have been imprisoned, others have fled and are now in hiding.

In a land re-known for the repression of its own people; where slave labour, internal displacement, detention and death are the characteristics of everyday life this price hike has a devastating effect on the livelihoods of people already living under the poverty line. The protests over the past month are the most widespread and sustained since 1988 when tens of thousands of people marched in the streets of the cities and towns of Burma demanding an end to military rule.

On the 8-8-'88 thousands of people —students, monks, workers, villagers were massacred by the regime. This week firearms have been used to warn demonstrators to disperse.

Gordon Brown has indicated his support saying: "It is time for the UN human rights bodies to give this alarming situation the attention it deserves."

Keep in touch with situation through: [www.burmacampaign.org.uk](http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk) or [www.irrawaddy.org](http://www.irrawaddy.org)

## Poverty and Homelessness Action Week

The gap between rich and poor in our country is greater than at any time in the past 40 years. Poverty and Homelessness Action Week, running from 26 January 2008 to Sunday 3 February 2008, is a major opportunity to put these issues firmly on the agenda of local churches, communities and policy makers across the UK.

The theme of the week is 'Opening Doors, Opening Hearts' - calling on us to open our hearts to listen to the stories people have to tell us about being homeless, badly housed, living in poverty. The idea is to offer opportunities for dialogue, springing from the conviction that together we can

open doors to a better housed, fairly paid and more just society. The challenge is to have at least 100 events take place in communities all over the UK during the Action Week. Each event will draw out the three most important issues around housing, homelessness and poverty in the local community and suggest possible solutions.

Support and resources to help these events succeed will be available at trainings from September—November '07.

Contact: [www.church-poverty.co.uk](http://www.church-poverty.co.uk) or [www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)

## 1000 miles - Belfast - Edinburgh - Cardiff - London

In July twenty 'Cut the Carbon' Marchers set off to walk 1000 miles around UK in 80 days and to reach the London Stock Exchange on 2 October. About half of them come from the UK and the others are Christian Aid contacts from Africa, Asia and S. America. Why are they marching? Why now? When they stayed one night with us in Marple on 17 August we found out.

Firstly they are highlighting the injustice that many poorer people (not themselves responsible for damaging CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) are suffering greatly from climate change NOW. Mohamed Adow from NE Kenya described the drought conditions forcing nomad groups with little grass for their animals to walk many miles to find drinking water which we would consider polluted. Risolat Muradova from Tujikstan described her mountainous country (not to be confused with its neighbour Turkmenistan which is blessed with oil reserves.) Because of receding glaciers there is a continual water shortage which makes farming increasingly difficult. In both these countries Christian Aid is concentrating on water retaining measures.

Secondly the Marchers are encouraging us all to put pressure on Gordon Brown to use the Climate Change Bill in November to commit the UK to cuts of at least 80% in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. Only if we have an effective can we push other rich countries to match this at the UN meeting in Bali in December.

## Wanted to join NJPN Newsletter team,

eager volunteers with skills (or willingness to learn). If you have writing, copy chasing, editorial or desk top publishing skills your network needs you.

As we move into a new admin regime we want to make sure our excellent newsletter continues to be just that. So we are looking

for volunteers with skills and/or enthusiasm to help produce NJPN News. You will need to have a few hours to spare three times a year, a reliable internet connection and the ability to travel to occasional meetings. If you think this is for you please contact: [Alison.gelder@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Alison.gelder@blueyonder.co.uk)

### SEPTEMBER

29 **NJPN Quarterly meeting**, CAFOD offices, Brixton. 10.45–4.00 020 7901 4864

### OCTOBER

5 **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** – [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) or 0207 733 7900

8-26 **Travelling Anti Slavery Exhibition** Telford, Meeting Point House

13 **Birmingham Diocesan Assembly** 'Stewards of Creation' with Fr Sean McDonagh, Ellen Teague 0121 477 0412

14-21 **Global Debt Week of Action** *Lift the Lid* 0207 324 4722 [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk)

17 **International Day for Eradication of Poverty** – [www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/)

20 **'Local Church Global Challenge'**. 10.30-4.00, Leeds Cathedral Hall, with John Battle MP and Tom O'Connor (Head of Communities CAFOD). Bring lunch to share. 0113 261 8055, [shelagh@leedsjp.org.uk](mailto:shelagh@leedsjp.org.uk), or 0113 275 9302, [leeds@cafod.org.uk](mailto:leeds@cafod.org.uk)

20 **'Living Peace in a Broken World.** Our Lady & St Ethelreda's Parish Centre, Newmarket, 10.30am – 4pm (Mass 12.30). Fr Rob Esdaile, and Pat Gaffney, Admission free, bring packed lunch.

21-28 **One World Week** – *All Together Now* 0118 939 4933 [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

21-28 **Week of Prayer for World Peace** 0208 968 4340

21 **'Set All Free' Service**, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, 3pm.

24 **United Nations Day** [www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/)

29-4 Nov **Landmine Action Week** 0207 820 0222 [www.landmineaction.org](http://www.landmineaction.org)

29-Nov 16 **Travelling Anti Slavery Exhibition** Shrewsbury Cathedral.

### NOVEMBER

3 **Environmental Justice Conference** *Keeping the Ark Afloat: all hands on deck.* Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre 10am-4pm. Tel:01524 383081 email: [lfj@fish.co.uk](mailto:lfj@fish.co.uk)

11 **Remembrance Sunday** Peace Pledge Union white poppies 0207 424 9444

9-15 **Prisons Week &**

18 **Prisoners' Sunday** PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) 0207 490 3139 [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk)

13-15 **Residential Faith & Justice Retreat** at Loyola Hall focussing on Fr Tom Cullinan's pamphlet on the Eucharist. For more information ring 0151 522 1080.

16

**2007 CAFOD Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture** by Vera Araujo, a Brazilian lecturing on Catholic Social Teaching in Rome. *Live Simply – our global challenge* Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London 7.15pm. Call 020 7095 5568 or email [tickets@cafod.org.uk](mailto:tickets@cafod.org.uk)

17

**NJPN Quarterly Meeting**, St Peter & All Souls, Peterborough. 020 7901 4864 10.45-4.00

21

**Celebration of Beatification of Franz Jagerstatter** with Mass at Westminster Cathedral. 7.00pm with Bishop Malcolm McMahon [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

24

**CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade) National Gathering** [www.caat.org.uk/events/gathering2007.php](http://www.caat.org.uk/events/gathering2007.php) or 0207 281 0297

24

**From Westminster to the Amazon** Tony Sheen, CAFOD Westminster manager, on his recent trip to Brazil. 2030pm, Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral (Morpeth St. entrance). [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

### DECEMBER

1 **World Aids Day** [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

3 **World Migration Day** Catholic Church in England & Wales 0207 828 4371 [www.catholic-ew.org.uk](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk)

10 **UN Human Rights Day** [www.unmeditation.org/](http://www.unmeditation.org/)

### 2008

#### JANUARY

20 **Peace Sunday** *The Human Family: Community of Peace.* Pax Christi 0208 203 4884 [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

18-25 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** 'Pray Without Ceasing' CTBI 0207 654 7254 [www.ctbi.org.uk](http://www.ctbi.org.uk)

27 **Holocaust Memorial Day** [www.hmd.org.uk](http://www.hmd.org.uk)

27-3 **Poverty & Homelessness Action Week** 'Opening Doors, Opening Hearts' Church Action on Poverty 0161 236 9321 [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk) & Housing Justice 0207 723 7273 [www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)

27 **Homelessness Sunday** Housing Justice 0207 723 7273 [www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)

#### FEBRUARY

3 **Poverty Action Sunday** CAP (Church Action on Poverty) 0161 236 9321 [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

15 **CAFOD Lent Fast Day** 0207 733 7900 [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

25-9 **Fairtrade Fortnight** 020 7405 5942 [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

## Movement for the Abolition of War

At the recent National Justice and Peace Network Conference at Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick in Derbyshire the MAW were one of the stall holders at the Peace Market.

Sadly on the way home from conference Bruce Kent was a victim of a pick-pocket. His wallet was stolen and all the cheques taken on his stall were lost. Also a couple of addresses

for people to whom he promised information.

Please contact Bruce if you paid by cheque or are waiting to hear from him. Tel: 020 8340 6639