

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## COP27 UN CHIEF WARNS 'WE WILL BE DOOMED' WITHOUT HISTORIC CLIMATE PACT

**Exclusive:** António Guterres says gap between developed world and poorer countries is biggest issue facing Cop27 talks

**Fiona Harvey in Sharm el-Sheikh for the Guardian** 4 Nov 2022

Rich countries must sign a "historic pact" with the poor on the climate, or "we will be doomed", the UN secretary-general, António Guterres, has warned, as a deepening gulf between the developed and developing world has put climate talks on the brink.

The stark warning comes as world leaders start to gather for the UN Cop27 climate summit, which opens on Sunday in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, but which even the hosts admit will be the most difficult in at least a decade. Cop27 is taking place amid the worst geopolitical tensions for years, over the Ukraine war, a spiralling global cost of living crisis, and deepening economic gloom. But the gulf must be bridged if humanity is to have a hope of avoiding the worst ravages of climate breakdown, Guterres said. "There is no way we can avoid a catastrophic situation, if the two [the developed and developing world] are not able to establish a historic pact," he told the Guardian in an interview on the eve of the summit. "Because at the present level, we will be doomed."

Developed nations have failed to cut greenhouse gas emissions fast enough and failed to provide the money needed for poor nations to cope with the resulting extreme weather. The glaring climate inequality between the rich world, which is responsible for most emissions, and the poor, which are bearing the brunt of the impacts, is now the biggest issue at the talks, according to Guterres. "Present policies [on the climate] will be absolutely catastrophic," he said. "And the truth is that we will not be able to change this situation if a pact is not put in place between developed countries and the emerging economies."

Guterres has drawn criticism from some quarters for his increasingly stark rhetoric on the climate crisis, warning of "collective suicide", "carnage" to come, and "code red" for humanity. But he insisted he would refuse to water down his apocalyptic language, as the rapid acceleration of the climate emergency was now so dire. "For the simple reason that we are approaching tipping points, and tipping points will make [climate breakdown] irreversible," he said. "That damage would not allow us to recover, and to contain temperature rises. And as we are approaching those tipping points, we need to increase the urgency, we need to increase the ambition, and we need to rebuild trust, mainly trust between north and south."

Tipping points are thresholds within the climate system that lead to cascading impacts when tripped. They include the melting of permafrost, which releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that fuels further heating, and the point at which the drying Amazon rainforest switches from being an absorber to being a source of carbon, which scientists fear is fast approaching. "We are getting close to tipping points that will create irreversible impacts, some of them difficult even to imagine," he warned.

He also called for the US and China to rebuild their fractured relationship, which has plunged to new lows this year, but which Guterres said was "crucial" to climate action. "It needs to be re-established because without those two countries working together, it will be absolutely impossible to reverse the present trends," he said.

Guterres, along with the Egyptian government, will convene world leaders at the start of the Cop27 summit to try to rescue an unpromising set of climate negotiations. This year has seen geopolitical relations riven by the war in Ukraine, along with soaring fossil fuel prices and food price increases that have created a cost of living crisis around the world, as well as failures by governments – including the UK – to follow up on promises made last year at the Cop26 summit in Glasgow.

The pact Guterres has in mind would require big economies to do more on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and to provide poor countries with a financial lifeline. This was needed to restore "trust", he said. Lack of trust, in the climate negotiations, means a lack of money. Rich countries were meant to provide at least \$100bn a year by 2020 to help poor countries cut their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis. But the target has repeatedly been missed, and will be missed again this year, while poor countries are already suffering climate disaster, including record floods in Pakistan and record drought in Africa.

A "historic pact" between rich and poor would involve clear new pledges on finance and for rich countries and emerging economies to strengthen their emissions-cutting targets, Guterres said.

It would also require progress on the vexed question of “loss and damage”, which is likely to be a flashpoint at Cop27. Loss and damage refers to the most devastating impacts of extreme weather, which it is impossible to adapt to, and poor countries want a funding mechanism that would allow for the rescue and rehabilitation of countries whose physical and social infrastructure has been destroyed by climate-related disaster.

“The question of loss and damage has been postponed, and postponed, and postponed,” said Guterres. “We need to make sure that there is an assumption of responsibilities and that there is effective support to the countries suffering the most dramatic levels of loss and damage.”

Rich countries had managed to raise \$16tn to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, he pointed out. But for poor countries, there had not even been debt relief to help them with the compounded impacts of Covid, cost of living rises, climate and the strong dollar, which has made their repayments more expensive.

“There is a sense of frustration [in the developing world] that is real and that deserves a response,” he said. He has called in recent months for a windfall tax on the bonanza oil and gas companies have enjoyed, a call he will repeat in Sharm el-Sheikh.

At last year’s summit in Glasgow, countries agreed to focus on limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, but recent UN reports have shown that current policies would raise temperatures by about 2.5C.

Guterres said there was only a slim chance of holding to the target. “We still have a chance but we are rapidly losing it,” he said. “I’d say the 1.5C is in intensive care, and the machines are shaking. So either we act immediately and in a very strong way, or it’s lost and probably lost for ever.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/04/un-chief-antonio-guterres-climate-crisis-cop27>

## FROM RUSSIAN GAS TO THE 1.5C DREAM – WHAT'S AT STAKE IN SHARM EL-SHEIKH

**Fiona Harvey** *Down to Earth* The Guardian 3 November 2022

Almost every year for the last 30 years, the world has met for two weeks to discuss the climate crisis. This weekend, the annual conference – Cop27 – will kick off in the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. This year’s Cop will be arguably the hardest yet. Last year’s conference ended with global consensus on the need to limit temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Despite some last-minute kerfuffle, the world showed a unified front for once, accepting scientific advice, making strong progress on plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and vowing to return this year with strengthened commitments.

Since then, almost everything that could go wrong has gone wrong. Vladimir Putin’s illegal and brutal invasion of Ukraine, as well as bringing bloodshed and tragedy to Ukrainian people, has upended geopolitics, sparked a global energy crisis and food crisis and added to the economic woes of countries already battered by Covid-19.

Some EU countries dependent on Russian gas have returned – temporarily, they claim – to coal, and more are seeking new sources of gas. To make matters worse, the world’s two biggest emitters, the US and China – which surprised everyone by signing a bilateral pact at Cop26 in Glasgow to cooperate on green efforts – have been plunged into a diplomatic deep freeze after Nancy Pelosi’s summer visit to disputed Taiwan. John Kerry, the US presidential climate envoy, urged China to return to the table, in an interview with the Guardian.

Meanwhile, the drumbeat of climate breakdown grows ever louder: devastating floods in Pakistan; drought in Africa; record heatwaves across Europe, India, China and even, in March, unprecedented high temperatures at both poles.

Sameh Shoukry, Egypt’s foreign minister, told the Guardian in a rare interview it would be harder to gain agreement this year even than it was in Paris in 2015, or in Glasgow last year. “Because of the current circumstances, geopolitical tensions and economic directions and pressures, it is quite different and more difficult,” he said. Shoukry made a plea for countries to leave their geopolitical contentions at the door, and focus only on the climate for the fortnight of talks. But walkouts and spats are still likely, Russia and its allies may be obstructive, and the energy crisis will give cover to those oil-producing countries – Saudi Arabia chief among them – with a history of foot-dragging.

There is some good news. The defeat of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil should mark the end of his destructive policies in the Amazon, and a new government in Australia has made its mark with much improved climate plans.

But when it comes to keeping the 1.5C goal alive, this Cop is unlikely to mark much change on last year. At Glasgow, countries’ commitments on emissions cuts for the crucial next decade – known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) – though improved, were still inadequate to the 1.5C goal.

There seems little prospect of a dramatic change in Egypt. However, progress is still possible on another key issue: climate finance. Poor countries need help from the rich, to access green technology and to help them adapt to the impacts of extreme weather. They also need help with the loss and damage caused by climate breakdown – the impacts of weather so extreme that they cannot be adapted to or prepared for – and will be looking for substantial commitments on that.

At Cops, the voice of civil society is usually key to making any significant progress. That will be harder this year, as Egypt is an autocracy that controls media, blocks dissent, and has been accused of human rights abuses. Shoukry told the Guardian more than 9,000 civil society activists had registered to participate, and promised their demonstrations would be permitted. However, many are staying away, put off by the high costs as well as the high security. Greta Thunberg, for one, is not attending, though Shoukry told the Guardian he would welcome meeting her.

While the augurs for Cop27 are poor, the delegates meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh must overcome the difficult circumstances and set a new direction on climate finance. The world cannot afford any more Cop failures.

## **COP27 WOULD DO WELL TO HEED THE CONCERNS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR GOD'S CREATION AS VATICAN FORMALLY JOINS THE PROCESS**

**Joseph Kelly** 6 October 2022

From 6-18 November, Heads of State, ministers and negotiators, climate activists, civil society representatives and CEOs will be meeting in the Egyptian coastal city of Sharm el-Sheikh for the world's largest annual gathering on climate action. COP27 is the 27th meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (The Paris Agreement). Faced with an unprecedented global energy crisis brought on by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and increasingly worrying extreme weather events, this latest gathering will be yet another attempt to put some meaning on the landmark 2016 Paris Agreement.

In Paris on 12 December 2016, 196 global parties were signatories to the first legally binding international treaty on climate change. Coming into force the following year, The Paris Agreement gave us the much-discussed commitment to limiting global warming below two degrees Celsius, and preferably to 1.5 degrees, compared to pre-industrial levels. Critical to this goal is the immediate turning around of greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century. To achieve the 1.5 degree target, global emissions will need to be cut by around 50% by 2030 – most agree this is highly unlikely, and may even be a receding target.

The first such treaty was the Kyoto Protocol, signed way in 1997 but not effective until 2005. This itself was the outcome of concerns that had been flagged up by environmentalists as early as the late 1960s that something was profoundly amiss with the planet's ecosystem. Organisations like Friends of the Earth (formed 1969) and Greenpeace (1971) galvanised and brought international focus to a rapidly-growing eco-movement.

Here in the UK many of us already campaigning on such issues were drawn to innovative initiatives like the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), founded by businessman-turned-environmentalist Gerard Morgan-Grenville. Gerard set up his ground-breaking project to explore environmental sustainability in 1973 in the disused Llwygwern slate quarry near Machynlleth in mid-Wales. Dismissed in the early days as a community of 'dropout hippies', CAT was actually an urgently necessary response to what was probably the most turbulent year of the 20th century and is now a globally recognised leader in the field of sustainability research.

By November of '73 the Edward Heath government was in deep crisis. The Yom Kippur War had just ended and the price of oil had skyrocketed, leading to an OPEC embargo. Here in the UK, months of negotiations with the National Union of Mineworkers had collapsed without a resolution and an overtime ban was declared, which threatened the vital supply of coal to power stations on the national grid. A shortage of both coal and oil left the Heath government no choice but to declare a National State of Emergency. People endured a tough winter of candles, food shortages and power cuts and by February the following year a General Election had ousted the Heath government, let in Harold Wilson for a brief period, and the ground was laid for the rise of Thatcherism.

Throughout this period, environmentalism remained a fringe activity, being largely dismissed as a logical adjunct to the rising anti-nuclear movement. There was certainly no intention amongst global powers to in any way reduce the pace of industrialisation, and in particular the stripping of resources from developing countries. Today, we're all paying the price, and little really seems to have changed.

The very fact that the COP initiative is on meeting number 27 and we're really no closer to reversing the total destruction of our planet shows how perfunctory the commitment of world leaders is to this absolutely critical issue. Just putting on the COP26 summit cost more than £200m and the post-summit statement contained little that was in any way meaningful. This year's summit will certainly cost even more, and it's a bitter irony that the sponsor is Coca Cola, the world's largest plastic polluter.

Frankly, it was always a long shot that high-cost, luxury location meetings involving lucrative sponsorship and participation deals attended by global leaders was ever going to change our planet's future. You only have to look at the language and documentation to see that environmentalism and concerns about global warming have become an annoyingly persistent political issue that most world leaders are having to engage with very reluctantly.

It was particularly depressing to hear this week that our own new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, [now replaced by Rishi Sunak, who seems to be upholding Truss's recommendation – Ed.] had succeeded in persuading our new King to drop out of delivering an impassioned speech to the COP27 Summit. As a lifelong champion of environmental issues and highly respected figure on the global stage, the presence of King Charles at Sharm el-Sheikh might just have served to embarrass world leaders into some kind of meaningful action. But that was obviously the problem; it's just a great shame that a monarch who I had dearly hoped would be an interventionist king seems to have fallen at the feet of the Prime Minister at the first encounter. COP27 may be a decision Charles lives to regret deeply.

For those who are attending, the subtext seems yet again to be that we can somehow ameliorate the damage that relentless industrialisation is doing, rather than asking more fundamentally important questions about the kind of society we really want to be living in.

In contrast, the Catholic Church has been a distinct and increasingly focussed voice on the environment for more than a century now, perhaps even back to St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecologists and animals. As it happens this Tuesday was the saint's feast day [4 October], and a good opportunity for our Church to reiterate its profound concerns for the environment and our planet's ecosystems.

The Social Justice Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales announced a new edition of its teaching document on the environment – *The Call of Creation*. First published in 2002, the new edition has been released at the conclusion of the Church's month-long Season of Creation. The document calls for a "profound interior conversion" and for Catholics to "repair our relationship with God's creation" to address the current ecological crisis.

Writing in the foreword, Bishop John Arnold, our Lead Bishop for the Environment, and Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the Social Justice department, say: "The finishing touches were being made to this new edition of *The Call of Creation* as temperatures reached 40°C in our country for the first time. This not only broke all previous temperature records; it did so by some distance. This and other indicators demonstrate the urgency of needing to care properly for our common home ... a truly Catholic understanding of the environmental crisis does not see it as simply a series of individual problems that need to be solved but rather the result of a broken relationship with God's creation. This crisis exists because we do not have the right relationship with God's creation."

This very much echoes the sentiment expressed in Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, that the core problem is the broken nature of our relationship with God's creation. The Victorian Christian industrialists of Britain, who were at the forefront of transforming global society from a pastoral, agricultural landscape to an aggressively industrial one drew their justifications from a distinct reading of the Bible, and in particular Gen. 1:28. For them the call to "fill the earth and to subdue it" was a very convenient mantra for capitalist intentions. But 'subdue' is a misinterpretation of the Hebrew word *Kabash*, which actually means 'to serve', and by force if necessary. So, to subdue is not to abuse.

In more recent years this misconstrued theology has continued with a not uncommon view that – because the planet is only our temporary, highly flawed home – stewardship for creation ought to be of little concern or consequence to us as Christians who believe that this life is just an imperfect preparation for the divine afterlife.

When Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope in March 2013 he became the first pope in history to carry the name Francis. He later admitted that he chose the name because to do so was to take on one of the greatest challenges imaginable – to try and follow in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Francis very deliberately seeks to overturn the perception that our planet is to be subdued. It's in his opening words:

"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us. "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs".

2. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life. This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she "groans in travail" (Rom 8:22). We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. **Pope Francis, *Laudato Si***

Also marking the feast day of St Francis of Assisi this week, Pope Francis has launched a quite remarkable and moving full length (1h 20m) documentary film called ***The letter – A Message for our Earth***. Directed and brilliantly shot by Emmy-winning director Nicolas Brown, The letter is the story of personal letters that Pope Francis wrote to climate activists from the Brazilian Amazon, India, Senegal and the US. Each character was invited to Rome for a private audience with the Pope during which they shared their personal story and that of their country, revealing new eye-opening perspectives on the state of our planet and the need to do to rebalance our relations with the earth.

Evocatively shot and available on YouTube Originals, the film's premiere symbolically took place on the same day as the Holy See's official entry into the landmark Paris agreement, and is a remarkable statement of both the Holy Father's deep concern for our planet, and for the strength of engagement that the COP process can expect from both Francis and the Vatican.

Pope Francis will know only too well that rampant industrial capitalism and the accumulation of personal wealth and power lies at the heart of our global climate problems. Replacing destructive selfishness with a deep compassion and consideration for others, as well as the vision to commit to a long-term future for those coming after us will not be easy, but nothing less will save our planet. King Charles may have bowed to the politicians, but I very much doubt Pope Francis will be so easily persuaded. He certainly carries the profoundest hopes and prayer of all of us.

<https://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk/cop27-would-do-well-to-heed-the-concerns-of-pope-francis-for-gods-creation-as-vatican-formally-joins-the-process-says-joseph-kelly/>

• Joseph Kelly is a Catholic writer and theologian, and is founder of [www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk)

Watch ***The letter – A Message for our Earth*** here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII>

### BISHOPS LAUNCH NEW EDITION OF ENVIRONMENT DOCUMENT 'THE CALL OF CREATION'

At the beginning of October, on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales launched a new edition of ***The Call of Creation***. Twenty years after it was first published, there is now an even more urgent need to protect our Common Home. Bishop John Arnold, Lead Bishop for the Environment, and Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the Social Justice department, wrote the foreword for the document:

“We are a people of hope who believe in redemption. We must study the signs of the times and take the action that is needed to repair our relationship with God’s creation. As is made clear in *The Call of Creation*, the exercise of the virtue of solidarity and the promotion of the common good, which are so needed at this time, are the responsibility of each and every individual and institution in society.”

Read more about it through the CBCEW website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-launch-new-edition-of-environment-document-the-call-of-creation/>

Download here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/10/Call-of-Creation-2022b.pdf>

### WHY GRETA THUNBERG IS SHUNNING THE U.N. CLIMATE CONFERENCE THIS YEAR

Shannon Osaka *The Washington Post* 31 October 2022

Greta Thunberg, the activist from Sweden, was catapulted to worldwide fame at a climate conference. In 2018, the then-15-year-old wandered the halls of a United Nations conference venue in Poland in a black zip-up hoodie and tennis shoes, followed by a gaggle of media and policymakers impressed by her straight-talking realism about the climate crisis. “I expected it to be more action and less talking,” she said then, of her first international climate summit. Thunberg’s behaviour at climate conferences made her famous: the way she stared down world leaders in Poland, the way she shouted “How dare you!” in 2019 to a plenary of governments in New York. But this year, the now 19-year-old climate activist says she plans to skip next week’s U.N. climate conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt — the 27th since the process began — entirely.

“The COPs are mainly used as an opportunity for leaders and people in power to get attention, using many different kinds of greenwashing,” Thunberg said during a question-and-answer session in London for the release of her book, ***The Climate Book***, a collection of essays featuring climate scientists, activists, and other experts on climate science and solutions. “COP” stands for “Conference of the Parties,” and is the shorthand for the annual climate conferences run by the United Nations. The conferences, she added “are not really meant to change the whole system. So, as it is, the COPs are not really working, unless we use them as an opportunity to mobilize.” Thunberg’s frustration with the international climate diplomacy process has seemed to be growing in recent years. Last year, she attended COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, but called the meeting “blah blah blah.”

At some level, of course, Thunberg is right: The United Nations climate summits are, practically by definition, not intended to overthrow the world economic system or even drastically cut emissions. The structure of the 2016 Paris Agreement, in which nearly every country in the world agreed to hold warming to no greater than 2 degrees Celsius,

doesn't include much in the way of binding international law. If a country doesn't follow through on its emissions cutting targets — or doesn't introduce new targets at all — the only recourse for other countries is to “name and shame” the offender. It's a weak motivator for one of the greatest problems humanity has ever faced. Despite this, the system has sometimes appeared to be working. More than 70 countries have pledged to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, accounting for about three-quarters of the world's total emissions. In recent years, landmark climate laws have been passed in the United States and Europe while the price of renewable energy has plummeted.

But ambitious pledges — as Thunberg and other activists have noted — do not necessarily mean ambitious action. Humanity is still releasing approximately 36 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere every year. The COP process has succeeded in getting many countries to pledge to cut their carbon emissions in the long-term; it has largely failed, however, to get them to *actually* cut emissions in the short-term.

Thunberg's shunning of this year's COP may, at some level, be a recognition of the fact that the climate conferences' usefulness is limited. Most of the most dramatic emissions cuts will come from countries enacting national policies — none of which happen at the bureaucratic international meetings. But her absence may also be a sign that climate activists are struggling to find the right place for their messages. In recent weeks, protesters have thrown food and glued themselves onto precious works of art. Carbon emissions are everywhere: They come from cars, planes, power plants, factories, and much more. There is no single place where decisions about the future of the planet are being made — not even at COP.

Over the past year, Thunberg has stayed a little more distant from international politics: She has continued her famous climate school strike in front of the Swedish Parliament, spoken to musical festival attendees at Glastonbury in the U.K., and worked on her book, the proceeds of which will go to charity. According to the Times in London, she now lives off of a small student grant and shares an apartment with a friend. Still, her strength has always been her ability to point out, in no uncertain terms, that the world is not doing enough on climate change. Diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, she credits her different way of thinking with giving her a staunch moral clarity that many lack. At previous international climate conferences, she has stood on the side-lines, repeating over and over again some version of “This is not enough.” That message has been a consistent reminder in a system that relies so heavily on naming and shaming. In Sharm el-Sheikh, will it be missed?

**Read in The Washington Post:** <https://apple.news/AjrqYSwpXs2qp9TEe9x962g>

• **Shannon Osaka** is a climate reporter covering policy, culture, and science for The Washington Post. Before joining The Post, she was a climate reporter at the non-profit environmental outlet Grist.

## **COP27 MOBILISATIONS: THIS CRISIS DEMANDS ACTION**

### **Climate Justice Coalition, UK**

November 12 will see mass mobilisations across the country and put thousands of people on the streets to demand climate justice in solidarity with the Global Day of Action called by Egyptian groups at COP27.

<https://www.cop27coalition.org/events/newly-launched-cop27-coalition-calls-for-global-mass-action-for-climate-justice-reset-of-climate-talks-ahead-of-egypt-cop>

Global temperatures, rising. Energy bills, rising. Billionaire profits, rising. While people are being forced to choose between heating and eating, energy companies are making record-breaking profits. From bailouts to big business, ramping up more deadly fossil fuels to trashing nature and cutting our wages the Government is refusing to listen. Their policies both here and globally are causing devastation with working people and people of colour — who have contributed the least to the problem — paying the price with killer famines, floods, crop failures, fires and rising poverty.

To stop this crisis we need action that cuts carbon, tackles inequality and ends the injustices baked into our world. This year world leaders will meet in Egypt for COP27 and African movements have called for a Global Day of Action for climate justice. Communities in the global south need urgent climate finance and reparations for the loss and damages that have caused mass destruction of lives and livelihoods. Justice won't be handed to us by world leaders or delivered by corporations. We need to organise in our communities and ensure that not only is no one is cold or hungry this winter but that we stop the headlong rush into climate catastrophe.

Sign & share the **Egyptian Human Rights Coalition on COP27 petition** demanding the opening up of civic space in Egypt, and the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners: <https://copcivicspace.net/petition/>

**The Africa Peoples Counter COP** is being organised from 17-21 October, with hybrid events and decentralised actions: <https://www.africacclimatejustice.org/copy-of-apcc-2021-1>

**Egypt Solidarity COP27 Resources and Toolkit:** <https://egyptsolidarityinitiative.org/cop27toolkit/>

**Find out about the global fight for Climate Justice and Human Rights in Egypt this year at COP27:**

<https://www.cop27coalition.org>

**More information:** [https://climatejustice.uk/cop27/?mc\\_cid=882423f78a&mc\\_eid=6b697c8305](https://climatejustice.uk/cop27/?mc_cid=882423f78a&mc_eid=6b697c8305)

## JRS COMMENT ON ATTACK AT ASYLUM PROCESSING CENTRE

31 October 2022: Up to three incendiary devices were thrown at a migrant reception centre in Dover on Sunday. Megan Knowles, Deputy Director of Jesuit Refugee Services UK has issued the following comment today:

The recent petrol bomb attack on the asylum processing centre at Western Jet Foil is truly horrifying. As we await further details, it is important to face up to the reality that it did not occur in isolation but in the context of vaunting demonisation and marginalisation of those seeking sanctuary on our shores.

For years, the government has met people claiming asylum with suspicion and disbelief and deliberately crafted a hostile environment for those with precarious immigration status, many of whom are refugees let down by the government's own asylum processing system. Earlier this year, the government passed laws designed to punish refugees for travelling in the only way available to them. These laws are aimed with much fanfare at the very people who appear to have been targeted with petrol bombs just days ago in Kent.

And last week, further details of the shocking humanitarian situation at the asylum processing centre at Manston airport came to light: hundreds of people, including families with children sleeping on tent floors in cramped conditions for weeks; outbreaks of diphtheria; and even cases of MRSA; all in a setting where people seeking asylum are being detained for prolonged periods, though even under the law they should only have been held very briefly to ascertain their identity. Indeed, this information emerged shortly after the Home Secretary had ignored warnings that people were being held at Manston unlawfully.

We don't yet have the full picture of what happened in the attack on Western Jet Foil, but we do know that it was a tragedy, and that it points to a world in which division and hatred is normalised. The attack is, among other things, the fruit of a politics that is intent on human cruelty. As we reel in anguish and anger, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the attack, with the attacker's family, and for his soul. We ask for healing, both of the pain caused by this attack, and of our broken politics.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45805>

## A POLICY THAT SHAMES BRITAIN

**The Tablet Leader** 5 November 2022

Suella Braverman has described the crossing of the English Channel by 40,000 refugees in small boats this year as an "invasion". Even some in her own party deplore such language as inflammatory. Since returning to the job of home secretary last month, Braverman has been accused of deliberately treating refugees so badly that others would be deterred from making the Channel crossing. This is what can happen when groups of people are stripped of their humanity, and demonised.

Refugees from the boats, almost all of whom seek political asylum once they have arrived, have been taken to a processing centre at the disused RAF airport at Manston in Kent. Conditions there became so appalling that a senior official who inspected the site was rendered "speechless" by what he saw. What was meant to be, at most, a 24-hour wait has turned in some cases into two or three weeks. People had to sleep on the floor, with not enough blankets, with poor sanitation and toilet facilities, amid a constant undercurrent of stress, anger and violence.

The previous policy of moving them on quickly had been suspended – illegally, it is said – since Braverman became home secretary, only to be resumed this week once the story became headline news.

This crisis calls for an urgent reality check. Once they have reached Britain and provided they can demonstrate they are fleeing persecution, refugees have a right to stay in Britain under the 1951 Refugee Convention. They are not, as Braverman and her supporters seem to think, uninvited and unwelcome. The convention is their invitation. They cross the Channel in small boats because they have no alternative way to claim asylum.

Successive Conservative governments, taking their cue from the right-wing press in the demonisation of asylum seekers, have refused to open an immigration office across the Channel, where humanitarian visas could be issued, allowing refugees to enter Britain by more normal routes. France has agreed; Britain has rejected this obvious solution. The belief appears to be that there are votes in being hostile to asylum seekers. Creating a system that makes them wait years for their asylum applications to be granted is part of that approach. They cannot work or receive normal benefits while waiting; yet Britain is suffering a severe labour shortage.

It is the government and a section of the media that is obsessed with Channel boat crossings, not the general public. A recent poll found that immigration in all its aspects rated only eighth in a list of public concerns, well below inflation, the cost of living and the NHS. A decent and sensible government – and Rishi Sunak was chosen by Conservative MPs because he was thought to be sensible – would start from scratch, identify the correct legal and moral imperatives, and put in place a system for dealing with asylum seekers of which the whole country would no longer be ashamed, but proud.

## [BISHOP DEMANDS ACTION TO ADDRESS OVERCROWDING AT MANSTON](#)

**Patrick Hudson** *The Tablet* 3 November 2022

The lead for migrants and refugees for the bishops of England and Wales has called for action to address poor conditions at the Manston migrant centre in Kent, where nearly 4,000 people are being held while they wait for a response to their asylum claims.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Westminster who speaks for the bishops' conference on migrant issues, said on Wednesday that reports of overcrowding and dangerous conditions "are worrying and must be addressed as a matter of urgency". He emphasised that those held at Manston "like all others who have found their way here are human beings, made in the image of God". "Regardless of how or why people have made the journey here, they must be treated with dignity and respect," he said.

Large numbers of migrants crossing the Channel in recent months, sometimes nearly 1,000 in a day, have placed ever greater pressure on the asylum system in Kent, creating a "critical" situation according to local authorities who wrote to the home secretary Suella Braverman yesterday demanding action to relieve the county.

They reported that those held at Manston remained segregated in marquees as the weather worsened and that some had been sleeping on roll mats for more than a month. They also warned of "tensions growing and concern about the potential for disorder" as well as far-right activity, referring to a petrol bomb attack on a migrant facility in Dover on Sunday. A man threw incendiary devices which caused minor injuries to two people and damage to the centre, before killing himself at a petrol station.

Bishop McAleenan said it was "imperative that everyone refrains from inflammatory language that undermines people's humanity and creates tensions between communities". Mrs Braverman faced criticism this week – including from fellow ministers – for describing the scale of illegal immigration as an "invasion" of southern England. In addition, Bishop McAleenan called for action to address the fundamental causes of migration: "As well as the right to migrate, Catholic Social Teaching also speaks of the right not to migrate. Often this is overlooked. Our politicians, recognising the global phenomenon of migration, must work with others in the international community to help create conditions that will eliminate the conflict, poverty and suffering that forces people to leave their own homelands in the first place and undertake dangerous journeys in search of a better life."

## [RISHI SUNAK DISTANCES HIMSELF FROM SUELLA BRAVERMAN 'INVASION' COMMENTS AS UK IMMIGRATION MINISTER WARNS CABINET TO CHOOSE WORDS 'CAREFULLY'](#)

**Alexander Brown** *The Scotsman* 1 November 2022

Rishi Sunak distanced himself from home secretary Suella Braverman's claim the country was facing an "invasion" by migrants as counter-terror police took control of an investigation into the firebombing of an immigration processing centre. It comes as immigration minister Robert Jenrick warned his colleagues to choose their words "carefully" as anger continued to grow over Ms Braverman's "invasion" comments.

In a fiery Commons statement on Monday, Ms Braverman denied ignoring legal advice amid warnings that a temporary holding centre at Manston in Kent was dangerously overcrowded. However, she has now facing calls to retract her comments, which have been labelled "inflammatory" and "totally unhelpful" by opposition MPs and activists.

Mr Sunak told his Cabinet the UK would always be a "compassionate, welcoming country" in the wake of the home secretary's comments. It is understood Ms Braverman's comment to MPs – that "the British people deserve to know which party is serious about stopping the invasion on our southern coast, and which party is not" – had not been cleared with No. 10.

Questioned about Ms Braverman's comments, Mr Jenrick told the BBC: "[Invasion] is not a phrase that I have used, but I do understand the need to be straightforward with the general public about the challenge that we, as ministers, face." On Sky News, Mr Jenrick claimed Ms Braverman had used the word "invasion" to describe the scale of the challenge. He insisted: "In a job like mine, you have to choose your words very carefully. And I would never demonise people coming to this country in pursuit of a better life. I understand and appreciate our obligation to refugees. The scale of the challenge we're facing is very, very significant."

Lord Dubs, who came to the UK as a child refugee in 1939, told Times Radio that Ms Braverman's comments were "inflammatory" and "totally unhelpful". He said: "It [language] is very important because it influences public opinion. It influences the way people see refugees and it shows hostility to people who are fleeing for safety. I just think a home secretary should know better than to use this language – the more so as she's been criticised by one of her junior ministers, Robert Jenrick, who said she has to be careful about the language one uses. So it's inflammatory, it's totally unhelpful and she shouldn't have said it."



Speaking just days after a migrant centre was attacked, Lord Dubs claimed the UK was "becoming a less humane society". He said: "We've always been seen as a country that upholds decent standards in human rights, and treats people in a humane and civilised manner. But can I just add this, that far more people claim asylum in Germany, in France and Spain and so on than they do here? So even the argument that they are all coming from France here is not true. Most of the asylum seekers actually stay in France and claim asylum."

Counter-terror police are meanwhile leading the investigation into the firebombing of the immigration processing centre in Dover which detectives suspect was sparked by "some form of hate filled grievance". After throwing two or three "crude" incendiary devices, the perpetrator is believed to have killed himself at a nearby petrol station, police said. Two members of staff at the centre suffered minor injuries. The suspect is believed to have posted anti-Muslim rants on Facebook.

Chief Inspector of Prisons Charlie Taylor said the Home Office needed to "get a grip" of the conditions. He told Sky News: "What's happening at Manston, when I visited, was people were sleeping on the floors, on the rubber mats down on the floors, and then very thin blankets or mattresses. [There were] lots and lots of people in a room, all squished in together, very uncomfortable. "The room for families has lots and lots of different families all sharing the same room, very young children, older children. For a few hours, that would be acceptable, but where people are spending long periods of time there, it just isn't."

Shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper accused Ms Braverman of ramping up her rhetoric because she had no answers to the problems. "No home secretary serious about public safety or national security would use the language Suella Braverman did the day after a petrol bomb attack on a Dover centre," Ms Cooper said.

### SEEKING SANCTUARY FOUR POINT PLAN FOR AVOIDING DANGEROUS CHANNEL CROSSINGS

Seeking Sanctuary have a four-point plan which they hope would do away with small boat crossings:

- 1) Open a UK asylum processing centre in Calais using Border Force personnel who are already deployed there, together with interpreters. (The Centre could equally well be in another accessible location such as Lille or Paris.)
- 2) Develop a system of timed appointments so as not to overwhelm the Centre. These can be made online to avoid unnecessary journeys to Calais. Support and help would be needed to enable applicants to access the system, for example through a dedicated multi-lingual website.
- 3) Provide safe Channel crossings for those who have been interviewed and whose applications are being processed. Provide UK accommodation as at present.
- 4) Provide finance for the French authorities to provide safe and dignified accommodation for those who are waiting to have their claims heard. They are asking people to get in touch to give them feedback on their proposals.

<https://seekingsanctuary.weebly.com/>

### LIFT THE BAN COALITION

**Jennifer Laws from Asylum Matters writes:-** The Lift the Ban coalition has shared a new campaign video focusing on polling from earlier this year that showed 81% of the public support giving people seeking asylum the right to work.

**You can download the video here**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hycrdce8wf8q8l6/LTB%20whats%20more%20popular%20video%20October%202022.mp4?dl=0>

**Share earlier posts - see Refugee Action here:** <https://twitter.com/RefugeeAction/status/1582680797953159168>  
and **Asylum Matters here:** <https://twitter.com/AsylumMatters/status/1582695826065068034> ).

**Tweet** - Dear Government, Looking for a policy that saves £££ but is also wildly popular with the public? It's time to #LiftTheBan and give people seeking asylum the right to work. [insert video]  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hycrdce8wf8q8l6/LTB%20whats%20more%20popular%20video%20October%202022.mp4?dl=0>

### REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS - CALAIS LIGHT IS CALLING YOU TO JOIN US ON OUR REFUGEE CONVOYS

Calais Light is asking for people aged 18+ to sign up to travel across to Calais for the weekends of the 18th - 20th November, or the 9th - 11th December. They would particularly welcome experienced continental drivers. A promised weekend of fun and fulfilment is guaranteed. Volunteer and make a difference to the refugees there.

**Full details and bookings at** [www.calaislight.com](http://www.calaislight.com).

## UNITED NATIONS ENVOY SAYS AUSTERITY CUTS MAY FUEL FURTHER POVERTY ACROSS BRITAIN AND BREACH HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Olivier de Schutter, the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty, said he was “extremely troubled” by the prospect of public spending cuts – as the prime minister looks to balance the books after the disastrous mini-Budget. Mr Sunak is believed to be mulling a 50-50 split of spending cuts and tax rises for the 17 November Budget, as he and chancellor Jeremy Hunt address a black hole of up to £50bn.

“This is the worst time to impose such cuts,” Mr de Schutter told The Guardian. “You do not impose austerity measures when the whole population is facing a cost of living crisis. What you do is you raise taxes on the rich, you raise taxes on corporations.”

The UN poverty envoy said he wanted to agree a visit to the UK to see the impact of economic conditions “given the context that we are facing now, the very high rate of poverty and the austerity that is kicking back”. Warning that measures pushing people into extreme poverty would break obligations, he said “There is a clear requirement in human rights law that you do not adopt retrogressive measures.”

Mr de Schutter: “Not aligning social benefits or minimum wages with increased costs of living is a retrogressive measure so the government would be violating its international human rights obligations if it were to cut down on social benefits [in real terms], and that is what we may see happening.”

If Mr Sunak were to uprate benefits in line with earnings – rather than inflation as previously promised – it would push 200,000 more children into poverty, according to the Child Poverty Action Group. The Legatum Institute said such real-terms cuts would push 450,000 people into poverty in 2023-24. It comes as more than 60 charities write to the new prime minister demanding more support for millions of UK households in fuel poverty. A survey for the End Fuel Poverty Coalition suggests 76 per cent of people think the government is still not doing enough.

Mr Sunak and Mr Hunt are considering further energy bill support in April “in line” with this winter’s payments, according to ITV News. That £15bn package was included £400 direct payments for every household and £650 for those on benefits, but it is not clear if the universal scheme for all households will continue.

Union leaders have warned of a return to austerity, amid reports that Whitehall departments outside the NHS will be asked to find cuts of up to 15 per cent. Mr Hunt has denied claims of “new wave of austerity”, but said he had to make decisions of “eye-watering” difficulty.

Mr De Schutter said Mr Sunak’s government should consider an alternative to austerity for something “more progressive” – including increasing taxes on the wealthiest households and on corporations. “That pathway is what international human rights require from the UK.”

Mr Sunak is said to be considering extending the windfall tax on oil and gas giants in a bid to generate an additional £40bn for Treasury over five years. Mr Sunak and Mr Hunt want to increase the rate of the levy from 25 per cent to 30 per cent, extend the collection period to 2028 and expand the scheme to cover the big electricity generators, according to The Times.

Meanwhile, defence secretary Ben Wallace suggested he would accept something lower than the previous government promise to spend 3 per cent of GDP on defence by the end of the decade. He told MPs on Wednesday that the pledge was only an “aspiration”, and denied he had threatened to quit if he failed to get a commitment from the chancellor to boost defence spending in line with the end-of-decade commitment.

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uk/un-envoy-warns-rishi-sunak-against-troubling-austerity-cuts-old/ar-AA13FEeG?ocid=sapphireappshare>

## BRAZIL ELECTION: WHAT THE RESULTS MEAN FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Jessica Michelmores and Lucy Jardine** 31 October 2022 **Source: CAFOD**

On Sunday, Brazilians voted for left-wing Luiz Inacio 'Lula' da Silva to return as Brazil's next president from 1 January 2023. The presidential election was incredibly close, with Lula winning 50.9% of the total vote, and the country's current far-right leader, Jair Bolsonaro, winning 49.1%. There was a difference of just over 2 million votes between the two candidates, which is symbolic of a deeply divided Brazil.

Speaking at his victory speech after an unprecedentedly bitter election campaign, Lula was keen to show his commitment to uniting the country, and putting combating hunger, inequality, and environmental destruction as top priorities back on the government's agenda. Lula also made it clear that for Brazil's indigenous peoples, they are entering a symbolic new era: "We are ending a...government that doesn't like indigenous people. In fact, for indigenous people, I will create the Ministry of Original Peoples so that they will never again be mistreated".

Edinho Bastista de Souza, general coordinator of CAFOD's partner, Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR), said: "This is a very important result for indigenous peoples and for all those who defend life...we won a battle. It is the beginning of a new day, the start of new hope, and openness to dialogue. Indigenous peoples have always trusted and believed that it is possible to have a country that gives dignity, freedom, that respects the rights of indigenous peoples. Yes, it is possible."

While Bolsonaro has been in office, legal protection of human rights and the environment has been eroded. Since winning the presidential election in 2018, Bolsonaro has dismantled existing environmental agencies and the Indigenous Affairs Agency (FUNAI), leading to increased deforestation and the loss of indigenous lives. Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon broke all records during the first half of this year. This has been particularly devastating for the Yanomami, an indigenous people living in the Amazon in northern Brazil.

Lula, on the other hand, plans to reverse spiralling deforestation rates by encouraging environmental protections and a transition from ranching to farming on degraded pastureland, setting Brazil back on course as a global player in the fight against climate change. "The invasion, subdivision and destruction of indigenous lands that had already been officially registered has been a constant."

Bolsonaro's government is the only regime since 1985 that has not officially recognised any indigenous lands. The current president has gone even further, proposing new laws that threaten to take away indigenous ancestral rights to land and to allow mining on indigenous lands.

Bishop Dom Roque, from CAFOD's Brazilian partner CIMI (the Indigenist Missionary Council) ,explains: "We have already gone four years without recognising a single inch of indigenous land. On the contrary, the invasion, subdivision and destruction of indigenous lands that had already been officially registered has been a constant."

In contrast, Lula's party now plans to revoke these life-threatening decrees, and create an indigenous department within government, to ensure that their rights to land, health, bi-lingual education and cultural preservation as enshrined in the Brazilian constitution are upheld.

Indigenous communities, like the Yanomami and the Ye'kwana, play a crucial role in protecting the Amazon rainforest, defending against climate change and keeping the forest standing. Recognition of indigenous lands is extremely important as land means life to indigenous peoples - without it, they have no water, food, livelihoods, culture or future. But instead, indigenous communities have been facing violence for protecting their lands. They are being forced to flee their homes and are suffering irreversible damage from mercury poisoning, which is used in the extraction of gold by illegal goldminers. Protection from the government against illegal gold mining is vitally needed but has been denied in the past four years. Lula's election as president is a crucial moment to reverse this trend.

Dario Yanomami, vice president of CAFOD partner HAY, which works to protect the rights of the Yanomami and Ye'kwana and the Amazon rainforest, told us: "Yesterday, we 305 different indigenous peoples managed to win our long battle of resistance at the ballot box. We indigenous people from Brazil, especially the Yanomami people, are so happy with the election of Lula as president yesterday. The election was extremely important as it represented the democracy of the peoples of the Forest, that we are going to save with this great election. Our great friend and supporter, Lula, already supported the official recognition of indigenous lands and especially in Yanomami Territory...and we look forward to working with him from January 1st 2023."

After decades of struggle the Yanomami and Ye'kwana finally gained official recognition and registration of their land in 1992. Thirty years later, they are facing a brighter future, for both the Amazon rainforest, and for generations to come.

**Watch this video** celebrating 30 years since the official registration of Yanomami indigenous territory:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcjYJaj7o3Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcjYJaj7o3Y)

Despite the jubilation and grand expectations from Brazil's indigenous peoples and environmental activists, Lula's third term as president is likely to be his most challenging yet. Congress is predominantly made up of Bolsonaro allies, and in the months and years ahead, Lula will have to focus on building alliances outside of his left-leaning party, to be able to govern effectively and also attempt to unite a polarised nation.

Bishop Reginaldo Andrietta, president of the Social Pastoral, South Region of the Brazilian Bishops conference, reminds us all of what huge challenges still lie ahead for his country: "Brazil, which has elected a new government, now needs to build a new destiny: of real democracy, equity of rights, integral ecology, and fraternal coexistence."

Hope has finally been reignited that these may now be possible for the future.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45810>

## WINNERS OF INDEX'S 2022 FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The “bravery and brilliance” of free expression champions from China, Cuba, Russia and Ukraine celebrated at annual awards.

**INDEX ON CENSORSHIP** 31 October 2022: The winners of Index on Censorship’s 2022 Freedom of Expression awards have been announced at a ceremony in London hosted by broadcaster, journalist and commentator Ayesha Hazarika. The awards, now in their twenty-second year, celebrate those who risk arrest, assault and imprisonment through their championing of freedom of expression. This year’s panel of judges consists of multi-award-winning artist Alison Jackson, artist and writer Coco Fusco, journalist Ben Preston, and Chair of the Index Board of Trustees Sir Trevor Phillips.

Awards were presented in 3 categories: the arts, campaigning, and journalism, alongside the annual Trustees Award.

The winners were:

### **The 2022 Trustees Award – Andrey Kurkov**

Andrey Kurkov is a writer, journalist, and the current president of PEN Ukraine. Born in St Petersburg in 1961, he graduated from the Kiev Foreign Languages Institute, worked as a journalist and did military service as a prison warden in Odessa. He became a writer, producing screenplays and authoring critically acclaimed and popular novels, including *Death and the Penguin*. Kurkov is a hugely respected commentator on Ukraine, and his most recently translated novel, *Grey Bees*, explores the current conflict through adventures of a beekeeper.

### **The 2022 Freedom of Expression Award for Journalism – Sophia Huang Xueqin**

Huang Xueqin is an activist and journalist who has worked with several domestic Chinese media outlets. She has reported extensively on the MeToo movement in China. Huang has worked to promote women’s rights, and to document and expose sexual harassment against women and girls. She has faced legal challenges because of her work and was detained between October 2019 and January 2020 after writing about mass protests in Hong Kong. On 19 September 2021, Huang disappeared. It has since been confirmed that she had been detained along with labour activist Wang Jianbing and charged with “inciting subversion of state power”. She remains in detention and is now held in the No. 1 Detention Centre in Guangzhou.

### **The 2022 Freedom of Expression Award for Arts – Hamlet Lavastida**

Hamlet Lavastida has been described as a political activist by way of art, using his art to document human rights abuses in Cuba and to criticise Cuban authorities. Lavastida has been involved in various protest movements in Cuba, including the 27N movement which grew out of the protests held on 27 November 2020. In June 2021, Lavastida was arrested after returning from a residency at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin. Following his arrest, Amnesty International named him as a ‘prisoner of conscience’. Lavastida stayed in prison for 87 days. Lavastida has been living in exile in Europe since September 2021, warned that he will be arrested immediately should he ever return to Cuba.

### **The 2022 Freedom of Expression Award for Campaigning – OVD-Info**

OVD-Info is an independent human rights media project documenting political persecution in Russia. They collect information about detentions at public rallies and other cases of political pressure, publish news and coordinate legal assistance to assist detainees. The organisation was set up in 2011 to document arrests during the widespread anti-fraud protests, the organisation has now evolved to offer legal guidance and support to people arrested at peaceful protests in Russia. In September 2021, OVD-Info was labelled as a ‘foreign agent’ by Russian authorities. During the ongoing war in Ukraine and associated anti-war protests in Russia, OVD-Info’s work is more important than ever. Despite a highly unpredictable situation and persistent censorship, OVD-Info continues to support detained and persecuted protesters in Russia.

Ruth Smeeth, Index on Censorship CEO said: “Index on Censorship’s Freedom of Expression awards celebrate the bravery and brilliance of journalists, artists and campaigners from across the globe. Each and every winner is a beacon for free expression, standing up for their democratic rights and values in the face of often unimaginable personal peril. The quiet heroism of our winners gives us all reason to redouble our work to defend free speech and free expression around the globe, give voice to the persecuted, and stand against repression wherever we find it”.

<https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2022/10/winners-of-indexs-2022-freedom-of-expression-awards-announced/>

## DARK TIMES CALL FOR PLAIN SPEAKING NOT PLATITUDES

Ukrainians show us that sometimes offence is the best response when democracy is threatened

### **Trevor Phillips The Times** 31 October 2022

Last Thursday, as chairman of the global freedom of expression campaign Index on Censorship, I had the privilege of spending an evening in the company of Ukraine’s most celebrated author, Andrey Kurkov, a writer’s writer, who received our trustees’ award. The surrealist humour in his 19 novels, which include titles such as *Adventures of Baby Vacuum Cleaner Goshka*, has attracted admirers all over the globe.

Over the past year, he and his family have remained steadfastly settled in Kyiv, and his writings in defence of Ukraine have been excoriating. In Index's quarterly magazine, he eloquently listed the shattering trail of cultural destruction wrought by Russian bombs on Ukrainian museums, concert halls and universities. His acceptance speech on Thursday was a masterpiece of stoicism, wit and acid contempt for Vladimir Putin.

The confrontation between Kurkov and the Kremlin vividly demonstrates where limitations on free speech can lead. Ludicrously, Putin poses as a victim of discrimination, parroting the complaint of some in this country that writers like Kurkov should avoid offending others. He has been labelled a Russophobe; his books are banned. Had Kyiv been occupied it is likely that he would have been disappeared.

The Kremlin has reason to fear Kurkov's barbs. His best-known novel, *Death and the Penguin*, is a dark comedy riffing on Russian gangsterism, Kyiv's home-grown corruption and a gloomy talking penguin in need of a heart transplant. The journalist protagonist's editor blithely dismisses the fall of a senior politician from a sixth-floor window as an unfortunate if puzzling accident; it took place "while he was cleaning the window for some reason — it wasn't his window — and it was at night".

The now world-famous riposte by a Ukrainian soldier on Snake Island in the Black Sea ("Russian warship, go f\*\*\* yourself") is entirely in the nation's tradition. It is hardly surprising that a comic actor should find his way to the presidency with almost three quarters of the vote. Volodymyr Zelensky was already famous when he starred in the hit TV series *Servant of the People* in which an everyman history teacher becomes president. He quickly discovers that the president keeps a "sun-tan architect" on his staff, and that there is a huge ministry for the "reduction of government ministries". The fictional president turns out to be quick with what Ukrainians call the "caustic word". Dismissing a corrupt official he says: "If he's honest, he's a fool. If he's smart, he's a thief." The real-life Zelensky is no less laconic, telling western leaders who had offered him safe passage to exile "I need ammunition, not a ride".

In his nightly address to the Ukrainian people Zelensky does not mince his words, reminding us that leadership can't be copied out of the pages of airport management books. But we Brits have fallen out of love with bluntness. Establishment terror of upsetting the wrong pressure group, or more frequently of upsetting the right person, leaves our politicians mouthing platitudes.

The Ukrainians are showing us that sometimes offence is the best possible response to repression. In democracies we need to guard the freedom to say it as we see it — sometimes in ways that will seem hurtful. The precious difference between us and Putin's Russia is that people get to answer back in whatever language they like.

## 'WAR CAN NEVER BE UNDERSTOOD', BUT THIS ACCOUNT OF UKRAINE MAY HELP

Simon Catterson 4 November 2022

### MEMOIR *Diary of an Invasion* Andrey Kurkov Mountain Leopard Press

"Have you ever tried to remain optimistic during catastrophe and tragedy, during bloody military operations?" Andrey Kurkov asks the reader in the preface to this compelling first-hand account of the crisis in Ukraine. "I have tried and will continue to try," he declares. And he does try notwithstanding the horrors, deprivation and anxiety, the like of which most non-Ukrainian readers of this book will have no personal experience, caused by a war whose cruelty and destructiveness we may struggle to comprehend.

There are moments when it is an effort to maintain any kind of positive outlook. "There is nothing in the world worse than war," writes Kurkov. "Even the coronavirus pandemic now seems to be something ordinary and understandable. War can never be understood or accepted." And yet, he observes, to a large extent "Ukrainians continue to live as usual." Kurkov describes passing by a hipster barber shop where two customers are having their beards trimmed at the same time as there is news of a planeload of weapons from Canada arriving in Kyiv. "This new Ukrainian reality far outdoes my writer's imagination," muses Kurkov. "I cannot say that I like it. But I accept the reality."

Kurkov notices how war brings out the best in people as well as the worst. "War breeds death and at the same time awakens the humanity in people. Suddenly people want to help others, to help those who are in trouble." He adds: "This concept, which involves helping people who you do not know, is relatively new in Ukraine."

Although Kurkov and his family are able to move well away from the frontline, his own creative practice — the source of great personal satisfaction, normally — has been shattered by the war. "I could not even imagine that this happiness could be destroyed so easily. I thought that my happiness was not material but a state of mind, like the energy arising from eye contact from another person".

Kurkov, best known for *Death and the Penguin*, has given up working on his next novel for the duration, and the production of a film adaptation of one of his previous books has had to shut down. Naturally, he is mindful of the negative impact of the invasion on the publishing industry in Ukraine. A critical shortage of paper means that new books cannot be printed. Many libraries have been destroyed and most bookstores were closed. "War and books are incompatible. But, after the war, books will tell the story of the war."

At a philosophical level Kurkov meditates on the burden of competing versions of history that are used to justify or reject the basis for the Russian invasion. In this part of Europe, it is customary to invoke events that occurred in previous millennia to justify current actions. Nothing that happens is forgotten, it seems, and yet the narrative of the past is rewritten endlessly. "For many people, history has long since ceased to be a science and has become part of literature. It is edited just as a novel is edited before it is published."

A dark irony of the current invasion, according to Kurkov, is that it will result in Ukraine becoming permanently autonomous from Russia. The unintended consequence of "Russia's attempt to destroy Ukraine as an independent state", he believes, is that it has "contributed to the strengthening of Ukrainian national identity".

Kurkov worries that the war will lead to the rejection of Russian classical culture. As one of the millions of ethnic Russians who live in Ukraine, Kurkov acknowledges "I have been made to feel many times of my Russian origin, of the fact that my native language is Russian." The Russian language is not to blame, in his view.

Kurkov believes the place of Ukraine in the world has been transformed by the fight for its existence. "The war has made Ukraine more understandable to the world – more understandable and more acceptable as one of the states of Europe."

Probably the first important literary work to emerge from a conflict that appears likely to alter the course of world history, *Diary of an Invasion* is a thoughtful and humane memoir by one of Ukraine's most prominent living authors. <https://www.smh.com.au/culture/books/war-can-never-be-understood-but-this-account-of-ukraine-may-help-20221031-p5bufd.html>

## **UKRAINIAN AUTHOR VISITS BANBURY CHARITY THAT DELIVERS AID SHIPMENTS TO HIS HOMELAND**

**Jack Ingham** 2 November 2022

A Ukrainian author has visited a Banbury-based aid charity Hope and Help Together to thank and inspire the volunteers. Andrey Kurkov visited the aid charity run by Magdalena Kwiecinska, which is based out of the old Debenhams store in town on Friday 28 October. Hope and Help together use the old department store building to sort the donations gifted to them from across the country before delivering them to locations in Ukraine and Poland where items such as food, clothes and medical equipment are most needed.

Andrey toured the site and spoke with several volunteers and refugees who are involved with the charity, while also signing copies of his latest book, *Diary of an Invasion*, which looks at the Russo-Ukrainian War from his own perspective. Speaking on BBC Radio Oxford, Andrey said: "It's incredible, they have invested their lives to help the Ukrainians. There are letters and messages from Ukrainian civilians and soldiers with extreme gratitude, as well as a signed Ukrainian flag from soldiers who received medical help and bandages, which are very much needed on the frontlines. It almost makes me cry, it's so touching. Every time I see a Ukrainian flag in Britain or in Banbury, I almost feel at home. The fact that people are thinking about people in Ukraine makes me feel very grateful."

The charity, which recently won a BBC Make A Difference Award, is desperately appealing for winter donations of long-life food, candles, generators and sleeping bags among other items as they prepare another convoy of vans to deliver aid in the coming weeks.

Magdalena said: "It was a great privilege to meet Andrey. We all thank him for his time and interest in what we do and how we do it. We talked about his last book, Ukraine and how he is thinking about the future of his country, which he is very positive about, as are many Ukrainians now after the new liberations of lots of towns and villages."

To donate to Hope and Help Together, people can visit the old Debenhams unit in Castle Quay on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11-5:30, Fridays at 12-5 and Saturdays between 11-2. Alternatively, people can donate via the charity's GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bucza-bucha-banbury-ukraine>

<https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/people/ukrainian-author-visits-banbury-charity-that-delivers-aid-shipments-to-his-homeland-3902707>

## IRANIANS HOLD LARGE RALLIES IN DEFIANCE OF WARNING BY REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS HEAD

Patrick Wintour Diplomatic Editor, The Guardian 30 October 2022

Thousands of Iranians have demonstrated in defiance of a final warning by the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) that he would bring protests to an end with unprecedented force. Rallies were held on the streets on Sunday to protest against raids on student dormitories over the weekend in which students were taken away in buses to state detention. Some were sent text messages saying they were banned from campus indefinitely.

Some of the crowds appeared to be the largest since the protests began more than five weeks ago over the death of the 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini while in police custody. Amini had been arrested by the “morality police” for allegedly breaching the Islamic republic’s strict dress code for women. Major General Hossein Salami, the IRGC’s commander-in-chief, had warned on Saturday that that would be the last day of “riots”.

The largest gathering was at the central Tehran branch of Islamic Azad University, but other protests occurred on the university’s North Tehran campus. Security forces responded by using teargas and firing pellet guns. Students at Qazvin International University chanted the slogan: “From Zahedan to Shiraz, I sacrifice my life for Iran.” At Mazandaran University, the crowds chanted: “If we do not stand together, we are killed one by one.” At some universities, students had dismantled partition walls in canteens put there to separate men and women.

Restrictions on media access made it hard to judge the breadth of the protests, but they appeared larger and more defiant than ever.

Supporters of the regime insisted only a small minority were protesting, but acknowledged they have continued far longer than they expected.

The IRGC and the Basij, a paramilitary police force, were true to their word on Saturday, entering a number of campuses in an attempt to arrest students that they had on their lists, sometimes as many as 100. The security forces were also seeking the cooperation of authorities to lock the gates of universities and only let out those not listed for arrest. As part of the crackdown, authorities arrested the protest rapper Tomaj Salehi, releasing a photo of him blindfolded in the back of a car. They claimed he had been arrested as he tried to leave the country, a claim challenged by his family, who said he had been captured at his home in Bakhtiari province. The prosecutor accused him of “propaganda activity against the system”. The new surge in protests has been prompted by emotional 40th-day commemorations of demonstrators killed in the initial wave of rallies, leaving Iran locked in a cycle of violence and dissent.

In a bid to quell protests, the IRGC buried the body of Reza Haghghatnejad, a well-known exiled journalist, away from his home town, fearing demonstrations if they allowed the family to go ahead with the burial. He had died in Berlin from cancer aged 45 and his relatives had had his body flown home. However, authorities seized the body at Shiraz airport and refused to hand it over to his family. Haghghatnejad’s sister posted on her Instagram account a photograph of the purported burial site outside the city of Shiraz. “One person ... only one person should come and tell me where in history such cruelty has been inflicted to a sister,” she wrote.

More than 300 journalists have put their names to a letter demanding the release of two journalists who were among the first to report on the death of Amini. In their joint statement, they warned that “without free and responsible journalism, the society will not be able to identify and solve its problems”. Niloofar Hamedi took a photo of Amini’s parents hugging each other in a Tehran hospital where their daughter was lying in a coma. Elaheh Mohammadi sent a vivid dispatch from the highly emotional funeral for Amini in her Kurdish home town of Saqqez. Both have been detained for more than 35 days. Mehdi Rahmani, the director of the Sharq newspaper where Hamedi works, issued a statement saying Hamedi’s reporting had been responsible and conducted in cooperation with him. He said she had not been the first to Amini’s death. Her husband denied that she had taken the photo of Amini in a coma on the hospital bed. In an ominous statement on Friday, the IRGC intelligence department claimed Hamedi had been trained abroad by western intelligence agencies, a claim that was rejected.

The scale of the protests has left the regime veering from threats to promises of dialogue about why young people feel socially excluded. The head of the Revolutionary Guards in the Khorasan Junubl province, Brig Gen Mohammadreza Mahdavi, was quoted by the state news agency Irna saying: “So far, Basijis have shown restraint and they have been patient. But it will get out of our control if the situation continues.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/30/iranians-hold-large-rallies-in-defiance-of-warning-by-revolutionary-guards-head>

### MAHSA

*'Rise up Zhina! People have come for you!'*

In a land of repression,  
An expression of  
Freedom cost you your life!

We who see your courage and grace love you,  
And as your mother said at your graveside:  
'We have come for you'.

'Rise up Zhina' You are alive in me,  
And in the hearts of those  
Who just want to be free!

**Stephen Karl Murphy**

\* Mahsa Amini was also known as  
Jina Amini or Zhina Amini

## POPE IN BAHRAIN: I AM HERE AS A SOWER OF PEACE

**Source: Vatican News** 4 November 2022

Pope Francis arrived Bahrain yesterday afternoon. After a courtesy visit to the King of Bahrain in the Sakhir Royal Palace, he gave a public address to authorities, members of civil society, and the diplomatic corps, in which he describing Bahrain as a "place of encounter between different peoples," a land where "ancient and modern converge; tradition and progress mix; and above all, people from different backgrounds create a distinctive mosaic of life."

Dwelling on the image of "the Tree of Life," an "emblem of vitality" he noted that the "majestic acacia" has survived in a "desert area with very little rainfall thanks to its deep roots." Bahrain's roots, with over 4500 years of history, "shine forth in its ethnic and cultural diversity, and in the peaceful co-existence and the traditional hospitality of its people." This diversity bear witness to the ability and necessity of living together in the world, which has grown into a "global village" but in many ways still lacks the "spirit of a village," which is expressed in "hospitality, concern for others, and a sense of fraternity."

Looking at the image of the Tree of Life, the Pope invited his listeners to bring "the waters of fraternity" to "the parched deserts of human co-existence," and to work together towards that end. "I am here, in this land of the Tree of Life," he said, "as a sower of peace, in order to experience these days of encounter and to take part in a Forum of dialogue between East and West for the sake of peaceful co-existence."

He thanked the organizers of the Conferences promoted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which stress in particular "the themes of respect, tolerance, and religious freedom." These themes, enshrined in Bahrain's constitution, are "commitments that need constantly to be put into practice, so that religious freedom will be complete and not limited to freedom of worship; that equal dignity and equal opportunities will be concretely recognized for each group and for every individual; that no forms of discrimination exist and that fundamental human rights are not violated but promoted." He particularly highlighted the right to life, even for criminals, "whose lives should not be taken."

Returning to the image of the Tree of Life, he highlighted the progress of Bahrain, due in large part to immigration. At the same time, he highlighted the plight of unemployment in the world, which remains too high; and deplored that too often, labour can be "dehumanizing."

Calling attention to the "global labour crisis," Pope Francis emphasized the value of labour," which must be directed to the good of men and women, and not reduced simply to a means of producing wealth. He called for safe and dignified working conditions that serve to foster cultural and spiritual growth and advance social cohesion, for the common good.

Bahrain, the Pope said, "can be proud of its significant contributions in this regard," pointing to the first school for women in the Gulf region and the abolition of slavery. "May Bahrain be a beacon through the region for the promotion of equal rights and improved conditions for workers, women and young people, while at the same time ensuring respect and concern for all those who feel most at the margins of society, such as immigrants and prisoners."

Pope Francis then called attention to two "critical areas for everyone," but especially world leaders and those responsible for the common good: the question of the environment, and the responsibility of all human beings to promote the flourishing of life. The Holy Father emphasized the importance of working "tirelessly" to confront the climate emergency, and expressed his hope that the COP27 meeting, taking place in just a few days, would be a "step forward in this regard."

The Pope then lamented the increase in "lethal actions and threats," as well as the "monstrous and senseless reality of war, which everywhere sows destruction and crushes hope." Every war, he said, "brings in its wake the death of truth." In particular, the Pope said his thoughts turned to the "forgotten war" in Yemen, that, "like every war, issues not in victory, but only in bitter defeat for everyone. I beg: Let there be an end to the clash of weapons! Let us be committed, everywhere and concretely, to building peace."

Pope Francis concluded his address by quoting the Kingdom of Bahrain Declaration, which highlights the role of religious faith in building a foundation of peace. "I am here today as a believer, as a Christian, as a man, and as a pilgrim of peace," the Pope said, "because today, more than ever, we are called, everywhere, to commit ourselves seriously to peacemaking."

From the same Declaration, the Pope made his own the commitment "to working for a world where people of sincere belief join together to reject that which divides us and concentrate instead on celebrating and expanding on that which unites us."

**Read the Pope's full address here:**

[www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2022/november/documents/20221103-autorita-bahrain.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2022/november/documents/20221103-autorita-bahrain.html)  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45842>



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER

### From Peace Pledge Union:

Join us on Remembrance Sunday 13th November for our annual National Ceremony, to remember all victims of war, challenge militarism and make a commitment to peace. The event will also be streamed online. The ceremony will take place in front of the memorial stone for conscientious objectors in Tavistock Square, London. White poppy wreaths will be laid at the memorial, followed by two minutes' silence.

With contributions from:

- Kate Smurthwaite - left-wing, feminist activist, comedian and writer. Kate performs all over the UK and internationally, and stars in the News at Kate video series. She has worked with asylum seekers through Women For Refugee Women and Women Asylum Seekers Together. She appears regularly as a panellist on television shows such as Question Time, Woman's Hour and the Jeremy Vine show.

- Yurii Sheliashenko - from the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement. We will hear a contribution sent to us by Yurii from Ukraine. Yurii is an activist, legal scholar and public intellectual campaigning tirelessly for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict.

More information about the speakers on our website - see link below.

### ATTENDING IN PERSON

Come to Tavistock Square in London at 12 midday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### WATCHING ONLINE

If you can't make it in person, please join us online to watch the live stream. No registration required. Simply visit the PPU's Remembrance and White Poppies page at the time to watch and join the discussion:

[www.ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies](http://www.ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies)

**Event page on our website:** <https://www.ppu.org.uk/civicism/event/info%3Fid%3D301%26reset%3D1>

## PACT'S OPERATION ELF OFFERS HOPE FOR PARENTS IN PRISON

**Theresa Alessandro** 22 October 2022 **Source: Pact**

Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for prisoners and their families. Over the past few years, the pain of separation felt by both parents in prison and their children has been worsened by restrictions on visits due to the pandemic. Pact's Operation Elf aims to offer a light in these dark times.

Pact - the Prison Advice and Care Trust - is the national Catholic charity providing support to prisoners' and their families. We work in prisons, prison visitors' centres, courts, and communities across England and Wales to minimise the harm caused by imprisonment. This includes support for many of the 300,000 children who have a parent in prison.

Perhaps you heard on Prisoners' Sunday last week that while memories of Covid restrictions may be fading for those of us 'on the outside', prison regimes 'inside' remain locked down. This means that mums and dads in prison are in many cases more isolated from their children and family members than before. Christmas can be a special time for families but consider what it is like for those who are separated by imprisonment.

Nurturing family relationships is a big part of what we do at Pact. At this time of year, we are thrilled to offer parish communities an opportunity to support mums and dads in prison at Christmas through Operation Elf. Operation Elf enables mums and dads in prison to give their children a Christmas gift. One mum supported by the initiative last year explained that she had been unable to give her son anything since entering prison three years ago. She was very emotional as she said, 'It makes me feel like a mum again'. With your support, we can help more parents to feel like this.

**How can you help?** When you are shopping for Christmas, buy an extra £15 gift card. Send it to us at Pact before November 30th. We collect all the donated gift cards and distribute them to our Family Services teams in prisons across England and Wales. The gift cards will be shared at special Christmas visit days organised by our staff and volunteers. On these days, mum or dad can give their child the gift card and enjoy talking about what they might spend it on.

In an exciting development, this year we have partnered some parishes and groups with Pact staff in their local prison. So, by working together, you can see the impact Operation Elf has on families in your local area. We are looking forward to hearing from those involved to find out how it goes!

**Find out more on our website:** <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/operation-elf>

**Contact Theresa and Marie for an Operation Elf parish pack** [parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk)

You can send giftcards to the value of £15 each to: Pact, 29 Peckham Rd, London SE5 8UA to arrive by 30th November. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/45746>

## ADVENT RESOURCES 2022

**ADVENT REFLECTIONS 2022** – Scripture, reflections, poems and prayers

WEEK ONE: LIVING IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

WEEK TWO: INVITING CHRIST INTO OUR LIVES

WEEK THREE: WAITING WITH JOYFUL EXPECTATION

WEEK FOUR: BRINGING HOPE

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ADVENT-REFLECTIONS-2022.pdf>

**AN ADVENT JOURNEY** – Daily actions and reflections based on the scripture readings for each day

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AN-ADVENT-JOURNEY-A4.pdf>

## DIARY

### NOVEMBER

**7 -18 COP27** in Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt

**22/09 – 7/11 Walk 2COP27** <https://www.walk2cop27.com/allaboutus>

<https://www.walk2cop27.com/thejourney>

**7 -18 November, during COP27: “Chester Climate Fest”.**

**Chester University, Storyhouse and Chester Cathedral will be putting on various talks, workshops and special performances:**

**11: Climate Youth Conference**

**12: Chester Sustainability Forum exhibition in Chester Cathedral.**

**8 11am - 4pm Churches Together in Britain and Ireland *Life Beyond Borders* free event exploring the local, national and international implications of borders on communities 11am-4pm Liverpool Hope University Eden Building, Hope Park Campus Childwall Liverpool L16 9JD. Full details of this day including the event programme can be found on the CTBI website: <https://ctbi.org.uk/life-beyond-borders-8-november-2022/>**

Book via Eventbrite: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-beyond-borders-conference-and-networking-event-tickets-384543519017?aff=CTBInewsletter&ct=t\(CTBI Monthly Newsletter-July22\)](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-beyond-borders-conference-and-networking-event-tickets-384543519017?aff=CTBInewsletter&ct=t(CTBI%20Monthly%20Newsletter-July22))

**12 NJPN Open Networking Day** - London/South East tbc [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**12 Global Day of Action called by Egyptian groups at COP27** - Mass mobilisations across the UK to demand climate justice. <https://www.cop27coalition.org/events/newly-launched-cop27-coalition-calls-for-global-mass-action-for-climate-justice-reset-of-climate-talks-ahead-of-egypt-cop>

**13 Remembrance Sunday** <https://www.ppu.org.uk/civicism/event/info%3Fid%3D301%26reset%3D1>  
[www.ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies](http://www.ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies)

**15 ‘The Impacts of Climate change on Migration’** talk by Paul Tacon CWDF Forum meeting. Paul works in the Migration Team based at the Geneva head-quarters of the International Labour Organisation. Best Building, University of Chester, Parkgate Road campus at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome This meeting will be in conjunction with the University of Chester Department of Social and Political Science. Paul will talk on Zoom. Details:

[g.miller@chester.ac.uk](mailto:g.miller@chester.ac.uk) – **PLEASE NOTE the time and date previously given for this talk (7pm 8/11) was incorrect**

**18 CAFOD QUIZ** in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a raffle with good prizes and entry is still only £3 -contact Tony Walsh 0151 355 6419

**19 Christmas Craft Fair in aid of Chifundo UK**, 10am to 3pm at Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Hoole, Chester CH2 3NT. There will be a variety of Fairtrade products for sale, cards, jewellery, goods from Traidcraft, cakes, bags and fashions from Chifundo, a raffle, craft activities and a workshop on Christmas floral arrangements. Free admission and refreshments are available. For more information, contact Susan Flynn 01244 381490  
[secretary@chanasachifundomalawi.org](mailto:secretary@chanasachifundomalawi.org)

● **Read the Autumn issue of *MouthPeace* the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Mouthpeace-Autumn-2022.pdf>

● **Read NJPN’s weekly column** online on Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) or find articles be uploaded onto our website at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

● Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.

● **Sign up** for regular news and information from NJPN including a **new fortnightly e-bulletin with a comprehensive round-up of current events, campaigns, e-petitions and resources** (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) or contact [ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org)

or [admin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org) 020 7901 4864

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*