



Spring 2026

# Justice & Peace

News from the National Justice & Peace Network

Lord Jesus, who called blessed those who work for peace, make us Your instruments of peace even where harmony seems impossible. Holy Spirit, source of hope in the darkest times, sustain the faith of those who suffer and strengthen their hope. Do not let us fall into indifference, and make us builders of unity, like Jesus.

*Extract from Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for December 2025.*



SHINING A LIGHT ON RACISM  
Thursday 5th February  
7.30pm—9pm  
(Via Zoom)

~  
SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD  
Saturday 25th April  
In-person  
Sheffield

Contact  
[admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)  
to book your place.

## END OF THE NJPN NEWSLETTER AS WE KNOW IT!

NJPN would like to thank the Columbans for handling the mailing of our newsletter with Vocation for Justice for many years.

With the increasing cost of postage and the advances of electronic media the Columbans have taken the decision to move to an online newsletter.

In the future our newsletter will be handled just by the NJPN, and due to data protection rules we are unable to receive subscribers names from the Columban database.

**ACT NOW!**

**SIGN UP FOR THE NJPN NEWSLETTER  
VIA EMAIL:**

[admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

*Alternatively, if you don't do email, and wish to receive a newsletter, please telephone 020 7901 4864 or send a letter to the address at the bottom of this page.*

We are also planning on sending out an online version of our newsletter, so to ensure that you receive your copy, please email us at [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

Please just put 'NEWSLETTER' as the title and we will add your email address to our list of subscribers.

*If you receive multiple copies of Vocation for Justice from the Columbans, please let us know if you would also like to receive copies by post of our newsletter on its own, or a copy by email.*

For those of you who do not have access to an email version of the newsletter, please telephone us and leave your name, address and postcode, and we will post you out a copy. A donation to cover postage/printing costs would be appreciated if you are able to do so.

Grateful thanks to everyone who has supported us over the years, and we look forward to continuing to inform you of our work and current issues in a more environmentally-friendly fashion in the future.



NEXT ISSUE DATE— **END of APRIL** Articles required by 17th April 2026

National Justice and Peace Network

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## Shine the Light: NJPN and the Year Ahead

**“Proclaim the Lord's year of favour.” (Luke 4:19)**

In welcoming the Jubilee Year of Hope, we reflected on the powerful biblical meaning of Jubilee. The invitation was to Journey with us through the year, as pilgrims of hope, embracing the theme of 'Opening Doors,' inspired by the jubilee image of welcome and renewal, opening doors to a more just and peaceful world for current and future generations. We proclaimed jubilee when raising awareness and campaigning with allies for a real living wage, for liberty and freedom for enslaved workers and victims of trafficking, for refugees and asylum seekers, for those most affected by climate change and environmental injustice and for children living in families experiencing poverty and inequality. Our conference 'Towards

a Just peace' challenged the inevitability of violence as a means of resolving conflict. We thank all who signed up for our events and joined us live or through the recordings. We acknowledge with deep gratitude and appreciation all our facilitators and contributors who shared so freely of their gifts and expertise, making each session a rich and challenging experience.

Doors opened in faith must not be allowed to close; they are thresholds through which the light of hope must radiate, and justice, peace, and integrity of creation (JPIC) can shine. In the year ahead we invite you to 'Share the Light' and further consider crucial issues raised in conversations during our Jubilee Year events.



### ‘Shining the Light’ in 2026

**5 February 2026 Shining a light on Racism - online.**

**25 April 2026 Shining a light on Food and the Environment - Sheffield**

**15 May 2026 Shining a light in an All Night Vigil – online.**

**24 – 26 July 2026 Shining a light on 'Just' talk – Swanwick Conference**

**September 2026 Shining a light on What next for J&P - CAFOD**

**October 2026 NJPN Conference Follow Up**

### NJPN: Into the Future and Beyond...

**Over recent years the structures which support work for Justice, Peace and Care for Creation have been changing, as well as the advent of new ways of working e.g. online. This means that NJPN needs to reassess how it supports your work. During 2026 we will be carrying out a consultation with our members and beyond. We really want to hear your views and ideas to create a network which is fit for the future.**



## Talk is cheap, just saying. – Really?

Words do matter, the language we use reflects our attitude and our ignorance. With negative language around racism, refugees, asylum seekers and many ‘others’, reinforcing stereotypes, what do we hear and to whom do we listen? Who decides what makes the headlines as media platforms seek to influence opinion and behaviour? Our 2024 conference considered what would a ‘Just Politics’ look like and how might this be achieved. We were challenged to work for change in our society, building relationships within and across communities, empowering groups and individuals to engage with the political process, highlighting our hopes, dreams and needs, in line with Catholic Social Teaching. In 2025 we were reminded that a ‘Just Peace’ demands more than the absence of war; it insists on justice, dignity, and inclusion for all and, as people of faith, we were offered an alternative model, built through deep listening, courageous dialogue and collective action rooted in love, committing to a radical hope that serves the common good. A constant thread running throughout these conferences was that we grow as individuals and communities only

through the kinds of relationships that we build with each other and our world. We were asked to listen deeply, to respond, to disagree respectfully, to engage in difficult conversations and were challenged to create a culture of encounter. Conference 2026 ‘Just Talk’ will focus on dialogue and relation-

ship building, initiating these difficult conversations and how they can be used to build up justice, peace and human dignity, rather than to dehumanise and divide, inflame tensions and stoke conflict. In a world of disinformation, sound bites

and echo chambers, the conference will explore how we promote genuine communication and encounter through areas such as the media, arts, education, diplomacy and political engagement led always by the Spirit of Truth. In celebrating 60 years of *Nostra Aetate* Pope Leo XIV said the document “opened our eyes to a simple yet profound principle: dialogue is not a tactic or a tool, but it’s a way of life – a journey of the heart that transforms everyone involved, the one who listens and the one who speaks.” (Walking Together in Hope: 28 October 2025)

*Anne Peacey*



**Just Peace**

**‘Just’ Talk**

## US Nuclear Weapons Are Returning to British Soil

***Much of this article is based on a talk given by Angie Zelter of the Lakenheath Alliance for Peace in Birmingham on 8th September 2025.***

American nuclear weapons were stored in the past at RAF<sup>1</sup> Lakenheath in East Anglia. Following a direct action campaign led by local groups these weapons were removed in 2008. Now they are returning. This is at the behest of the US Government with no democratic oversight of the decision.

Apart from the moral objections <sup>2</sup>, hosting these weapons make us less safe, increasing the likelihood of a nuclear attack by Russia and the risk of Britain being dragged in to Trump’s reckless wars. Furthermore, NATO countries including the UK have been encouraged by the Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to take their nuclear

weapons out of storage and place them on standby. We are thus more at risk of a nuclear exchange, by accident or design than at any time in the past.

Angie Zelter pointed out that our priorities should rather be to dismantle our weapons of mass destruction and co-operate with every nation on earth to stop runaway climate change and biodiversity loss, which is bringing us to a major crisis point for all life forms on this planet. Climate change is also a significant driver of conflict, while militarisation is one of the central pillars of the carbon intensive extractive industrial system that is driving the climate crisis.<sup>3</sup>

She also spoke about the role that conventional weapons based at Lakenheath have played in wars over the years through the 48th Fighter Wing that

deploys F-15E and F35A fighter/bombers, e.g. both Gulf Wars, Libya, Afghanistan and Syria.

In a call to action she said 'I think all of us are feeling frustrated and horrified at the state of the world and our own government's collusion. But we must not be daunted. We have to remember what consistent people's resistance and nonviolent action has done in the past. To give one small example, the peace movement helped rid us of cruise missiles, turfed the military out of Greenham

Common, and helped end the cold war, as well as keeping nuclear weapons out of Lakenheath for almost 25 years...Despite all the legislation that the government have put in place to try and stop us protesting in any effective

and direct manner, we cannot allow this to prevent us from acting nonviolently to stop preparations for mass destruction. As compassionate and caring global citizens we must act in self-defence to protect our planet.'

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace are organising monthly vigils at Lakenheath and an international peace camp for Easter 2026. They are looking for people to form affinity groups and train nonviolently to enter these bases and occupy runways, do more war crimes inspections and nonviolently disrupt the 'war at any price' actions of this US airbase.



Find more information at their website:

<https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk>

1 Although officially called an RAF base, Lakenheath is run by the US Air Force and hosts only US personnel, so should more appropriately be referred to as USAF Lakenheath.



2 For a summary of Catholic Teaching on nuclear weapons see:

<https://catholicpeaceaction.org/what-the-catholic-church-teaches-on-nuclear-weapons>

3 About 6% of global carbon emissions are from military activity.

As well as these American weapons coming to Lakenheath, Britain is also buying 12 nuclear-capable fighter jets which will be based at RAF Marham near Peterborough. Legal opinion suggests that this will put Britain in breach of international law under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

There will be a national demonstration on 28th February 2026 at RAF Marham. Watch the CND website for updates on information including transport from local areas:

<https://cnduk.org.uk>

*Ann Kelly*

*For a list of events and dates for your diary, please see the NJPN Website*

[www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

#### Become a Member:

Membership is open to local groups, families and individuals. Individual Subscription only £25 a year (but you are welcome to give more!) Low Income £15. Download a membership form from the website or contact the Membership Co-ordinator, Ann Kelly...[membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**DONATE TO NJPN: Online** via our website. **By cheque** payable to NJPN. **BACS** to NJPN Sort Code:16-31-15 Account No: 10089516, put your name and Donation in the reference field. To make a regular donation by **Standing Order**, contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form on the website.

**The National Justice & Peace Network** welcomes all who share a vision of a world in which people live in peace and harmony, where our common humanity is respected and all are able to contribute freely to the common good. NJPN seeks to encourage work for justice and peace by promoting communication and shared action between members, supporters and partners.

*This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network*

*The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.*

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