



**Edmund Rice Centre**  
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

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## **ERC JUSTICE UPDATES**

### **September 2022 No.75**

Dear Friends,

This 75th 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**

**If you don't like something, change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Mary Engelbreit**

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

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

**Peace & Blessings**

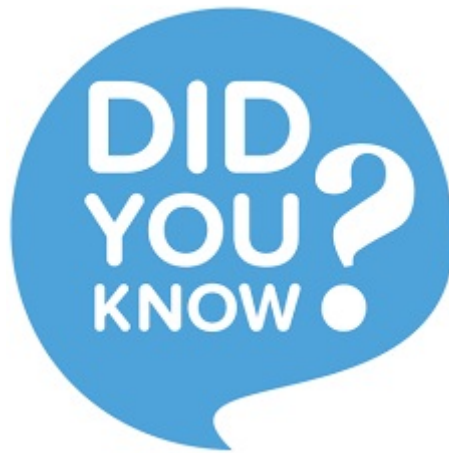
**Marita**

**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.*



**A recent Major Report entitled 'A plan to end homelessness' by Homelessness Australia sets out a plan of four clear targets for action:**

- **Halve the number of households experiencing rental stress by 2027 and end rental stress by 2032;**
- **End homelessness for women, children and young people;**
- **End homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians;**
- **Halve the numbers of people returning to homeless services by 2027, and halve the numbers again by 2032.**

**Key recommendations in the report include:**

- **Building 25,000 social housing properties a year**
- **Providing a housing guarantee to women and children fleeing family violence**
- **Providing homes and support to people who have been homeless multiple times to help them stay housed**
- **Providing young people who can't live at home with the support they need to succeed**
- **Increasing JobSeeker to at least \$70 a day and boosting Commonwealth Rental Assistance by 50 per cent.**

**Key facts in the report:**

- **Since June 2021, rents in Australia have increased 13.2 per cent, with rents in some locations increasing more than 25 per cent in a year**
- **In 2020-21, 109,207 people came to homeless services needing long-term housing.**
- **This housing was only provided to 3.4 per cent of those needing a home. More than 76,000 people missed out on the housing they**

**needed**

- In 2020-21, 77,943 people needing homelessness help were turned away by services who didn't have the staff or other resources needed to respond
- In 2020-21, 41,652 young people presented alone to homeless services: more than one in seven of all homeless clients
- When income support was increased In June 2020, homelessness numbers dropped and rent stress among households receiving Commonwealth Rent Assistance fell from 40.5 per cent to 29.4 per cent. Rent stress was avoided for more than 155,000 households.
- First Nations Australians are 9.4 times more likely to be without a home than other Australians.
- In 2020-21, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians represented three per cent of the Australian population but 28 per cent of specialist homelessness service users

**Homelessness Australia chair Jenny Smith said “We urge the Albanese government to use Homelessness Australia’s report as its basis when following through on its commitment to a national housing and homelessness plan.”**

**Read full report:**

<https://homelessnessaustralia.org.au/major-report-shows-path-to-ending-homelessness-in-australia/>

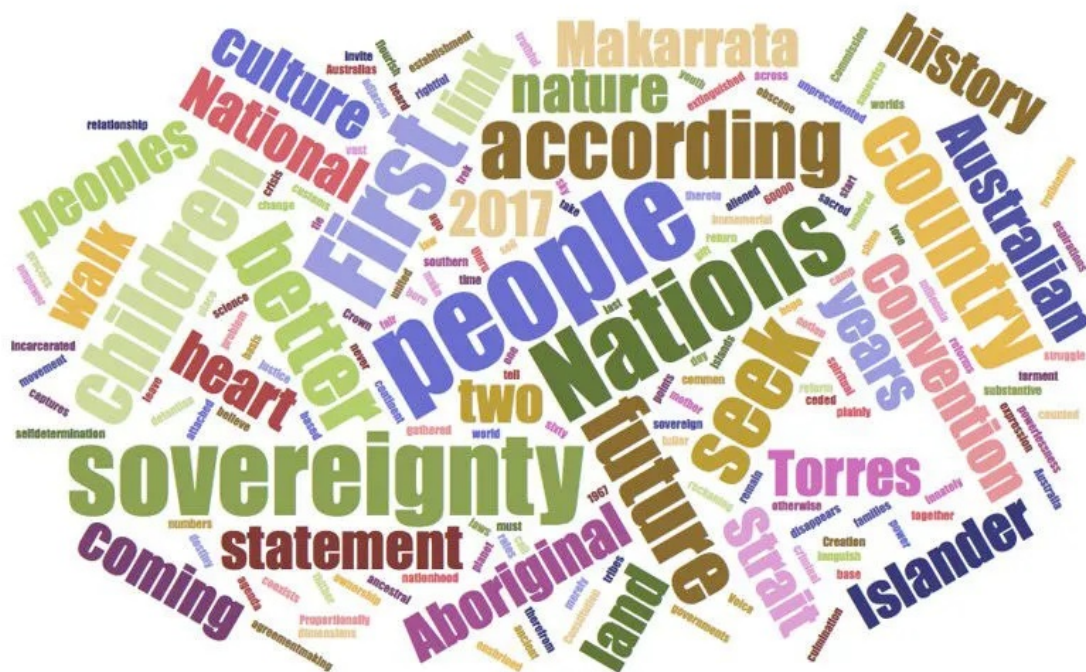


Image: Flickr / Ron Mader

## Uluru Statement and Makaratta message redefine sovereignty

*There is a huge contrast between the notion sovereignty depicted in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and political leaders' perception of this concept as a weapon. Uluru's message forecasts hope through reciprocity and healing.*

Politicians present sovereignty as a rampart to be defended, even as a justification for attack. Clothed in threats of violence, their noise about sovereignty can be deafening, but if redefined, sovereignty could promote non-violence and be music to our ears.

In their Makaratta prescription for people coming together after a struggle, the Uluru authors insist that an ancient sovereignty can shine as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood. The vision is humane, the language generous. Makaratta 'captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.'

Simultaneous with publicity about the Uluru statement, Russian, Chinese, US and Israeli leaders were repeating that sovereignty should be defended by military operations. By muttering the word, they could claim a moral justification for extending national borders, even for invading other countries.

Australians marshal similar arguments. When ABC's Sarah Ferguson asked Defence Minister Richard Marles whether alliance with the US would mean giving up some of Australia's sovereignty, the Minister answered, 'No, but sovereignty is a really important question... having sovereignty really matters and submarines are a good example of that.'

Conventional appeals to sovereignty look like fraud. Nations' supposed independence can be protected by finding and dominating enemies. States' borders can be respected by threats to kill and destroy. By contrast, Uluru questions a view of sovereignty which is explained by reference to force of arms.

By rejecting uncritical reverence for a nation's supposed independence, sovereignty can be redefined. It needs to be. Climate change catastrophes, world-wide pandemics, and threats to existence from the use of nuclear weapons, respect no borders. Conventional posturing about sovereignty is irrelevant.

**Read full article:**

<https://johnmenadue.com/uluru-statement-and-makaratta-message-redefine-sovereignty/>



Workers on a sugar cane plantation, Queensland c.1890. Public domain

## **Friday essay: a slave state - how blackbirding in colonial Australia created a legacy of racism**

**Jeff Sparrow, *The Conversation*, 5th August 2022**

In July 2021, Jack Dempsey, the mayor of Bundaberg, delivered an official apology for Northern Queensland's past reliance on the indentured labour of Pacific Islanders, many of whom were kidnapped (or "blackbirded") and forced to work on the state's cane plantations. "To say sorry," explained Dempsey, "is a start in the healing and the hope for a better relationship going forward."

The emotional response – equal parts sorrow and relief – from the local Islander community confirmed the gesture's importance. "I'm thinking about my mother and my brother and my aunties who have all passed on," said Aunty Coral Walker, the president of the Bundaberg South Sea Islanders Heritage Association. "It would have meant a lot to them because they were a part of that era where they knew about blackbirding."

But if the Bundaberg apology began a healing, it by no means completed it. On the contrary, the statement highlighted the inadequacy of Australia's reckoning with its past.

That's because the practice Dempsey described – sometimes known as "sugar slavery" – was not a minor or incidental phenomenon. In fact, it was so important to plantation owners that, to defend it, they briefly contemplated separation from the rest of the colony, with Townsville mooted as the capital of what many observers dubbed a "slave state". This "scheme for the extension and perpetuation of the slavery system" showed, one journalist claimed at the time, that Queensland had become "what the United States were before the Wars of the Secession".

Similar references to civil war occurred again and again during the debates prior to the federation of the Australian colonies. Slavery and its consequences – both in Queensland and in the American South – obsessed Australia's founders, and fundamentally moulded the country they created. Australia's first prime minister, Edmund Barton, explained, quite accurately, that the "limited slavery" of the cane fields had agitated "the whole of Australia" and so was "a



question which belongs to the Federation we have succeeded in establishing". He also outlined the shocking philosophy upon which he considered Australia based:

*I do not think either that the doctrine of the equality of man was really ever intended to include racial equality. There is no racial equality. There is basic inequality. These races are, in comparison with white races – I think no one wants convincing of this fact – unequal and inferior. The doctrine of the equality of man was never intended to apply to the equality of the Englishman and the Chinaman. There is deep-set difference, and we see no prospect and no promise of its ever being effaced. Nothing in this world can put these two races upon an equality. Nothing we can do by cultivation, by refinement, or by anything else will make some races equal to others.*

**Read full article:**

<https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-a-slave-state-how-blackbirding-in-colonial-australia-created-a-legacy-of-racism-187782>



Freedom Day Festival(ABC News: Roxanne Fitzgerald)

## **Thousands recreate the Wave Hill walk-off, originally led by Vincent Lingiari, at the Freedom Day Festival in Kalkarindji**

***Roxanne Fitzgerald and Myles Houlbrook-Walk, [www.abc.net.au/news](http://www.abc.net.au/news), 27th August 2022***

For Vincent Lingiari's great-granddaughter, every step in the march of yesterday's recreation of the Wave Hill walk-off — a protest which would pave the way for Aboriginal land rights in Australia — was emotionally charged.

Key points:

- The remote NT town of Kalkarindji has exploded with people who flocked to celebrate Freedom Day Festival
- It's been 56 years since Vincent Lingiari led 200 stockmen and their families off Wave Hill Station

- What started out as a battle over equal pay soon became a fight over land rights

"I'm still learning a lot about my great-grandfather, hearing about him makes me really proud, very happy and sometimes emotional because I never really got to met him," Selma Smiler said.

"It wasn't only about Gurindji people, it was about different tribes along with my great-grandfather."

Still walking in the footsteps of her family line, she said she felt like the fight he started wasn't even close to being finished.

"My people, as Aboriginal people, are still fighting that, one day we will get there," she said.

***"It will be exactly like what my great-grandfather did, so one day we will get there hopefully."***

The walk-off was one of the longest strikes in history, spanning almost a decade.

It began when 200 stockmen and their families walked off Wave Hill Station in the deep Northern Territory outback in 1966 to protest years of exploitation, horrendous living conditions and murder.

A replica green Bedford truck — which was used by unionists during the years of protest to deliver letters and food to the strikers — led the slow march out of the tiny town of Kalkarindji, across a bridge and down dusty unsealed roads.

It's been 56 years since the seminal point in Australian history, but every year the small community — which is the birthplace of the Australian land rights movement — opens to the masses for the annual Freedom Day Festival.

**Read full story:**

[https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-27/nt-freedom-day-march-56th-anniversary-wave-hill-walk-off/101379052?fbclid=IwAR0tl\\_FMDoPIbwi7ZqnlfEp-YFBbQh2By5dhbtR8byl0bSrHvM9xDgG5jll](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-27/nt-freedom-day-march-56th-anniversary-wave-hill-walk-off/101379052?fbclid=IwAR0tl_FMDoPIbwi7ZqnlfEp-YFBbQh2By5dhbtR8byl0bSrHvM9xDgG5jll)

When one door of  
happiness closes, another opens,  
but often we look so long at the  
closed door that we do not see the  
one that has been opened for us.

-Helen Keller



A woman wearing a burka walks through a bird market as she holds her child in downtown Kabul in May after Taliban rulers ordered all Afghan women to wear head-to-toe clothing in public. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)

## **Afghanistan a year after the Taliban occupation: An ongoing war on human rights**

**Ferdouse Asefi, The Conversation, 1st August 2022**



The word “anniversary” usually brings about happy and memorable moments. But Aug. 15 marks one year since the Taliban takeover and occupation of Afghanistan, and it’s not a happy occasion for my homeland.

Recently, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released a report entitled “Human Rights in Afghanistan,” delving into the situation in the country since the takeover.

The report is troubling but not shocking as it highlights civilian casualties, restrictions on women’s rights and freedom of speech, extrajudicial killings and ethnic minority persecutions. Yet a lot is under-reported due to the difficulties in gathering evidence against the Taliban, which has censored the media and mistreated journalists.

The UNAMA report states that the Taliban have taken steps “aimed at the protection and promotion of human rights” and that the security has improved. UNAMA has proposed several recommendations to the Taliban as the extremist regime tries to enhance its reputation globally, but the fundamental human rights of Afghans continue to be violated.

### ***War against women***

Afghanistan is under occupation. There have been many reports detailing the forced displacement and systemic genocide against the Hazara population, targeted violence and eyewitness reports of the mass killings of 600 Tajik hostages, crimes against humanity in Panjshir, strip-mining of mineral wealth and the war the Taliban are waging against women.

As the Taliban send their daughters to schools overseas, secondary schools for other girls have been banned for almost a year.

Women are forced to wear the hijab or burqa, park visits are segregated by sex and women were recently sacked from their jobs at the Finance Ministry in favour of male relatives.

Amnesty International’s recent report describes the situation of Afghan women as “death in slow motion.” With the scrapping also of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, this is a gender-apartheid regime.

The Taliban have also instructed men to grow beards and not trim them, and to wear local clothing or face consequences.

Other tragedies are ongoing. Millions of Afghans have been displaced since the occupation. A powerful earthquake in June killed more than 1,000 people, leading to a cholera outbreak. The Doha Agreement, a peace pact signed between the U.S. and Taliban to mark the withdrawal of all forces in Afghanistan, has also been breached as terrorist groups reposition themselves under the Taliban.

**Read full article:**

<https://theconversation.com/afghanistan-a-year-after-the-taliban-occupation-an->

[ongoing-war-on-human-rights-187728?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2003%202022%20-%202364823585&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2003%202022%20-%202364823585+CID\\_758ab0eea888f7416af7746b224d808d&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor&utm\\_term=Afghanistan%20a%20year%20after%20the%20Taliban%20occupation%20An%20ongoing%20war%20on%20human%20rights](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/15/ongoing-war-on-human-rights-187728?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2003%202022%20-%202364823585&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%2003%202022%20-%202364823585+CID_758ab0eea888f7416af7746b224d808d&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=Afghanistan%20a%20year%20after%20the%20Taliban%20occupation%20An%20ongoing%20war%20on%20human%20rights)



Kabul airport after the Taliban takeover in August 2021. A year on, many Afghans who have been granted 449 visas are still waiting to get to Australia. Photograph: Wakil Kohsar/AFP/Getty Images

## **‘Every day I am fearful’: Afghans with Australian visas wait in limbo a year after the fall of Kabul**

***Ben Doherty, The Guardian, 15th August 2022***

One man who served with Australian troops tells the Guardian he is stranded in a Dutch refugee camp while his family remain in hiding in Afghanistan

Sayed\* cannot forget the chaos of his final hours at Kabul airport – the surging masses of people trying to board any flight they could, his own desperate, unsuccessful pleading to board an Australian flight – showing the 449 visa he’d been hastily granted to enter the country.

A year later, still clinging to that 449 visa, he is yet to find a way to Australia. He is stranded in a refugee camp in the Netherlands, his family remain in hiding in Afghanistan, fearful of the Taliban insurgents hunting him.

He is one of hundreds of Afghan nationals bearing visas for Australia for whom the harried escape from a collapsing republican Afghanistan has descended into a grinding, uncertain wait to find a way, finally, to Australia.

Many are stranded in the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran, semi-legal and fearful, eking out a penurious existence on the margins. Waiting.

But the number of Afghans seeking to come to Australia far outstrips the

humanitarian places. The government has pleaded for “patience”, and for people to remain safe.

‘We relied on each other’

The Taliban came, Sayed says, with astonishing swiftness.

The night the Taliban swept into Kandahar, violently retaking control of the city they regard as their spiritual home, Sayed was just minutes ahead of them.

As rumours spread that the Taliban were resurgent and would ultimately win the months-long battle for the city, Sayed scrambled aboard a bus to Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital and the city supposedly most impregnable to the Taliban’s sweep north.

Noor Mohammad Ramazan walks his son Daniel home from school.

It would prove to be false hope. Within days, Kabul would also fall.

On the journey north, Sayed carried with him items that were deeply compromising: the “night letters” left by the Taliban warning he would be killed for his work on behalf of the foreign “infidels”; his identity papers; and documents detailing his service for the Australian military.

*\* Sayed’s name has been changed to protect his family.*

**Read full story:**

[https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/14/every-day-i-am-fearful-afghans-with-australian-visas-wait-in-limbo-a-year-after-the-fall-of-kabul?utm\\_term=62f9a8a3e0076c30567a8fe0821996fe&utm\\_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/aug/14/every-day-i-am-fearful-afghans-with-australian-visas-wait-in-limbo-a-year-after-the-fall-of-kabul?utm_term=62f9a8a3e0076c30567a8fe0821996fe&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayAUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTAU_email)



**A message from the PACIFIC CALLING PARTNERSHIP**

The Edmund Rice Centre Pacific Calling Partnership is helping to support a tour of Sydney/Canberra by two members of the Pacific Elders Voice - H.E. Anote Tong (former President of Kiribati) and Mr Tommy Remengesau Jr (former President of Palau).

The focus of this tour is to raise the profile of climate action and climate justice in the Pacific in the context of Australia's commitments and the upcoming COP27.

**Mr Tong and Mr Remengesau will start their tour in Sydney on 6 Sept before moving to Canberra on 11 Sept where they will stay until 15 Sept.**

**While in Australia, Mr Tong and Mr Remengesau will attend a number of meetings with Federal Ministers and cross benchers, as well as public events and media opportunities. On 15 Sept, Mr Anote Tong will also speak at a Parliamentary event focusing on the release of the latest Climate Finance/L&D report prepared by Oxfam/Action Aid and others.**

**We will keep you updated of all public events as they are finalised so that you can register for them. but this is the first one to go public:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/climate-action-what-are-pacific-island-nations-hoping-for-from-australia-tickets-410888637977>







Image: Flickr / Dennis Jarvis

## **Environment: UN declares right to a healthy environment**

***Peter Sainsbury, Pearls & Irritations, 6th August 2022***

*Global right to a healthy, sustainable environment declared but governments conspire to hide the truth about climate change, Tassie sanctions the killing of native wildlife and Brazil encourages dangerous mining deep in the Amazon.*

### ***UN declares right to healthy, sustainable environment***

Following the lead of the United Nations Human Rights Council a year ago, the General Assembly of the UN has recognised that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right. A right that is not simply an airy-fairy concept but one that involves the right to participate in relevant decision-making processes, to have access to environmental information and to have the ability to seek an effective remedy for transgressions. UN recognition of the right to a healthy environment is not legally binding on member states but the resolution is clear that nations are expected to honour their international agreements and take action to implement them. The resolution is also expected to be a catalyst to empower citizens to hold governments to account.

António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General, welcomed the decision and said that 'This landmark development demonstrates that Member States can come together in our collective fight against the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The resolution will help reduce environmental injustices, close protection gaps and empower people, especially those that are in vulnerable situations, including environmental human rights defenders, children, youth, women and indigenous peoples'.

### **Tasmania's killing fields**

Since 2019, 2.8 million wallabies, kangaroos and possums, 14,000 Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, 5,000 Black Swans, 3,000 Wood Ducks, 1,800 Cape Barren Geese and many more species of native wildlife have been killed by

farmers under Property Protection Permits issued by the Tasmanian government. All because of a widespread but mistaken belief that they are seriously damaging crops. In 2022!! Unfathomable. No wonder Australian biodiversity is deteriorating when this sort of crazy behaviour goes on.

### **IPCC Summaries for Policymakers – fact or creative writing?**

Most people with even a passing interest in climate change are aware of the significance of the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its Working Groups. During the last year, three Working Group reports have been released on the evolving science of climate change, on mitigation of climate change and on the impacts of and vulnerability to climate change. A Synthesis Report is due for release early in 2023.

Hundreds of scientists from around the world review thousands of published research papers to produce each Working Group report, which constitutes a snapshot of the current state of knowledge. The full report often runs to a couple of thousand pages. Clearly not many people will read 2,000 pages and so the same scientists produce a shorter, say 50 page, Summary for Policymakers (SPM). It's not easy condensing 2,000 pages into 50 but compromise and consensus deliver what the experts believe is an honest statement of what the science is currently telling us.

But the scientists' version of the SPM is only a draft. It has to be reviewed and edited not just line by line but word by word by all the world's governments. A consensus has to be reached before the 'final' Summary for Policymakers, the one the public sees, is formally released. In this inter-governmental editing process the science is left behind and political and corporate muscle and horse-trading take over.

Somewhat unusually, the scientists' draft of the mitigation Working Group's latest SPM fell off the back of a lorry and it's been possible to compare their draft with the final 'government approved' SPM. The omissions, obfuscations and watering-downs are numerous and staggering. For instance:

- The scientific consensus that no new coal and gas plants should be built and that existing ones should be closed down within a decade was eliminated and replaced with a statement that coal-fired plants could be increased with carbon capture and storage;
- Evidence that the wealthiest 10% of the world's population have ten times the per capita emissions of the poorest 10%, and that over 40% of developing countries' emissions were due to export production for developed countries was removed;
- Gone from the final SPM were the statements that incremental change is not sufficient to tackle climate change and that ambitious transformation with a systemic approach that overcomes vested interests is needed;
- The politicians and diplomats gave the flick to the need for 'rapid emissions reductions and a fundamental transformation of all sectors and

regions in order to reach net zero CO2 emissions' and hence keep warming below 1.5oC;

- A section on how transition pathways that prioritise equity can promote transformational changes, and one noting a lack of integration of environmental justice in climate mitigation activities ... both gone.

Australia played a prominent part in all this dilution, arguing strongly against statements that fossil fuel energy should be rapidly reduced and coal-fired plants closed and against any mention in the report of fossil fuel lobbyists. This was under the previous government, of course, but it's already clear that the new Labor government is unlikely to take any aggressive action either domestically or internationally against the fossil fuel industry. (Hold the presses, John – Plibersek reported to be standing up to Palmer.)

**Read full article**

<https://johnmenadue.com/environment-un-declares-right-to-a-healthy-environment/>



Pope Francis and Jose Ramos Horta, The Vatican. Source: The Vatican

## **East Timor and Fraternity: The 'Abu Dhabi Document' becomes a national document**

***Antonio Spadaro SJ, La Civiltà Cattolica, 12th August 2022***

On May 20, 2022, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of national independence in East Timor, President José Ramos-Horta took custody of his country's highest office for the second time. In the course of doing so he issued an official declaration in which he solemnly received the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace – signed on February 4, 2019, by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam Ahmad al-Tayyeb of Al-Azhar – as a national document. He vowed to make “every effort, in cooperation with state, religious and secular institutions, to adapt and include it in the national school curricula.”

The official act is legally based on resolution no. 11/2022, unanimously approved by the East Timor National Parliament on May 12, in which the

legislative assembly of the country expressed its full adherence to the Abu Dhabi Document and committed the state to it, in its various articulations.

During the official ceremony to swear in the new head of state, both the resolution of the National Parliament and the declaration of the president were solemnly handed over to Monsignor Marco Sprizzi, the Holy See's chargé d'affaires and Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Elders from Abu Dhabi, representing the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar. The ceremony took place in front of the highest state officials and numerous foreign delegations, which included among others, the On May 20, 2022, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of national independence in East Timor, President José Ramos-Horta took custody of his country's highest office for the second time. In the course of doing so he issued an official declaration in which he solemnly received the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace – signed on February 4, 2019, by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam Ahmad al-Tayyeb of Al-Azhar – as a national document. He vowed to make “every effort, in cooperation with state, religious and secular institutions, to adapt and include it in the national school curricula.”

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**Read full article:**

<https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/east-timor-and-fraternity-the-abu-dhabi-document-becomes-a-national-document/?fbclid=IwAR3XBjp8fGvqhNWJd1DI1ZBTwfjEEomiULoSIL54O5E-HOT1UQkMp0wbXY>





Image: AntmanStocker/Shutterstock.

## **A reflection on Social Justice Sunday**

***Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ, 28th August 2022***

### **28 August is the Australian Catholic Church's Social Justice Sunday**

Social Justice Sunday is celebrated in Australian Catholic Churches on August 28. It complements the United Nations Day for Social Justice in February. The theme of the latter is to encourage formal employment. This is based on a contract that gives security to employees, a just wage, and protection under the law. The hazards involved in casual and part-time employment have been evident in Australia during the COVID epidemic. The insecurity and low pay workers in aged homes and the health service contributed to the spread of the virus and deaths in homes for the aged.

Social Justice Sunday also has its theme. This year, it focuses on violence, especially violence within families. The day also invites us yearly to reflect more broadly on what a world would look like if it cared for all its people. It gives the central place to the dignity of each human being. To do this forbids us from treating individuals or groups of people as dispensable, as marbles to be counted, and so able to be disregarded when they stand in the way of other people's interests.

Social Justice Sunday also emphasises the importance of relationships in a world that helps human beings to flourish. We depend on others for our life in this world, for our education and all the things that shape our work and our lifestyle. We have a corresponding responsibility to take into account the good of all our fellow human beings in our actions and in all our institutions.

**Read full reflection:**

<https://catholicoutlook.org/a-reflection-on-social-justice-sunday/>

## **REFLECTIONS**



**Jamberoo Abbey Facebook Post 1st September 2022**

***1st September - SPRING, you are so welcome in our midst!  
In 2015, Pope Francis designated September 1st as the World Day of  
Prayer for the Care of Creation. How blessed we are here in the Southern  
Hemisphere that this day coincides with the arrival of spring and National  
Wattle Day! Blessings of new life and joy to all our Oblates and friends!***

**A Prayer for Our Earth by Pope Francis**

***All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of  
your creatures.***

***You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.***

***Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.***

***Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.***

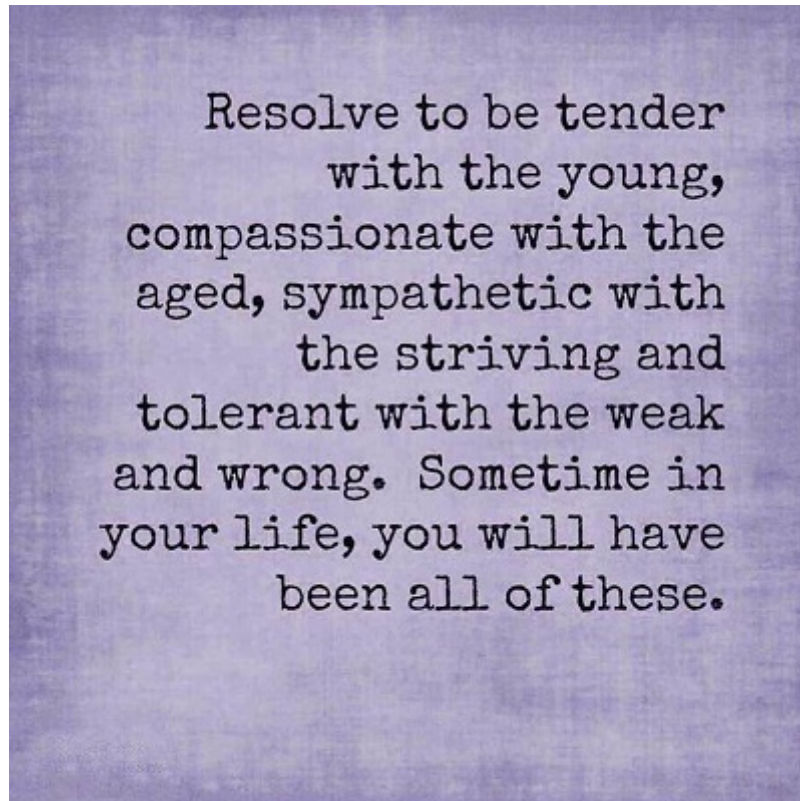
***O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in  
your eyes.***

***Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.***

***Touch the hearts  
of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.***

***Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,***

*to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love and peace.  
From Laudato Si'*



### **Pace - e - Bene Nonviolence Inspirations**

*"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always." MK Gandhi*

*"Peace, in fact, is not the absence of anything, but rather the ultimate affirmation of what can be." Rabbi K Cohen*

*"Globalized industrialized food is not cheap: it is too costly for the Earth, for the farmers, for our health. The Earth can no longer carry the burden of groundwater mining, pesticide pollution, disappearance of species and destabilization of the climate. Farmers can no longer carry the burden of debt, which is inevitable in industrial farming with its high costs of production. It is incapable of producing safe, culturally appropriate, tasty, quality food. And it is incapable of producing enough food for all because it is wasteful of land,*

***water and energy. Industrial agriculture uses ten times more energy than it produces. It is thus ten times less efficient."*** Vandana Shiva

***"Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet."*** Carl Sagan

***"I am a believer in nonviolence and I say that no peace or tranquility will descend upon the people of the world until nonviolence is practiced, because nonviolence is love and it stirs courage in people."*** Badshah Khan



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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