NJPN E-Bulletin 12th June 2022



But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will grow wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, walk but never tire.

Isaiah 40: 31

Dear Friends,

Apologies for the delay in sending this. I had a very busy and stressful week or two in my parish job, and spent most of last weekend working.

Around three weeks ago, a lone gunman walked into Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and fatally wounded nineteen children and two teachers, plus injured seventeen other people. You cannot help but ask yourself 'where was God in that; where was the hope in that situation.' I guess the hope has to come in that with every tragedy of this kind, eventually those who make the laws in the US will come to their senses and change things for the better. I have included a couple of articles which I think are worth sharing.

After reading this e-bulletin a few weeks ago, one of my sons commented that it was a particularly depressing edition, with all of the bad things happening to the environment, with the whole Rwanda business, and everything else that was going on at the time. I felt bad that there was nothing positive to share. Unfortunately, though, I feel there is a duty to share things that you may not be aware of, particularly when our actions now make for bad consequences in the future. My hope, indeed our hope, is that by sharing the facts, enough people will want to get involved and start making a difference. As the famous quote from Saint Teresa of Calcutta says: -

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But if that drop was not in the ocean, I think the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

Talking of hope, this leads me to advertise our Conference, <u>'Hope is a</u> <u>Verb with Its Sleeves Rolled Up'</u> taking place between the 22nd to 24th July at the Hayes in Derbyshire. Last year's Conference was excellent, with great speakers, workshops, and a real sense of working together to make the world a better place. Don't be shy - come and join us. We look forward to meeting you there. If you have young people in your family they will be especially welcome. I am taking my 21 year old, and my 14 year old. It really can appeal to all ages.

Last weekend, the extended Bank Holiday meant that as a country we could officially celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70 years as monarch.

What an achievement this is. How many people do you know who have worked tirelessly for 70 years? She has been in the public eye for all of this time without breaking down or wavering from her duties. Only recently has she cut back on her engagements, and suffered more frequent bouts of ill-health.

If you feel you had no cause to celebrate, there is an article in News and Comments that will cement that view.

The next edition will be out around the 26th June, all being well.

Wishing you a hope-filled couple of weeks, Sharon (Editor) **E-Bulletin Contents: -**

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24. ***18th June*** - Pax Christi AGM

25. 18th June - Operation Noah Annual Supporters Event

26. 21st June onwards - Mini Course: How strong is the Biblical basis for Christian Zionism

27. 22nd June - Confronting Glencore: People fighting corporate power

28. 25th June - JPIC Spring Assembly

29. 29th June - Get involved in Challenge Poverty Week 2022

30. 29th June - Housing Justice Comedy Night

31. 2nd July - The work of our hands? Reconciliation in turbulent times

32. 5th July - Church Action on Poverty 40th Anniversary Service

33. 8th - 10th July 2022 - Reinventing Radical (Student Christian Movement)

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35. 22nd - 24th July - NJPN Annual Conference

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ACTION OF THE WEEK

Global Justice Now re the Rwanda Deportations

Global Justice Now writes: - On Tuesday up to 130 people are due to be forcefully taken from detention in the UK and sent 4,000 miles to Rwanda, where they have no family, friends or connections.

Back in April this year Priti Patel went against basic rules of humanity, against the advice of her own top civil servants and against the wishes of the general public to announce her intention to deport asylum seekers from the UK to Rwanda. People fleeing war and persecution from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere will be denied the opportunity to claim asylum in the UK and arbitrarily expelled to a country they have no links to. Moreover, Patel's plans will penalise those who have risked their lives in perilous journeys because they've not used a visa route – a route that simply does not exist for them!

Many of those facing deportation have family members already in the UK. Some of them are children who have wrongly been identified as adults by the Home Office. The policy announcement caused great distress among an already traumatised group of people, with suicide attempts and hunger strikes reported.

As a deterrent, this plan manifestly fails. As a policy, it is potentially illegal as it penalises asylum seekers for their method of entry, which contravenes the Refugee Convention. It has to be stopped.

Global Justice Now have come up with five actions that we can do: -

1) <u>Help put pressure on airlines to drop the deportation flights</u> (courtesy of Freedom from Torture)

2) <u>Email your MP, asking them to take a stand against the</u> <u>deportations (courtesy of Bail for Immigration Detainees)</u>

3) Join the protests on Sunday and Monday: - Sunday 3pm at Brook House, Gatwick Airport and Monday at 5.30pm outside the Home Office, Westminster.

4) Share the protests on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

5) Join the week of action against the Hostile Environment from the 13 - <u>19 June.</u>

Thank you!

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Refugees/Migrants (includes Events and an Action)

Event - Welcoming the Stranger in a hostile environment - 14th June at 7.30pm via Zoom. Register through this <u>link</u>.



In a hostile environment

An online discussion on supporting refugees with two eminent Speakers, Enver Solomon, Chief Executive of The Refugee Council, UK and the Rev Chris Brice, Chair of the London Churches Refugee Fund



News on the Rwanda Plan

Many of you would now have heard that the first flight of refugees out to Rwanda is schedules for Tuesday, 14th June. Sophie Cartwright, JRS UK Policy Officer, tries to answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the UK Government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda for processing (and ultimately resettlement). Click <u>here</u> to read the up to date information.

Refugee Week 20-26 June

Justice and Peace Scotland have shared the following reflection, which are words that Pope Francis used when he met with refugees at the Mytilene reception centre on Lesbos, Greece in December 2021. They write: - *We currently have the highest numbers of displaced people in human history, and the causes; war, persecution, extreme poverty and the climate crisis remain unaddressed.*

"Those who are afraid of you have not looked you in the eye. Those who are afraid of you have not seen your faces. Those who fear you have not seen your children. They have forgotten that dignity and freedom transcend fear and division."

Justice and Peace Scotland have come up with a resource designed to be used in Catholic Schools for Refugee Week, but it could be used as a daily reflection for everyone. You can download it <u>here.</u>

Event - Songs for an Imagined Nation (Refugee Week event)

On Saturday 25th June, JRS invites you all to celebrate refugee week by joining them at their centre in Wapping for a vibrant creative textile workshop of exploring healing and belonging through creating flags. Details available <u>here.</u>

Music helps young refugee cope in Detention Centre

Seyed, a young Iranian Kurd, tells his story through <u>Independent Catholic</u> <u>News/Care4Calais.</u>

Nuncio brings Pope's Blessing to Asylum Seekers housed at Napier Barracks

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales writes: - For the second time this year, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, the Pope's representative to Great Britain, visited asylum seekers housed in a former army barracks in Kent to bring the Holy Father's special blessing and greetings to them as they seek the prospect of a better life without persecution. The Apostolic Nuncio saw Pope Francis' simple Christian gesture as a sign of solidarity and hope. Images and a short interview are

available through CBCEW.

Action - Stop the Rwanda Plan - All Refugees Welcome

Together with Refugees via Action Network have written the following: - Coalition member, <u>Care for Calais</u> are leading a refugee bloc in a TUC demo about the Cost-of-Living Crisis in London, on Saturday 18 June.

As we all know, when there are social problems in the UK refugees and migrants are often blamed. So, the TUC's demo offers a great opportunity to show solidarity and unity and promote the rights of refugees. Please join the 'Stop the Rwanda plan – All Refugees Welcome' bloc. There will be transport from UK regions and <u>details will be provided here.</u>

The truth about refugees

Recently I was thinking about fostering refugee children and I spoke to someone who fosters through an Agency. She said that many people don't want to foster refugees as they feel that they are bringing problems into the UK, or could be terrorists. <u>Care 4 Calais</u> have a great section on their website clarifying a lot of things about refugees and why they are here.

2. Climate/Environment (mainly includes Actions and Events this week)

Scorched Earth: the impact of drought on 10 world cities

Christian Aid have brought out this very depressing report on the effect of climate change and shortage of water in ten cities around the world, including London. According to this report, within 25 years, London and the South East could run out of water. Read the full report <u>here.</u>

Indians risking life for water

The <u>BBC</u> have reported on the problems facing areas of India with the shortage of water. They show a video that has gone viral of two women scaling the wall of a well to find water.

Action - Make companies accountable for harm to people and the environment

Friends of the Earth are asking us to sign our names on a petition to Parliament, calling on them to create a new law to hold business, finance and the public sector to account when they fail to prevent supply chain human rights abuses and environmental harms. For more details and to join in you can find it <u>here.</u>

Event - Anthony Storey Memorial Lecture - Tuesday 21st June at 7pm via Zoom

'Thinking about Faith and the Environment. What do we want to sustain?' SPEAKER: Dr. Carmody Grey.

Middlesborough Diocese Justice and Peace Commission are delighted to welcome Dr. Carmody Grey as this year's speaker for the Anthony Storey Memorial Lecture.

An important focus for her is on science, nature and the environment. She has become much in demand as a speaker on these issues. Her recent Hook Lecture was widely acclaimed and she will be using the themes from this for the Storey Lecture. We were keen that a wider audience should have the opportunity to consider her ideas with time for questions and dialogue. To register for the lecture please email bhungin@yahoo.co.uk

Event - We Demand Better (national demonstration in London) 'The cost of living crisis is a climate crisis'

<u>Campaign Against Climate Change</u> are advertising a demonstration in London on **Saturday 18th June**, 11am on the corner of New Cavendish Street on Portland Place.

Event - Global Justice Now - 'Hope in the Dark' Saturday 9th July at Sheffield Hallam University

Global Justice Now and Jubilee for Climate are holding an annual gathering. Join them to discuss what a just global transition looks like, and how climate justice movements are taking a stand the world over. Book your ticket <u>here.</u>

Action - Ban Peatland Fires

Greenpeace are calling the Government out over the supposed ban on peatland ('England's national rainforests') fires that was introduced last year. This has appeared to be toothless, and landowners are still doing it to make way for heather for grouse to feed on. Add your name to the <u>petition</u> to the Environment Secretary asking the Government to ban the burning, and properly fund its enforcement.

News from Operation Noah

James Buchanan from Operation Noah has been in touch and asked if we could include the following items/events: -

The Global Church and the Fossil-Fuelled Five - If you missed this webinar that took place last week, you can watch the recording through <u>YouTube</u>.

It was organised by Operation Noah, Laudato Si' Movement, Green Anglicans, World Council of Churches and GreenFaith, presented fossil fuel divestment, support for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and opposition to new fossil fuel developments as three important actions that Churches and faith groups around the world can take in response to the climate crisis.

Operation Noah Annual Supporters Event - Saturday 18th June from 10.30 - 12.45pm - entitled

Alternatives to Fossil Fuelled Violence: Listening to our Global Neighbours. You will hear from the following inspiring speakers: **Svitlana Romanko**, Ukrainian climate activist and Coordinator of the Stand with Ukraine campaign

Revd Dr Rachel Mash, Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Rt Revd Manuel Ernesto, Anglican Bishop of Nampula in Northern Mozambique

Join the next global divestment announcement on the 5th July

Together with Laudato Si' Movement, World Council of Churches, Green Anglicans and GreenFaith, Operation Noah invites your local church or diocese to join the next global divestment announcement for faith organisations ahead of the Lambeth Conference.

News from Laudato Si'

If you are interested in what went on in Laudato Si' week, want to recap, or read about the highlights, go to their <u>web page</u>.

News and Events from Green Christian

Next Plenty talk - <u>"Desire for the New": Responsibility in a throw away</u> <u>culture</u>. Taking place on the 22nd June via Zoom at 7pm.

Green Christian on the Road Together at Saltburn-by-the-Sea on Saturday 9th July. For more information and to register, click <u>here</u>.

<u>Green Christian Annual Conference</u> - 7th - 8th October - *Building back* greener? Christian perspectives on the future of our economy, money and work.

(If you, or someone you know, is under 30 and wishes to attend this Conference, there are partial travel bursaries of 50%. Email info@greenchristian.org.uk)

3. Bruce Kent RIP

I was attending an online Diocesan Laudato Si' Meeting on Thursday when the sad news was announced that Bruce Kent had passed away. We immediately said a prayer for him and thanked God for Bruce's tireless work for peace.

Bruce Kent's family have issued a statement through <u>ICN</u>, in which they announced his death *'in great sadness, but in gratitude for his life and gifts.*



(photograph credit: Lawrence Archer)

Bruce Kent: 'a true man of peace'

Ellen Teague, again through <u>ICN</u>, writes about the amazing man that Bruce Kent was - campaigning for peace right up to the middle of May, which given the fact that he was in his 93rd year was quite remarkable.

Bruce Kent: A tribute from NJPN

Our tribute to Bruce Kent is available to read through the <u>NJPN website</u>, with the end paragraph summing up beautifully: -*He made a difference, and for so many of us he was the difference, inspiring us not only by words but by his faith, wisdom, resilience, and commitment.*

May he rest in peace.

4. Palestine/Holy Land

Israeli forces kill more than 50 Palestinians in raids on West Bank

ICN writes: - Toine Van Teeffelen from the Arab Educational Institute in Bethlehem, has compiled the following news items from the last two days from translations of the local press and Palestinian news agency, Wafa. So far this year, Israeli forces have killed over 56 Palestinians in the Occupied West Bank, including prominent Catholic journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Another woman journalist, Ghufran Harun Warasneh, was killed on Wednesday. More than 200 men, women and children have been injured since January.

Read the full report here.

Action - #SaveMasaferYatta

Anne-Marie Clements, who is involved with The Balfour Project, has asked us to share this action. She writes: -

I have recently returned from a 10-day trip to Palestine where I met families who were facing evictions and families who have had their homes destroyed by Israel. Motivated by this experience, I am hoping to share this action with as many people as possible. The Balfour Project write: - *Israel's Supreme Court has approved the forced eviction of over 1,000 Palestinians from their homes in Masafer Yatta. This would be one of the largest single displacements of Palestinians since the Occupation began.*

We must ensure that if the Israeli Government proceeds with forced transfer, there will be severe consequences for UK/Israel relations.

People live here – this is not a Firing Zone. Help stop forced evictions and #SaveMasaferYatta.

Send this letter to your MP by entering your postcode in one click: <u>https://balfourproject.eaction.org.uk/saveMY</u>

Please share with friends who believe in justice. O C This issue will only be raised in parliament if enough letters are received.

Jerusalem: Threatened demolition may leave 74 Palestinians homeless - again

ICN have taken their information from the <u>United Nations Office for the Co-</u> Ordination of Humanitarian Affairs

At present, a building of 12 housing units in East Jerusalem is under threat of demolition and the families that live there have had just days to evacuate. 32 adults and 42 children will be lose their homes. The full story is <u>here.</u>

Bedouin Woman: 'When there is no water, what else can I do?'

When I originally saw the title of this article, I thought it was climate-related. Sadly, though, Um Ismail and her family live near Jerusalem. She tells of her family's daily struggles. <u>World Council of Churches</u> finish the article with the paragraph: - *She urged people across the world to listen to her story, to pray and, most of all, to act for justice. "We have lots of worries," she said, "but we hope that you can help us."*

5. Gun Violence

At the beginning of this e-bulletin I mentioned the shooting in Texas. Since then there have been other shootings in the US, plus a massacre during a Mass in a St. Francis Catholic Church, Owo, Nigeria last Sunday. I have included a couple of pieces below about the gun issues in the US.

Jesus and Guns: Faith, Politics and Polarisation

Jon Kuhrt, through <u>Grace + Truth</u> has put together a good article around the way the gun issued is looked at in the US. He closes with: - *As with slavery and racism, the Christian religion is part of America's gun problem. But, as with those other social evils, faith in Jesus and his kingdom will also be a key part of the solution.*

Sad, tired and angry: A Prayer in the face of gun violence

America Magazine have reproduced this prayer by James Martin, SJ that they first published on 2nd October 2017 following the shooting dead of 60 people, and the injuring of over 800 at a Harvest Music Festival in Las Vegas. It is as relevant today as it was then, sadly. Read it <u>here.</u>

Praying at the site of gun violence - even when you feel helpless

Again, from <u>America Magazine</u>, Jon M. Sweeney writes how he has learnt to deal with the gun violence around him.

6. Prison-related News

Pact partners with Interface to enhance professional practice and transform lives

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact) has recently launched new training courses for service staff and volunteers following collaboration with national consultancy and training provider Interface Enterprises. The partnership aims to further enhance the way the charity works with prisoners and their families to support their health and wellbeing, rebuild relationships, and turn their lives around. You can read the rest of their press release <u>here.</u>

I've been on death row for 23 years. Catholic Mass gives me hope in the midst of my suffering.

Lyle C. May tells his story about being on death row through <u>America</u> <u>Magazine</u>. It is interesting, but sad, and makes me realise that I am glad we don't give out the death sentence here.

7. 'I got fed up with my students ending up in prison or dead'

This great article in The Guardian tells of Zahra Bei, a London school teacher who was 'Appalled by the damage of zero-tolerance behaviour policies that see ever more pupils thrown out of class, and often education,' and went on to found a campaign focusing on racial justice. No More Exclusions was founded in 2018 and is a community-based movement which focuses on racial justice in education. Their mission is to highlight the persistent race disparity in school exclusions and end the policy of excluding children from England's schools, while also developing anti-racist teacher training and curriculum principles. Read the full article here.

8. Raising awareness of human trafficking

Talitha Kum have produced a video, <u>"Exploited: Please See Me"</u> to raise awareness of human trafficking. Please watch and then share around your contacts.

9. Why I am not celebrating this jubilee

Neil Charlton, through <u>Grace + Truth</u> gives reasons why he was not going to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, and cites hundreds of years of human rights tragedies. Neil is a Youth Worker in South London, and this is a version of an open letter from the Jamaican Advocacy Group signed by 100 Jamaican leaders in March 2022.

10. Columban Faith in Action Programme - Closing date 13th June

The Columbans are looking to recruit two enthusiastic young adults to join their team in Britain as volunteers, to explore their faith through active participation in mission and to give their time, skills and energy to help disadvantaged and vulnerable people.

More details can be found through the <u>Columban Missionaries Britain</u> website.

11. NJPN Blog

31st May 2022 - Batter my heart

Patricia Pulham, who is on the Executive of Christian CND and a member of NJPN, talks about nuclear weapons during this season of the Holy Trinity.

You can read more here.

8th June 2022 - 'Regenesis' - Responding to the Cry of the Soil

Celia Capstick, who is co-convener of the Social Responsibility Committee of the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW), talks about the book 'Regenesis: feeding the world without devouring the planet' by George Monbiot.

Celia's article is available here.

Thanks to our friends at ICN for publishing our Blogs. You can check out their online news site <u>here.</u>

Newsletters

12. Salesians Justice and Peace May 2022

Their single sheet edition, with their Organisation of the Month being Bowelbabe. Read it <u>here.</u>

13. Global Justice Now Impact Report 2021

See what they have achieved by reading their Annual Review 2021.

14. NW NJPN E-Bulletin June 2022

Anne O'Connor leads by talking about hope and linking it into the theme of this year's Conference. She also has a gardening theme running through it, following on from the Chelsea Flower Show in May. As usual it makes for very interesting reading. Available through the <u>NJPN website</u>.

15. Mouthpeace Summer 2022

Lots of interesting articles and events by Marian. Again, you can read it through <u>NJPN</u>.

16. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Various articles and the links to them. Read it here.

17. Operation Noah May 2022

Check out what Operation Noah are involved in and the various events coming up <u>here.</u>

18. Boaz Trust May 2022

Read about their fundraising efforts and the work they do with their clients <u>here.</u>

19. Biofuelwatch June 2022

Keep up to date with their campaigns and actions, and read their reports from their <u>website</u>.

20. Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Check out details of what they have been doing, their prayer diary and how to join them. <u>Click here.</u>

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

21. 13th June - Southern Dioceses Environment Network Sustainable Summers

22. 14th June - 10am - Footsteps <u>Tackling the Funding Challenge Workshops:</u> <u>Overcoming barriers to reducing energy use in faith buildings</u>

23. 15th June - 7pm - Church Action on Poverty Setting up a Local Pantry: an introduction for churches 24. 18th June - Pax Christi AGM

25. 18th June - 10.30am - 12.45pm - Operation Noah Annual Supporters Event - details under the Climate Section above

26. 21st June, 28 June, 5th July and 12th July - Churches for Middle East Peace and Embrace the Middle East Mini Course: - How strong is the Biblical basis for Christian Zionism

27. 22nd June - 6.30pm - 8.30pm - London Mining Network Confronting Glencore: People Fighting Corporate Power.

28. 25th June - 10am - Justice and Peace in Creation Spring Assembly, Dover - in person event. Details through the <u>Archdiocese of Southwark</u>

29. 29th June - 2pm - Church Action on Poverty Get involved in Challenge Poverty Week 2022

30. 29th June - 7.15pm - 10.15pm - Housing Justice Comedy Night

31. 2nd July - 10am - 3.30pm - Church and Peace <u>The work of our hands? Reconciliation in turbulent times</u>

32. 5th July - 7pm - 7.20pm - Church Action on Poverty 40th Anniversary Service live-streamed from Iona Abbey

33. 8th - 10th July - Student Christian Movement <u>Reinventing Radical: Courageous Discipleship for a Changing World</u>

34. 20th July - 6pm - 8pm - London Mining Network Resisting Mining Book Club: The Extractive Zone

35. 22nd - 24th July - NJPN Annual Conference Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up.

36. 2nd - 4th September - The Runnymede Trust

We Move: Race Equality & Migrants Rights Summit

37. 3rd September - 4pm - Southern Dioceses Environment Network

Mass for the Season of Creation at Farm Street Church, Mayfair, London

38. 17th September - JPIC Save the Date

Golden Jubilee Celebration in London- Details to Follow

39. 24th September - NJPN

Open Networking Day hosted by Hexham and Newcastle

40. 7th-8th October – Green Christian Conference

41. 12th November - NJPN

Open Networking Day - London/South East tbc

42. Hexham Debates - Justice, Peace and Democracy

(Carrying on a tradition of active radical debate essential for ensuring freedom and justice for all)

If you are interested in catching up with the various debates that have taken place this year, recordings are available through the <u>Hexham</u> <u>Debates website.</u>

Actions

43. Zambia's Debt Crisis: Stop Black Rock

Zambia pays more on debt repayments than health, education and sanitation. Right now Zambia is in talks to renegotiate its enormous debt burden. In solidarity with Zambian civil society we're demanding big banks cancel the debt.

Watch Debt Justice's video.

Call upon your MP to demand that the Government does more to help.

44. We need to roll out the vaccine to the world

CAFOD are reminding us that the G7 leaders will be meeting at the end of June, and that the roll out of vaccines to the poorer countries of the world needs to pushed by the Prime Minister. So far promises have been made but they have fallen far short of the mark. Sign the petition <u>here.</u>

45. Grenfell United are asking for our help

They write: - You may have seen the Government's announcement regarding PEEPs (<u>https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/may/18/outrage-as-ministers-reject-post-grenfell-safety-plans-for-disabled-people</u>) where it was confirmed Government would not be implementing personal evacuation plans for disabled residents - one of the core recommendations from the Phase 1 report of the Grenfell Inquiry.

72 people died at Grenfell. 15 people had disabilities. They had no personal evacuation plans (PEEPS) and no means of escape. Our loved ones did not stand a chance.

In his Phase 1 report, judge Sir Martin Moore-Bick urged the Government to make Personal Evacuation Plans for disabled residents law and to drop the stay put policy.

Three years since the report was published, the Government has now announced they will **not** be implementing this core recommendation.

PEEPs is essential for disabled residents. Without it - and with the stay put policy still in place - they cannot leave their flats safely.

In 2019 Boris Johnson publicly stated that he would "implement the Grenfell Inquiry recommendations in full". Help us ensure he fulfils his promise by responding to the Government's report stating your disapproval before the 19th August:

*Email:*FireSafetyUnitconsultations@homeoffice.gov.uk

Write to: Fire Safety Unit, Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, Peel Building London, SW1P 4DF

Join our Silent Walk on Tuesday 14th June at 6pm from the Notting Hill Methodist Church, W11. If you are unable to attend, we encourage you to wear green on the day and share a post on your socials, using the hashtag #UnitedForGrenfell. The Government failed our loved ones. Disabled people deserve the right to leave their homes safely.

46. Police action plan released to address race disparities affecting Black people

Not so much an action, but details of a Police Race Action Plan which sets out the Commitment of Chief Constables in England and Wales to become an anti-racist police service. The Catholic Association for Racial Justice have issued a statement <u>here.</u> The National Police Chiefs Council press statement is <u>here.</u>

THE LAST WORD

47. Praying with Detainees

Sister Patricia, who is a volunteer detention visitor for JRS UK wrote this lovely piece that I received by email a week or so ago: -

Dear friend,

Each year in June we mark Refugee Week: a time we celebrate our refugee friends, their contributions, creativity and their resilience. The theme of this year's Refugee Week is 'Healing'; reminding us that refugee friends carry within them deep hurts, not only from the country from which they came originally, but also from their experiences in the country that is supposed to be their sanctuary.

As I pondered on the theme of healing the question that came to me was: **How can** *we* **help our refugee friends to heal?** By 'we' I mean those of us who work with JRS, but also our society, because welcome and inclusion must be part of the healing process.

To speak of healing implies *brokenness*, in need of *repair*. We are all broken in some way or another and reflecting on this I was reminded of an image of Kintsugi.



Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. The result is that the cracks are not just glued together, or hidden, but are made obvious and are seen as a means of creating something new. The result of the repair is an improvement or enhancement of the pot on its condition even before it was broken. It is a restoration that enables the pot's brokenness to become something glorious.



But it takes a long time for this process to be completed. In the case of a pot, it is a three a month's process of stages of restoration. It takes patience and attention, it involves the living with the incomplete in the knowledge that eventually, the pot will not only be repaired but transformed. Reflecting on this image reminds us that our painful experiences remain with us, but they can undergo a change to become something that is life-giving to ourselves and those we meet.



Our refugee friends are not pots but people who have endured great pain and hurt. But through that they somehow manage to keep going and some have even used their negative experiences to help and inspire others.

This has certainly been the experience of those of us who interact with friends of JRS. We would all agree that we are richer for knowing them, even in their brokenness. As we search for ways to help and support them through their traumas and their journey to healing it's important to remember that they are not only broken but talented, creative people who have navigated troubled waters we could only imagine. It is for us to listen and be amazed during this week of celebrating who they are.

In solidarity and prayer, Sr Patricia

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