

**Interesting Justice and Peace related articles; plus an urgent  
Action of the Week - needs to be actioned by 9th November  
at 1pm. Please help!**

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# NJPN

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



**White poppies commemorate all victims of all wars, including wars that are still being fought. This includes people of all nationalities. It includes both civilians and members of armed forces. Today over 90% of people killed in warfare are civilians.**

## **'Lest We Forget'**

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**Dear Friends,**

**So, here we go again...another lockdown, albeit more of a semi-lockdown this time. Interestingly, the furlough scheme has been extended until March - what do the Government know that we don't? Does that mean from December, the lockdown may be extended even further, and if so, where does this leave Christmas? Lots of questions, and hopefully by the next e-bulletin (on the 29th November) we will know a bit more.**

**There are lots of interesting and diverse articles in this edition; sadly, we are leading with yet more migrant deaths. People just like we are, but desperate for a better and safer life.**

**Finally, it looks as if Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States. Only the second Catholic President. God willing, he will put the Unite back into the United States.**

**Our NJPN AGM and Networking Day is coming ever closer and will take place on the 21st November. You can book via Eventbrite [here](#).**

**We would love to hear from you if you have something you particularly want shared in this e-bulletin. Please send it to [ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk).**

**The next edition will be out in three weeks time, due to the AGM on the 21st November. Hopefully I will see some of you there, albeit virtually.**

**God bless you all and stay safe.**

**Editor**

**Please note we are still using a temporary postal address due to the closure of the Eccleston Square office:**

**Geoff Thompson, NJPN, c/o CAFOD Lancaster Volunteer Centre,  
St Walburge's Centre, St Walburge's Gardens, Preston PR2 2QJ.**

*You can still use the same phone number.*

**See below for: -**

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**Please action immediately**

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

**Important! This must be done by 1pm on Monday 9th November  
We are running out of time...**

**Safe Passage - Email a Peer**

On Monday, Peers will debate Lord Dubs's new amendment - one that both protects family reunion AND legislates for the Government to produce a review on safe and legal routes for refugees.

**Please write to a Peer and let them know how important it is to support this amendment.**

## NEWS AND COMMENT

### 1. Migrant/Refugee News

**'The Worst Tragedy of its Kind' wrote Safe Passage.** On the 27th October, tragedy struck in the Channel when four members of the same family seeking asylum drowned after their boat capsized as they attempted the dangerous crossing to the UK. Their 15-month old boy was also missing.

It is already clear that this tragedy is the worst of its kind in recent years.

*'Nobody should have to risk their life to reach safety. Yesterday's news was the direct consequence of a lack of safe alternatives for those seeking sanctuary.'* (Safe Passage writes).

**Care4Calais** add their thoughts here: - *'This unnecessary loss of life has to stop. No one should ever feel they have to get into a fragile craft and risk their lives crossing the Channel, least of all vulnerable children.*

*Living in miserable conditions on the streets of Calais, hounded by the police, and left with no clear, legal process to have their UK asylum cases heard, refugees feel they have no other option but to take huge risks to make it to Britain, and some pay with their lives.*

*The only way to put an end to terrifying, dangerous sea crossings and stop tragedy striking again is to provide a safe and legal process by which refugees can have their UK asylum claims heard.*

For more details and comments from various organisations, read this article in [The Independent](#).

**Bishop Paul McAleenan**, Chair of the Office for Migration Policy at the Catholic Bishops Conference, gives his thoughts on the tragedy [here](#).

JRS have an article about the *'Changes to Detention: Ultimately, human beings will pay the price.'*

Read it [here](#).

Finally, on the NJPN Website, you can find an update from Seeking Sanctuary, talking about the work that they are involved in. [Access it here](#).

### 2. Cameroon - various articles on a country in crisis since 2016

**Cameroon: A Lost Generation** - [Mill Hill Missionaries](#) explain the political situation in Cameroon and the work that Brother Eric Michel Miedji of the Congregation of the Little Brothers of Jesus is attempting to do.

Sadly, on the 24th October, at least eight children were killed, and many more seriously injured when a Primary School in the Anglophone region of Cameroon was attacked by armed extremists. Lord Alton is calling on the UK Government to press Cameroon officials to provide protection at schools throughout the conflict zone. Read more from [Independent Catholic News](#).

Pope Francis has prayed for peace in the conflict-ridden areas of Cameroon, and for the victims of the school shooting. *"I share in the suffering of the families of the young students barbarically killed last Saturday in Kumba, in Cameroon,"* the Pope said. *"I feel great bewilderment at such a cruel and senseless act, which tore the young innocents from life while they were attending lessons at school."* Read the full article from [Vatican News](#).

### **3. Latest NJPN Columns in The Universe**

**30 October - Cacophony or Harmony: Which Future?**

***Rob Esdaile is Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton***

On Sunday we celebrate All Saints – a feast which many would regard as entirely ‘other-worldly’ in its focus. In contrast, this Tuesday Americans go to the polls after a particularly dirty and shouty presidential campaign, during which it is estimated a staggering \$11bn (the GDP of a small country!) was spent on campaigning. If Joe Biden wins, will he (as he promises) heal the deep divisions splitting his country? Alternatively, where will the world be after another four years of Trump’s aggressive rhetoric?

Of course, such depths of rancour are not the sole preserve of US politics. Our own Brexit debates weren’t all sweetness and light; and there are plenty of opportunists internationally who are willing to use falsehood to gain power. Pope Francis recognises this in his new encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*: “Today, in many countries, hyperbole, extremism and polarization have become political tools,” silencing other voices by “a strategy of ridicule, suspicion and relentless

criticism.” (n.15) The poison spills so easily across social media and into our heads and hearts. Our world seems far from the sublime harmony of the heavenly choirs!

Yet those very heavenly choirs could be just the sign of hope that we need. The doctrine of the ‘Communion of Saints’, which we celebrate on November 1, insists that within human history, notwithstanding all the forces that foment discord and distrust, there is a stronger unifying power at work; namely, the love revealed in Jesus Christ, a love that fosters harmony and healing. A capacity for communion is part of our DNA.

Fratelli Tutti can be read as a plea to develop a new style of relationships around the world. Pope Francis invites us to live the truth of the parable of the Prodigal Son with its two shocking discoveries: that the one we had been taught to despise was actually our neighbour all along and that ‘neighbour’ is something you choose to become by your actions.

We are not powerless prisoners of the rabble-rousers. A different future is possible – an open world in which all belong and all are led beyond their individual petty interests to build together a single global family of brothers and sisters (Fratelli Tutti indeed!), living sustainably on the earth. Yes, a different future is possible – but it’s up to us: how we debate; how we vote; what we post on Facebook; whether we call out falsehoods. Saints of God come to our aid: teach us, inspire us and intercede for us.

**6 November - Raising awareness of domestic abuse**  
***Freda Lambert and Celia Capstick convene the NBCW’s***  
***Committee for Social Responsibility NBCW is part of the NJPN***  
***Network.***

Imagine being in an enclosed space with a partner who aims to establish control over you using various strategies, the most common being isolation. The lockdown in March provided the perfect conditions for establishing complete control and was a terrifying experience for many trapped in that situation.

The statistics record that on average two women a week are murdered by their partner or ex-partner. At least 10 women commit suicide every week as a result of domestic abuse. Every six seconds somewhere in the UK a woman is assaulted in her home. During the



first month of Covid lockdown the number of murdered women and girls more than tripled. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children estimates that 1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse and 130,000 children live in high-risk domestic-abuse households.

The National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) has launched a booklet 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse', which is a resource for use in Catholic parishes. Its launch coincides with the passage of the Domestic Abuse Bill through Parliament and with problems linked to the pandemic. It is a pastoral document intended to highlight the many forms of domestic abuse and to indicate appropriate action. It recognises that domestic abuse occurs in Catholic households and parishes should be the ideal place of safety for those seeking escape from an abusive situation.

It is a difficult issue for some Catholics. The teaching of the Church proclaims that marriage is based on love, trust, mutual respect and support between spouses. Promises for life are made by the couple. However, all forms of abuse constitute a violation of the essential nature of marriage. It is a sin as well as a crime. A victim of abuse should never be encouraged to remain in the same house as the perpetrator in the hope of saving the marriage or for the sake of the family (Canon Law 1153).

Parishes need to be equipped to offer help and support to victims and training should be given, because victims of abuse are sometimes given dangerously misguided "advice". Good relations between the parish and specialist agencies to enable signposting is something to be encouraged. Victims who identify as religious benefit from the support of their faith community.

The resource booklet may be downloaded from [www.nbcw.co.uk](http://www.nbcw.co.uk) or a hard copy can be obtained free from [margaretclark123@gmail.com](mailto:margaretclark123@gmail.com). Hopefully every parish will have one available.

***Our thanks go to our friends at The Universe for supporting us. If you would like to take out a subscription to their newspaper and support them in return, please follow this [link](#).***

#### **4. News from Palestine**

The United Nations has rebuked Israel for what they termed as a 'grave breach' of international law when the Israeli's carried out the biggest demolition of Palestinian homes seen in a decade. They have

left 74 people, 41 of them minors, homeless. The full story is courtesy of the BBC website, [here](#).

## **5. Tackling Food Poverty**

The Catholic Church in England and Wales have produced this video, telling of the good work going on in a couple of communities in North London. Access it on [YouTube here](#).

Also, Church Action on Poverty have various articles, in particular on Child Food Poverty. Rev. Jules Middleton, Associate Vicar at Trinity, Lewes, responds to the Child Hunger Debate [here](#). There is also an opportunity in that link to sign Marcus Rashford's petition, if you haven't done so already.

## **6. A world free from rape and violence**

Thursdays in Black is a campaign of solidarity and advocacy focusing on ways through which individuals can challenge attitudes that cause rape and violence. The simple act of wearing black on Thursdays is a protest against societies that encourage violence in any form, mourns those harmed and killed in sexual violence, raises awareness, and hopes that a different reality is possible.

*"Every Thursday, people around the world wear black as a symbol of strength and courage, representing our solidarity with victims and survivors of violence, and calling for a world without rape and violence."* (Thursdays in Black)

The campaign is not confined only to countries at war, but recognizes that violence takes many forms, including domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, incest, murder, female infanticide, genital mutilation, sexual harassment, discrimination and sex trafficking.

The Family and Sexual Violence Action Committee, based in Papua New Guinea, continues to advocate against sexual violence, and has been lighting a special "lamp of justice and peace" as part of the Thursdays in Black campaign for a world free from rape and violence. Over the summer, the organisation's staff began lighting a lamp or

lantern to signify, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, a collective call for justice and peace. The organization has continued lighting lamps as a sign of solidarity with other global voices for a new world forged out of love, peace, unity, and respect for women and children. Read the full story from the [World Council of Churches](#).

## **7. Update from the Green Christian Festival**

Green Christian's "Re-imagining the Promised Land", an Online Festival from 23-25 October celebrated and explored the power of imagination.

Combining poetry and debate, as well as stories of political activism and practical action, Green Christian's free Online Festival ranged widely, whilst focusing throughout on bringing faith, hope and expert insight to bear on the sober declaration of Bishop James Jones in his introductory talk: *"What we are now doing to the earth .... is nothing short of the Earthing of Hell ... By living in the self-centred way that we are, we are gradually turning the Earth to waste. We are polluting the atmosphere, poisoning the rivers and the oceans, contaminating the land; we are earthing Hell."*

For more details and to watch videos from the Festival, go to the [Green Christian website](#).

Ellen Teague, writing for Independent Catholic News, gives a good summary of the Festival. Read it [here](#).

## **8. Covid-19**

### **Rebirth passes through inclusive technology for all**

Pope Francis is certain of this and is repeating it to everyone: we will emerge either better or worse after the pandemic. The global crisis requires that the parameters of human co-existence be rethought through the lens of solidarity. Based on this foundational idea, the "Covid-19: Building a Healthier Future" has been created in collaboration with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, to offer a vision that might lead to the beginning of a new fraternity after the pandemic.

Go to [Vatican News](#) to read the article and watch the video.

### **Global Justice Now - A vaccine should benefit everyone**

A publicly funded Covid-19 vaccine should benefit everyone, everywhere. There should be no monopolies and effective vaccines should be shared with the world – so that we can end this global pandemic together. In our our latest video we explain how companies profiteer from vaccines developed through publicly-funded research. Click [here](#) to watch.

### **9. Responsible Investment Bill**

Rachel Haworth, UK Policy Manager at Share Action, writes:-

*'2020 has been a year like no other. The world has faced an unprecedented health crisis. But the Covid-19 pandemic has also brought economic and social turmoil.*

*It revealed the fragility of our societies, and shined a light on inequality worldwide – much like other crises before it, the poorest and most vulnerable have been hit the worst from the coronavirus pandemic. 2020 has also highlighted our interconnectedness – not just as people, but the system that support us.*

*When one collapses, we all fall down. Reforms to the financial system have often been most focused on climate change. But, while preparing for one crisis, we have been shocked by another.*

*To build resilience we need to move from a focus in individual risks, to a focus on collective impact.*

*That's why we're proposing a new law – a Responsible Investment Bill. To make sure our investment system helps to fix, rather than aggravate, the social and environmental problems we're all facing.'*

To find out more about the bill, please go to the [Share Action Website](#).

### **10. Campaign Against the Arms Trade - latest legal challenge**

CAAT has filed a Judicial Review application into the legality of the UK government's decision to renew arms sales to the Saudi-led

coalition that is bombing Yemen.

In July, the government resumed issuing arms export licences for use in the war in Yemen: an appalling and astonishing decision.

UK rules explicitly prohibit the sale of weapons when there is a “clear risk they might be used in violations of international humanitarian law.”

More details are available from a story in [The Guardian](#).

Also, details of the CAAT Press Release are [here](#).

## **11. Atrocities committed in the name of religion**

Prayers have been offered, and condemnations made after the atrocities committed on defenceless people around the world in the last week or so.

Pope Francis has prayed for the victims of the terror attacks. His comments are [here](#).

World Council of Churches interim general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca said *“The unbearable toll of lives lost, and the impact on the affected communities and nations, must engage the concern, solidarity and action of the international community and all people of goodwill, to stem the bloodshed and to confront the brutal ideologies behind such atrocities,”* on 3 November, as he commented on the violent extremist attacks in western Ethiopia, Kabul and Vienna. His full statement is [here](#).

Finally, two Catholic Church leaders in South Asia have strongly criticized caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad by French magazine Charlie Hebdo and their support by French President Emmanuel Macron as well as broader French society for the sake of secularism and freedom of expression.

To read their views, looking at both sides, please go to [Mill Hill Missionaries](#).

## **12. Pakistan and Forced Marriages**

Yet again, we see another story about a young girl who has been

forcibly abducted, and then had to marry an older Muslim man. The parents of a 13-year-old Christian girl kidnapped in Pakistan have joined forces with a Catholic charity in their struggle to win back their daughter abducted by a man who forced her to marry him and convert to Islam.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), which supports persecuted Christians, is to provide legal and paralegal aid in the case of Arzoo Raja, a Catholic, who was kidnapped from her home in Karachi. Details of this particular case are available from [Independent Catholic News](#).

Further down this page you will find an e-petition concerning another young girl, Maira Shahbaz. Please look out for it, and add your name.

### **13. Australian Bishops get it right on Mental Health**

The National Catholic Reporter has produced this really good article on the work that the Australian Bishops are doing with mental health issues, both around the Covid-19 pandemic and other circumstances. As Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge states in the document's forward, "People experiencing mental ill health are not some 'other' people, they are 'us.' "

To read the article and access the document entitled 'Live Life to the Full - Mental Health in Australia Today' click [here](#).

### **14. Burma's 2020 Election - A Step Forward or a Step Back?**

Burma's 2020 election is being hailed by some as the next big step in Burma's transition to democracy.

For the first time in decades there will have been two successive multi-party elections. Following more than 50 years of military rule, this is something to celebrate. However, there are also significant problems which undermine the dominant narrative of Burma as a country undergoing a transition to democracy. These cannot be dismissed as inevitable bumps in the road in a difficult transition to democracy.

To read the Burma Campaign's comment, briefing and analysis on the election, click [here](#).

### **15. When will Hollywood learn scars don't make me evil?**

An interesting article here by Catrin Pugh, who was badly burned at the age of 18 when her coach crashed. It discusses the positive and negative ways that people who are different in any way are portrayed by the Media, and in particular Hollywood. This is on the back of the latest adaption of Roald Dahl's 'The Witches', which portrays a Witch with extra scarring and fingers missing.

Catrin is an Ambassador for Changing Faces, the UK's leading charity for everyone who has a mark, scar or condition that makes them look different. You can access her article through [Huffington Post](#).

## **NEWSLETTERS**

### **16. Caritas Social Action Network**

Lots of good articles, but unfortunately they do not provide a copy on their website. I would thoroughly recommend signing up to it, though. Use this [link](#).

### **17. Operation Noah October 2020**

Various articles on fossil fuel divestment and climate issues. Click [here](#).

### **18. ECCR October 2020**

Various articles and online events to join. Find it [here](#).

### **19. Ecological Conversion Group Newsroom**

Again, this has lots of good articles and links to other websites, but they don't have a copy that I can link into on their website. Instead, why not sign up to their newsletter [here](#).

## **EVENTS ( in chronological order)**

### **20. 9th November 6.30pm - 7.30pm - Faith Voices from Birmingham**

#### **Countdown to the Glasgow UN Climate Summit 2021**

A joint webinar between Faith for the Climate and Footsteps exploring how Birmingham can send a message to the COP26 UN climate talks in Glasgow next year. [Register here.](#)

### **21. 12th - 16th November from 10am**

**From the Ground Up: Global Gathering for Climate Justice is a space for our movements to come together, strategise, and build power for systemic change.**

This November, COP26 was due to take place in Glasgow. To mark this moment, the COP26 Coalition is hosting From the Ground Up - a global gathering providing the space to educate, strategise and co-ordinate, to build power and connect within our global justice movements. We will discuss the need for a Global Green New Deal and work towards a global plan of action to create the change we need from the ground up. [Register here.](#)

### **22. 12th November at 12noon and 24th November at 8pm**

#### **Christian CND Prayer Meeting**

Bringing supporters together from across the country via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)



**23. 13th November at 6pm - No Climate Justice, No Peace.**

Hear from Molly Scott Cato, Professor of Economics and former Green MEP in the talk 'No Climate Justice, No Peace' organised by Grassington District Peace Group and Skipton Quakers.

Molly Scott Cato argues that the unequal impacts of climate chaos are linked to exploitation by colonialist states and that we need democracy and social justice to tackle the climate crisis and war.

[Join here.](#)

**24. 14th November at 11am - 4pm -**

**Faith in Action: Building a better world after the pandemic**

Join CAFOD for a day of online discussion and workshops on the world we want to create after the pandemic. [Register here.](#)

**25. 21st November 10am - 12noon**

**Church Action on Poverty Annual Conference and AGM**

As we enter a second national lockdown, it is easy to feel disheartened. But when we support one another and stand in solidarity with marginalised people, we can find reasons for hope and optimism.

Hear direct from people who have experienced poverty about how they are working for change. Share your own stories of what has given you hope during the pandemic. Learn how you can give, act and pray with us in the coming months. Stay connected! [Click here to](#)

[register.](#)

## **26. 23rd November 12.30pm - 1.30pm Bible Study**

### **What does the Bible say about income wealth**

Between 24-30th October, Church Action for Tax Justice ran a series of events called Restoring Hope. In total, eight separate events attracted around 250 people to discuss the relevance of their faith to issues of finance, consumerism and tax justice.

As part of the week, Dr Justin Thacker led three separate small group discussions exploring what the Bible has to say about income and wealth. All three of these studies were sold out, and given that there seems to be a demand for them, we have decided to run these on a monthly basis. The studies will be free to attend but limited to just 12 people in order to facilitate discussion. [Click here to join.](#)

## **27. 28th November from 9am National Day of Action for Palestine**

For more information and to register for this event, [click here.](#)

## **28. 2nd December 10am - 5pm - Virtual Lobby Day 2020**

Palestine Solidarity Campaign need your voice in Parliament! Join the Virtual Lobby Day for Palestine on Wednesday 2nd December, and meet with your MP over Zoom to discuss Palestinian rights. Let politicians know that Palestine is an important issue for their constituents.

[Full details and register here.](#)

## **COMPETITIONS**

## 29. Columban Missionaries Schools Media Competition

'Let's Create a World without Racism' - details below

The poster features a background of a white brick wall. On the left, there is a vertical strip of crumpled paper in various shades of brown, orange, and white, shaped into human profiles. In the center, the words 'END RACISM' are written in large, bold, red and black letters. To the right, the title 'SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION' is written in large, bold, red and black letters. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: 'We are looking for students (aged 14-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme:'. Below this, the theme 'LET'S CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT RACISM' is written in large, bold, red letters. Further down, there is a paragraph of text: 'The winning entries will be published in the Far East magazine and online on Columban websites in Ireland and Britain and shared on Columban social media. This is a chance to engage with an issue that addresses equality, justice, inclusion and also draws on faith and personal experience.' Below this, there is a quote: 'We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.' followed by 'POPE FRANCIS, June 2020'. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES' featuring a cross and a globe. To the right of the logo, there is a table of prizes: 'PRINT PRIZES' with '1ST £300', '2ND £150', and '3RD £100'; and 'IMAGE PRIZES' with '1ST £300', '2ND £150', and '3RD £100'. Below the table, there is a line of text: 'THE COMPETITION IS BEING LAUNCHED ON MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2020'. At the bottom right, there is a section titled 'DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:' followed by 'SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2021'. Below this, there is a paragraph of text: 'For more information on entry guidelines see: www.columbancompetition.com or email hello@columbancompetition.com'.

## 30. WCC Essay Competition for Youth Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation

The World Council of Churches is inviting young people (aged no more than 30 years old on the 15th January 2021) to bring fresh perspectives on "The Future of Interreligious dialogue" by participating in an essay competition to mark the 50th Anniversary of the WCC's Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Co-operation.' The aim of this competition is to encourage those under the age of 30 with interests in the field of interreligious relations and engagement to develop and share their ideas on various themes. For more information please [click here](#).

**ACTIONS/APPEALS**

### **31. Global Justice Now - Defeat the US Trade Deal**

A couple of weekends ago Global Justice Now showed the government what Britain thinks about a US trade deal. From farmers who mowed messages into their fields, to projections on shipping containers, pantomime cows in Parliament Square, and hundreds of people organising events and photo actions, the message was clear: we must stop the US trade deal!

We really can defeat this toxic deal. And by doing so we can build a bigger movement for trade justice, ensuring that our post-Brexit trade deals do not trample the rights of people or the environment - here and around the world. To achieve that, we need your help. [Please join the movement today.](#)

### **32. End Israeli Administrative Detention**

A Palestinian father of 6 is in critical condition after over 100 days of hunger strike. 49-year old Maher Al-Akhras is protesting against Israel's use of administrative detention, and demands to be set free. Administrative detention is a procedure that allows Israel to hold prisoners indefinitely on "secret" information without charging them or allowing them to stand a fair trial. This barbaric and kafkaesque practice must end! Please email the [Foreign Office here.](#)

### **33. Injustice Advent Calendar**

Forget chocolate. Forget beauty samples. Forget beard oil, tiny gin bottles and small portions of cheese...

This is the advent calendar that matters.

For Christmas 2020 Traidcraft Exchange are partnering with a hand-picked selection of world changing organisations to provide us with 24 simple ways to make the world a better place. For more details [click here.](#)

### **34. Climate Coalition Declaration to the Government**

This time next year, world leaders will be coming together in Glasgow for a global summit that could make or break efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

But we can't wait until next year to stand with those farmers and workers already feeling the worst effects of that crisis. Now is the time to push for radical, urgent action on a global scale. It's time to sign the [Climate Declaration](#).

## **E-PETITIONS**

### **35. Grant Asylum to Maira Shahbaz**

Raped, forced to marry and convert, and now facing death threats, Christian girl Maira Shahbaz, 14, from Pakistan, urgently needs asylum.

Maira and her family are in hiding from extremists who accuse her of apostasy and want her dead. The family are in immediate danger. [Please sign here](#).

### **36. Ask your Councillor to defend democracy and the environment**

The Government's new plans to reshape the English planning system are a serious threat to our communities, local democracy and the environment. These plans will weaken restrictions on what gets built and could remove the right for communities and elected councillors to have a say on many key planning decisions. That means big developers and landowners could have more power to push through damaging developments without democratic scrutiny, at the cost of climate change, local nature and community wellbeing. [Click here to add your name](#).

### **37. THE LAST WORD**

**The Courage to Love (courtesy of the Salesians)**

In the Salesians Catholic Teacher Article, Mike explores the need for courage when teaching the poor and marginalised. It makes excellent reading. [Click here](#) to read it.

Mike finishes with this beautiful poem 'Love' from George Herbert:-

*LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lack'd anything.*

*'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'  
Love said, 'You shall be he.'  
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on Thee.'  
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
'Who made the eyes but I?'*

*'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve.'  
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'  
'My dear, then I will serve.'  
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'  
So I did sit and eat.*

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