



Edmund Rice Centre
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

ERC JUSTICE UPDATES

July 2022 No.72

Dear Friends,

This 72nd Edition of ERC Justice Updates, our regular newsletter from the Edmund Rice Centre, on matters relating to human rights, first nations and environmental justice.

As one faces this ever changing, complex, unjust and unequal world let us always remember Blessed Edmund Rice's three main tenets:
COMPASSION LIBERATION & PRESENCE

**Blessed are those who can give without remembering
and take without forgetting. Bernard Meltzer**

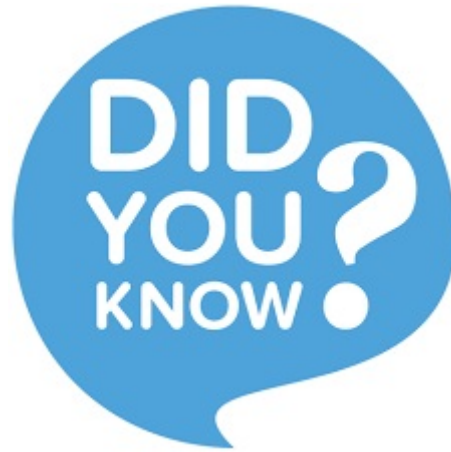
Please note that if you come up against a paywall in any of the articles below - please contact me at: mmcinerney@edmundrice.org and I will send you the full article.

Previous editions are available at <https://www.erc.org.au/newsletters>

Peace & Blessings

Marita
Communications Project Officer,
Marita McInerney

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that there may be articles in this publication with names and images of deceased people.



CREATE Foundation which is the national consumer body representing the voices of children and young people with an out-of-home care experience. In a recent Media Release Create noted:

- **NSW young people risked homelessness at their 18th birthday**
- **Being the largest care community nationally, NSW young people remain the only cohort that unable to access adequate supports to care to 21 years of age.**
- **Queensland in contrast made a recent commitment to provide appropriate support to 21 years after years of young people having to leave the care system at 19 years.**
- **In NSW young people have no formalised support past the age of 18, while many of them are still in their final year of high school. NSW is the last state to recognise and act upon the fact that young people transitioning from the care system to independence are already facing significant changes and deserve to be supported till 21. All other jurisdictions support young people to 21 years some form.**

An indicator of urgent change needed is in excess of 16,160 children and young people did not sleep in their own home last night and are currently growing up in out-of-home care. NSW young people are becoming increasingly agitated, knowing nobody is listening, and the urgency for their voices to be heard and listened to by the Perrottet Government.

Key statistics on the care sector in Australia

30% of young people experience homelessness within the first year of leaving care. (McDowall, J. J. (2020).

- **46% of males have been involved with the justice system since leaving care.**

- 29% of young people who have left care or preparing to leave care are unemployed.
- 36% children and young people in care do not live with any of their siblings.
- 35% of young people in care have five or more caseworkers during their time in care.
- 67% of young people in care over the age of 15 are not aware of having a leaving care plan.

Read full details:

<https://create.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MR-2206021-Its-Our-Turn-NSW-Make-it-21-For-All-Care-Leavers.pdf>



Police officers in the Aboriginal township of Mutitjulu, near Uluru, in 2007. Credit: Jason South/Nine

Inside the Northern Territory's intervention

Ben Abbatangelo, The Saturday Paper, June 25th – July 1st, 2022, No. 405

Last Tuesday marked 15 years since the Australian Army, mobilised by John Howard's federal government and with bipartisan support from Labor, swarmed the Northern Territory to impose a renewed suite of race-based controls on Aboriginal people and their lands.

Using the same language of "protecting children" that has legitimised extraordinary interventions into the lives of Indigenous people throughout history, Howard was successful in suspending the 1975 Racial Discrimination Act.

He enacted a breathtaking suite of race-based controls, including an increase of police and powers; the appointment of managers to oversee 73 prescribed communities; prohibition of alcohol and pornography; the quarantining of 50 per cent of welfare income through the introduction of the Basics Card; the quashing of the permits for entry system; military health checks of Aboriginal

children; the abolition of Community Development Employment Projects and their replacement with Work for the Dole; the compulsory acquisition of townships through renewable five-year leases; and the removal of traditional cultural considerations from judicial-criminal proceedings.

As well as requiring the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act, the intervention breached the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

“How much did the NT government know? Was this all predetermined by John Howard and the evil forces of the right to get at Blackfullas yet again? They completely used us. Once again, we were bluffed and betrayed.”

“It took them seven years to abolish the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission,” says Jacqui Katona, a Djok woman and PhD student who worked on the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. “It was a statutory authority. They couldn’t do it overnight. They spent many years backgrounding journalists with manufactured evidence that presented a distorted view of the culpability of Aboriginal people.”

After loosening the footing that was enabling Indigenous communities to stand taller, Howard and the media pack, led by the ABC’s Lateline program, launched a vicious assault on the humanity, cultural authority and agency of Aboriginal men.

Full story (subscribers only):

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2022/06/25/inside-the-northern-territorys-intervention>

NB: Please note if you wish to read the full story and are not a subscriber please email me at: mmcinerney@edmundrice.org and I will send you a the full article.



NAIDOC Week 3rd - 10th July 2022
THEME: GET UP! STAND UP! SHOW UP!

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We have a proud history of getting up, standing up, and showing up.

From the frontier wars and our earliest resistance fighters to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities fighting for change today—we continue to show up.

Now is our time. We cannot afford to lose momentum for change.

We all must continue to Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! for systemic change and keep rallying around our mob, our Elders, our communities.

Whether it's seeking proper environmental, cultural and heritage protections, Constitutional change, a comprehensive process of truth-telling, working towards treaties, or calling out racism—we must do it together.

It must be a genuine commitment by all of us to Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! and support and secure institutional, structural, collaborative, and cooperative reforms.

It's also time to celebrate the many who have driven and led change in our communities over generations—they have been the heroes and champions of change, of equal rights and even basic human rights.

Getting Up, Standing Up, and Showing Up can take many forms.

We need to move beyond just acknowledgement, good intentions, empty words and promises, and hollow commitments. Enough is enough.

The relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians needs to be based on justice, equity, and the proper recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights.

Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! with us to amplify our voices and narrow the gap between aspiration and reality, good intent and outcome.



The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that partners with communities to address the ongoing trauma caused by actions like the forced removal of children from their families. Image: The Healing Foundation

Classroom resources to help schools promote a broader understanding of the Stolen Generations

The Healing Foundation, www.abc.net.au/education, 23rd June 2022 (First published 21 May 2019)

Students and teachers in primary and secondary schools can access free educational resources to promote awareness and understanding of the Stolen Generations, changing the shape of Australia's history curriculum.

Developed by The Healing Foundation in consultation with Stolen Generations survivors, teachers, parents and curriculum writers, the resources aim to promote greater understanding about an often-overlooked part of Australia's history in a safe and age-appropriate way.

The resource kit includes professional learning tools for teachers, along with suggested lesson plans that have been mapped to the Australian Curriculum for Foundation through to Year 9.

Healing Foundation chair Professor Steve Larkin said sharing the truth of Australian history is an important part of healing for the thousands of children who were forcibly removed from their families between 1910 and the 1970s.

"Despite the traumatic impact that the Stolen Generations policies continue to have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, very little about this chapter of our history has been taught in schools — particularly from an Indigenous perspective," Professor Larkin said.

"We hope these resources will foster greater respect and understanding of the past and influence a different relationship with our communities."

The activities in the kit draw heavily on the stories, music, dance, art and writing of Stolen Generations survivors, their families and communities, and feature firsthand accounts of their experiences.

Including modules on the Stolen Generations in school curriculums was first recommended in the landmark Bringing Them Home report (1997).

The report identified education as an important part of the reconciliation process, with awareness of the history of child removal seen as key to preventing a repetition of such human rights violations.

Trangie Central School's former deputy principal Dimiti Trudgett said learning about the Stolen Generations encourages reconciliation for all Australians.

"As an important part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, it supports the healing process for those impacted both directly and indirectly by acknowledging, comprehending and correcting the past," Ms Trudgett said.

"We have trialled a number of activities from the resource kit with our secondary students and the response has been positive.

"The resources are not only educational but are genuine and engaging. Our students particularly enjoyed the video case studies and computer components."

Read full story:

<https://www.abc.net.au/education/healing-foundation-resources-to-learn-about-stolen-generations/13930192?fbclid=IwAR2mokXHh2-SFIWqujut8o8usp1zBFJdsLdJaYR1zmOOcfBEsmUlvUDV2v0>



“It is hard for me to understand a culture that not only hates and fights his brothers but even attacks Nature and abuses her. Man must love all creation or he will love none of it. Love is something you and I must have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it. Without love our self esteem weakens. Without it our courage fails. Without love we can no longer look out confidently at the world. Instead we turn inwardly and begin to feed upon our own personalities and little by little we destroy ourselves.”

- Chief Dan George -



A rapid exodus of Ukrainians due to Russia's invasion has helped drive refugee numbers to record highs. (ABC News: Brendan Esposito)

More than 100 million people displaced worldwide, UN refugee agency says

Max Walden, ABC News, 16th June 2022

The United Nations refugee agency says more than 100 million people worldwide have been driven from their homes by persecution, war and human

rights violations, describing the figure as a new "dramatic milestone".

Key points:

- The war in Ukraine and violence ignited by the military takeover in Myanmar have displaced millions of people
- The federal government has pledged to "progressively increase" Australia's refugee intake to 27,000 per year
- Some 42 per cent of those forced to flee their homes worldwide are children

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in its annual update that the increase had come as millions of Ukrainians were driven from their homes, and amid conflict in countries such as Myanmar and Burkina Faso.

"This means one in every 78 people on Earth has been forced to flee — a dramatic milestone that few would have expected a decade ago," it said.

This accounts for 1 per cent of the world's population. If displaced persons were a country it would be the world's 14th most populous.

"Every year of the last decade, the numbers have climbed," Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said.

"We either take action to address this human despair and find lasting solutions, or we keep sprinting towards terrible new landmarks."

As of the end of 2021, there were 89.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. They included refugees, asylum seekers and those fleeing within their own country's borders.

But Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February this year has caused a mass exodus from the country, which Mr Grandi has described as the fastest-growing refugee crisis since the end of World War II.

Read full story:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-16/un-refugee-agency-says-100-million-people-displaced/101147952>



Afghans protest visa conditions outside Parliament House in Canberra in February 2022. Photograph: Mike Bowers/The Guardian

The new government gives me hope that the cruel limbo of temporary protection visas might end

Zaki Haidari, The Guardian, 29th June 2022

We fled our home countries because we were persecuted, but our persecution continues today in Australia

Australia has given me refuge – but it's conditional. I've been living here for the past decade, temporary visa to temporary visa, never certain of my future. This is the experience of 31,000 other refugees like me living on a brief lease of life.

After battling almost insurmountable obstacles to seek safety in Australia, living in this limbo with a temporary permit is extremely stressful, especially for people who are already living with a lot of trauma.

We fled our home country because we were persecuted there, but our persecution continues today in Australia.

Yet the federal election results have given people like me hope.

Refugees seeking asylum are forced to leave their home country, to find a safe place to survive and build a new life. They hope that they can feel safe and be reunited with their families and loved ones.

Tragically, this brutal policy pushed people to the breaking point including one of my close friends who took his life last year.

During the election campaign the Labor party committed to abolishing temporary protection visas (TPV) and safe haven enterprise visas (SHEV) and grant refugees permanent visas.

Upon election victory, the Albanese government has created a sense of hope in the refugee community – hope that we will see an end to this constant emotional suffering and we can reunite with our loved ones.

The ALP has been in government for more than a month now but so far there has been no commitment to scrap these cruel measures as promised. I receive calls daily from friends and other refugees on TPVs and SHEVs, asking when

they can apply for the permanent visas, but more importantly when they might be able to see their families.

Due to this uncertainty, we have always felt second-class citizens in Australia.

Read full story:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/29/the-new-government-gives-me-hope-that-the-cruel-limbo-of-temporary-protection-visas-might-end?utm_term=62bbb2255bd287aa41fd89bcc2ff02ad&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU_email



These people are ideological pawns in a politically partisan game. Image: Flickr / World Bank Photo Collection

Bring Home the Suffering Australian Children and their Mothers in Syrian Camps

George Browning, Pearls & Irritations, 25th June 2022

The Albanese government has had bequeathed to it several unresolved human rights scandals which together have severely shrunk the moral character of Australia and Australians. Notable among them has been the plight of Australian overseas citizens who have fallen from grace.

These and similar matters have remained hidden from view or considered not Australia's problem out of a disgracefully weaponised view of Australian security needs. The Biloela family are on their way to having permanent security. Whistle blowers such as Bernard Collaery are hopefully on their way to being lauded for the service they have rendered rather than punished for a supposed crime they have committed. But, yet to reappear from the shadows are the 60 Australian citizens, 40 of them children, still reported to being held in appalling conditions in Syrian camps under Kurdish control. These people are ideological pawns in a politically partisan game. Barnaby Joyce once described politics as a game, a statement that succinctly defines the previous

governments approach on this and other multiple fronts.

As Prime Minister Albanese has said in a slightly different context: **"Australia is better than this"**.

The seeds of ISIS were sown in 2004 following the end of the Iraq war and the overthrow of the Sunni led government. The consequences of overthrowing a Sunni government to advantage a Shia led authority could have been calculated in advance but were not. Through clever propaganda, largely on social media platforms, Sunni youth from many countries were attracted to the cause of righting a perceived wrong inflicted by the West, rejecting so called western cultural excesses, and to living under the umbrella of an idyllic Islamic caliphate with Islamic values.

The awful reality was of course it's very antithesis, a life of cruel savagery. Fear and destruction continued for more than 12 years. But by the close of 2017 ISIS had lost 95% of its territory and by 2018 had been decimated, if not eliminated. Left behind were multiple victims, most obviously large swathes of cultural destruction and brutalised lives across Iraq and Syria. Under this dreadful pile of victimhood, barely visible, lie the wives of its defeated military – and their children.....

It hardly needs to be said that children can never be held accountable for the actions of their parents. Nor does it need to be said that civility has many measures, but none more significant than the way a nation cares for and protects its vulnerable children.

Read full story:

<https://johnmenadue.com/australian-children-in-syrian-camps/>



"This is the first time a state capital has been hit by airstrikes since World War two. Image: Flickr / Nicolas Raymond

Myanmar: providing life-saving aid through the military government while minimising military interference

Ian Mannix, Pearls & Irritations, June 28th, 2022

Aid agencies say the Myanmar junta is attacking villages and wiping out communities as collective punishment against those who it cannot identify but who the military claims allegedly support the People's Defence Forces.

Reports in local media say regime forces carried out arson attacks on at least 30 villages along the border of Magway and Sagaing regions after coming under attack last week.

Three local People's Defence Force (PDF) groups mounted an assault on a junta checkpoint located near a bridge that crosses the Chindwin River between Magway's Yesagyo Township and Salingyi Township in Sagaing.

In response, a column of around 300 junta troops carried out a raids on villages in Salingyi, Yesagyo, and Myaing townships, Wai Gyi, the leader of the Yesagyo PDF, told the independent and reliable news publication "Myanmar Now."

The chairperson of The Border Consortium, James Thomson, from Act for Peace in Australia, says this collective punishment is a war crime.

"The military's attacks are unprecedented. They are now bombing heavily populated areas, even state capitals like Loikaw, just across the border from Thailand, which has been repeatedly hit by airstrikes since January.

"This is the first time a state capital has been hit by airstrikes since World War two.

"Civilians are being targeted and a forcibly displaced specifically to weaken the resolve of opposition groups or to punish those who might be providing support.

"There were people sitting on buses waiting for evacuation as the strikes occurred.

"The situation in the south east includes relentless airstrikes, artillery, harassment and continual destruction of lives and villages.

"Amnesty International says these are war crimes and likely crimes against humanity."

Read full story:

<https://johnmenadue.com/myanmar/>



The US conducted 105 nuclear tests in the Pacific, mainly in the Marshall islands, between 1946 and 1962. Image: Wikipedia

The United States- the Pacific bully

Brian Toohey, Pearls & Irritations, 24th June 2022

The US dominates the Pacific Islands to an extent China can never hope to achieve. With Australia's support, the US is now engaged in an arms build-up in its Pacific territories and de-facto colonies in a little known boost to its containment of China.

The US has three self-governing territories in the Pacific: Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands. Guam hosts some of the US's most important bases the world. After a large scale military expansion on one of the main islands in the Northern Marianas, Tinian is expected to rival Guam in importance in coming years.

The US also has Compacts of Free Association with three countries covering thousands of islands in the Pacific – the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands. The compacts are a de-facto form of colonialism which gives the US exclusive military access to these countries' land and maritime surrounds in return for defence guarantees and financial assistance.

The Federated States of Micronesia has a population of around 100,000. It has a land area of 702 square km on 607 islands amid 2,600,000 square km of ocean. The US will build a new base there. The residents are concerned about the impact of the base as their islands are often tiny and the landscape important to their identity. The US is also establishing a new military base on Palau, which has 340 islands and a total population of just over 18,000. The Marshall Islands landmass is 181 square km amid 466,000 square km of ocean. Although the Kwajalein atoll is only 15 square km, it is exclusively a military base with an extraordinary array of US activities; including a key role in US testing interceptors aimed ballistic missiles.

The Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi recently visited seven South Pacific countries and signed various agreements in some, including the provision of infrastructure and police training, but he failed to get support for a 10-country trade agreement. He did not seek permission to build a navy base in the Solomon Islands or anywhere else. Nevertheless, some saw the visit as an act of Chinese aggression. It is an odd view of aggression compared to the damage done by US, British and French testing of thermonuclear (also called hydrogen) bombs on Pacific islands, or when Australia helped invade Iraq.

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The South Pacific Forum comprises 18 members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Not all are normally considered to be in the South Pacific. The inclusion of three countries with Compacts of Free Association with the US and two French possessions basically guarantees they will vote for what the US or France wants.

However, the legacy of the contemptuous disregard for the indigenous residents during massive hydrogen bomb tests ensures that nuclear issues, including the passage of nuclear submarines, remain sensitive.

Read full story:

<https://johnmenadue.com/the-united-states-the-pacific-bully/?fbclid=IwAR1kImP3QLsyAxY0BQ0JkJI-Tr1AuOtNgpgFV6PIZbRk645hbexB82QE-vl>



Dennis Tipakalippa (second left) and other Tiwi Islanders protesting the Barossa gas project. Senior lawman and traditional owner Tipakalippa is taking the federal offshore oil and gas regulator to court to challenge its decision to approve drilling in the Barossa gas field, 300km north of Darwin Photograph: Environment Centre Northern Territory/AAP

Tiwi Islanders challenge offshore drilling, saying Santos did not consult them

Lisa Cox, The Guardian, 7th June 2022

Santos has reported attempt to contact Tiwi land council over \$4.7bn Barossa gasfield but federal court challenge claims it did not meet its legal obligations

Traditional owners from the Northern Territory's Tiwi Islands have launched a legal challenge to the \$4.7bn Barossa offshore gas project, saying they were not consulted about plans to drill the gas field.

The project is a joint venture between Santos and SK E&S and will involve drilling for gas in the Timor Sea and transporting it via a 260km pipeline to the existing Darwin LNG facility.

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (Nopsema) gave Santos approval in March to drill up to eight wells off the northern beaches of the Tiwi Islands.

Munupi senior lawman Dennis Tipakalippa is challenging that decision in the federal court saying he and his community were never consulted about the drilling.

"Santos say they did consultation for this drilling project, but no one spoke to me as a traditional owner and senior lawman for the Munupi clan," he said.

"My clan, the Munupi, own these northern beaches. It's our land that's closest to the drilling site. We are the ones who are going to be affected."

In its environmental plan for the gas field, Santos said it had contacted Tiwi land council by email about the project and no responses raising issues or concerns had been received to date. In its environmental plan for the pipeline, the company said there had been ongoing contact with the Tiwi land council,

including during the formal consultation period in 2019.

The federal court action is the second legal challenge to the project. An earlier challenge launched by Tiwi Islander and Larrakia traditional owners which sought to prevent South Korea's export credit agencies from financing the development failed last month.

Tipakalippa said the drilling would threaten Tiwi Islanders' food sources, culture and way of life.

He said they were particularly concerned about damage to sea country if a spill occurred. "We spend a lot of time out in the water – hunting, fishing. We only ever take what we can eat in a day, no more," he said.

"We respect our homelands, our sea country and it looks after us. Santos should have respected us and consulted in the proper way."

Read full story:

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jun/07/tiwi-islanders-challenge-offshore-drilling-saying-santos-did-not-consult-them?link_id=4&can_id=939961b550f4c5604359e841ec9839d1&source=email-solidarity-news-what-does-an-albanese-win-mean-for-racial-justice-2&email_referrer=email_1582643&email_subject=your-june-news-roundup



The Vienna meeting from 21-23 June was the first intergovernmental gathering focused on addressing the threat of nuclear weapons since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Image: Creative Commons

A new era as Australia joins historic UN nuclear ban meeting
Tilman Ruff, Pearls & Irritations, June 22nd 2022

This week in Vienna, Australia joined a landmark gathering of eighty-three governments to further implement and develop the treaty banning nuclear weapons.

In a stunning demonstration of resolve, goodwill and cooperation, with no shred or adversarial politics, the meeting adopted a realistic action plan that breaks new ground. It maps out collaborative programs of work led by different states in key areas of treaty obligations: promoting treaty membership and

norms, complementarity with other nuclear treaties, disarmament processes including verification, and assisting victims and remediating (where possible) environments harmed by nuclear weapons use and testing. States also made a political declaration that is arguably the strongest and clearest rejection of nuclear weapons ever made by a multilateral gathering.

Five years ago, by a vote of 122 to 1 in the United Nations in New York, the first treaty to ban the worst weapons of mass destruction was born: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). For its role in bringing about the treaty, the Melbourne-born International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) became the first Australian-born entity to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The treaty entered into legal force last year, and this week for the first time, governments gathered to discuss and decide how to promote and implement the treaty.

The Australian delegation to Vienna was led by NSW Labor MP Susan Templeman, federal member for Macquarie, who last year said Australia “can and should lead international efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons”. She told the Blue Mountains Gazette this week: “It was great to be in Austria to observe the first Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) on behalf of Australia. ... Australia shares the ambition of TPNW states parties of a world free of nuclear weapons.”

The Vienna meeting from 21-23 June was the first intergovernmental gathering focused on addressing the threat of nuclear weapons since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and multiple threats by President Vladimir Putin to use nuclear weapons. Other “nuclear-endorsing” states attending the meeting as observers included NATO members Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Belgium. Sweden, Finland and Switzerland also joined.

Shamefully, the previous Australian government boycotted the negotiation of and opposed the TPNW, the first time Australia has ever boycotted multilateral disarmament negotiations. This stands in stark contrast to Australia under governments both Labor and Coalition having joined the treaties that ban biological and chemical weapons, landmines and cluster munitions.

Read full story:

<https://johnmenadue.com/australia-joins-historic-un-nuclear-ban-meeting/>

REFLECTIONS



Inner Awakening Facebook 24th June 2022

Sweet Spirit Songs

Jeanette Martin

RED POLKA DOT UMBRELLA

*In my younger years
I skipped through life
Dancing and twirling
In a red polka dotted
Ruffled dress with
A big crinoline
My arms couldn't reach around
It was magic
Enchanted even
Sailing me away from
Life's difficult moments
No words or hands
Could harm me
When I cloaked myself
In its beauty.....
You see*

*My God sheltered me with
A red polka dotted dress.....
Many years have
Have come and gone
I move more slowly
Body wizened with age
No more charmed dress.....
Or so I thought.....
Plodding through the storms of life
Hoisting bags of life's woes
Feeling alone
Downtrodden
Imagine my surprise
When these words filled my heart....
Beloved daughter
You are never alone
The rain stopped
For
You see
My God sheltered me
With an enchanted
Red polka dotted umbrella.....*

Jeanette Martin



Inner Awakening Facebook 26th June 2022

Pierre Pradervand

"May a kind word, a reassuring touch and a warm smile be with you every day of your life – and may you make these gifts to others and receive the same."

From 365 Blessings to heal myself and the world

Pace - e - Bene Nonviolence Inspirations

“Nelson Mandela went to jail believing in violence and 27 years later he and his colleagues honed the skills—the incredible skills—that they needed to turn one of the most vicious governments the world has known into a democracy and they did it in total devotion to nonviolence.” Scilla Elworthy

“Nonviolence is the first article of my faith. It is also the last article of my creed.” Mohandas K. Gandhi

“Through nonviolence, courage displaces fear. Love transforms hate. Acceptance dissipates prejudice. Hope ends despair. Peace dominates war. Faith reconciles doubt. Mutual regard cancels enmity. Justice for all overthrows injustice. The redemptive community supersedes systems of gross social immorality.” James Lawson

“The foundation of my beliefs is the same as it was when I was ten: nonviolence.” Joan Baez



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.

The Edmund Rice Centre wholeheartedly supports and endorses the
ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART
and urges all Australians to get behind this wonderful statement.

Our mailing address is:

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