



Justice & Peace

News from the National Justice & Peace Network

Summer 2003

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.

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Contents

Fieldworker project	... 2
NJPN Formation	... 2
How you can help	... 2
NCRF	... 3
Burma Update	... 3
Diary	... 4
News	... 4

NEXT ISSUE DATE

OCTOBER

COPY DATE

15 SEPTEMBER

MAJOR CHANGES FOR NJPN

Over the next few months NJPN will have to take some difficult and far reaching decisions on its constitution and status. Until now, the staff carrying out NJPN work have been employed and administered by the Bishops' Conference. In the light of reorganisation plans at the Bishops' Conference, we have been told that they will no longer be able to provide this facility and that NJPN itself will now have to become an employer. We have until December to implement the adjustments needed to undertake this new role. This is a serious step which entails legal responsibilities and means that NJPN will have to be responsible for the recruitment, contracts, payment, pension and national insurance contributions etc. for its staff.

An employer has to be clearly defined, and a contract of employment requires named people who will be in a position to undertake the legal and financial commitments involved. A subcommittee of the NJPN Exec has been looking into the options available and examining whether we are insured against the liabilities which might arise from our new status as employers.

To comply with legislation we will need to make adjustments to our constitution. The major decision, however, is the choice between becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee or remaining an Unincorporated Organisation.

Initially, it was recommended that we become an Unincorporated organisation. This is a quicker and less expensive option and was thought to be more in keeping with current NJPN status. The insurance position has been checked to confirm that the liabilities to which we might be exposed are covered. There was at first an ambiguity about the coverage for discrimination claims, should

they arise in the future, however, subsequent advice has been that the current insurance position should cover any possible claims.

In an Unincorporated organisation, the trustees – who would in effect be members of the NJPN Executive Committee – are legally and financially liable for its mistakes. The proposed new Constitution was drawn up to ensure that whoever held these positions would be covered by the insurance provisions.

At the recent NJPN AGM, however, this recommendation was turned down, and the subcommittee has been asked to draw up plans for us to become a Company Limited by Guarantee. This will involve considerable adjustments to the constitution, and we will need to get legal advice to ensure that we comply with company law. It will also involve the cost of registering the company. These will be costs which we have not had to bear before.

In addition **NJPN needs to become**

more proactive in terms of fund raising and we will need to start thinking about new ways of raising money. One of the other issues which we will have to bear in mind as we consider the change of status, is whether we should become a Charity, which will make the organisation subject to Charity Law but could bring financial advantages as well as enabling us to access funding from other charities.

These are all big issues and decisions which require a lot of thought and a lot of work, to ensure that NJPN continues to function and to fulfil its mission.



See page 2 for how you can help us

LAST FEW MONTHS OF FIELDWORKER PROJECT

"It not a question of do we need a worker—we need ten!"

NJPN member at recent meeting

For the past two and a half years the National Justice & Peace Network has had a National Fieldworker.

The three functions of the role have been

- to support dioceses, networks and groups;
- to organise training in skills and issues relating to justice and peace;
- to represent the NJPN at agency and national meetings.

The three year project comes to an end on 31 October and whilst recognising that the programme has been a valuable one, most of the existing funders have indicated that we cannot count on their support beyond this year.

This part-time post has been funded from a variety of sources - from Religious and Missionary Orders; from Trusts and donations and from dioceses. Now we have to seek new funders if we are not to lose this valuable presence in the life of the church.

At the AGM of the National Justice & Peace Network in April, Rosemary Read, who has so skillfully filled the National Fieldworker post reported on her three years work.

- I am still here as a support to dioceses, networks and groups. I hope my presence has been helpful for newly formed and



Rosemary Read
National J&P Fieldworker

about-to-be formed groups and commissions around the country. It has been a great delight for me to be a part of what has been happening in Westminster, Northampton, Wrexham and Cardiff - each of these dioceses is setting up or renewing a Commission and/or funding a fieldworker. This means that virtually every one of the 22 dioceses in England and Wales has some form of J&P presence. (Of course we know that lots of good work goes on where there is no formal structure.)

We've had, I think, a successful training programme over the last 3 years. Almost all dioceses have been involved one way or another and the topics covered have included the basics of J&P: Theology & Spirituality of J&P, How to do it (Groups Skills) and issue based days: Arms Trade Conversion, Refugee & Asylum Seekers, Trade Justice, Environment) *

If NJPN is to fulfil its mission we need a national spokesperson and therefore need to identify new sources of funding.

Any ideas?

NJPN FORMATION

For information, bookings and further details contact

Rosemary Read, National J&P Fieldworker (01332 293336) or rosemary@read2804.freeserve.co.uk

WORKSHOPS

A few days are still on offer:

- ***It is important that people register their intention to attend.***

JUNE 14th

Justice & the Environment
Room 12, Friends House, Euston London

JUNE 19th INSET:

Justice & Peace in Schools
(observers welcome) Christ the King, Arnold, Nottingham

SEPT 7th

Refugees & Asylum Seekers,
Bridgewater, Somerset

19 June will be a "Reproduce it Yourself" day. All dioceses are invited to send people to observe the day which will involve all the staff of this Catholic Comprehensive School. We intend to ensure that all observers will leave feeling that they can reproduce the day in their own diocese/area again with observers so that the day can go on being repeated.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

To maintain the work of the National Justice & Peace Network and to become a Company Limited by Guarantee we desperately need to raise additional funds. If 166 people donate at least £2.50 a month (*the cost of a pint!*) by Standing Order, many of our immediate problems of core funding would be solved.

Will you be one of the 166?

Please consider completing the Standing Order Form



National Justice and Peace Network

Instructions to Bank or Building Society to pay by standing order

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. 100006157 the sum of

£ Amount in words

Per calendar month

First payment date

Name(s) of account holder(s)

Name

Address

..... Post Code

Signature(s)

.....

.....

Date

Bank/Building Society:

Account Number

Sort Code

**PLEASE RETURN TO:
National Justice and Peace Network,
39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX**

NCRF

NATIONAL CATHOLIC REFUGEE FORUM

The National Catholic Refugee Forum exists to facilitate networking, sharing and solidarity among Christians, other faith groups, refugee community groups and other agencies who are working with and for refugees.

PO Box 664, Bristol, BS99 3ZP
www.refugee-forum.org
0 1 1 7 9 2 4 8 0 5 9
naomicheesman@ncrf.
fsnet.co.uk

This is the third report from an agency whose work we promote and support.

Our Work

Essentially our work falls into two categories: Firstly we try to network those who work with asylum seekers in order that we are all more effective in what we do. Secondly, we reach out to those who are not involved and try to raise awareness and encourage action.

The government recently implemented legislation leaving a vast number of asylum seekers without food or shelter. This draconian act has left many projects and concerned church, faith and community groups struggling to cope with the extra needs presenting themselves daily. NCRF has been making good use of its e-network, disseminating the suggestions of good practice coming in from members and subscribers, facilitating a discussion on the situation, and generally passing on encouragement between the groups.

Our vision with the e-newsletter is the same as with the Forum Days: to provide a space in which an informed discussion can take place, resources and ideas can be shared and people can be re-envisioned. The Forum Days take place bi-annually, around the Country. We link up national speakers with local speakers, practitioners and asylum seekers, and invite anyone who is interested in work with and for refugees. The next of these days, 'Refugees and Globalisation', is June 28th, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham. All welcome.

The NCRF Forum Days aim 'to raise awareness and encourage action', and we do this through a variety of media. We are excited about the opportunity given us by National Justice and Peace Network to participate in training days in dioceses. Adding a Spiritual dimension and encouraging action in the light of faith is an important element in all our work. We have worked with partners such as Jesuit Refugee Service and the Office for Refugee Policy at the Catholic Bishop's Conference, to disseminate briefings, liturgy materials and suggestions of actions. These have been very eagerly received within the Catholic Community, and NCRF hope to strengthen ecumenical and other faith links in order that we might continue this work with a broader

scope. These briefings, reports, policy material and suggestions of 'what you can do' are added regularly to our web-site www.refugee-forum.org

Our motivation

"Protection is not a concession made to the refugee: he/she is not an object of assistance, but rather a subject of rights and duties" Vatican 1992. Human rights are a concept much used and understood in today's society. Yet the implication of current asylum policy and Blair's possible withdrawal from the European Convention on Human Rights is that 'rights' are earned by the acquisition of the correct passport.

We are also motivated by the strong biblical injunctions to take care of those visiting from other lands. A Godly and just society, said the Old Testament prophets, would welcome the stranger. The Church is a natural ally of the refugee, and should be involved in work for their protection and support.

In Conclusion.

NCRF works hard to educate on asylum issues, encourage people to action in the protection of asylum seekers and networks those who work with and for asylum seekers in the UK. But our work is inextricably linked with the work of so many other organisations linked to NJPN. This is because asylum seekers are fleeing war, ethnic violence, repression and human rights abuses. We need to stop focusing exclusively on supposed 'pull factors' bringing them to the UK and look more at 'push factors' causing them to leave their own country. The Institute of Public Policy Research have just produced an excellent publication on this very theme. They point out that if the EU and British Government hope to reduce the numbers of those seeking asylum here, they need to think carefully about their foreign policy, arms export, development and trade. This is why NJPN's work in the widest sense is one that NCRF supports. We look forward to continued close relationship and mutual support.

Naomi Cheeseman

BURMA UPDATE

THE BURMA CAMPAIGN UK

Third Floor
Bickerton House
25/27 Bickerton Road
London N19 5JT

Tel: 020 7281 7377

www.burmacampaign.org.uk

KOOKAI, KUONI & BONMARCHÉ PULL OUT OF BURMA

Consumer power and campaigns are having an effect on companies sourcing their products or encouraging tourism to Burma.

In January the French fashion retailer Kookai received a complaint that its London branch had clothes with 'Made in Myanmar' labels. The 'mother' company in Paris considered the situation and have terminated the production from Burma. Mark Farmaner of the Burma Campaign UK, which is calling for an economic boycott of Burma's military regime says: 'This must be one of the most dramatic examples of consumer power I have heard of.' This was the action of just one shopper!

On 1st May The Guardian carried an article announcing that 'Kuoni, the travel group, has become the latest to drop its connection with Burma after protests from British human rights campaigners. The move to target Kuoni, disclosed in the Guardian last September, follows the apparent success of the Burma Campaign in forcing a retreat by Premier Oil.'

Just two weeks later the Burma Campaign UK welcomed the announcement by clothing retailer Bonmarché that it has stopped sourcing clothes from Burma.

The Burma Campaign UK is in the process of contacting all major retailers as it compiles a 'dirty list' of those sourcing from Burma.

2003 - International Year of Freshwater & 40th Anniversary of 'Pacem in Terris'*(Please check all details with organisers before using this information)**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR CORPORATE AND PRIVATE USE IN ORDINARY TIME (SUMMER) : Deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; Those suffering Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Seafarers.*

- Jun 14 *Justice and the Environment*, Friends House, Euston. With Edward Echlin and Rosemary Read. NJPN Training Event. 01332 293336
- Jun 16-22 *Refugee Week*. This year's theme: Children and Young People. Info: [Refugee Council](#) (020 7932 1019 or 020 7582 3055)
- Jun 19 *J&P INSET for Schools*, Christ the King, Arnold, Nottingham. Facilitated by Brian Davies, Dave Wells and Rosemary Read. 01332 293336
- Jun 20-22 PLYMOUTH. Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's Annual General Meeting. All welcome. Contact Christian CND, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ, tel: 020 7700 4200, fax: 020 77002357 web: <http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/>
- Jun 21 Quaker Regional Peace and Disarmament Gatherings – 2003 Tour. Free! Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. (Contact David Gee in QPSW on davidg@quaker.org.uk).
- Jun 21 Walk for Water at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire. 15 and 10km sponsored walks through the beautiful grounds of Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, ending with a stroll through the Deer Park. Not normally open to the public, 4.5km wheelie route. Further details from the Derbyshire Christian Aid office, 01773 829788, 10h30
- Jun 27-28 Trade Justice Movement main event from noon on 27th to noon on 28th. We expect this to be in several regional centres this year, e.g., hold up the scales of justice for a "weigh in for trade justice" at noon on 28th; write to MPs, see www.cafod.org.uk/tradejustice
- Jul 11-13 **25th NJPN Annual Conference, Swanwick, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice - A theology of protest in a globalised world. 020 7901 4864**
- Aug 6 Anniversary of first us of Atomic Weapons at Hiroshima (and at Nagasaki on 9th August). Services of remembrance at Aylesford 20h20 (Phil Kerton 01474 873802), Westminster Cathedral and elsewhere. (Info. Pax Christi, 020 8203 4884 or CND 020 7700 2393)

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR CORPORATE AND PRIVATE USE IN ORDINARY TIME (AUTUMN) : Spread of the Gospel; the Harvest, Fruits of Human Work and Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.

- Sep 1 *Site Unseen - Exposing the Arms Trade*. CAAT protest at BAe site (Borough) and public meeting (Hull) to raise awareness. Details about protests or meetings on 020 7281 0297 or siteunseen@caat.demon.co.uk
- Sep 6 CAAT March at DSEi-ExCel exhibition in London. Contact Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ Tel: 020 7281 0297 Fax: 020 7281 4369. enquiries@caat.demon.co.uk or caat.org.uk
- Sep 9 CAAT Demo at DSEi-ExCel exhibition in London. Peace Demo. enquiries@caat.demon.co.uk or caat.org.uk
- Sep 12-14 Racial Justice Congress at Roehampton Institute (CARJ), *People of Colour, People of God*.
- Sep 14 Racial Justice Day. Flyers, leaflets, etc. from Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) 020 8802 8080 (or info@carj.co.uk), or from CCRJ, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL (020 7620 4444).
- Sep 20 LONDON. Mystery Walk and guided Peace Walk along the London Peace Trail, 11h00-16h00. Learn about our peace heritage, the origins of the UN, Gandhi in London, the suffragettes, Edith Cavell, and other peace heroes. The day includes a mystery walk for children - find clues, solve puzzles, and get your "peace,passport" stamped at eight peace sites! More details from MAW. 11 Venetia Road, London, N4 1EJ Tel/messages/fax: 020 8347 6162.
- Sep 21 Annual Global Cease Fire Day and World Peace Festival (www.peaceoneday.org or Peace One Day, Block D, The Old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, London E1 6QL, tel. 020 7465 9180)
- Sep 22 World Car Free Day See <http://www.22september.org>
- Sep 22 *Site Unseen - Exposing the Arms Trade*. CAAT protest at BAe sites (Leicester, Barwell & Loughborough) and public meeting (Leicester) to raise awareness. Details about protests or meetings on 020 7281 0297 or siteunseen@Caat.demon.co.uk
- Sep 28 Peace Pilgrimage at Aylesford Priory, Kent, starting with Mass at noon. (01622 717272 or friarsreception@hotmail.com)
- Oct 3 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day - info. from CAFOD (020 7733 7900).
- Oct 15 *Site Unseen - Exposing the Arms Trade*. CAAT protest at BAe sites (Birtley & Bellingham) and public meeting (Newcastle) to raise awareness. Details about protests or meetings on 020 7281 0297 or siteunseen@Caat.demon.co.uk
- Oct 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: info. from UK Coalition Against Poverty, 020 7703 5400
- Oct 20-27 One World Week -. (Info. enquiries@oneworldweek, or PO Box 2555 Reading, RG1 4XW, Tel. 0118 939 4933 or www.oneworldweek.org). This years activities focus on : Tackling Racism - Locally and in global structures; Trade rules - Who gains, who loses?; Fuel - What the cost?; HIV/AIDS - being positive. 2003 is the 25th anniversary of the first OWW.
- Oct 31 CAFOD Pope Paul VI Lecture, speaker: Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez of Honduras. (020 7733 7900)
- Nov **Will Aid**. Solicitors all over UK will make your Will in return for a donation to one of seven charities. Info. via 9870 6060239 or at www.willaid.org.uk
- Nov 3-9 Landmine Action Week. (UK Working Group 020 7820 0222, www.landmineaction.org) "Explosive Remnants".
- Nov 16-23 Prisoner's Week - materials from PACT 020 7582 1313

NEWS

WELCOME to Tony McNichol the newly appointed part-time J&P Fieldworker for the recently formed Wrexham Justice & Peace Commission.**EXECUTIVE** At the AGM of the National Justice & Peace Network the following members were elected to the Executive. Rosa Shea (Chair); Sharon Brearley (Vice Chair); Sr Pat Trussell (Treasurer); Bernard Shaw (Hon. Sec.); Kevin Burr and Anne Peacey.