

## NJPN E-Bulletin 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026



***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

**John 1:5**

Dear Friends,

The above quote is one of my favourites, and has cropped up in various places in this holy season, including a Christmas card sent from my friends at [Journey to 2030](#). To me, this indicates a clear message to me personally, as well as the NJPN as a whole.

It is very hard to be hopeful when all around us is doom and gloom. This Saturday we awoke to the news that Venezuela has been attacked by the US, and that the Venezuelan President and his wife have been captured. What repercussions that will bring on the international stage, who knows. (in the Peace Section below you will find a link to Pax Christi International's Statement condemning the

action).

When I went to look something up on my internet search engine during the week, a headline offered suggestions as to who were going to be the main players in World War 3 and where the most likely places that it would start were going to be. I couldn't read it, mainly because I tend to do an impression of an ostrich in thinking about this - if I stick my head in the sand, it may never happen.

Going back to the above quote from John:1, the National Justice and Peace Network, along with our partner organisations and the people that surround us, need to be shining the light, and being that light in the darkness. We may not always feel hopeful, but we can certainly highlight the campaigns, and be involved, where that light needs to be shone.

Please shine that light with us in 2026! May the New Year bring us peace, happiness and love as we journey forward with hope.

God bless,

Sharon

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### \*\*\*ACTION OF THE WEEK\*\*\*

### #StopRoseBank

The campaigns to stop the Rosebank Oil Field from going ahead have been simmering on for what seems like years. The most recent one I have picked up is from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, and they cite that this is not only a project that would be catastrophic for the climate, but would send more than £200 million to Delek Group, one of Israel's biggest oil companies. Ithaca Energy, one of the operators of the Rosebank oil field, is majority owned by the Delek Group .

Palestine Solidarity Campaign write:

***We're joining the Stop Rosebank campaign to call on the British government to reject the Rosebank oil field, a project that would be catastrophic for the climate, and would send more than £200 million to Delek Group, one of Israel's biggest oil companies.***

***Delek profits from illegal settlements in the West Bank and its subsidiary Delek Israel supplies fuel to the Israeli military, with military personnel able to refuel at hundreds of its petrol stations. Delek Group has been included by the UN in a list of businesses that are complicit in human rights concerns in Palestine.***

***Delek Group is contributing to Israel's ongoing apartheid and genocide.***

Please consider signing their petition [here](#).

Most recently, at the end of November, it was announced on the [#StopRoseBank](#) website that *the UK is now the first major oil and gas producer in the Global North to shift away from fossil fuels - the kind of leadership needed to drive a global phase-out.*

*The government has just announced that they are ending new oil and gas exploration in the UK and have started a plan for workers and communities to transition away from fossil fuels.*

However, this new commitment **does not** include fields that have already been granted a license, such as Rosebank and Cambo. *(For those of you who don't know, Rosebank is an oil and gas field around 80 miles north-west of Shetland.)*

You only need to read the articles on the subject from news outlets, as well as climate activists, to know that Rosebank means bad news as far as the planet is concerned.

Esme Stallard, Climate and Science Reporter from [BBC News](#), reported on the full scale of damage to the climate back in October.

More information is available from the [#StopRoseBank](#) website and there is a [tool](#) where you can see whether your MP has pledged to Stop Rosebank, and where you can ask them to pledge if they haven't.

Whether you sign the petition from the PSG, or get involved through Stop Rosebank, please do at least one of them. Our planet needs you!

## News and Comment

### 1. Climate and Environment

#### **Earth blocks keep homes cool while cutting emissions in Kenya's drylands**

It is always good to share something positive when it comes to doing something for the climate...

This story from Climate Home News tells how local technology is keeping homes cooler in up to 30 degree temperatures in Kenya. *"The project uses compressed earth block (CEB) technology, drawing on traditional building methods and local materials – including soil, timber, grass and cow dung – to keep buildings cool in the highland climate. The thick earth walls provide insulation against the heat."*

The article then goes on to mention that at COP30 in Belem it was the first call to action on sustainable, affordable housing. *"The buildings and construction sector accounts for 37% of global emissions, making it the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, according to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)."*

[Read the full article here.](#)

### **Spot-On Treatment for Pets**

Back in the summer, one of our active members, Angela Rigby from Cardiff, wrote to me asking whether we knew anything about the detrimental affect that flea/tick/parasite spot-on treatment had on wildlife. We didn't have any information ourselves on it, so Angela followed it up with the RSPB.

Angela's email to them particularly mentioned *'that if a dog that has been recently treated swims in a river it can clear that section of insect life with damaging effect on fish, birds and mammals that use the river. And that when both cats and dogs are treated and shed hair this can have a damaging effect on insects and the birds that feed on them. Has there been any studies on this?'*

Wildlife@rspb.org.uk came back with a really helpful reply - but not good news if you are pet owners...

They wrote: - *Unfortunately the danger of flea treatments does seem to be something that is becoming more evident with new research. People do often try to offer dog/cat fur in gardens to birds in the spring to use in their nests. For quite a few years we have advised against this due to the risks of chemicals impacting the chicks.*

*It wasn't the RSPB who carried out the recent study on flea treatments that appeared in the media, instead the study was carried out by scientists from the University of Sussex and the recent press release stated:*

*"The researchers collected 103 blue and great tit nests that were lined with fur, finding that 100% of the nests contained fipronil, which is banned in the UK and EU for agricultural use, and 89% contained imidacloprid, which was banned in the EU as a plant protection product in 2018. Both are still widely used in pet flea treatments. "*

**The full article can be found here**

- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/27/pet-fur-found-in-songbird-nests-contains-high-levels-of-pesticides-study-finds>

Also, [Kent Wildlife Trust](#) have information on their website.

An [open letter to the Government](#) was signed by several wildlife/environmental organisations back in November 2023 about it. As a pet owner that has been persuaded by vets to subscribe to these spot on treatments, I am very disappointed that nothing seems to have been done about it.

If anyone knows any different, please let me know (or indeed, if anyone has any natural remedies for parasite prevention, again, please share).

## **Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples Report**

Survival International have shared this [Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples Report](#) .

They have calculated that there are at least 196 of these groups of people around the world, who are aware of the outside world, but choose not to belong to it. *'They are self-sufficient and resilient. They live independently in forests, sometimes on islands. They resist intrusion, and thrive when their rights are respected.'*

Survival International concludes that all *'uncontacted peoples face threats to their existence.'* The number one threat from those involved in extractive industries, such as mining and logging.

## **2. Peace**

### **Pax Christi International condemns the military aggression of the United States against Venezuela**

Yesterday, 3rd January, Pax Christi International came out with their statement condemning the military aggression carried out by the Government and the Armed Forces of the United States of America against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

[Their full statement is available to read here.](#)

### **Reflecting on Pope Leo's call for an unarmed peace for a wounded world**

Vatican News writes: - *Marie Dennis, the director of Pax Christi's Catholic Institute for Nonviolence, highlights a vision of peace that is unarmed, disarming, humble, and persevering. In a world marked by fear and conflict, she points to Gospel nonviolence as a concrete, hopeful path already being lived in communities across the globe.*

Marie Dennis describes Pope Leo's message for World Day of Peace as *'deeply coherent with the direction Pope Leo XIV has charted since the earliest moments of his papacy.'*

[You can read the full article through Vatican News.](#)

## **Peace Sunday Resources**

As mentioned in the last E-bulletin, we celebrate Peace Sunday in parishes over the weekend of the 17th/18th January.

If you haven't done so already, please check with your local parish as to whether they are aware and are doing a collection, which will go towards the excellent work that Pax Christi England and Wales do.

[For details of resources and information, please check out the Pax Christi website.](#)

## **3. Gaza/Holy Land**

### **Ian Linden - Gaza: The fate of the Palestinians and of humanitarianism**

Independent Catholic News have shared this article by Ian Linden on the banning of 37 NGO's from Gaza after a re-registration process. He writes: *That ban ends, and sums up, a year in which not even clever propaganda and disinformation could disguise the true purpose of IDF brutality.*

[This hard-hitting article can be found through ICN.](#)

### **"Yanoun is Empty"**

Ann Farr wrote this article, again published through ICN, about the tiny village of Yanoun, from where she and other Human Rights Observers monitored the surrounding area and the Jordan Valley, back



in 2010.

Ann tells the story of what they saw when they were there, and how bad things have been ever since.

*She goes on to say: - The theft of land continued and in recent years has increased drastically and on Boxing Day 2025 we learnt that the grazing land, the harvest and the fertile land in the valley had all been stolen. Animals died due to lack of grazing, and the settlers blocked the only remaining road that gave access to the village and prevented anyone from outside from entering. Villagers, particularly the young people, were harassed continually and anyone from outside, who might have gone to help, feared for their lives if they tried to enter.*

*The families were told recently that they all had to leave and they started to take their animals and belongings out, without anyone being able to come in and help them. On the morning of Sunday 28th December Israeli settlers and military arrived to give them the final ultimatum. They had to have to have left completely by 4pm that day.*

*Just after 4pm, 2pm GMT, we got the message, 'Yanoun is empty'.*

*In Ann's words, we just need to 'keep on keeping on so that together with all those Palestinians and Israelis working for justice we can see some hope of peace and justice being a reality.'*

[Read the full, very sad article, here.](#)

### **In Bethlehem, a religious orphanage gives love to children without families**

A more positive article to share on the good work being done by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, where they run the Orphanage of the Holy Family in Bethlehem - looking after children up to the age of 6 who have been orphaned or abandoned.

[Go to Vatican News to read the article in full.](#)

#### **4. US plans sanctions against Nigeria to protect Christians in 2026**

Premier Christian News have reported *that the United States has prepared targeted sanctions and further action to protect Christians in Nigeria following military strikes on Christmas Day, according to US lawmakers and advocates.*

*US congressman representative Riley Moore, R-West Virginia, said he will present a report to President Donald Trump that “outlines concrete ways the United States can partner with Nigeria to bring an end to this bloodshed and protect our brothers and sisters in Christ.”*

Nigeria has been a CPC (country of particular concern) for quite some time, and there have been some horrendous atrocities carried out against Christians, including Priests, at the hands of militants/radicals, including ISIS and Boko Haram. The US carried out strikes on ISIS on Christmas Day in co-ordination with the Nigerian authorities.

**[For more details, go to the Premier Christian News website.](#)**

## **ACTIONS**

#### **5. Oppose Israel's Ban on Aid Organisations**

Palestine Solidarity Campaign are asking for our help in writing to Yvette Cooper, Foreign Secretary, *to demand the British government provides financial and political support for Palestinian and international organisations and implements immediate sanctions on Israel, including a full two-way arms embargo.*

This is on the back of Israel announcing that it will prevent 37 international aid organisations from operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including ActionAid, Medical Aid for Palestinians and Médecins Sans Frontières.

*They write: Right now, Palestinians in Gaza are facing cold weather and heavy rainfall, which is flooding the tents that more than one*

*million displaced Palestinians live in, while Israel continues to block the entry of aid, including blankets, winter clothes and medicines. This latest ban on humanitarian organisations risks entirely collapsing aid delivery in Gaza, further exacerbating the level of suffering.*

**Please add your name here.**

## **6. FIFA: Save our Pitch**

The children of the Aida Refugee Camp near Bethlehem are asking for our help in saving their football pitch.

AVAAZ website writes: - *Our football pitch means the world to us. It's where we train, laugh, and feel like kids.*

*This pitch is where we can forget, even for a moment, about the separation wall, watchtowers, the military base, and checkpoints. Hundreds of children and young people come here to train with Aida Youth Center's Aida Football Academy. It's a rare place of safety amid weekly Israeli military incursions, often involving tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition.*

*But now, Israeli authorities want to take it from us, and bulldozers could arrive at any moment to destroy it.*

*We have less than a week – and you can help: If millions of people around the world speak up, football fans, players, and athletes will follow. People like Infantino (FIFA) and Čeferin (UEFA) won't be able to look away anymore. When the football world pays attention, FIFA, UEFA and governments listen.*

**Please sign their petition to Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA and Aleksander Čeferin, President of UEFA:**

# Events

## **7. Christians Aware Conference - 9th - 11th January - 'Ears to Hear: Listening to Minorities'**

Taking place at Highgate House, Northampton next weekend. More details are available from the [Christians Aware website](#).

## **8. Living Despite Them: Screening & Director Q&A with Alaa Hathleen Sunday 11th January - Upper Norwood Library Hub**

Doors open at 6:30pm for Palestinian food, the film starts at 7:00pm  
Free entry, optional £10 for Palestinian food.  
Hosted by Crystal Palace Friends of Palestine in partnership with the Britain Palestine Project.

[Reserve your tickets here.](#)

## **9. CAFOD Talk on Ukraine - Saturday 17th January - from 10.30 until 12noon St George's Parish Hall, Sprowston Rd, Norwich NR3 4HZ**

To find out more about the current situation in Ukraine, Caritas East Anglia and CAFOD in East Anglia invite you to a talk from CAFOD's Ukraine Emergency Programme Officer Henry Wilson Smith at St George's Parish Hall.

**More details through Independent Catholic News**

## **10. Deep Waters Course - beginning the 20th January - Green Christian**

Do you need a safe space in which to share your complex responses to the climate and ecological crises? In eight sessions, Green Christian will explore topics such as anxiety, grief, justice, lament, wisdom, love, and the meaning of hope. This successful programme has helped

many people.

**More details from Green Christian.**

**11. Responding to Homelessness - Saturday 24th January - 10am - 12.30pm**

**St. Francis of Assisi Church Hall, Stratford E15 1BJ**

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood invite you to explore how parishes can respond to homelessness and the cost-of-living crisis. With speakers from charitable organisations and shelters across Essex and East London, we'll discover practical ways to make a difference together as the Diocese of Brentwood.

**Details from Caritas Diocese of Brentwood**

**12. From Big Brew to Big Change - engaging MPs on Fair Fashion Wednesday 28th January, from 6pm to 7pm - online**

Transform Trade are holding a short, friendly, online training session where they will walk you through how to speak to your MP about their Fashion Watchdog, and invite your MP to your Big Brew. [More details through this link.](#)

**13. Shining the Light on Racism - Thursday 5th February NJPN Online Evening, 7.30pm to 9pm - more details to follow.**

# Newsletters/Reports

## 14. Green Christian

If you are interested in climate and environmental issues, then you will always find something of interest in the [Green Christian newsletter](#). This one is an excellent edition, with a link to some ideas on how to live life joyfully; plus information on joining in with 'Veganuary'. Please do have a read, and follow their links to various courses/online events.

## 15. NW NJPN E-Bulletin

Anne O'Connor has put together a packed edition for January in the North West edition of the E-Bulletin, which can be found on the [NJPN website](#).

Anne has included some interesting articles on refugees and the Holy Land, as well as some information and resources from Pax Christi.

## 16. Palestine Solidarity Campaign Wrap-Up Video

Have a look at the good work that the PSC has done during 2025 in this [video](#). They have achieved quite a lot in the past year.

## 17. Columban Missionaries Justice, Peace and Ecology January 2026

This edition for the new year does not appear to be available as a whole on their website, but the articles are! There is an excellent piece where Ellen Teague reflects on John Lennon's ['Happy Xmas War is Over'](#).

There are also resources for Peace Sunday. Check out their website [here](#).

## 18. Global Justice Now

A summing up of the work that [Global Justice Now](#) have been doing, and the world situation.

## 19. Biofuelwatch Annual Report

If you are unfamiliar with the work that [Biofuelwatch](#) do, this report will explain all!

# The Last Word

This week I am 'borrowing' the Last Word from our friends at Justice and Peace Scotland, who have sent out Archbishop William Nolan's Message for Justice and Peace Sunday 2026.

The last part of his message says:

*Our prayer is for every human heart, our own included, to be purified of all that is within it that leads to conflict. We pray for disagreements to be settled without resorting to violence, for human life be valued as precious, and for the taking of human life to never be seen as a means to resolve human disputes.*

*We are each of us part of humanity, and we all struggle to have that peace in our heart, that leads to peace in our family, in our neighbourhood and in our world.*

*We pray for peace, since only with God's help can we overcome the human weakness that makes humanity a danger to the world and a danger to ourselves.*

*May God answer our prayer and fulfil the longing of our heart for peace.*

*With my prayers and good wishes,*

***+William Nolan Archbishop of Glasgow,  
President of Justice & Peace Scotland.***

**You can read the full text/watch the video through the Justice and Peace Scotland website.**

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