

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

JPIC Update June 2012



Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales: Conference on Combating Human Trafficking in Rome. A report from Cecilia Taylor-Camara.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales recently held a conference devoted to examining opportunities for the prevention of human trafficking and the pastoral care and reintegration of its victims. The conference was jointly hosted by the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People in Rome, on 8 May 2012.

Chaired by Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and moderated by Royal Television Society award winning journalist and broadcaster Ms Julie Etchingham. The conference attracted a global audience of lay and religious Catholic Church leaders including bishops, women religious and activists, and police officers from Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia and America. The British and US ambassadors to the Holy See, were among the delegates. National and International Statutory and enforcement agencies were also represented.

Among the key presentations was the gripping testimony of a young English woman, Sophie Hayes (pseudonym) a victim, who whilst on holiday in Italy was lured by her Albanian boyfriend and forced into prostitution. Presented in a sofa style interview with Julie Etchingham, Sophie's spine-chilling story shattered the misconception that trafficking is only an issue in poorer developing countries. After six months in captivity, Sophie's lucky escape from her oppressor prompted her to tell her story in her book: "*Trafficked*".

As a victim of trafficking, Sophie commended the role of the Catholic Church and media in holding the conference and raising awareness about a subject that the public is still relatively unaware of. She pleaded for close collaboration between the Church, governments and NGOs to improve the identification and care for the victims of trafficking.

Echoing Sophie's plea for awareness-raising, Bishop Patrick Lynch, Chair for the Office for Migration Policy, encouraged delegates to pray for victims and for those who work to combat human trafficking, particularly on the feast day of St Josephine Bakita (8th February) who was trafficked and sold into slavery.

Human trafficking now ranks as the second most profitable worldwide criminal enterprise after the illegal arms trade. The Metropolitan Police have established a new phonenumber for victims of human trafficking. A freephone number 0800 783 2589 is being promoted by a poster campaign to encourage men and women who have been trafficked into the UK and forced to work for little or no wages in the sex and domestic industries, amongst others, to report the crimes to police.

The aim is to encourage victims, and those who suspect trafficked victims are living in their community, to pass on information in confidence to the police.

Experienced officers will investigate their cases and take action against the perpetrators where possible. Where this is not possible they will provide appropriate care and advice to victims.



Annual Justice & Peace Conference, 20-22 July 2012

"A New World Order? China Today and Our Response" Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick.

Programmes for all ages, not too late to book, so why not take the whole family. Details by post from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX (020 7901 4864) or at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk
STOP PRESS: Rates for 14 to 16 year olds now reduced to £58 (£78 en suite) for the weekend.

Hundred Days of Peace: With the prayer vigil in St Martin in the Fields attended by hundreds of people from all faiths and London Citizens events across London marking their initiative to establish City Safe Havens (even Boris Johnson got in on the act with his picture in the Evening Standard) our peace initiative has got off to a great start but it is still not too late to organise an event in your own community. Planning handbooks are available from the office or can be downloaded from the resources section of www.peacelegacy.org.uk.

As well as a few remaining Pax Christi peace icon prayer cards we now have wrist bands available. These have "London 2012" and "One Hundred Days of Peace" engraved and are available by post from the office. We would appreciate a donation of say £20 per hundred (including p&p) towards our costs.



June 30th - "A pilgrimage to Jerusalem" at St Augustine's Tunbridge Wells

On 29th June 2010 Ann Milner set out on foot from St Peter's square in Rome, on 2nd June 2011 she arrived in Jerusalem. To hear a highly entertaining account of why she did it, what happened to her and what it was like please come to St Augustine's parish room at 6.45pm (after 5.30 mass). The evening will also give an opportunity to learn more about the work of Pax Christi.

July 6th -100 Days of Peace event

2pm and 4pm at Sisters of Mercy Convent, McAuley Close, Glenure Road, Eltham SE9. 1UF There will be the planting of a tree to mark 100 Days of Peace, a release of balloons with peace messages attached to them. Cream teas (donations for tea to go to the Jimmy Mizen Foundation) and a talk from Margaret Mizen.

July 7th - Stop the Traffik Unwrapped

Unwrapping community action to combat trafficking at The Hub, 1 Kennington Road, London, SE1 7QP at 12 noon Steve Chalke, United Nations Special Adviser on Community Action against Trafficking will be launching the GIFT Box alongside the Metropolitan Police. GIFT Box is the new project in partnership with UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking (GIFT) to raise awareness of human trafficking during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and beyond. Further information: rebecca.rubanik@stopthetraffik.org

July 8th - National Day of Celebration;

Sharing the gifts of people of all abilities. 'Now! is the time to be friends'

At The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX from 12.00 to 5.30. This national day of celebration is being hosted by the Catholic community and marks the arrival of the 2012 Games on British soil. As we gather together, we will celebrate sport, art and music through the gifts of people with a disability. This day will include the breaking open of God's Word through drama, and will be lots of fun. The day is led by people with learning and physical disabilities and celebrates the gifts that each one of us has to share. All are welcome.

July 14th and 15th South London Inter faith walks

South London Inter Faith Group has encouraged and supported a coordinated set of inter faith walks in 11 different boroughs: Croydon, Greenwich, Hounslow, Kingston, Lambeth, Merton, Lewisham, Richmond, Southwark, and Wandsworth. If you would like to find out the details of a particular walk, please send your enquiry in an e-mail to secretary@southlondoninterfaith.org.uk with '2012 inter faith walks' in the subject line, or contact our office. Please publicise your 'local' walk as much as possible.

July 17th - Peace Networking Summer Party

Organised by Network for Peace and Movement for the Abolition of War. From 5.30 at St Mellitus Church Hall, Tollington Park, London, N4 3AG. Come and meet your co-workers for Peace. Relax, chat, enjoy good food and drink. Please bring food and drink to share, musical instruments or your singing voice, ideas for fun, ideas for future campaigning for peace.

July 19th - Movement for the Abolition of War - Fundraising Concert

Violin and piano recital 7pm to 9pm at Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1U 2QJ (nearest tube Bond St.). Tickets £12 in advance (£8 concessions) or £14 on the door. More information can be found at www.abolishwar.org.uk

August 6th - Hiroshima Remembrance Service

A commemoration service to mark the anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb. Starting at 8.20pm at Aylesford Priory. Refreshments available after the service. **All welcome.**

August 6th - Walk along the Peace Trail

Guided by Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati, starting 1.30pm from Ghandi's statue in Tavistock Square, WC1. A similar walk on August 18th starting 10.30 am. Copies of "Peace Trails through London" are available from flessati@uk2.net £2 plus p&p.