



Edmund Rice Centre

Awareness. Advocacy. Action

<p>ERC JUSTICE UPDATES October 2018 No.3</p>
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Dear All,

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of ERC Justice Updates your regular newsletter from the Edmund Rice Centre, on all sorts of matters relating to social and environmental justice. Hopefully you found the 2nd Edition of interesting and useful in some way.

REMEMBER WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Please do send us your feedback or any information you think would be good to include in further updates.

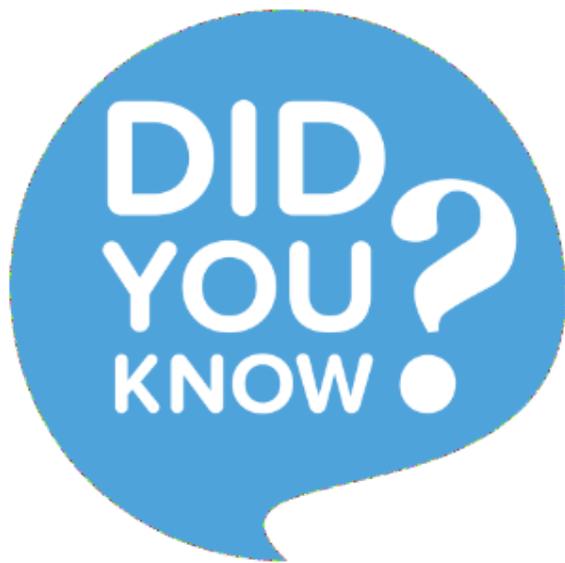
Thanks to all contributors and others here at ERC who have helped me establish the first two editions . I would especially like to mention Azm Jafar our ever helpful IT support man here at ERC who is always on hand to assist.

Don't forget to forward Justice Matters onto anyone or let me know their email address and I will subscribe them.

Regards

Marita

Communications Project Officer,



- On Monday October 15, the Australian government will have detained men, women & children on Nauru & Manus Island for 1906 DAYS
- An estimated 1,534 people are still on Nauru or PNG as of 29 July 2018, and as of 30 June 2018, 219 are still in Nauru Regional Processing Centre
- UN IPCC SR15 Report: Coal-fired electricity should end by 2050 if we are to limit global warming rises to 1.5 degreesC
- 2016 Census reveals 116,427 homeless in Australia up from 102,439 in 2011 39,000 on Community Housing Waiting lists in 2017
- 3.6 million Australians (15%) have experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months (2017).

3.6

20 Sep 2018

AMA demands urgent fix to humanitarian emergency on Nauru

The AMA has called on the Government to urgently transfer refugee families from Nauru, describing the situation there as a humanitarian emergency.

In a letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, AMA President Dr Tony Bartone urged a policy rethink and demanded that asylum seeker children and their families be removed from Nauru as a matter of priority.

Dr Bartone said deteriorating physical and mental health among refugee children and their families meant they should be relocated to more appropriate places, preferably in mainland Australia.

“Put bluntly, we want some urgent action to help these vulnerable people who find themselves in a hopeless, despairing situation,” Dr Bartone wrote in his letter to the PM.

“The AMA has been calling for a more humanitarian approach, including independent assessment of health care arrangements, for many years now.

“The medical situation for the children on Nauru has been described by health experts, including medical staff who have worked on Nauru, as critical and getting worse. It is a humanitarian emergency requiring urgent intervention.

“We have been given some hope at the bureaucratic level, but a slammed door at the political level.

“The AMA and the medical profession are demanding a change of policy – a change of policy that reflects community concern for the health of asylum seekers.”



How Afghanistan's peace movement is winning hearts and minds, Roshni Kapur
Waging Nonviolence September 13, 2018

In May 2018, a group of seven Afghans in the mostly Taliban controlled province of Helmand set off on a more than 370-mile peace journey to the capital city, Kabul, sparking a nationwide movement.

Residents of Helmand have been paying a high price ever since the province turned into a battleground between Afghan forces and the Taliban. The catalyst for the peace march was a car bomb attack during a wrestling match in March that killed 14 people.

The protesters began with a hunger strike and a sit-in protest in the province's capital, Lashkar Gah, within 24 hours of the suicide attack to demand an end to the violence. The activists held meetings with both the government and the Taliban, but when no results were produced they decided to walk to Kabul to further advocate for their peace message.

The war-weary Afghans traveled across the country, passing through difficult terrain in the scorching hot sun. The final leg of their march happened during the holy month of Ramadan, which they continued while observing their fast. They were welcomed in the villages which they passed through and were offered food, water and places to rest.

In total, they marched across six provinces, passing by Taliban-controlled areas. In the city of Ghazni, they were even warned by the Taliban not to enter an area because it would be dangerous.....

Their tenacity and courage attracted around a hundred Afghans from places like Kandahar and Herat to join their peace movement, including women.....

Despite being exhausted, the protesters were ready for their next phase of activism. They met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and gave him a list of demands for sustainable peace.....

The group also strategically targeted key stakeholders and institutions, such as the American, British, Russian, Iranian and Pakistani embassies, which are perceived to have an external hand in the war.....

Their activism was the result of a well-planned strategy to reach out to their fellow citizens from the southern and northern provinces.....

Read full article <https://wagingnonviolence.org/feature/afghanistan-peace-movement-winning-hearts-minds/>

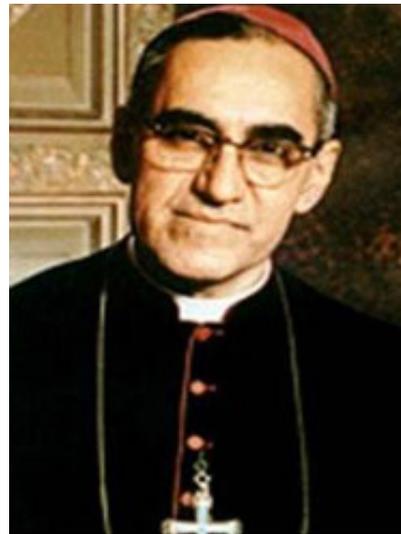
Pope Paul VI & Oscar Romero elevated to Sainthood October 14th in Rome



Pope Paul VI, a pope of dialogue

He wanted a Church that was in dialogue with the modern world. He treated the theme of dialogue at great length in his encyclical Ecclesiam Suam, released on Aug. 6, 1964, exactly 14 years before his death. In it, he wrote he felt a “vocation” to dialogue between the Church and the world. Once described by Pope Benedict XVI as “superhuman,” Paul VI governed the Church in the turbulent post-conciliar phase. In the words of Francis, he was a man who “knew how to witness, in difficult years, to the faith in Jesus Christ.”

Pope Francis has spoken repeatedly about his predecessor, and earlier this year he confirmed that Paul VI would be made a saint before 2018 was over. Even though Humanae Vitae has garnered much of the discussion over the legacy of his predecessor, for Francis there’s another document that is “the greatest pastoral document written to date” - Paul VI’s 1975 exhortation on evangelization, Evangelii Nuntiandi



Romero, El Salvador’s first saint

Oscar Romero, who will become the first Salvadoran saint, was born on August 15, 1917. He was gunned down during Mass in a hospital chapel March 24, 1980, a day after telling an army made up largely of peasants that they were killing their own people.

“No soldier is obliged to obey an order that is contrary to the will of God,” he said.

He was shot through the heart by gunmen linked to a right-wing death squad while celebrating Mass, after saying, “one must not love oneself so much as to avoid getting involved in the risks of life that history demands of us, and those who fend off danger will lose their lives.”

Romero was outspoken against military oppression during his country’s bloody civil war in the 1980s, and also of the role the United States played in it.

In a letter he sent to U.S. president Jimmy Carter in February of 1980, he urged America not to send military aid to El Salvador: “You say that you are

(On Proclaiming the Gospel). In Evangelii Nuntiandi, Paul VI wrote that the Church itself “has a constant need of being evangelized,” and that people today listen “more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

“The world calls for, and expects from us, simplicity of life, the spirit of prayer, charity towards all, especially towards the lowly and the poor, obedience and humility, detachment and self-sacrifice. Without this mark of holiness, our word will have difficulty in touching the heart of modern man. It risks being vain and sterile,” Paul wrote.

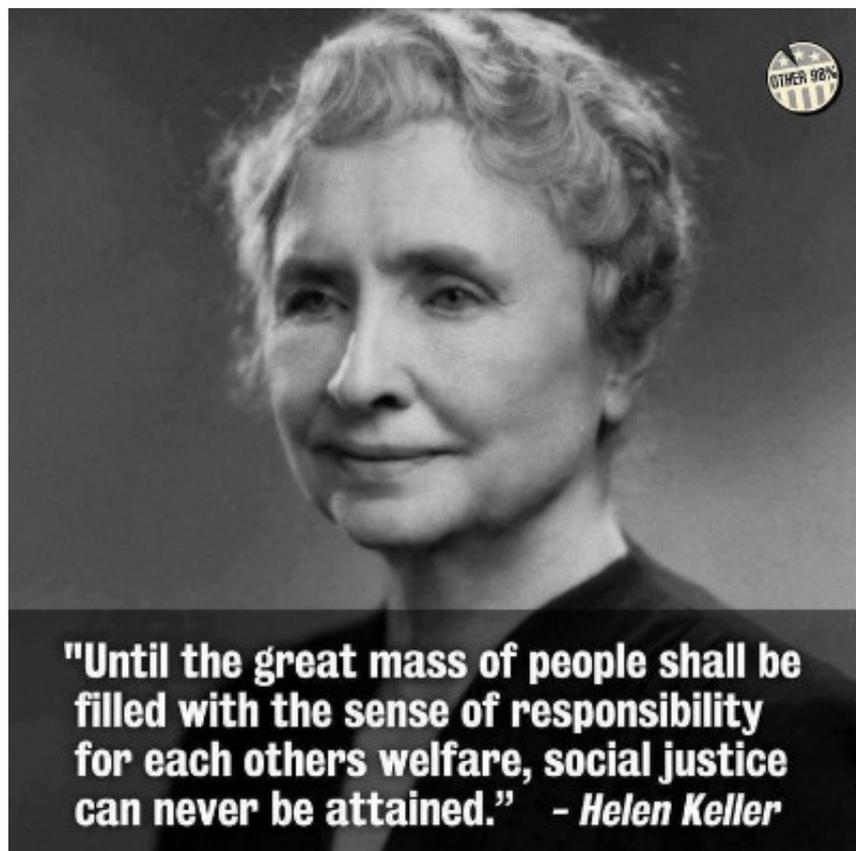
Christian. If you are really Christian, please stop sending military aid to the military here, because they use it only to kill my people.”

His death is considered by the Catholic Church to have been in “odium fidei,” meaning in hatred of the faith.

Romero was beatified in San Salvador on May 23, 2015, in a ceremony that drew an estimated 250,000 people, believed to have been the largest religious gathering ever held in Central America.

Read more:

<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2018/05/19/pope-to-canonize-paul-vi-oscar-romero-in-rome-oct-14/>



REFLECTIONS

‘Immigrants dying at sea, in boats which were vehicles of hope and became vehicles

of death. That is how the headlines put it. When I first heard of this tragedy a few weeks ago, and realised that it happens all too frequently, it has constantly come back to me like a painful thorn in my heart ...

'These brothers and sisters of ours were trying to escape difficult situations to find some serenity and peace; they were looking for a better place for themselves and their families, but instead they found death. How often do such people fail to find understanding, fail to find acceptance, fail to find solidarity. And their cry rises up to God! ...

'Has any one of us wept for these persons who were on the boat? For the young mothers carrying their babies? For these men who were looking for a means of supporting their families? We are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to experience compassion – 'suffering with' others: the globalisation of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep!'" **Pope Francis at Lampedusa 2013**

Do not fear offending any one. Speak as your mind directs and always act with more courage when the "mammon of unrighteousness" is in question.

Catherine McAuley, Letter to Mary Ann Doyle, July 24, 1841.

To overthrow oppression has been sanctioned by humanity and is the highest aspiration of every free man. **Nelson Mandela, from his famous 'No Easy Walk to Freedom' speech, 1954.**

'For those who live in the South Pacific, the impacts of climate change are not academic, or even arguable. They are watching the sea levels rise, the extreme weather events increase, and the impact on their water supply and food crops. We can talk all we like about the science and what it means, what temperature rises we need to limit in order to survive, but there is a grinding reality in hearing someone from a Pacific island talk about where the sea was when they were a child, and potential loss of their entire village as an adult.'

'Our action in the wake of this global challenge remains optional. But the impact of inaction does not. ...'

'If my Pacific neighbours do not have the option of opting out of the effects of climate change, why should we be able to opt out of taking action to stop it?'

Jacinda Aherm to UN 28 September 2018



Pacific Calling Partnership News

Visit to Australia by Former President of Kiribati, Anote Tong

In October 2018, the Edmund Rice Centre's Pacific Calling Partnership is bringing one of the world's foremost voices for climate justice to Australia. Anote Tong, climate warrior and former President of Kiribati will be meeting with politicians, talking to the media, conducting workshops and giving public talks in Melbourne and Sydney.

In these stimulating talks, Anote Tong will describe vividly the challenges facing Kiribati, Australia's responsibility to tackle the climate crisis, and his vision for a more just and sustainable future. He is renowned for his role in building awareness of the impacts of climate change in the Pacific, the leadership of front-line communities, and the urgent need for stronger action from the international community, notably Australia. He has played a critical role in the United Nations conferences on climate change, especially at COP 21 in Paris. Details of his public talks, including links to get tickets:

MELBOURNE

Launch of the film, Anote's Ark followed by Q & A with Anote Tong

Date: Monday, October 15, 2018, 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Venue: ACMI, Federation Square, Flinders Street, Melbourne

Organised by Pacific Calling Partnership and Environmental Film Festival, Australia

The film follows the endeavours of Kiribati's then-President, Anote Tong, to bring international attention to the Pacific nation's calls for action. With indomitable spirit, gentle strength and charm, the Kiribati people have become the face of climate change, imploring us to contemplate the crisis of rapidly submerging nations, and the associated impacts on cultural identity.

Cost: (\$20.00/ \$17.50/ \$16.50) Booking and more details

<http://www.ffa.org.au/film-program-2018/anotes-ark>

Views from the climate frontline: An evening with Anote Tong

Date: Monday 22 October, 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Basement Theatre, Melbourne School of Design Masson Road, Parkville, VIC

Organized by The Climate Reality Project, Oxfam Australia, Pacific Calling Partnership and Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute.

Keynote presenter, Anote Tong, then a conversation between Tong and Celia McMichael, followed by audience Q&A

Cost: (\$20.00/\$15.00) Booking and more details

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/views-from-the-climate-frontline-an-evening-with-anote-tong-tickets-49844562428>

SYDNEY

Why island nations' isolation on the climate change threat must end

Date: Wednesday 24 October, 6-7.30pm

Venue: Charles Perkins Centre Auditorium, John Hopkins Drive, University of Sydney.

Organized by Sydney Environment Institute and Pacific Calling Partnership

Dr. Meredith Burgmann, Patron of PCP will introduce Anote Tong

Anote Tong will make the keynote address and other panel members are:

- [Professor Rosemary Lyster](#), the Professor of Climate and Environmental Law in the University of Sydney Law School.
- Dr [Jennifer Newell](#), Manager of the East Pacific Collections at the Australian Museum.
- Chair: [David Schlosberg](#), Professor of Environmental Politics University of Sydney, and author of *Defining Environmental Justice*. Booking and more details (free event) <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/why-island-nations-isolation-on-the-climate-change-threat-must-end-tickets-49796048321>

The Rising Seas: Climate Change and the Pacific

Date: Thursday 25 October 2018, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Venue: Function Room of the Good Samaritan Congregational Centre, 2 Avenue Road Glebe, NSW

Organised by the Inter-Congregational Voice on Climate Change in the Pacific, The Edmund Rice Centre, Pacific Calling Partnership and Good Samaritan Sisters.

(free event but booking essential as refreshments will be provided)

Event will be MC'd by Geraldine Kearney sgs

Talk plus Q & A

Booking and more details <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-rising-seas-climate-change-and-the-pacific-tickets-50252262871?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=esfb&utm-source=fb&utm-term=listing>

Tel: Vincent on 0413707271 or Email vincents@erc.org.au

FACEBOOK LIVE WITH ANOTE TONG

When? Friday October 19, 1-2pm AEDT (write it in your diary so you don't forget!)

Where? [Caritas Australia's Facebook page](#)

How to view the event? Simply log into Facebook and visit the [Caritas Facebook page](#) at 1pm on Friday October 19, and you will see the live stream (yes, it's that easy).

How can I ask Anote questions? You can submit questions to Anote at any time during the event by typing them into the comments.

We look forward to your involvement in this rare opportunity!

Vincent Sicari, Project Officer, PCP

Edmund Rice Centre

02 87624217 0413707271

ERC FILM SCREENING

Title: 'Disaster Capitalism'

Date: Wednesday 14th November 2018

Time: 6pm for 6.30pm start

Venue: Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Road, Homebush West. 2minutes from Flemington Station.

Cost: Suggested donation of \$10 (to pay for cost of showing film).

RSVP: Phone ERC on 8762 4200 by 7th November.

Disaster Capitalism is a recent, groundbreaking documentary film about Bougainville, Haiti and Afghanistan, directed by Australian journalist and writer, Antony Loewenstein. Antony unfortunately cannot be with us, but Phil Glendenning, Director ERC and frequent visitor to Afghanistan will speak, and moderate discussion. Audience participation very welcome.



**“STAND FOR SOMETHING
OR YOU WILL FALL
FOR ANYTHING.**

**TODAY'S MIGHTY OAK IS
YESTERDAY'S NUT THAT
HELD ITS GROUND.”**

- ROSA PARKS

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of Australia as the traditional owners and custodians of the land. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside them for reconciliation and justice. We pay our respects to the Elders; past, present and future. As we take our next step we remember the first footsteps taken on this sacred land.

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Australia