

# NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin March 2016

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

In this issue we pay tribute to two dedicated Justice and Peace activists who have died in the past few days:

## MIKE SIMPSON RIP

**Joan Sharples writes:** You may have already received the sad news of Mike's death. He died on Saturday 20 February at the age of eighty-five after a long period of ill health. Mike was Shrewsbury Diocese's first Justice and Peace Fieldworker and his commitment and enthusiasm did much to encourage action for J&P contacts throughout the diocese.

Joan and Mike worked closely together for many years. She has composed the following tribute:

To appreciate Mike's great contribution to justice and peace, it is necessary to think back to the world of the mid-eighties, where the Cold War was the focus of international tensions, there was still apartheid in South Africa, Ireland had its troubles and Central America was the locus of violent civil wars. In a world before email, Skype, and the Internet, it was difficult to know what was really going on. Mike Simpson, who has died after a prolonged period of ill health at the age of eighty-five, did much to raise awareness on human rights in Latin America and was involved with many other justice-and-peace issues.

When he took early retirement from teaching English at Malbank High School in Nantwich, his parish priest, Fr Jack Warnock, asked him to start a justice-and-peace group in the parish. Mike agreed, as long as it could focus on Latin America. He never did things by halves and before long his work had spread far beyond the parish. He circulated monthly letters written by Fr John Medcalf, a priest working in war torn Nicaragua giving graphic account of the effect of the country's civil war on ordinary campesinos. These went out to aid agencies, solidarity groups, clergy, trade unions justice-and-peace activists all over the country. Before long he was organising speaking tours for catechists, trade union leaders, women, religious, and priests under the name of the Las Casas Network, named after Bartolomé de las Casas the sixteenth century Dominican, who, appalled by the oppression of the indigenous in Latin America, 'spoke truth to power' to the church in Rome and to Spanish rulers.

In 1989, Mike was appointed Justice and Peace worker for the Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury, a job which he later shared with Ann Gill and Joan Sharples. He retired from the 'money' in 1995 but continued to work with Joan for another ten years until his health problems prevented this. He excelled at networking, with many of the contacts he made becoming long-standing friendships. Generous and committed himself, he expected the same generosity and commitment from others, attracting expert speakers from a variety of contexts to the nine biennial Justice and Peace Conferences held at Crewe between 1989 and 2005, each attended by several hundred people. People found them informing and inspiring.

Mike coordinated the final years of the December Group; the British Liberation Theology Consultation and Celebration; and Colombia Forum, which provided an analysis of human rights in that troubled country and organised speaker tours for human-rights workers, journalists, and priests. He also supported the work of national justice and peace. None of this would have been possible without the support and help of his wife, Margaret.

Mike described his own inspiration as attempting to be a 'follower of Jesus of Nazareth', attempting to 'realise the gratuitous superabundance of the Kingdom'. He was particularly fond of a reflection on hope by Brazilian theologian, Rubem Alves, which contains the lines:

*Let us plant dates, even though those who plant them will never eat them...  
we must live by the love of what we will never see  
This is the secret discipline.  
It is a refusal to let the creative act be dissolved away in immediate sense experience,  
and a stubborn commitment to the future of our grandchildren...*

*Such disciplined love is what has given prophets, revolutionaries and saints  
the courage to die for what they envisaged.  
They made their own bodies the seed of their highest hope.*

Mike planted dates, many, many dates.

- Mike's funeral will take place on Thursday 3 March at St Anne's Catholic Church, Pillory St, Nantwich CW5 5SS at 1.30pm, followed by an opportunity to continue the celebration of his life at the Railway Hotel pub opposite. Some parking is available at the Church, also at the pub and public car parks in the town or in the side road opposite the church. If you wish to make a donation in memory of Mike, the family would appreciate donations to Pax Christi rather than flowers. Please contact Joan Sharples [joansharples@phonecoop.coop](mailto:joansharples@phonecoop.coop) for further information. Messages of condolence can be sent to Mike's daughter, Niamh Vernon, 4 Rose Farm Barns, Dairy Lane, Aston-Juxta-Mondrum, Cheshire CW5 6DS.

## 'LIFE IS SWEET'- A TRIBUTE TO LOUISE ZANRÉ DA SILVA

by *Ellen Teague* February 21, 2016

Ever since I heard the news that Louise Zanré Da Silva died suddenly last Monday, I've been feeling really alive and full of energy. I have a new appreciation of life that can only come when the finality of someone else's death, particularly a friend of only 47, hits home. I am one of many to feel incredibly blessed to have known and worked with Louise for two decades, one of so many inspirational women in the Justice and Peace movement here in Britain.

During the 13 years she was Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), a role from which she recently stepped down, I heard her address groups many times. I'll single out her presentation at the Christians Aware Annual Conference in January 2015. There were moments when her voice wavered with emotion, telling the stories of the destitution experienced by asylum seekers who may have waited many months for a decision on an asylum claim, with no leave to remain, no permission to work and no access to benefits. They were not statistics to Louise but 'neighbours' and friends. She spoke about the accompaniment programme of a day centre run by the Jesuits in East London and regular visits to two detention centres. Who in that audience could forget her story of a refugee and long-term detainee who suffered from mental illness, carrying his case everywhere with him in his detention centre because he was expecting to leave at any time?

Louise was from Bathgate in Scotland, from a family of Italian extraction, and studied Law at Aberdeen University. Her family and Catholic upbringing sensitised her to social justice, and her education meant she was well equipped on legal aspects of asylum issues, especially important when involved with a parliamentary enquiry in 2014/15 focusing on conditions in detention centres.

She felt refugees and asylum seekers were being stripped of their rights and could not be detached from their suffering. "One of the biggest problems I've found from talking to detainees is the uncertainty, never knowing how long they will be held," said Louise, who contrasted the immigration detainee with the convicted criminal being held in prison; "it is different for the prisoner who knows the length of his or her sentence". She felt practical support and care offered by voluntary groups stood in direct contrast to the anti-migrant messages seen and heard regularly in the media or from politicians.

I first knew Louise as a worker with Pax Christi UK. She had relocated from Scotland in 1993 to join a small but dynamic staff team in London led by General Secretary Pat Gaffney. "Louise brought a critical eye to her work, initially with a focus on Northern Ireland, which then changed to a focus on refugee and asylum work, building links with the work of Pax Christi International," says Pat. She recalls that "Louise was greatly valued by Pax Christi, our team, volunteers and members - we all enjoyed her dry sense of humour!"

She had been with the Jesuit Refugee Service since 2000, and was deeply committed to networking with others in the Justice and Peace movement. Louise was typical of Justice and Peace activists who see the connections between issues. She wrote last year: "Much has been made of the numbers of people trying to get to Europe and how we might cope with them. Little is spoken of the tens of millions of people globally forced to flee war, persecution, human rights abuses and natural disasters. The vast majority of people fleeing by boat across the Mediterranean are from war torn and repressive regimes including Syria, Libya, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Sudan." She was concerned about government funding cuts, blamed on austerity, when Britain seemed to have funds for military expenditures. "No-one ever says, 'where shall we find money for Trident?' rather than, 'where shall we find money for the NHS?'" She drew great inspiration from Pope Francis and his vision of a Church concerned for the marginalised and poor. She was well known to members of the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales as legal consultant, conference planner, workshop leader, and writer on refugee and asylum issues. Many of us at the July annual conference shared wine with her after the formal sessions, and Louise was a great entertainer with many a witty story.

In her personal life, she lost her Brazilian husband Paolo suddenly seven years ago and just three months ago her beloved father, whom she and her sister Dina accompanied through years of dementia. Louise was deeply touched by the sympathy and support of the refugees and asylum seekers she knew through the JRS day centres. "They have a very real and dynamic sense of what true family and community means," she reflected, "one which truly flows out of mercy". In recent years she walked with a stick because of a chronic and painful arthritic condition, particularly affecting her spine, but I never heard her complain about it. Pat Gaffney speaks for all her friends when she says, "it is her personal courage, strength, lack of self-pity and humour that I shall remember most".

Just a month before her death, she had stepped down as Director of the JRS, handing over to former MP Sarah Teather. On 12 January she had an office celebration and wrote on facebook: "What a lovely evening with so many friends from JRS - staff and volunteers past and present.... I am very grateful for all the kind wishes and sentiments expressed and the appreciation of my work at JRS so far. I am looking forward to continuing working with you all in a new role at JRS." She loved working with the Jesuits and was remaining with the JRS as a policy advisor. On her final day as Director she was with Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission, delivering their annual lecture.

Liverpool J&P worker Steve Atherton reflected: "what a fitting end to a superb tenure".

Louise was very artistic and in her last month of life she had a little more time to spend on producing crafts. She showed off her beautiful gift boxes, gift bags and plaques on facebook. The plaque 'Life is sweet' caught my eye when she posted it on 13 January. It reflected Louise's positive and hopeful outlook.

If Louise were here her biggest concern would be for her sister Dina, who has lost her only sibling and father in the space of three months. May Dina be comforted by the many tributes to Louise. The Catholic Children's Society stated that, "a wonderful dedicated champion of migrants and refugees has died unexpectedly". Phil Kerton of Seeking Sanctuary posted to Louise's facebook page: "Louise, there are so many towns that I visited with you in the days of the National Catholic Refugee Forum, and when I make these journeys again I am always reminded of your company. Above all of your amazing recall of the smallest and ever-changing details of EU and UK regulations governing the treatment of immigrants and seekers of asylum. Those at the margins of our society have lost a wonderful advocate and the rest of us an inspiring friend. Be at peace now."

Steve Atherton said: "Louise had the best grasp of the complexities of the refugee/asylum situation of all the people I know". Louise's legacy is a concern for social justice, love of neighbour, and a welcoming heart and spirit. One friend reflected that Louise was "gentle yet determined, wise and knowledgeable - but always smiling; Louise made the best use of her life and will leave a hole in ours".

Her love of the JRS and refugees/asylum seekers is shown in her last few posts on Facebook. One was about Europe's first underwater museum in Lanzarote which offers a stark reminder of the refugee crisis, including people huddling in a sinking raft. She advertised initiatives of the Churches Refugee Network, of which JRS is a member. Another post was a talk this Tuesday evening at the Jesuit Church in Farm Street by Sarah Teather. The Jesuit Provincial Fr Provincial Dermot Preston SJ will be the principal celebrant at Louise's Requiem Mass in the same church next Monday. In lieu of flowers, donations to Jesuit Refugee Service are requested.

At the turn of the year, one of Louise's friends joked that she might be in the New Year's Honours list. "That's very kind of you" she responded, "but I am sure that there are others far more worthy of such honours." She added that, "the only thing I have ever really wanted as a result of my work is a fair and just asylum process, truly rooted in human rights". Dear Louise, you have not lived to see it, but maybe it will happen one day. You certainly did all you could.

**Links:** <http://www.jrsuk.net/news/louise-zanre/> and <https://www.jesuit.org.uk/jrs-talk-serving-refugees-home-abroad>

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=29478>

**Full text of Louise's talk 'Overcome Indifference and Win Peace'** (the theme for World Peace Day 2016) which she gave in Liverpool on 17 January 2016 to mark the World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees (also her final day as Director of JRS): <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/userfiles/files/PFM/talk%20for%20website.pdf>

## S. H. BARNETT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

### Asylum Seekers

Research by S.H. Barnett, funded partly by the Social Workers Education Trust, has found that too often services to young asylum seekers focus too much on the 'nuts-and-bolts' of service provision: food, money and legal status. Whilst these aspects are clearly necessary they are not sufficient.

The research found that, for the well-being of both the refugee and the host community, there has to be an emphasis on building relationships, building community, encouraging refugees to become involved in faith communities, helping refugees to learn about the host country and encouraging refugees to undertake voluntary work as a way of building relationships and skills.

An equally critical finding was that refugees and professionals should become co-producers of services. The research involved interviews, observation and analysis of some 112 publications on the subject. The full research will be published in the early summer of 2016.

### Inequality & Debt

Inequality in Britain continues to grow. Between 2012 and 2014 the wealthiest 20% of households had 117 times more assets than the poorest 20% of households. In 2010 the wealthiest 20% had a mere 97 times more wealth. (These figures came from the UK Office of National Statistics: Main results of the Wealth and Assets survey 2016). Translated into simplistic cash terms, in 2010 for every £1 the bottom 20% had the wealthiest 20% had £97 but in 2014 for every £1 the poorest 20% had, the wealthiest 20% had £117. Until political and economic systems are re-balanced S.H. Barnett has been examining the places where the symptoms of poverty are most obvious and extreme: debt and food poverty.

Funded by the MB Reckitt Foundation, preliminary work on debt shows the wide disparity between the poorest 20% and the rest. It seems that current systems have not only reduced people's ability to earn and save money but also stripped them of their skills individually, as families and as communities to work within the limited resources available. Preliminary findings are on our website while the work continues. Go to: <http://www.shbarnett.com/wp-content/uploads/SH-Barnett-Releasing-the-Talent-Report.pdf>

● **S.H. Barnett** takes its name, and its inspiration, from Samuel and Henrietta Barnett. Samuel and Henrietta shaped society for the better through their work in social innovation and institution building. Their legacy covers social reform, the voluntary and faith sectors, the welfare state, the arts, education, housing and urban planning. Much of it remains in place today. Samuel lived between 1844 and 1913, Henrietta between 1851 and 1936. Samuel was the visionary, Henrietta the doer. Without Henrietta Samuel was just a dreamer, without Samuel Henrietta was just a fixer. But together they were practical visionaries – an unbeatable force for change. Like all practical visionaries their hunger for a better society and the changes they made live on today. <http://www.shbarnett.com/>

## "DEAR ANNE..." MY LETTER TO ANNE FRANK FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27 January 2016

by Robert A. H. Cohen

*"In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit."*

Anne Frank

Dear Anne,

What would you make of it all? Would you be surprised at what has happened to the Jewish people since your death and how the Jewish story is unfolding in the 21st century? Would you be shocked at how we have misused the memory of the Holocaust? Would you be dismayed at the mess we have made of your legacy? What words would you be writing in your diary today? What would you hope for and dream of?

It was supposed to be the genocide to end all genocides. The final warning of the monumental power of hatred. But then there was Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur. And all that we have learnt is that we will never learn.

Each generation must discover that there is no victory over hatred, only reprieves and endless vigilance.

Many have asked what should it mean to be a Jew after Auschwitz, after Belsen, after Treblinka? What should it mean to be a Jew after Anne Frank?

Anne, you have become the representative of the one and a half million Jewish children murdered by Hitler and the Nazis during their war against the Jewish people. We cannot comprehend all of those lost lives but we can treasure yours. As you said once in your diary: *"I wish to go on living after my death."* That's what I would like for you too. Your faith in humanity and your belief that goodness can triumph in the harshest of times, is a message we must hold onto tightly. But what happens when your death, and all of those you have come to represent, becomes abused by your own people and used to justify the blotting out of another people, their identity, their history and their heritage?

What have we done to your memory, Anne, when we choose to label every critic of Israel as anti-Semitic and every Palestinian a modern-day Nazi? What happens to the meaning of your life when we choose to see ourselves as endless victims, endlessly threatened?

The truth is that after more than 70 years the Jewish people are still suffering from a terrible trauma. It is a trauma that has skewed our collective thinking and our sense of identity. A trauma that has sent our moral compass into spasm. In Israel, and throughout Diaspora Jewry, the Holocaust has been used to explain and justify every aggression, every Palestinian family dispossessed, every piece of land stolen, every house bulldozed, as necessary acts of security to prevent a second Holocaust. As the Israeli commentator Boaz Evron wrote in 1980: *"Two terrible things happened to the Jewish people in this century: the Holocaust and the lessons learned from it."*

Zionism took the Holocaust as the ultimate vindication of its theory of Jewish history. Jews had no future in Europe, they were outsiders who would never be totally accepted and only a Jewish state of our own could bring us normalcy and safety. But in the 21st century what looks more abnormal and anachronistic than an 'ethno-cratic' Jewish state that by its very nature must favour one group of citizens over another.

With tragic irony, we have created for ourselves an ever more strident nationalism based on beliefs of ethnic, religious and cultural superiority. We have recreated in our ancestral homeland the very factors that caused our persecution in Europe and yet we describe it as a miraculous rebirth.

Today there are Jewish voices of compassion and contrition. But the voices of arrogance and chauvinism that prefer might to right and Jewish power over Jewish ethics are heard more loudly.

Anne, today we need your simple good faith in human nature like never before. We need you to live on after your death. Do you remember writing these beautiful words? *"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

Anne, may your bright spirit be remembered. May your hopes live on through others. May your learning be our learning. Yours in search of justice, kindness and humility. Robert Cohen

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/writingfromtheedge/2016/01/dear-anne-my-letter-to-anne-frank-for-holocaust-memorial-day/>

● Robert Cohen is a Jew, married to Anne, an Anglican priest (and former Christian Aid staff member) working in a diocese in Yorkshire. He is a Greenbelt speaker, and has been doing the blog *Writing from the Edge* for some time now.

## MUSLIMS WHO SAVED JEWS FROM HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATED

The ***I Am Your Protector*** group is highlighting the often forgotten stories of Muslims who helped Jews during one of history's deadliest genocides.

Dubbed the "Iranian Schindler", Islamic diplomat, Abdol Hossein Sardari, saved thousands of Jews from the Nazi regime by confusing the fascist group with their own propaganda. When the Nazis began implementing anti-Jewish laws in occupied France, Mr Sardari, head of the Iranian Consulate in Paris, used the Nazis' own racial purity laws to convince the group Iranian Jews were actually Aryan and not subject to the Reich's racial laws. Issuing Iranian passports to occupied Jews, without the consent of his superiors, Mr Sardari helped 2,000 Jews escape the Nazi regime.

Mr Sardari is just one of many people who feature in a new campaign honouring Muslims who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. Organised by ***I Am Your Protector (IAYP)*** - who describe themselves as "a community of people who speak up and stand up for each other across religion, race, gender and beliefs" – the group is attempting to highlight the, often forgotten, stories of Muslims who helped Jews during one of history's deadliest genocides.

Also commemorated is British Muslim war heroine Noor Inayat Khan. Ms Khan, served as a wireless operator during World War II and was recruited to spy for the Allied forces in Nazi-occupied France. Until her arrest she provided critical support to the resistance movement and was executed at the Dachau Concentration Camp. Selahattin Ulkumen, a Turkish diplomat in Greece, is commemorated for organising boats to carry Jews to safety in Turkey. His interventions in the German occupation are believed to have saved up to 50 Jews from extermination. Kaddour Benghabrit, founder of the Muslim Institute at the Great Mosque of Paris, forged papers for Jews to certify them as Muslims and save them from deportation during the war. Si Ali Sakkat, former mayor in Tunisia and descendent of Prophet Mohammed, protected 60 Jewish escapees from a labour camp by hiding them on his estate. Khaled Abdul Wahab is remembered for saving two Jewish families by sheltering them in stables on his farm in near Mahdia, Tunisia.

These stories, and many others, were commemorated on Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January), through a series of interfaith ceremonies held around the world, including in New York, Washington, Geneva and Albania. Prominent faith leaders such as Imam Khalid Latif and Rabbi Yehuda Sarna attended the ceremonies, as well as Holocaust survivor, Johanna Neumann, who was rescued by Muslims during World War II.

Dani Laurence, team leader of *IAYP*, told Al Arabiya English: "The way Muslims are often portrayed in the media, public discourses, can lead to fear and hatred. *I Am Your Protector* highlights Muslim Protectors. In parallel we want to highlight non-Muslims who protect Muslims for example Churches and Synagogues who take a stand and take action to counter hatred and Islamophobia." <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/muslims-who-saved-jews-from-holocaust-commemorated-in-i-am-your-protector-campiagn-a6851356.html>

## A SYRIAN REFUGEE'S THANK YOU LETTER

**Report from Nicki Fleischner, Global Citizen, 8 December, 2015**

With all of the negative press and attention surrounding Europe's refugee crisis, it is comforting to stumble upon words of hope, kindness and empathy. Ahmad al-Rashid, a Syrian refugee, was working for UNICEF in Iraq and Syria for men, women and children like himself, before he was forced to flee. His journey to safety took eight weeks, wending through Turkey, Greece and much of Europe after a smuggler deceived him and put him on a truck headed in the wrong direction. When he finally made it to England, he was granted asylum and found a place to stay with a family who is hosting Rashid through the Rooms for Refugees initiative. <http://www.roomsforrefugees.co.uk/>

Rashid was so moved with gratitude that he posted an open letter to England on Facebook:

*This is my new home in England and, I have to tell you, it has taken me completely by surprise. I had heard and read so much about how the British people were so unwelcoming to migrants and asylum seekers and want to close the borders and even bomb the boats carrying migrants. But my experience has shown me that the ones who care and want to help far outnumber the ones who don't. I have met such kindness from so many strangers.*

*I was forced to leave my home in Syria due to the terrible war in my country. Of course, wherever I go I will never feel happier or more comfortable than being in my home in Syria. I have my roots there, I grew up there, I have all my friends and loved ones there (the ones who are still struggling to stay alive and the ones who lost their lives in this horrendous war), I have all my memories there, my childish dreams and aspirations.*

*Many people understand this, especially the refugees, migrants and immigrants who have been forced to leave their home and have also felt the pain and recognise what I feel.*

*Yesterday, when I moved into this house and I was shown my room by the family who are hosting me in their own home, I was stunned and amazed by their attitude and the way they treated me. The hospitality and care which they showed to make me comfortable is something I don't have words to describe. This was a tremendous relief and soothed my fears and worries.*

*I sincerely thank all and everyone who made this happen. You can't imagine how many people are giving their time, efforts and money to help people like me. I thank all the Calais support/solidarity groups, the organisers and their dedicated supporters within the UK and elsewhere. I thank the Room for Refugees initiative and the people behind it. I thank everyone who helped to spread the word and showing me that people here really do care.*

<https://www.globalcitizen.org>

## Roger Waters: Pink Floyd star on why his fellow musicians are terrified to speak out against Israel

by Paul Gallagher, *The Independent*, 19 February 2016

American musicians who support boycotting Israel over the issue of Palestinian rights are terrified to speak out for fear their careers will be destroyed, according to Roger Waters. The Pink Floyd star – a prominent supporter of the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel since its inception 10 years ago – said the experience of seeing himself constantly labelled a Nazi and anti-Semite had scared people into silence.

"The only response to BDS is that it is anti-Semitic," Waters told *The Independent*, in his first major UK interview about his commitment to Israeli activism. "I know this because I have been accused of being a Nazi and an anti-Semite for the past 10 years. My industry has been particularly recalcitrant in even raising a voice [against Israel]. There's me and Elvis Costello, Brian Eno, Manic Street Preachers, one or two others, but there's nobody in the United States where I live. I've talked to a lot of them, and they are scared s\*\*\*less. If they say something in public they will no longer have a career. They will be destroyed. I'm hoping to encourage some of them to stop being frightened and to stand up and be counted, because we need them. We need them desperately in this conversation in the same way we needed musicians to join protesters over Vietnam."

Waters likened Israeli treatment of Palestinians to apartheid South Africa. "The way apartheid South Africa treated its black population, pretending they had some kind of autonomy, was a lie," he said. "Just as it is a lie now that there is any possibility under the current status quo of Palestinians achieving self-determination and achieving, at least, a rule of law where they can live and raise their children and start their own industries. This is an ancient, brilliant, artistic and very humane civilisation that is being destroyed in front of our eyes."

A trip to Israel in 2006, where Waters had planned to play a gig in Tel Aviv and the end of the European leg of his *Dark Side of the Moon Live* tour, transformed his view of the Middle East. After speaking to Palestinian artists as well as Israeli anti-government protesters, who called on him to use the gig as a platform to speak out against Israeli foreign policy, he switched the concert from Hayarkon Park to Neve Shalom, an Arab/Israeli peace village. But as the tickets had already been sold, the audience was still entirely Jewish Israeli. Waters said: "It was very strange performing to a completely segregated audience because there were no Palestinians there. There were just 60,000 Jewish Israelis, who could not have been more welcoming, nice and loyal to Pink Floyd. Nevertheless, it left an uncomfortable feeling."

He travelled around the West Bank towns of Jenin, Ramallah and Nablus, seeing how the two communities were segregated – and also visited the security barrier separating Israel from the Occupied Territories spraying a signed message from his seminal work *"Another Brick in the Wall"*, which read: *"We don't need no thought control"*.

Waters soon joined the BDS movement, inviting opprobrium and condemnation for daring to do what so few musicians are prepared to. "I'm glad I did it," he says, as people in Israel are "treated very unequally depending on their ethnicity. So Palestinian Israeli citizens and the Bedouin are treated completely different from Jewish citizens. There are 40 to 50 different laws depending on whether you are or you are not Jewish."

Waters expected to be shouted down by critics, but it is the Nazi accusations that he considers the most absurd, especially given that his father, Lt Eric Waters of the 8th Royal Fusilliers, died aged 31 fighting the Nazis at Anzio, Italy, in early 1944. His body was never found but his name is commemorated at the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery at Monte Cassino. The pain of not knowing his father, who was killed when Waters was five months old, influenced some of Pink Floyd's most famous songs.

"I have veterans coming to all my shows and meet them at half time. At a gig in 2013, one veteran came up to me, took my hand, wouldn't let go and looked me in the eye... I can hardly tell you this now without welling up. He said: 'Your father would have been proud of you.' "My father died fighting the Nazis, my mother [a strong CND and Labour supporter] devoted her life to doing everything she could to create a more humane world.

"We are asking questions that have never been asked until the last couple of years, which are bringing the wrath of the Israeli lobby down on people like me and all the others who dare to question and criticise. "[The Israeli lobby] is determined not to let that conversation develop into one that people can listen to and that is why they accuse us of being Nazis. This idea that BDS is the thin end of some kind of genocidal Nazi wedge that ends up in another Holocaust – well it isn't."

Waters cites growing activism on US university campuses, often by Jewish students, as reason for optimism that the status quo may change in his lifetime. He often writes letters to those students who, he said, are set to play as important a role in the future of Israel as the anti-Vietnam War protesters played in influencing US foreign policy in the 1960s and 1970s.

"It makes my heart sing to see these young kids organising themselves and I applaud them for taking a stand in what they believe in the face of such huge opposition," he said. "These are brave young people and they cannot be bought. They believe in their attachment and love for other human beings. We do not believe in the building of walls. It's so important we understand our humanity and co-operate with one another to create a better place for our children and grandchildren."

**Read in full:** <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/roger-waters-pink-floyd-israel-boycott-ban-palestine-a6884971.html>

## EKKLESIA | WCC CHIEF PRESENTS 'TEN COMMANDMENTS' OF FOOD AT DAVOS

A 21 January World Economic Forum session on how food choices can become a catalyst for positive change became an opportunity for World Council of Churches General Secretary the Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit to present **'Ten Commandments' of Food** to the gathered business and political leaders.

"If we view food through the lens of justice, every plate of food reminds us of certain challenges and opportunities. It is important that we acknowledge the efforts, investments and very lives of living plants and creatures sacrificed to provide food on our tables," reflected Tveit after the event.

Tveit's ten commandments of food are:

1. You shall give thanks for the food you eat.
2. You shall provide food for those who have no food.
3. You shall eat mindfully and in moderation.
4. You shall be grateful to those who grow and prepare food for your table.
5. You shall not waste food.
6. You shall reduce the ecological footprint of food production and supply.
7. You shall protect the biodiversity of the sources of food.
8. You shall support fair wages for farmers' efforts.
9. You shall strive for all people to have access to affordable and nutritious food.
10. You shall rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all.

Tveit added: "Food is sacred, as it is a gift of God to sustain our lives through sharing, celebration, gratitude, sacrifice and renewal. In our common home — the Earth — we have to work together to limit climate change and other barriers to food security, so that food can be made available to all today and in the years to come. Food is essential for life, he pointed out. Almost one out of every nine people in the world are chronically undernourished, while about one out of every 12 suffers the ill health consequences of obesity.

The WCC works in the field of food security through its initiative the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (WCC-EAA) and its global campaign Food for Life. The WCC-EAA works to make progress in efforts toward eradicating hunger, promoting adequate nutrition, and striving toward just and sustainable food systems.

• **More about Food for Life here:** <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/eaaf/food-for-life-campaign>

• *The World Council of Churches promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. An ecumenical fellowship of churches founded in 1948, by the end of 2012 the WCC had 345 member churches representing more than 500 million Christians from Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other traditions in over 110 countries. The WCC works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Church.*

**World Council of Churches:** <http://www.oikoumene.org/en>

**Source:** <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/22662>

## HELP END THE ERA OF TAX HAVENS

62 people in the world own the same amount of wealth as 3.6 billion. Economic inequality is growing and undermining the fight against poverty. But we can change this.

**Oxfam** is calling for an end to an era of tax havens. For too long, the use of offshore accounts and shell companies has denied governments valuable resources to invest in public services such as health care and education. In a world where one in nine people go to bed hungry every night, we cannot afford to carry on giving the richest an ever bigger slice of the cake.

Come along, and join our movement to tackle extreme poverty. United, we can unveil of secrecy surrounding the UK's network of tax havens, reduce the gap between the richest and the rest, and put a stop to the hundreds of millions of people who are trapped in a life of poverty.

This 3 ½ hours training session, organised by Oxfam, is designed to give you the knowledge and skills to campaign locally to end an era of tax havens. You will meet other creative campaigners and will leave with a plan of action and resources which will help change the legislation and policies that allow tax havens to flourish.

### **NORTH WEST TRAINING DAY: Manchester, Saturday 5 March, 9.30am - 12.30pm**

Manchester Central Hall, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JQ. Refreshments and snacks will be available. For more information, contact Kelly Mundy at [kmundy@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:kmundy@oxfam.org.uk)

*Please note: There are limited places. You will receive an email confirming your place after you have signed up.*

<https://act.oxfam.org/great-britain/tax-training-manchester>

## NJPN OPEN NETWORKING DAY IN MANCHESTER

### **Marian Thompson reports:**

Hunger, homelessness and destitution were the main themes when the National Justice & Peace Network met for an Open Day in the Methodist Central Hall in Manchester on 13 February. The main input came from **Church Action on Poverty** (Liam Purcell) and **the Boaz Trust** (Dave Smith), both charities based in the Manchester area.

In the morning, after a prayerful reflection on hunger led by members of Salford Diocese, Liam introduced *END HUNGER UK*. This is CAP's latest campaign hoping to end food poverty and hunger in UK by the end of 2020. Liam reminded us that adequate food for everyone is a human right and together we considered some of the implications this. For instance the government is legally required to ensure food security for its citizens and can be held to account for not doing so.

*END HUNGER UK* is a coalition of several groups with a focus on food provision; CAP is acting co-ordinator. In table groups we discussed the various reasons people are without food and resorting in greater numbers to food banks. Benefit delays and sanctions were the most usual but also low pay, job insecurity, no free meals in school holidays were offered as secondary reasons. This session finished with suggestions for ways of supporting the campaign.

**See:** <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/righttofood> which has a useful power point presentation.

People had come from various parts of the country to the meeting to join locals from the Greater Manchester area. Lunchtime offered a welcome break to chat, to read some of the written reports posted on the walls and also to browse Julian Filochowski's book stall. He is winding this up so there were good bargains as well as free books available.

The afternoon session focused on the Boaz Trust which serves destitute refugees and asylum seekers in the Manchester area. Dave Smith who founded the Trust in 2004 gave us the background to this and showed how much it has grown over the years. Now run by a steering group of 8 it was registered as a charity in June 2015. Last year it provided accommodation for 1,328 people: two thirds were male and mainly singles from various countries. They are not currently taking people from Europe. Dave said the Trust is providing an immediate response to people's problems but a long term political solution is needed. Maybe even more necessary is a change in people's hearts and mind with regard to asylum. Helpful weekly Lenten reflections and prayers are available on The Jesuit Refugee Service website.

**See:** <http://www.jrsuk.net/news/pray-in-solidarity-with-refugees-this-lent/>

Also during the day there were reports from the environment and media groups of NJPN and various Dioceses' J&P Commissions. Westminster offered an optimistic note saying that Cardinal Vincent Nichols is giving J&P back to the laity and listening to them. There was some discussion about conference themes for 2017 & 18 which was interesting as for many like myself, Swanwick is the main annual opportunity for personal involvement with NJPN. There were also reports from various agencies with dates of events during the year.

## MANCHESTER SCHOOL WINS TOP TOILET TWINNING CHARTS

A Manchester school has become the first Toilet Twinned College in the UK.

Loreto Sixth Form College in Hulme was presented with the Toilet Twinning award yesterday (25 January), in recognition of their tireless efforts to fund latrines in poor countries. Over the course of three fundraising drives since 2011, Loreto staff and students have raised more than £9,000 in total - enough to provide toilets for more than 150 families. Toilet Twinning raises funds to provide safe latrines, clean water and hygiene education in some of the poorest nations, by inviting people to twin their own loo with a latrine abroad.

Head of Hall Helen Gettings, who has led Loreto's fundraising, said: "Some of our students come from poor backgrounds themselves and the families of many come from countries all over the world, including some where we're funding toilets, so they've been very keen to get involved - and very generous."

In their latest campaign, which began last October, they raised more than £3,200 - enough to fund seven school toilet blocks in Haiti and 25 household latrines - through everything from male leg-waxing and sponsored silences to henna hand-painting, bake sales, portrait-drawing and hair-dyeing. Most toilets around Loreto College now boast certificates showing their 'toilet twins' in Burundi, DR Congo, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Chad - complete with colour photos and GPS coordinates.

Helen Gettings said Loreto has chosen to help fund toilet blocks in Haiti this year, among other places, because it had a 'particular fondness' for the country. The college raised more than £3,000 to support survivors of the devastating 2010 earthquake.

"Sanitation is a basic human right and it impacts on every other aspect of your life, from health to women's safety," said Helen. "And we're particularly proud to fund school toilets as they are proven to reduce school drop-out rates, especially for girls."

Toilet Twinning's Tim Lovell, who presented Loreto's award yesterday, said: "Loreto College is an inspiring example of the impact young people can have when they are fired up by compassion and a sense of injustice. It's very moving when UK students reach out to their peers abroad, recognising that things we take for granted like toilets are so often lacking elsewhere. Latrines are life-savers so Loreto students should feel very proud of the huge impact they've made in some very poor places."

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=29302>

**For more information see:** <http://www.toilettwinning.org/>

## REFORMING WELFARE FROM A DISTANCE

by **Bernadette Meaden** 5 February, 2016

A young man I know, David, (not his real name) is heartbreakingly eager to work and has a mild learning disability. Since leaving school he has alternated between insecure work and benefits, always hoping that this job will be it, the one that lasts, the one where he eventually earns enough for a secure life without the need for benefits, and without the humiliation and sanctions that benefits now entail.

Late last year, David got an agency job as a labourer. After working outdoors in the pouring rain for several days, he was diagnosed with pleurisy, and took a couple of days off work. Frightened of losing the job, he returned too soon, collapsed, and an ambulance was called. As soon as he felt anything like capable of returning to work he phoned the agency and was told, "don't call us, we'll call you." He was 'unreliable'.

There are many, many people like David, struggling desperately to survive, whether it be on benefits or in low-paid insecure work, as our foodbanks can testify. But their lives and experiences seem to be a completely unknown world to people who devise policies for welfare reform and changes to the benefits system. This may explain the minimum seven week wait for a first payment of Universal Credit – the people who devised it, in secure well paid jobs, perhaps imagined that people like David have savings that they can live on for that period.

This detachment from the lives of people affected by welfare changes continues, with a new report from Reform, 'Working Welfare – a radically new approach to sickness and disability benefits'. Indeed, it is so detached that Eve Jackson, Campaigns Officer for Mencap tweeted, "No voices of disabled claimants in @reformthinktank #reformwelfare report. Lords report gives more authentic picture."

Reform's report calls for a single out of work benefit, to be the same for Jobseekers and disabled people alike. In effect, every claimant will be re-labelled a Jobseeker. Reform says that the money disabled people lose would be replaced by an increase in Personal Independence Payments (PIP). This, at a time when hundreds of people a week are being reassessed and losing their entitlement to PIP, seems a very unconvincing prospect. Whilst proposing changes that would, for better or worse, have a radical impact on the lives of disabled people, no disabled people seem to have been consulted or involved in the report. Some use is made of survey results. It is reported, for instance, that "around 83 per cent of ESA WRAG claimants surveyed agreed that the compulsory nature of work-focused interviews made them more likely to participate." Well, yes – the threat of being made destitute if you do not participate in something will probably make you more likely to participate. That's hardly proof that it is a good thing.

The report also cites the fact that when asked, most ESA claimants, even those in the Support Group, want to work. This, of course, is evidence that they are in fact just like the people doing the survey and writing the report. They want to work, and want to be well enough to work. It is not evidence that they are 'trapped' on ESA because the amount they are receiving is so generous it provides a 'perverse incentive' for them to remain ill. Nobody reliant on disability benefits is doing more than surviving in financial terms.

Sadly, the report also relies on the well-worn but false division between workers and shirkers, taxpayers and claimants, saying: "Striking the right balance between rights and responsibilities, conditionality and support is key to ensuring the welfare state remains legitimate in the eyes of those who fund it." This assumes that there are two classes of people, those who use the welfare state, and those who fund it through their taxes. This is simply untrue. People who pay tax receive benefits, and vice versa. A worker today can be run over by a bus tomorrow, and find themselves reliant on ESA.

What would be more likely to cause the welfare state to lose legitimacy would be statements like that made by Grant Shapps, who said that almost a million people had dropped claims to disability benefits to avoid being assessed. This was completely untrue, but the headlines it gathered planted a seed of suspicion in the minds of the public that half the people on disability benefits were probably faking it. That is the type of thing that causes the welfare state to lose its legitimacy, and it is something from which disabled people have never recovered.

What is most disappointing about the report is the view of ESA claimants it conveys, as if they are almost lesser people, with less pride, less self respect, and less motivation than people like 'us'. A paltry weekly sum is keeping them apathetic and unlikely to seek work. They aren't getting jobs, not because of ill health or disabilities, but because the lavish benefit they are living on has removed their incentive to work.

The fact that so many employers, including the DWP itself, sacks employees who become ill, is not considered as a factor. And if none of 'us' would forsake a career for £30 per week, why do we think 'they' would? Sadly, it does appear that the House of Lords is more in touch with the realities of life for poor and disabled people than are the architects of welfare reform.

**Source:** <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/22694>

*© Bernadette Meaden has written about political, religious and social issues for some years, and is strongly influenced by Christian Socialism, liberation theology and the Catholic Worker movement. She is an Ekklesia associate and regular contributor.*

**You can follow her on Twitter:** @BernaMeaden

## VOLUNTEERING CP Project Report

**Eily May White CP writes:** Another year has gone by and we are still working away at our Volunteering Project.

Our Vision: *"To offer an opportunity to deepen understanding of Global Poverty and Justice, journeying with the poor in a spirit of community- a lived experience of other cultures, a challenging and transformative experience that will enable volunteers to develop as agents of change in their own Society".*

We, the Core Group met at Middleton Convent many times during the year and are forever thankful for the warm, generous hospitality we receive there. Currently there are six people, all at different stages of preparation for their eventual experience in South America. Lesley and Bea hope to be with our Sisters in Lima at the end of May. The Project is blessed with an ever-widening group of contacts. Ann Cotter and Nora have opened up their doors to us in Chile and Shirin, a nurse working in Liverpool has set her sights on this opportunity.

The Leeds Peru Commission, now chaired by Fr. Jonathan who has recently returned from his mission in Peru, is well aware of our presence and is positive toward us. Sue attends their meetings. Hope University in Liverpool invited us to be part of a volunteering event in Liverpool during the year.

Cecilia Duarte is our much-valued link with the Argentinian mission. Another avenue of contact is with Michael Ham College in Buenos Aires and we are presently exploring how to develop this possibility – even to move further into links with Trinity and All Saints in Horsforth.

One of the highlights of the year was the day Clare Dawson generously spent with us, meeting Lesley and Bea and giving them an initial introduction to our mission in Lima. We do have a couple at the early stage of making enquiries and we are very much in contact with our former volunteers, who play a major role in the Project.

Matt and Danielle continue to oversee our website and help us to keep it up-to-date. It continues to be a privilege and inspiration for Sue, Savio and myself to accompany a wide diversity of people before, during and after their volunteering experience.

There are 6 people at various stages of preparation for volunteering in South America and 2 of these have already purchased their tickets for Lima in May! We are also forwarding details of our next Information Day, which will be on 12 March, 2016. Please make this event known - be it in your family, among friends, in parishes, conference centres, work places, communities, universities or overseas. Who knows where the word may drop and provide a life-changing experience for someone?

Do you have a burning desire to launch into a volunteering experience in countries and cultures like Argentina, Chile and Peru? Our vision is to offer: an opportunity to deepen understanding of global poverty and justice, journeying with the poor in a spirit of community .. a challenging and transformative experience that will enable Volunteers to develop as agents of change in their own society - a lived experience of other cultures.

**Information Day:** 12 March - no charge - full details on request contact as below:

**Website:** [volunteeringcp.org](http://volunteeringcp.org) **Further Details:** [suerix@btinternet.com/07939 063120](mailto:suerix@btinternet.com)

## ALAN RICKMAN: ACTOR AND ACTIVIST

**by John Vibes** Posted on January 14, 2016

Today the world is mourning the passing of Alan Rickman, the actor who died of cancer at age 69. Rickman is best known for his roles in *Harry Potter*, *Die Hard*, *Robin Hood*, *Dogma*, and other films, but many people don't know about his life of activism. News of Rickman's death comes days after the passing of David Bowie, another cultural icon and activist who also died of cancer at the age of 69.

Rickman understood that people who are in the public eye have a responsibility to use their influence to create positive change. He was once quoted as saying: "Actors are agents of change, a film, a piece of theatre, a piece of music, or a book can make a difference. It can change the world."

As Rickman became more financially successful throughout his life, he began to reach out and get involved in charitable causes. Among many causes, he was extremely active with the charity *Saving Faces*, which helps those with facial disfigurements and cancer. He also made sizeable contributions to the International Performers Aid Trust, which channels the power of art to empower people in poverty-stricken countries.

Rickman was also involved in efforts that were more bold and controversial, like directing a play about a peace activist who was killed by an Israeli bulldozer while protesting settlements in Palestine. The play was called *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, and told the real story of activist Rachel Corrie, who was vilified after her death for speaking out against the injustice of occupation in the Middle East. As expected, Rickman was heavily criticized for making such a bold political stance. Rickman responded to the critics by saying, "This isn't a play about Palestine or Israel, it's about being a citizen of the world."

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<http://www.trueactivist.com/alan-rickman-was-also-an-activist-who-once-said-that-actors-are-agents-of-change/>

## RESOURCES

### FILM HIGHLIGHTS THE TOPIC OF TRAFFICKING

A film-making husband and wife are using their skills to put the underground world of human trafficking in the spotlight. Mike and Becky Peacock, who run Altrincham-based **Peacock Productions**, have written and produced their second short film, **Alicija**. <http://alicijashortfilm.co.uk> - the story of a young Polish girl duped into coming to England and trapped in the dark world of human trafficking. The couple were joined by fellow Altrincham resident Jade Atkins-Spelling in producing the 20-minute fiction film.

Mike and Becky are no strangers to the topic of human trafficking. After becoming involved with anti-trafficking organisation **IJM (UK) (International Justice Mission)**, <http://www.ijmuk.org/ijm-uk> they created **The It's Not Fair** – a two-man theatre production highlighting the issue of modern-day slavery, which has toured nationally. <http://www.theitsnotfair.co.uk/about/rhema-theatre-company/>

The film was the natural next step for the couple. "It is another way to communicate the issue to a wider audience and the main thing we want to do is make people aware of what is going on," said Mike. "We wanted to tell the story of an individual so that people got to know her – know key people in her life, see the first stages of her relationship and having a life – but yet it still happened to her. "She is not a figure or a statistic – she is someone we feel we actually know." For over 35 million people around the world human trafficking is a fact. **See a behind the scenes video:** <https://vimeo.com/153344206?ref=tw-share>

Another aim of the film was to connect the viewing public with anti-trafficking organisations, such as **Stop the Traffik**. Mike and Becky want to raise the profile of such organisations, who work tirelessly to tackle the world's slave problem – with an estimated 38.5million enslaved people worldwide.

Representatives from **Stop the Traffik**, along with the film's cast, crew and the production team, attended the recent premiere of **Alicija** at Gorilla in Manchester. The **Alicija** film has been selected for the Manchester Kinofilm Festival [www.kinofilm.org.uk](http://www.kinofilm.org.uk) to be shown at various venues around Manchester as part of the Manchester International Film Festival from 22-28 February 2016.

To see how you can make a difference or for details on modern slavery visit [stopthetraffik.org](http://stopthetraffik.org)

**Source:** *Sale & Altrincham Messenger* 11/02/16 <http://pages.cdn.pagesuite.com/f/a/fa8b6e8f-c8b3-492d-943c-0e7f93d47952/page.pdf>

### SONG with VIDEO CLIP

Australian singer Missy Higgins's new song, *Oh Canada*, is a reaction to the powerful image that made news all over the world last year, of the body of the young refugee Alan Kurdi, who had died at sea, being carried from the water by a soldier. The drawings in the video clip are by children in Caritas programs in Damascus and World Vision programs in Beirut. Caritas and World Vision have helped millions of people affected by the crisis in the Middle East.

**Watch the video on YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsFaIOYIWU0&feature=youtu.be> At only 4.46 minutes this is a good way into a discussion on the refugee crisis and may be useful as a classroom/youth group activity.

**Buy *Oh Canada* from iTunes** - all net profits go to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre <http://www.asrc.org.au/>

## VIDEO

### *Telling Syria's story: Media across the battle lines*

A look at efforts in Damascus to sell the war inside Syria; plus, how exiled Syrian journalists send the news back home.

**Background information:** With the advance of pro-government forces on the Syrian city of Aleppo and a ceasefire negotiation taking place in Munich, we break format this week with a special edition of *The Listening Post*. It has been nearly five years since the fighting began, and if you follow the coverage of the conflict you will find yourself entangled in a spider's web of conflicting narratives.

Between Syrian state media, myriad opposition outlets and the partisan news outlets in the international media, getting an accurate picture of the country is near-impossible. We talk to Hayvi Bouzo, correspondent at Orient TV; Omar Al Ghazzi, media scholar at the University of Sheffield; Habib Bhatta, editor at *The Beirut Report*, and journalist Nabih Bulos.

Our second report focuses on the exiled journalists who are covering the Syrian conflict from neighbouring Turkey, in southern cities such as Gaziantep and Urfa. By setting up media stations there, the journalists are informing those still inside Syria about anything from where the front lines and the checkpoints are located; what goods and necessities are in short supply and updates on the latest civilian casualties. However, when dealing with a group such as ISIL, reporting from across the border is no guarantee of safety.

*The Listening Post's* Will Yong reports on the Syrian journalists who got out and are sending the news back in.

**Watch the 25 minute clip:** <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/listeningpost/2016/02/telling-syria-story-media-battle-lines-160213061229328.html>

## FILM: SPOTLIGHT

**Reviewed by Anthony Egan, SJ** 11 February, 2016

It's strange, watching a film based on events of which you were part, however peripherally. The film Spotlight has that effect on me: I was in Boston the year the Boston Globe newspaper revealed the extensive cover-up by Church authorities of child-abusing priests in the archdiocese.

With minimal sensationalism Spotlight tells the story of how a team of journalists on the Globe followed up on the background to the conviction of a former priest extradited from California to Massachusetts to stand trial for child abuse crimes committed twenty years before. This led them to an abuse victims support group, an attorney working for victims, and to the big story that brought down the most powerful bishop in the United States Catholic Church.

It is an excellent film that also highlights another important dimension to the scandal: the explicit or implicit compliance of Boston police, judiciary and media in 'burying' a scandal that should have been revealed ten to twenty years before.

Beyond the specifics of the cover-up the film is about accountability, holding those in authority accountable for their actions. Few escape unscathed: the Boston legal system cooperated with the Church in covering up the abuse cases, agreeing to let things be 'settled' internally. The archdiocese failed also in their duty by not removing abusing clergy from active ministry. Even, they discovered, the Globe itself buried news they'd got years before. Power trumped justice, lies trumped truth. Accountability was nowhere to be seen, for a while it least.

The strength of this film goes way beyond the events it describes. It goes to heart of a challenge facing us everywhere: holding those in power to account - in Church, in State, in media, business, families, and so on. It speaks volumes to us in South Africa today about the failures of institutions and individuals in our society, their abuse of authority and often exercise of raw power, and the public's failure - our failure - to demand they be held to account for their actions.

In Boston studying theology prior to ordination, I remember the shame my fellow seminarians and I felt at the way the Church had acted. The usual excuses, that it was protecting the 'good name' of the rest of the Church, that media was out to 'get' the Church, rang hollow: the media was doing its job, exposing corruption in high places (even if these were 'our' places).

Wise lay voices helped us through this. "You are not the cardinal, you are not those who covered up," they would say: "You can choose where to stand: with the victims or with those who abuse power." Catholics in Boston, including many priests, took a principled stand against misuse of power, calling on Cardinal Law to resign, which he did on December 13, 2002.

Rather than see Spotlight as anti-Catholic propaganda, let's see it rather as a reminder to us today in South Africa of the need to challenge the powers that tend to corrupt state, society and sometimes church.

**Follow the Jesuit Institute** on twitter @JesuitInstitute

**Watch a trailer for Spotlight here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zg5zSVxx9JM>

**Source:** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=29396>

## GAZA CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION 1 JUNE – 16 JULY 2016

Friends of Sabeel UK's NW Group working in partnership with Christian Aid in the NW are bringing an Exhibition of drawings by teenagers in Gaza to the area as part of its summer programme. We are keen to find good, well frequented venues, across the NW Region to host this Exhibition by teenagers from the Culture and Free Thought Association in Rafah, in Gaza, a partner of Christian Aid for many years. The Exhibition consists of 14 A1 lightweight boards: 2 text boards to top and tail the exhibition; 10 of the children's images and 2 of Heidi Levine's photos of activity at the CFTA Centre. Venues can be either in places of worship or community buildings, but ones which are busy with plenty of space for showing and viewing. The Exhibition must not be moved once erected.

**We have one fixed date at the moment** and that is when Lesley Dawson, a Physiotherapist, who worked at Bethlehem University for some years, and has been to Gaza in both 2015 and 2016 to share her skills, will come to speak on **Friday 8 July** (anniversary of the 2014 attack on Gaza). Venue to be confirmed, but quite possibly Bolton. We need indications of interest in showing the Gaza Exhibition by the end of Feb if possible. We have had a fair amount of interest, but could take more if you just haven't got around to letting us know! Also, there is likely to be nothing north of central Lancashire, which would be a shame, unless someone acts soon. **To register interest** in showing the exhibition, please contact Deborah Darnes on: [deborah.darnes@talktalk.net](mailto:deborah.darnes@talktalk.net) with a copy to John Logan on: [logan-j@btconnect.com](mailto:logan-j@btconnect.com)

Alongside this programme for the first part of the year we also have available the film *'The Stones Cry Out'* on dvd which can be bought or borrowed to show in your area. It is based in the Palestinians Christian Community and tells their story from the foundation of the State of Israel until 'today' (2013/4?). Please contact John Logan to obtain the film: [logan-j@btconnect.com](mailto:logan-j@btconnect.com)

## EXHIBITION BROKEN LIVES: *Slavery in modern India*

**International Slavery Museum** Albert Dock, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool, L3 4AX 17 on till 24 April 2016. Entry free.

A window into the experiences of Dalits and others who are being exploited and abused through modern slavery in India.

Delivered in partnership with the Dalit Freedom Network, this powerful and moving exhibition reveals stories of hardship, survival and hope for broken lives mended. <http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/exhibitions/broken-lives/>

## A RESPONSIVE PRAYER FOR JUSTICE

*by Rebecca Sutton*, Program Coordinator of Global Women's Exchange. This prayer was developed for the NY State Labour-Religion Coalition's seventh annual 40-hour fast. It was also part of *Prayers for a Just Economy*, a prayer service calling for an increase in the federal minimum wage held in Washington, DC, July 24, 2013.

Pray for those who are hungry.

*Pray harder for those who will not feed them.*

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

*Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.*

Pray for those who are homeless.

*Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.*

Pray for the sick and lonely.

*Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.*

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

*Pray harder for those who will not listen.*

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

*Pray harder for those who exploit them.*

Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

*Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.*

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

*Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.*

## COLOMBIAN JESUIT TO SPEAK ON ROMERO THE PEACEMAKER

A leading Jesuit peace activist from Colombia will be the guest speaker for the 2016 commemorations of Blessed Oscar Romero's martyrdom. Fr Francisco de Roux SJ has been a leading voice in the efforts to seek a negotiated settlement to Colombia's decades-long armed conflict. He will be the guest of the **Archbishop Romero Trust** [www.romerotrusted.org.uk](http://www.romerotrusted.org.uk) at events in London, Leeds, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Fr de Roux is a member of the Jesuit province of Colombia. Since the 1980s he has been a leading voice in the efforts to seek a negotiated settlement to Colombia's decades-long armed conflict. Fr De Roux has received numerous awards recognising his contribution to human rights and peace-building; among them the French *Légion d'Honneur*, Colombia's National Peace Prize and the Chirac Foundation's 2012 prize for Peace and Conflict Prevention. He studied for his Masters' degree in Economics at the London School of Economics and his doctorate at the Sorbonne. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Georgetown University's Center for Latin American Studies.

In his work with Colombian Jesuits' Centre for Social Research and Education (CINEP), he helped broker the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the M-19 guerrilla movement. He was the founder of the Jesuit Province's Programme for Peace and for fifteen years he led the Programme for Development and Peace in Magdalena Medio (the EEC's first recognised "peace laboratory"). From 2008-2014 he was Provincial of the Colombian Jesuits and is currently working in supporting the peace talks between Colombian government and the FARC guerrillas through accompaniment and support of victims and survivors of the conflict.

Fr de Roux has written several books in different languages, in collaboration with others on issues of public ethics, social conflict and economic development. In 1992, CINEP published his book *The Price of Peace*. He was appointed Provincial of the Jesuits in Colombia in 2008. Fr de Roux is truly inspiring: a pastor who has walked side by side with communities that have experienced horrifying violence from all sides of the armed conflict. He is never afraid to uncover the truth and is an outspoken advocate for human rights even when this has often put him at great personal danger. At the heart of Fr de Roux's message, is the need for dialogue and a peaceful solution to the armed conflict. He is a true visionary who has tried to find and build alternative pathways to live peacefully and with justice.

At the ecumenical service to mark the 36th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero, Fr de Roux will speak on: ***The Violence of Peacemaking – Archbishop Romero and the Search for Peace*** on Saturday, 19 March at 11am, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London. Prior to this, he will be speaking in Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester.

**Edinburgh:** Tuesday, 15 March at 7.30pm, Lauriston Jesuit Centre EH3 9DJ

**Leeds:** Wednesday, 16 March at 7pm, Leeds Cathedral Hall LS2 8BE

**Manchester:** Thursday, 17 March at 7pm, Loreto College Chapel M15 5PB

**The Annual CAFOD Romero Mass** will be celebrated on Tuesday, 8 March at 1pm in St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham and on Sunday, 13 March at 10am, St Benedict's Catholic Church, Rhodes St, **Warrington** WA1 2NS.

## THREE FAITHS FORUM

**3FF (Three Faiths Forum), UKJF (UK Jewish Film), Insight Film and Radical Middle Way (RMW)** are delighted to invite you to participate in two events exploring the use of film as a helpful tool for opening up conversations around faith, identity and belief.

The first event on **Thursday 25 February 18:00-21:00** will be an opportunity to watch the film *'Besa: The Promise'* a documentary revealing the story of Muslim Albanians who risked their lives sheltering Jews during the Holocaust. The screening of the film will be followed by dinner, mingling and an opportunity for informal discussion, inviting attendees to share responses to the film.

A follow up event two weeks later on **Thursday 10 March 18:00-21:00** will provide space to reflect on the themes from 'Besa: The Promise' as well as examining a series of other film clips that stimulate interfaith dialogue.

Both events will provide a collaborative learning experience for local organisations to come together, share ideas and responses to the films, apply the learning and discussions to their local community settings and explore possibilities for future work together.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-on-film-tickets-21012329443>

At Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama, The University of Manchester, Bridgeford St, off Oxford Rd Manchester M13 9PL

**3FF, the Three Faiths Forum**, <http://www.3ff.org.uk/arts> has worked to build good relations between people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures for nearly twenty years. 3FF creates safe spaces in schools, universities, workplaces and the arts where people can engage with questions of belief and identity and meet people different from themselves. The organisation's programmes enable people from different backgrounds – both religious and non-religious – to learn from each other and work together for the good of everyone. Central to this is the role that art can play in illuminating complex issues and creating understanding across difference.

**UKJF: UK Jewish Film** <http://ukjewishfilm.org/> – through its flagship, annual two-and-a-half week UK Jewish Film Festival (with more than 14,000 visitors), its international festivals in Geneva, Montreal and Tel-Aviv, as well as its 300 year-round screenings and previews at JW3 and other cinemas – showcases a wide range of feature films, documentaries and shorts, which reflect the diversity of Jewish and Israeli life and culture. Since its inception the UK Jewish Film Festival has welcomed over 150,000 visitors. Its popular video on demand platform brings its unique provision of film to many more. The organisation also runs acclaimed education programmes that reach hundreds of young people each year.

**Insight Film:** <http://www.insightfestival.co.uk/> The Insight Film Festival exists to encourage filmmakers throughout the world to make films about 'faith'. It creates events and spaces where these films can be displayed, discussed and celebrated. It welcomes participants from all faith backgrounds and none and focuses particularly on young filmmakers. In doing so it wants to make positive contributions to understanding, respect and community cohesion.

**RMW: Radical Middle Way** <https://www.facebook.com/RadicalMiddleWay/> is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company which aims to allow young Muslims – in the UK and around the world – to connect with their faith and explore what it means to believe in the 21st century. Founded in the wake of the 7/7 attacks on the London underground, RMW aims to promote a mainstream, moderate understanding of Islam to which young people can relate. By working alongside grassroots partners, RMW creates platforms for open debate, critical thinking and deep spiritual reflection. RMW aims to give its audiences the tools to combat exclusion and violence, and encourage positive civic action.

## JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

### FAIRTRADE NEWS

**29 February –13 March Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 *Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!***

As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally. It's a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast. When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's the extra cash in their pockets or being able to expand their farms to grow more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and workers are able to fulfil a basic human need – to put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

**Find out more:** <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2016>

**Download** Schools packs containing an action guide, posters, stickers and decorations at: <http://shop.fairtrade.org.uk/schools>

If you've already organised your school's Big Fairtrade Breakfast, don't forget to add it to our events map and let everybody know what fantastic events you're planning <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/supporter-events-map>

**New: *My Next Fairtrade Adventure*** films about how tea farmers in Kenya are tackling climate change and improving the sustainability of their crops and their livelihoods. Watch the film trailer here: <http://schools.fairtrade.org.uk/resources/videos/#11926>

## FAIRTRADE FLOWERS

Many of the major supermarkets and stockists offer Fairtrade flowers. There are almost 50,000 flower workers working with Fairtrade to get a better deal. Fairtrade certified farms must ensure safety and working conditions for their employees and a premium of 10% for every stem sold allows workers to invest in healthcare, education and other social benefits. Fairtrade works with flower workers in countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Uganda and Tanzania. Find your nearest stockist at: <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/buying-fairtrade/flowers>

## MARCH

### 4 Women's World Day of Prayer *Receive Children, Receive Me* prepared by the women of Cuba

Although discriminated against in the past, Cuban women today play an important role in society, family and church although there are still some elements of a patriarchal culture in all levels of society.

After the revolution in 1959, women were active in building up a new society and improving their education and professional training. In 1961, the Federation of Cuban Women was formed, to demand the rights of women, children and the family. Today more than 46% of persons employed in the public sector are women; women constitute 68% of the technically and professionally qualified labour force and 39% are managers. . According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Cuba occupies 4th place in the world on the scale of countries with the most women in their Parliament. Nevertheless, it is still primarily men who occupy key positions in economy, politics and religion.

For more information on Cuba see our magazine '*Together in Prayer*' and our CD Rom containing a Powerpoint presentation on Cuba with script. All our resources are available to purchase at your local preparation day or direct from the office. 01892 541411 <http://www.wwdp.org.uk/day-of-prayer/>

### 8 International Women's Day *Pledge for Parity*

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The theme for 2016 is *Pledge for Parity*. The World Economic Forum estimates that a slowdown in the already glacial pace of progress means that it will take until 2133 for the world to entirely close the economic gender gap. On International Women's Day each of us can commit to take action and together help accelerate the achievement of gender parity worldwide.

[Internationalwomensday.com](http://Internationalwomensday.com)

Pax Christi has produced a postcard and list of addresses of women peacemakers around the world. Full details here:

[http://paxchristi.org.uk/event/international-womens-day-celebrate-women-peacemakers/?instance\\_id=529](http://paxchristi.org.uk/event/international-womens-day-celebrate-women-peacemakers/?instance_id=529)

See also the latest newsletter with focus on celebrating women peacemakers here: [http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Justpeace\\_Feb-2016.pdf](http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Justpeace_Feb-2016.pdf)

## Celebrate Inspirational Women

On Thursday 3 March at 7pm in a Central London location PROGRESSIO will be displaying a selection of photos of inspirational women along with the stories behind them. This will be followed by a panel discussion at 7.30pm: "*Women and the Sustainable Development Goals: Inspirations, Achievements and Challenges*". We have a range of incredible speakers who will discuss the Sustainable Development Goal of gender equality, asking what needs to be done and how we move forward.

### Share your photo and tell us why you're #InspiredByHer

We're creating a photo exhibition for the event which we want to be full of women's faces from all over the world, past and present, who have been an inspiration to others. We are asking you to send in a photo of a woman who has inspired you (a clear headshot is best). We'd like the photo to be accompanied by a description, short or long, telling us why they've inspired you. You can choose whoever you want, for any reason you want: a celebrity, a friend or family member or perhaps someone you met on placement overseas?

Post your entry on Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag [#InspiredByHer](https://twitter.com/InspiredByHer) and [@Progressio](https://twitter.com/Progressio). Alternatively you can email your entry to [inspiredbyher1@gmail.com](mailto:inspiredbyher1@gmail.com) and we'll upload it for you. The photos will be displayed on a blog and together will make up our 'faces of inspiration'. A selection of the entries will be printed and displayed at the event, so please check that you have the consent of the person in the photo to share the image and let us know if you do not wish your photo to be shared online or printed. Even if you can't make it on the 3rd we'd love you to be a part of our celebration so please do share your photo; we'll be in touch if we choose it for display at the exhibition.

<http://www.progressio.org.uk/empower>

## HOPE NOT HATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Join with HOPEnothate in celebrating the incredible difference women make in communities every day by nominating a woman or group of women who are a real force for good in their community. We will be picking our favourites, naming our International Women's Day Community Champions and sharing their stories online and to our supporters on 8 March.

Nomination deadline: Tuesday 1st March

<http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/page/s/iwd-champions>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY -MARCH

**29 February - 13 March Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 *Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!***

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2016>

### MARCH

**2 Fairtrade Fortnight in Chester 'A Taste of Palestine'** at Wesley Church Centre, St John's St, Chester at 12.15. Come and meet the farmer and taste some olive oil. Talk by Mohammed Hamada, an olive farmer and Taysir Arbas.

**3 'Welcoming the Stranger'** meeting 7-8.30pm at St Benedict's, Rhodes St, Warrington WA1 2NS

**4 Women's World Day of Prayer *Receive Children, Receive Me*** prepared by the women of Cuba [wwdp.org.uk/day-of-prayer/](http://wwdp.org.uk/day-of-prayer/)

**4 Women's World Day of Prayer** 7.30pm at Sacred Heart, Walmesley Rd, Leigh WN7 1YE

**5 'A poor church for the poor?'** **Las Casas Institute Conference at Leeds Trinity University.** Over 150 people have already signed up for this major conference which promises to be a very special day looking at what 'a poor church for the poor' means in the UK in 2016. There are keynote speakers a panel discussion and workshops. The conference is free to attend (lunch included) but places are running out so book now if you are interested. Here is the link for more information and booking:- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-poor-church-for-the-poor-tickets-19846404129>

**5 Fairtrade Breakfast** 10am – 12 noon. Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, Frodsham Street Chester, Cheshire CH1 3LF  
Contact Ann McCarthy 01244 375606 for further details.

**8 CWDF Forum Meeting: a Fairtrade theme** 6.45 - 9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN. Heather Swainston, Director of CDEC will be joining us for a talk: "*Engaging young people and communities in Fairtrade across Cheshire West and Chester – some success stories and plans for Fairtrade Fortnight 2016*". Contact 01244 350323 [www.chesterwdf.org.uk](http://www.chesterwdf.org.uk)

**8 International Women's Day *Pledge for Parity*** [Internationalwomensday.com](http://Internationalwomensday.com)

**10 Time Out on Tuesdays** An ecumenical quiet day for everyone 10am - 4pm at The Convent of our Lady of the Cenacle, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. Cost £10. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 7222271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

**11 "The True Cost of Fashion"**, Eco Fashion Event 7.30-10pm, St Columba's Hall, Newhall Road, Upton Chester, CH2 1SA. 'The True Cost of Fashion' Dvd show and discussion, followed by Fair Trade Refreshments and a Mini Fashion Show with the sale of clothing and ethical products at the end. Organised by Chifundo UK. Admission by donations on the night. Proceeds will be for Chifundo, a registered charity that empowers women in Malawi through funding their higher education. [www.chifundomalawi.org](http://www.chifundomalawi.org)  
Contact: Susan Flynn, 01244 381490 [chair@chifundomalawi.org](mailto:chair@chifundomalawi.org)

**12 - 13 "Fairtrade Fundays"** - great for families and kids: art activities; tastings; stalls; colouring/poetry competitions and much more! 11am-4pm in the newly-developed Activity Zone in **Grosvenor Park, Chester**. Watch out for more information! Heather Swainston 01244 347880. [www.cheshiredec.org](http://www.cheshiredec.org)

**12 Annual commemoration of Archbishop Oscar Romero** (now Blessed Oscar Romero) 2pm at Salford Cathedral, Chapel Street, Salford, M3 5LL by the Justice and Peace Association (Caritas, Diocese of Salford). Ann Wilson (Community Participation Officer, CAFOD, Salford) will speak to us about the El Salvador of Blessed Oscar Romero and Fr John Sullivan (Director, Overseas Mission) will celebrate Mass.

**13 Annual Romero Mass** Celebrant Fr Dave Heywood, St Benedict's, Rhode St, Warrington WA1 2NS at the 10am Family Mass.

**14 'Justice and Peace in Israel and Palestine'** Friends of Sabeel UK NW Group invites you to hear and meet Rev Brian Brown at St Luke's, Crosby, Liverpool Road, L 23 5SE. 5.30pm for refreshments. Talk, questions and discussion 6-8pm. Rev Brian Brown is a Methodist Minister and a veteran of the struggle for freedom in South Africa, who worked on the issue for the British Council of Churches in the 1970s and '80s and also for the Methodist Church Overseas Division. Author of "*Born to be Free*", and involved in the work to produce '*Kairos Britain*', based on '*Kairos Palestine*', both rooted in the S. African Kairos Document which activated and challenged the Churches there in the 1980s. This event is hosted by the Crosby Kairos Group gathered from local Churches in support of the Kairos Movement. Palestinian Craft Stall with Zaytoun Palestinian Fairtrade products for sale. FoSUK NW Contact: John Logan: [logan-j@btconnect.com](mailto:logan-j@btconnect.com) or local group contact: [jorawsthorne@hotmail.com](mailto:jorawsthorne@hotmail.com)

**15 Launch of CTMR booklet: *Refugees and Asylum Seekers*.** (5th anniversary of war in Syria)

**16 The Romero Lecture- "*The Violence of Peacemaking*"**, Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral, 7pm start. Fr. de Roux is Provincial of the Colombian Jesuits. He is currently supporting the peace talks between the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrillas through accompaniment and support of victims and survivors of the conflict. He will be talking about his experiences as well as talking about Blessed Oscar Romero. The lecture is free to attend but we would appreciate people booking tickets so we have an idea of numbers:- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-violence-of-peacemaking-tickets-20807299192>

**17 Manchester: Fr. De Roux as above** 7pm, Loreto College Chapel M15 5PB

**18 CAFOD Quiz Night** 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance: £3.00 (children £1) Quizmaster Mr. Mike Ives. All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect2 Ethiopia fundraising project. Fair Trade stall & Fair Trade refreshments provided at the interval. Further details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419. Arranged by Ellesmere Port LPA J&P group.

**19 Palestinian Evening.** Meal, crafts, food stall, music, slide presentation. Speaker: Rev Brian Brown ***Does the situation in Palestine/Israel have parallels with apartheid in South Africa?*** 6.30 for 7pm at the Wesley Centre, Sandbach CW11 1DG  
Tickets £2.50 from Deborah Darnes 01270 764681

• See below for advance notice of NJPN Annual Conference

## **BOOKING NOW: Annual Justice & Peace Conference 15-17 July 2016** **'Justice, Power and Responsibility: How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?'**

How do we get communities, politics and business working together for the common good? What role should personal judgement and mutual responsibility play in commercial and social decision-making? How can we engage people at the grassroots with clear purpose for the long-term benefit of all? How can we help to encourage a fresh moral vision of a society that has the common good at its heart?

The National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) invites participants to explore the possibilities, while celebrating and giving thanks for the freedoms we enjoy.

### **SPEAKERS**

**Jon Cruddas MP is the Labour member for Dagenham and Rainham**, having first been elected for Dagenham in 2001. From 2012 to 2015 he was in the Shadow Cabinet as Policy Co-ordinator for the Labour Party. Influenced by Catholic Social Teaching, he is developing a virtue-based model of politics.

**Jenny Sinclair is the daughter of the late Bishop David Sheppard**, who had a celebrated working partnership in Liverpool with Archbishop Derek Worlock and Free Church leaders. Four years ago she felt moved by the Spirit and founded a project, Together for the Common Good to help establish a dialogue with all people of good will aimed at change.

**See:** [togetherforthecommongood.co.uk](http://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk)

**Takura Gwatinyanya is the Program Manager of Caritas Harare.** His special interest is in the implementation of sustainable development projects that promote engagement of civil society through public and private partnerships.

**4<sup>th</sup> speaker: to be confirmed**

**CONFERENCE CHAIR: Christine Allen, Director, Policy and Public Affairs at Christian Aid.** Christine was Executive Director of Progressio for 10 years and was part of the LiveSimply Executive.

**Plus Panel Discussion: Chair: Simon Barrow, Writer, commentator, theologian, journalist; Co-Director of the Christian think-tank, Ekklesia**

There will be a programme of activities for children and young people, and a Just Fair with information and resources from many organisations.

**Find booking form here:** <http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

**For more information contact:** [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resource for up-to-date J&P news and events. Sign up for comprehensive weekly e-bulletins from National J&P Network 020 7901 4864 [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

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