



SOUTHWARK JPIC NEWS

Seeking to promote Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in our Diocese

SUMMER 2009

Climate Change and Climate Justice

On Thursday June 18th Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Environment, announced the results of a study into the impacts of climate change in the UK. One stark reminder of the UK's vulnerability to a changing climate is the fact that "summer rainfall in England could decrease by a fifth by the 2050's". This is terrifying prediction for a region which already has less water per person than the Sudan or Syria.

In the future, as citizens of the UK we are going to be forced to change our behaviour, whether we like it or not, in order to both mitigate and adapt to the impact of a changing climate. Justice calls on us to think equally of our sisters and brothers who are living in poverty and who are much more vulnerable than we are to the impact of a changing climate and who can do little to address those effects.

In Kenya, drought is a fact of life and farming methods are adapted to make efficient use of every drop of water. But droughts are nowadays more frequent and more severe than before. CAFOD supports the Catholic Diocese of Kitui in southern Kenya in its work to help people adapt to cope with the changing climate. One person who is being helped is Gabriel Murwa and his family. They used to have over 100 head of cattle in their herd. Now they have one; the rest have died because of drought brought about by the severe change in the climate. The Diocese has started to help people dig wells and this has enabled the local villagers to dig the land and plant. Last year there was water in the wells all the year round even during the drought.

It is the moral responsibility of everyone to protect the environment. Creation has brought us so many cultural, social and financial riches. But it is time for those of us with the resources to adapt to climate change to stop our profligate resource consuming behaviour and stand in solidarity with the people living in poverty who have done nothing to cause climate change but who will be the first and worst affected by its impact. Rich countries like the UK must look again at what the world risks losing through a lack of political will and belief. We must see what new creative opportunities can be found to engender a new way of living that is more in harmony with Creation, and where we can begin to aspire not to have more but to be more.

In 2001 a group of rich countries including Britain agreed to pay more than a billion dollars to help the developing world cope with the effects of climate change the money was to be targeted to help poor and vulnerable countries predict and plan for the effects of global warming as well as fund flood defenses, conservation and thousands of other projects. But new figures show less than £90m of the promised money has been delivered. Britain has so far paid just £10m.

In Brussels last year, World Leaders failed to come to strong agreements on climate change. As we look towards the final UN talks on the climate in Copenhagen this December, the impacts of climate change are already having a profound effect on our world. Unless we take concerted action today as citizens with our local MPs and directly with the Government we are looking at a very bleak tomorrow and we will be wondering why we didn't take action when we had the chance.

Only with equitable and sustainable development can poor nations curb continuing environmental degradation and avoid the destructive effects of the kind of overdevelopment that has used natural resources irresponsibly.

For more information about the CAFOD Climate Change Campaign go to www.cafod.org.uk, ask your parish organiser or contact the Southwark JPIC office.

The time for action is now—for us to live more simply so that others may simply live.

Jim Simmons CAFOD Southwark

Our Autumn Assembly

St Peter's Woolwich - Oct 17th

10.30 to 4.00

"The changing face of Britain"

**Celebrating the 25th anniversary of CARJ
(Catholic Association for Racial Justice)**

and CAFOD Climate Change Campaign

Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business

Migrant workers fill many agency, seasonal and temporary jobs in the UK and Ireland. But, according to a new report published last month by the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR), they remain vulnerable to very low pay, over-long hours, poor health and safety conditions, workplace discrimination and other forms of injustice.

ECCR's report - *Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business* - reveals the vulnerability of migrant workers in areas of the domestic economy where low-skilled flexible labour is concentrated: care, cleaning, construction, hospitality and catering, and food production, manufacturing and retail.

The report compares the policies and practices of nine food production, manufacturing and supermarket companies towards migrant workers, particularly in their supply chains. Companies in the survey include Associated British Foods, Kerry Group, Morrisons, Northern Foods, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Unilever.

'Many companies' profits benefit from the use of flexible labour in the supply chain,' says ECCR's Researcher Sunniva Taylor. 'Companies and investors therefore have a moral responsibility to reduce the incidence of vulnerable work throughout their business and supply chain.'

Church group ECCR argues that accepting moral responsibility makes business sense in protecting companies against legal and reputational risk, improving workforce retention and security of supply.

The report finds that few food companies are explicit about the potential vulnerability of migrant workers or the additional support they may need. While most recognise some responsibility for workers in their supply chains few appear to have mainstreamed considerations about labour conditions into their core business practice although the need to compete in the supply chain may, at times, force suppliers to compromise labour conditions.

Weaknesses in the rights enforcement system mean that abuses may go undetected and unaddressed, the report also finds. Paul Whitehouse, Chair, Gangmasters Licensing Authority comments: 'This report highlights how vulnerable migrant workers are and recognises that better enforcement of existing laws is required.'

Praised by migrant worker support organisation SOS Polonia as 'an eye-opening and conscience-shaking document ... a must-read for all companies, investors, policy makers and consumers', ECCR's report highlights the need for companies to:

- recognise the potential vulnerability of migrant, temporary and agency workers;
- implement effective codes of conduct for suppliers;
- increase awareness of rights among all workers;
- and strengthen monitoring and audits.

ECCR, *Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business* - an overview and comparative analysis of food production, manufacture and retail companies, May 2009, 106 pp. A full report and executive summary is available at www.eccr.org.uk.

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK:

On the Road Together: A-Mazed by Migration
National Justice & Peace Annual Conference
Swanwick Derbyshire July 17th to 19th

Keynote Speaker Bishop Patrick Lynch

The Open Space format will give everyone the opportunity to select topics of interest and move around the discussion groups enabling us all to learn and contribute, making this an entertaining and educational weekend for all the family.

There will be full crèche facilities for under 5s and special programmes for 5-11 year olds and 12-18 year olds.

For a booking form please contact the Southwark JPIC office or go to www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

Southwark Fairtrade Bags



Southwark RC Archdiocese
Promoting Fairtrade and Social Justice
www.southwarkjandp.co.uk
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£2 each inc p&p or on sale or return to parishes.

News from a local group.

The Bearsted and Harrietsham ecumenical Justice & Peace Group is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The group, which meets regularly every month, has 4 Catholic, 2 Anglican and 2 Methodist members and carries out an impressive range of work.

In the past year they have supported the Maidstone Day Centre with collections of clothing and food as well as raising cash and have collected clothing to be sold by the Shelter charity shop. They are also represented on a group promoting Maidstone's policy to tackle homelessness.

The group is active in writing to national and local government on a wide variety of Justice & Peace issues including Asylum Seekers, Guantanamo Bay detainees and the arms trade and in encouraging members of their congregations to write to and on behalf of prisoners of conscience. They have also encouraged the sending of cards tackling anti-slavery issues, particularly the trafficking of women and children into our Country for sexual purposes.

On a practical level articles on climate change have been written for parish magazines, foreign stamps are collected to support the Medical Mission sisters and prayers have been encouraged to promote the Government policy to end child poverty by 2020.

Regular stalls are run in all the churches to promote and sell Traidcraft goods and other items donated by parishioners.

Lentern Appeals have been promoted to support a parish in Kenya and the CAFOD Advent Appeal.

Last but not least the group have produced a comprehensive report of their work.

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It would be good to know more about the work of other parish Justice and Peace groups so that we can all learn from and be inspired by the work being carried out throughout the diocese. Please let the office know what you are doing, even if it is only a few brief lines, so that we can spread the word in future newsletters.

A prayer for peace for Palestine Israel

Living God, today we pray for all the people in Palestine Israel,
that they may discover the courage and humility to build peace together.

We pray for those with power and influence,
that they will seek a just path of reconciliation.

We pray for those who are in dire need today,
that their human rights to food and shelter and medical care will be urgently met.

We pray for international aid agencies as they work to bring hope
to devastated communities.

We pray for all those in the land who have suffered over the years of struggle;
for those who are grieving for their lost loved ones;
for those whose lives have been changed forever because of injuries, mental and physical;
and for those who bear the lasting scar of being displaced and dispossessed.

Living God, their pain is so great today.

Bring your healing, bring your peace, to Palestine Israel.

For our Muslim brothers and sisters in Palestine Israel today,
we pray *Assalamu Alaikum*.

For our Jewish brothers and sisters in Palestine Israel this day,
we pray *Shalom Aleichem*.

For our Christian brothers and sisters, the Living Stones, in Palestine Israel, this day,
we pray *The Peace of Christ*.

Diary of Events:

July 12th Sea Sunday

Go to Apostleship of the Sea for information:
www.apostleshipofthesea.org

July 12th 12 noon "God is with us... In our World and in our hearts"

A diocesan day of celebration at Aylesford Priory. Sharing in the gifts of people with disabilities.

July 31st - August 2nd

"Contemplation & Social Action". Finding balance in our lives. Peace & Justice Retreat at Worth Abbey.

A residential weekend retreat led by Fr Paul Fleetwood OSB and Jane Ozanne. Booking forms available from toc@worthabbey.net

August 6th

Anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The first use of atomic weapons. (Pax Christi)

September 5th

London Christians explore Runway 3. A 6 mile walk starting from St Anselm's CofE, Hayes through Crane Park and Harmondsworth Moor (a newly-created nature reserve), along the course of the proposed runway and ending at West Drayton.

September 13th

Racial Justice Sunday. www.carj.org.uk

October 2nd

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

October 17th

Our Spring Assembly at Woolwich (see front page)

Jesuit Refugee Service

Supermarket Voucher Exchange

Asylum seekers receiving government support get £35 per week in supermarket vouchers. To get cash for bus fares and other needs they may often have to sell these at well below face value.

The JRS has a scheme to buy vouchers at face value and sell on to individuals who can use them for their regular shopping.

To buy £35 Asda, Tesco or Sainsbury vouchers at face value please contact:

Jesuit Refugee Service

6 Melior Street, SE1 3QP

0208 7357 0974

www.jrsuk.net

e-mail: uk.jrs.net



On Peace Sunday 61 Southwark parishes raised a grand total of £13224,52 for Pax Christi.

Many thanks to all those who participated.

Is your parish committed to Fairtrade? If so you could register with the Fairtrade Foundation and receive a pack of materials including a Fairtrade Church certificate to display in your church.

Contact the JPIC office for further information.

If you would like more information from any web site mentioned but do not have internet access please let me know and I will print out and

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I enclose a donation of £ towards costs (PAYABLE TO SOUTHWARK JUSTICE & PEACE OFFICE)

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Phone/Fax: 020 7928 9742 Email:office@southwarkjandp.co.uk