



Edmund Rice Centre
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

ERC JUSTICE UPDATES

July 2022 No.73

Dear Friends,

This 73rd 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

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. *St. Francis of Assisi*

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.

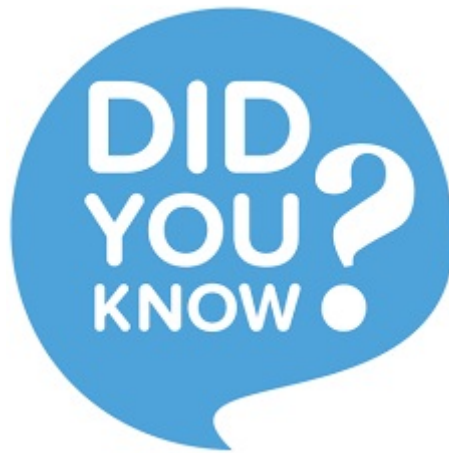
Previous editions are available at <https://www.erc.org.au/newsletters>

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.



The Climate Council's new report: *A fight for survival: Tackling the climate crisis is key to security in the Blue Pacific* has shown that to earn the trust of the rest of the region, Australia will need to show Pacific countries that it is serious about climate action. Key findings are:

- Climate change is an existential threat to the Pacific and time is running out.
- Australia must go harder and faster to act on the climate crisis to repair the relationship with our Pacific neighbours and address the growing security threat climate change poses for our region.
- Australia can and must take decisive action to act on climate change in accordance with what the science demands and in partnership and close consultation with Pacific communities and leaders.
- Australia wants to co-host a UN Climate Summit with Pacific nations, but must heed Pacific priorities for climate action.

COMPARING PACIFIC ISLAND CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE WITH THOSE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Emissions per capita for selected Pacific Island Forum Members (tCO₂e).

- Australia - 23.1
- New Zealand - 16.71
- Marshall Islands - 3.94
- Samoa - 3.47
- Tonga - 2.98
- Vanuatu - 2.9
- Fiji - 2.67
- Papua New Guinea - 2.55
- Solomon Islands - 1.41
- Kiribati - 1
- Solomon Islands

(See Figure 5: p.12)

PACIFIC POSITIONS AND PRIORITIES

Pacific Island leaders want the world's major emitters, including United States, China and Australia, to:

- Recognise climate change is a key threat to security
- Pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels
- Cut emissions at a pace that reflects the science
- End support for fossil fuels
- Support adaptation and provide finance to address climate impacts
- Address irreversible loss and damage

Read full Report:

https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resources/a-fight-for-survival-tackling-climate-crisis-key-to-security-in-the-blue-pacific/?utm_source=Climate+Council+of+Australia&utm_campaign=b34b987c9b-2207_JULY_Newsletter_%5BND_NSW%5D&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_03ddbdd2e5-b34b987c9b-157562494



Doctrine of Discovery: How a papal teaching subjugated Australia's First Nations people

BJ Cruse, Eureka Street, Vol.32, No.13, 7th July 2022

In his July 2021 article titled, 'The Uncomfortable Legacy: Colonisation and the Church,' Brian McCoy argues for the need for the Church to have a serious conversation to redress causes of the uncomfortable legacy of colonisation. I argue that, while the Church is deeply implicated in the practice of colonisation, the problem that McCoy highlights extends beyond the Church.

In the past, domineering Australian governments have maintained, and often

continue to maintain, a false Christian front to justify their wealth and power acquired through the dispossession of Australia's First Nations people and the theft of our lands and waterways. But colonial atrocities did not occur in a vacuum, but were instead informed by past Christian ideology and doctrine fortified and enforced by the Catholic Church.

The subjugation of the world's First Nations people was enshrined in the Doctrine of Discovery, a series of papal decrees made by Pope Alexander VI in 1493 where any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be 'discovered,' claimed, and exploited by Christian rulers. The Doctrine of Discovery legitimised Christian explorers' claims to land uninhabited by Christians, promoting and fortifying Christian domination, and forcing original inhabitants into Christianity. The Doctrine of Discovery fed into more modern Christian claims to lands, through the process of colonisation and via the illegal fiction of terra nullius.

These lies, formulated in 13th century Europe, were echoed in 1778 to legitimise British claims to Indigenous land in Australia. I believe these fabrications, having originated out of medieval Christian doctrine are perpetuated by contemporary governments to maintain their hold on First Nations' lands.

'A treaty embodying Christ's teachings will end Aboriginal enslavement and repair the enduring effects of past wrongs.'

The country we now know as Australia was invaded by a supposedly Christian nation under the guidance of a medieval Christian doctrine. To fulfil the requirements of this doctrine, the invading nation had to be Christian in order to bring 'Christ's civilizing light' to the 'dark corners' of the globe populated by allegedly primitive peoples. According to the Doctrine of Discovery, occupation as a Christian nation must take place to legitimise ownership over claimed lands and control over its people.

I believe any claim to Christianity by the Australian Government is a facade to continue fulfil the requirements of the Doctrine of Discovery. Australian governments simultaneously say they are doing all they can to help, whilst they are doing all they can to stifle Aboriginal wellbeing. Similarly, the Australian Government often claims to be Christian, yet wilfully operates contrary to God's law.

Read full story:

https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/doctrine-of-discovery--how-a-papal-teaching-subjugated-australia-s-first-nations-people?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Eureka%20Street%20-%20Thursday%207%20July%202022&utm_content=Eureka%20Street%20-%20Thursday%207%20July%202022+CID_642da9004faa0ad8ea2cb862a1a8dab0&utm_source=Jescom%20Newsletters&utm_term=READ%20MORE



Uncle Roger Patrick Jarrett and Uncle Robert Paul Young in front of the Kinchela Boys' Home bus experience at CathWest Innovation College during Reconciliation Week. Image: Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta/Supplied

Students inspired by brave Kinchela Boys Home survivors

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, 6th July 2022

“Heart-wrenching”, “life changing”, “perspective altering”, “eye opening”, “it completely tore at my heart.”

These are just some of the comments from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta students, teachers and staff who attended the moving Kinchela Boys' Home bus experience at CathWest Innovation College during Reconciliation Week.

Those in attendance heard harrowing stories from Uncle Roger Patrick Jarrett and Uncle Robert Paul Young who recounted their experiences at the Kinchela Boys Home where between 400 and 600 young boys were systematically removed from their families and communities and incarcerated under government and church policies up until its closure in 1970. They are acknowledged as part of the Stolen Generations.

“It wasn’t a home, it was a brutal institution,” said Mathew Parr, Education Coordinator at Kinchela Boys' Home Aboriginal Corporation. “It was one of the harshest boys' homes in Australia and certainly the harshest in New South Wales.”

Children were subjected to harsh and hostile treatment at the home. It was a place where physical hardship, punishment, cruelty, alienation and abuse (cultural, physical, psychological and sexual) were documented as having been part of the day-to-day life for children.

“To hear first hand the horrors faced by these young Aboriginal boys completely tore at my heart,” said Sophie, student at St Patrick’s Marist College Dundas.

“To learn about the Stolen Generation through books is one thing, but hearing it first-hand from survivors of the Kinchela Boys' Home is another,” added her St Patrick’s schoolmate Mikaela. “This was truly an eye opening experience that provided me and my peers with a whole new perspective on the Stolen

Generation and how the trauma caused several decades ago is still present and impacting people today.”

“I sobbed at the powerlessness and lost childhoods these men experienced,” said Ted Langford from Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta’s Jarara Indigenous Education Unit. “I felt their pain. No one should experience these horrors... the abuse, daily suffering, separation from family at such young ages while also losing their cultural identity.”

The two Uncles bravely told their stories and then openly fielded any and all questions from guests. Uncle Roger recounted vivid memories of how he and other children were locked up like animals to a giant Moreton Bay fig tree as punishment, often for minor things such as having dirty fingernails, wetting their bed, sweeping or mowing the grass the wrong way.

Read full story:

<https://catholicoutlook.org/students-inspired-by-brave-kinchela-boys-home-survivors/>



bell hooks



Image: Wikimedia Commons

The human catastrophe in Yemen. What a contrast to our media focus on Ukraine

Stuart Rees, Pearls & Irritations, 14th July 2022

In the last five years, an estimated 377,000 people have died in Yemen mostly from hunger, lack of health care and unsafe water. In Ukraine?

In Australian mainstream media reporting and in social media circles, the consequences of the war in Ukraine prompt outrage, and millions of Ukrainian refugees are welcomed by numerous countries. By contrast, the seven year-long catastrophe and carnage of the war in Yemen supported by the US, excites little interest. Why?

Reporting of people's suffering depends not only on what can be known, but also on stereotype perceptions of the people at risk. Whereas devastation in Ukraine is experienced by white citizens with ethnic, religious traits in common with English speaking countries, the dark people of Yemen would almost certainly be perceived as socially different and culturally unusual.

Stereotypes left unchallenged allow prejudices to grow. Australian commentators are not openly racist in their attitudes towards the suffering of Yemenis, but years of failure to demand an end to this war, suggest the unconscious prevalence of judgements nurtured by white people's views. A list of likely stereotypes merits attention. Yemen, somewhere in the Middle East, is poor, hot, desert like, discriminates against women and is a Muslim country. Despite universal human rights, despite having the same size population as Australia, it is not worthy of much attention. In minds where racially unconscious attitudes are stored, the moral worthiness yardstick is likely to affect citizens' understanding, media interest and government policies.

Although the war in Yemen has been underway since 2015, inquiries by the Columbia Journalism Review show why the conflict is under reported and seldom treated by journalists as a priority. Access to the country depends on visas granted by two warring sides, the Houthi controlled north and the Saudi

coalition in the south. Western journalists in Yemen report that if either side perceives them as US sponsored spies, survival is dangerous and pictures of the conflict difficult to obtain. Amnesty International says this is the forgotten war.

In English speaking countries, forgetfulness or indifference to suffering Yemenis exists, but significant corporate and political interest persists. So significant that a history of the war could be depicted as a mismatch between suffering women and children and arms industry profits.

The UN predicts that in the coming months, approximately 20 million Yemenis will go hungry. Reduced supplies of wheat from Ukraine will push hunger levels even higher. In the last five years, an estimated 377,000 people have died, mostly from hunger, lack of health care and unsafe water. Despite the corona virus pandemic, the UN reports that only 50% of health care facilities operate.

Read full article:

<https://johnmenadue.com/a-racial-unconscious-explains-indifference-to-the-victims-of-war-in-yemen/>



Image: Wikimedia Commons

Asylum seekers in Indonesia-alive, but not living

Duncan Graham, Pearls & Irritations, 11th July 2022

In one of its nastier theological fabrications seemingly driven by schadenfreude, the Catholic Church invented purgatory – heaven’s waiting room where sins were cleansed oftentimes by fire. The medieval idea has been largely smothered by modern church teachings more in line with Christ’s compassion, but the worldly equivalent thrives next door through Australian indifference.

Cisarua is a once picturesque and now overcrowded hilltown about 70 km south of Jakarta. The cool climate draws rich Indonesians escaping from the world’s third most polluted city a thousand metres below – and foreign escapees from persecution 6,000 kilometres to the north.

On 19 July 2013, PM Kevin Rudd declared asylum seekers on boats who failed to reach Australia by that date would never be allowed to settle. With that appeasement to tense voters imagining a tsunami of Asians, Rudd and his successors condemned thousands of families to a future gutted of purpose.

Only the most extreme evildoers get infinite sentences; the rest can put crosses on calendars. Though not the offshore asylum seekers. They've been convicted of wanting to live free of fear and build a better world believing Australians shared these values.

Boats organised by people smugglers and launched from Indonesian islands were turned back by armed sailors under the spine-stiffening title Operation Sovereign Borders. That left around 14,000 human beings stranded on the north side of the Arafura Sea.

Indonesia hasn't signed the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees, nor does it have a system to determine their status. So the national government has flipped problems to the UN High Commission for Refugees, which is supposed to 'identify solutions for refugees in the country.'

Finding the agency's centre in Jakarta used to be easy. Its steel door was occasionally narrowly opened for selected individuals. In the surrounding streets listless bodies curled in doorways.

Few would talk to the media and always no names. All seemed depressed, and suspicious. They had imported the fears they'd fled. As 'illegal aliens' the threat of deportation was real, though Jakarta mainly uses this tool against tourist visa overstayers.

Now the UNHCR is best located by protestors who shout their demands for resettlement as they did on World Refugee Day, 20 June this year. That's when we learned that more than 100 million around the globe have been forced to flee or be resigned to tyranny. The current euphemism is 'involuntary immobility'.

Read full article:

<https://johnmenadue.com/asylum-seekers-in-indonesia-alive-but-not-living/>



Image: iStock

The killing of Afghanistan

Frank Carrigan, Pearls & Irritations 7th July 2022

The core reason for the crumbling of the US empire is a familiar refrain in imperial history. As US economic power declines and continually makes strategic mistakes its military capacity will be jeopardised, and its network of client states will start to challenge its capacity to ensure their security.

In the late nineteenth century the percentage of global industrial output in the UK declined sharply as the US and Germany became the engine house of production. As its industrial heart began to wane its military base became overstretched, and the sun began to set on its empire. World War One was a brutal awakening. It exposed the UK as a mirage of power. The UK was only able to finance the war by turning to Wall Street. JP Morgan and other banks kept the UK in the battle, but the price was Wall Street becoming the financial hub of global capitalism.

With imperial decline the mandarins who run global empires can exhibit increasingly erratic behaviour as the fear of losing ascendancy increases. Not losing the best parts of the globe obsessed the UK ruling elite in the 1930s as they realised they lacked the power to fend off the combined weight of Germany, Italy and Japan. The plan was to get the fascist powers and Soviet Russia to obliterate one another, and the UK could pick up the pieces. That scheme was spiked by Stalin signing a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany. The upshot was the US had to rescue the UK in World War Two—but at a price. The Lend Lease program bled the UK white, and Roosevelt demanded the dissolution of the British Empire. The US power elite filled the global vacuum.

Now it is the turn of the US to feel the heat from an imperial competitor snapping at its heels. As Conrad graphically shows in *Heart of Darkness*, violence is a component part of imperialism. But fading empires lift the tempo in violence as they feel the orb of their control slipping away. The US made it clear as far back as the 1992 Wolfowitz doctrine that nothing would stop it remaining the only superpower. Any pretenders to the throne would be met with violence is the theme which resonates through the Wolfowitz doctrine. So it has proved.

Look no further than the corollary of its defeat in Afghanistan to realise the US will go down fighting on every front. When military power fails every device will be utilised to stem the road to perdition.

As the Taliban marched on Kabul, their representatives received a warm welcome in Beijing. China made it clear to the Taliban that they wanted a strong government in Afghanistan that could provide security. China was at pains to point out Afghanistan must not give refuge to separatist fighters from the Uyghur East Turkistan Islamic Movement. The Taliban assured China the border between Afghanistan and China would be airtight, and they would not countenance any infiltration of Chinese territory by any group hostile to China. The path was open for Chinese investment to flow into Afghanistan from a country brimming with surplus capital.

Once the Taliban took control in Afghanistan, Chinese humanitarian aid began to roll in. But the Taliban leadership yearns for the enrichment of the economy which is the path out of the underdevelopment that has been the scourge of Afghanistan. They want the royalty rates from an untapped mining sector. China is keen to oblige. Now after decades of war and conflict the climate is safe for China to start developing the world's largest known deposit of copper. The Mes Aynak Copper Mine will provide thousands of jobs to locals, and boost Afghanistan revenues. Afghanistan has also offered Chinese companies exploration rights to search for oil.

Read full article:

<https://johnmenadue.com/the-killing-of-afghanistan/>



Amnesty International Australia Facebook Post 8th July 2022

As the COVID outbreak continues to spread fast on Nauru, and the prices of food and water keep soaring - refugees who remain trapped in Australia's cruel offshore detention regime are struggling to access food, water and medicines.

Refugees on Nauru are under the Australian Government's care. They've been detained for almost 9 years awaiting a resettlement solution - and now they face a humanitarian crisis. The Australian government must urgently evacuate them to Australia while they await resettlement processes. #GameOver



Justice for Bernard Collaery must be the beginning of decisive action on whistleblowers

Kieran Pender, *The Guardian*, 8th July 2022

It was hard to watch the bureaucratic machine perpetrating injustice – Mark Dreyfus must now intervene in the other two cases

It was easy to feel hopeless, watching from the sidelines as a brave whistleblower went through hell.

For four years now, Bernard Collaery has been in legal battle with the Australian government – dozens of judgments, scores of hearings, millions of dollars and a trial approaching. All for doing the right thing, for allegedly speaking up about government wrongdoing. And what wrongdoing it was: Australia's espionage against an impoverished, war-torn neighbour, to cheat it of billions of dollars in the extraction of oil and gas from underneath the Timor Sea.

Collaery was up against the full might of the federal government, with its countless lawyers and barristers, an endless legal budget and secrecy laws tilted in its favour. What hope did we have that justice would prevail? I thought about this every time I walked through the entrance of the ACT supreme court, past the hardy souls who gathered, hearing after hearing, to show solidarity for Collaery and disgust at the actions of the government. Led by Kathryn Kelly and Sister Susan Connelly, this group – the Alliance Against Political Prosecutions – remained upbeat.

Their message was simple and plastered on banners and on a repurposed fire truck parked outside the court: drop the prosecution. They raged against the deterioration of transparency and accountability in this country and insisted that Australia could – no, must – be better than this.

Time after time, as this opaque legal saga played out in the supreme court, the court of appeal and the high court, *these tenacious citizens fronted up and offered something remarkable: hope.*

.....

The government fought every battle and conceded nothing. At its most absurd, when the court of appeal declined to order a secret trial, the government went all the way to the high court, not on a substantive matter of legal principle, but to keep that judgment itself secret. It also threw secret evidence at the case – evidence that not even Collaery, the defendant, could see, as Mossop weighed up the level of secrecy to apply to the trial.

The bureaucratic machine was perpetrating injustice, and it seemed unstoppable. Legions of government lawyers deployed against a solitary whistleblower.

.....

The attorney general, Mark Dreyfus, should be applauded. He made the right decision. But this must be the beginning, not the end, of decisive action from the new government. Two other whistleblowers remain on trial – Richard Boyle, who spoke up about wrongdoing at the tax office, and David McBride, who blew the whistle on potential war crimes committed by Australian forces in Afghanistan. Having intervened to stop the Collaery prosecution, Dreyfus should now do the same in the other two cases.

The attorney general must also ensure this never happens again. The Public Interest Disclosure Act should be amended to ensure it better protects whistleblowers. Prosecutorial guidelines should be revised to emphasise the public interest in transparency and that cases against journalists and whistleblowers undermine democracy.

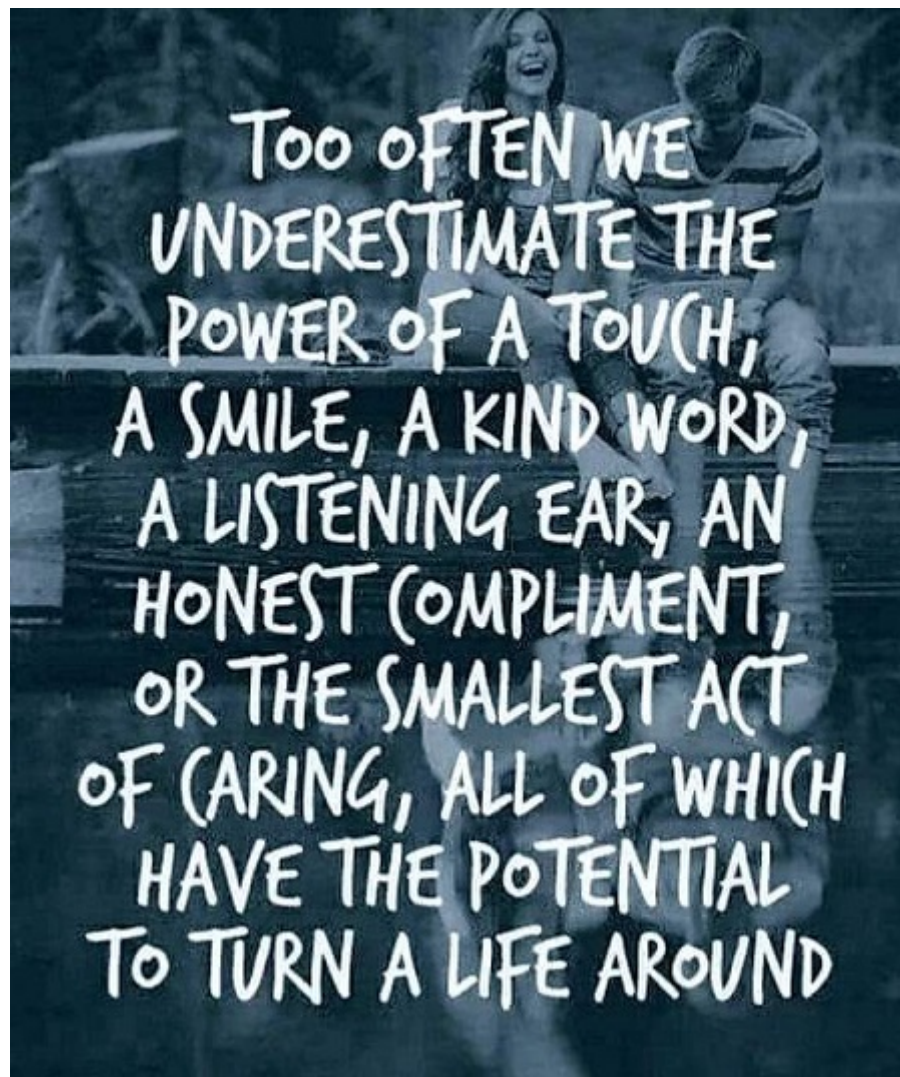
.....

Thursday was a good day for Australian democracy. Much remains to be done, but for a moment, we can pause and reflect: through collective effort, we achieved positive change. Australia is a better place today because thousands of us spoke up – at rallies, in the media, in letters to our elected representatives – and said that we would not stand for injustice.

Collectively, we said that whistleblowers should be protected, not punished. At last, that message was heard.

Read full story:

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/commentisfree/2022/jul/08/justice-for-bernard-collaery-must-be-the-beginning-of-decisive-action-on-whistleblowers?utm_term=62cb8424de37da4ab14322457cad8221&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU_email



Edmund Rice Centre

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MESSAGE FROM PACIFIC CALLING PARTNERSHIP TEAM

This week's Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders meeting in Suva is being increasingly seen by many as a test of the Albanese government's commitment to climate action and climate justice.

Ahead of this year's PIF, the Edmund Rice Centre and the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network facilitated a joint open letter to Prime Minister Albanese signed by 30 Pacific and Australian civil society organisations. This letter, which you can read [here](#), asks Mr Albanese to urgently end reliance on fossil fuels, support adequate climate finance and Loss and Damage funding for the Pacific and endorse Vanuatu's request to seek an International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the issue of climate

change and its impact on human rights.

It will not be easy for the Albanese government to navigate the expectations of this year's PIF, particularly given this morning's report that there are currently 27 coal expansion projects waiting for federal approval.

The pre-PIF Foreign Ministers' meeting late last week also endorsed the declaration of a Climate Emergency, putting yet more pressure on the Albanese government to demonstrate its commitment to climate action.

There are also reports that the nation of Kiribati has now formally withdrawn its membership of the PIF, in a development that will threaten regional unity at a moment where it is needed more than ever.

This week's PIF is shaping up to be a very important moment for the issue of climate change in the Pacific and we encourage you to follow developments via our Twitter account.

If you are not on Twitter, we will also be issuing an update at the end of this week or early next week with the main outcomes of the PIF.

Watch this space.

In hope and solidarity,

Corinne Fagueret (Coordinator PCP) and all of us on the PCP team

Edmund Rice Centre

<http://www.erc.org.au/>



Pulau's President Surangel Whipps expects more from Australia. Credit: Joe Armao

Albanese embraces Pacific challenge as nations demand tougher climate action

Eryk Bagshaw, The Age, 13th July 2022

Suva: Anthony Albanese is facing his first major international test as prime minister as he attempts to negotiate with Solomon Islands, sell a climate

package and convince Pacific leaders that Australia will remain a valuable security partner in the region.

Albanese will head into the second day of the Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting facing calls from the president of the strategically significant island nation of Palau to lift Australia's emissions reduction ambition. On Wednesday, after a warm but frank meeting with Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, Albanese announced Australia would build a new \$83 million headquarters for the Fijian Navy to head off Beijing's rising security ambitions.

In a warning ahead of Australia's campaign to host the United Nations climate change conference in 2024, Palau's President Surangel Whipps told The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age that Labor should match the 50 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 target that other advanced economies including Britain and the US have adopted.

"Islands in the Pacific are going under, Australia should be taking the lead. It should be more ambitious," Whipps said. "The most vulnerable nations are in the Pacific. If they are going to be a host, let's set that target at 50 per cent."

Australia has a target of 43 per cent reduction by 2030 – a level that climate scientists say will not be enough to stop the planet from warming by 2 degrees.

Albanese, Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Pacific Minister Pat Conroy have insisted publicly that Pacific leaders have expressed their relief at Labor's updated targets but in private meetings, regional envoys have urged the government to do more.

"The dominant issue in the discussions I had with Pacific leaders in the lead up to the Pacific Island Forum was overwhelmingly climate change," Albanese said after landing in Suva on Wednesday.

Climate is becoming a key strategic battle with China at the forum, as Australia pushes for more pressure to be put on Beijing as the world's largest emitter.

Read full article:

<https://www.theage.com.au/politics/federal/albanese-embraces-pacific-challenge-as-nations-demand-tougher-climate-action-20220713-p5b17n.html>



In Argentina, the International Monetary Fund has pushed for the development of the giant Vaca Muerta shale gas basin.

Photograph: Emiliano Lasalvia/AFP/Getty Images

There's a simple way to unite everyone behind climate justice – and it's within our power

George Monbiot, The Guardian, 24th June 2022

Cancelling poor nations' historic debts would allow their governments to channel money into climate adaptation.

It has proved too easy to stop people uniting around the crucial issues of our time. Those who demand better pay and conditions for workers and justice for poor people have been pitched by demagogues and corporate lobbyists against those who demand a habitable planet.

For years, we have struggled with the question of how to overcome this division and create a social and environmental justice platform that could unite vast numbers of the world's people. Only one thing was clear: any such campaign had to be led by activists from poorer nations. Now, I believe, the breakthrough has arrived.

To understand this proposal better, let's begin with the poorer world's debt, now largely forgotten in the rich world. The powerful campaigns to cancel it in the 1990s have all but vanished from public view. This is not because the crisis has abated. Far from it: between 1990 and 2019, external debt in the global south (the poorer nations) rose on average from roughly 90% of their GDP to 170%. The pandemic has accelerated the crisis: 135 out of 148 nations in the poorer world are now classed as "critically indebted".

Campaigners often talk of "odious debts", which means loans agreed by dictatorships, that provide no benefit to the nation. But all the debts deemed to be owed by poor nations to the rich world and its corporations could be seen this way. The idea that the global south, looted and enslaved for centuries, should owe money to its exploiters is grotesque.

An analysis in the journal *Global Environmental Change* suggests that \$10tn

of value is extracted from poorer countries by richer ones every year, in the form of raw materials, energy, land and labour. That's 70 times as much money as would be needed to end extreme poverty worldwide. This extraction provides rich nations with a quarter of their GDP: much of our apparent wealth depends on exploitation.

Developed by campaigners in some of the world's most exploited countries, it's a brilliant idea: simple but systemic. Rich nations owe a massive climate debt to poorer nations: for the devastating impacts of the fossil fuels we have burned. Yet they have no intention of paying for the loss and damage they have caused. Poor countries are deemed to owe massive financial debts to the rich nations, yet they cannot pay them without destroying their economies and their ecosystems. The proposal is simultaneously to cancel both the climate and the financial debts, liberating the money poorer nations need to take climate action. Debt for Climate, mobilising labour, social and climate movements in 28 countries, will be launched by campaigners during the G7 summit in Germany, which starts on Sunday.

Read full story:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/jun/24/rich-nations-climate-debt-cancelling-debts-emissions-global-debt-swap-campaign?fbclid=IwAR3X_VQ4F-QqmM7AomXpu3StcpLtYUUTFnV1Ifu3jJaBqY121FkOwVL9DZ4

REFLECTIONS



"We see that the earth is not only the environment. The earth is us. And taking care of the earth, we take care of ourselves. And many people get sick today because they get alienated from Mother Earth. . . . The practice of mindfulness helps us to go back

to our body and touch Mother Earth inside of our body and touch the earth outside of our body. That practice can help heal people. So the healing of the people should go together with the healing of the earth." **Thich Nhat Hanh**



Jamberoo Abbey Facebook Post 12th July 2022

Thank you to all our "listeners" (Benedictine style!) for all the feast day greetings yesterday. We enjoyed the day to the full and remembered all our Oblates and friends in our prayers.

In Vision & Viewpoint which arrived in my box overnight, our Benedictine sisters in Erie, Pennsylvania shared the following psalm with an invitation in the preamble:

"This psalm poem of peace consists of writings from the Rule of Benedict. As a way to celebrate the feast, you might say it every day this week and use one stanza each day for lectio."

PSALM OF PEACE FROM THE RULE OF BENEDICT

Refrain: Seek Peace and Pursue It. Seek Peace and Pursue It.

Listen with the ear of your heart.

***This is advice from one who loves you,
welcome it and faithfully put it into practice.***

***If today you hear God's voice,
do not harden your hearts.***

*Your way of acting should be different
from the world's way.
The love of Christ must come before all else.
Be the first to show respect for the other.
Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit,
turn away from evil and do good,
seek peace and pursue it.*

*Refrain: Seek Peace and Pursue It. Seek Peace and Pursue It.
Pray for your enemies out of love for Christ.
If you have a dispute with someone, make peace with them.
Do not let the sun go down on your anger.
Do not return evil for evil,
do no injury,
even patiently bear the injury done to you.
Love your enemies.
Bear persecution for justice sake.
Never lose hope in God's mercy.
Never lose hope in God's mercy.
Refrain: Seek Peace and Pursue It. Seek Peace and Pursue It*

—prayer from Mount Saint Benedict, Erie, PA

Pace - e - Bene Nonviolence Inspirations

"As we live our truths, we will communicate across all barriers, speaking for the sources of peace. Peace that is not lack of war, but fierce and positive."
Muriel Rukeyser, The Life of Poetry

"What is magnificent about humans is when they decide to turn and stand. If they respond with nonviolence on principle and hold their ground, they are really magnificent." James Crosswell

"The man or woman is sure, whether through the guidance of the Spirit of Christ or the guidance of their reasoning powers or both, that war is spiritually degrading, that it is the wrong way to settle disputes between classes or nations, the wrong way to meet aggression or oppression, the wrong way to preserve national or personal ideals: that man or woman who is sure of this must obviously take no part in war and indeed must actively oppose it."
Kathleen Lonsdale

"Hope doesn't preclude feeling sadness or frustration or anger or any other emotion that makes total sense. Hope isn't an emotion, you know? Hope is not optimism. Hope is a discipline. . . . We have to practice it every single day."

Mariame Kaba



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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