



Edmund Rice Centre
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

ERC JUSTICE UPDATES

September 2022 No.76

Dear Friends,

This 76th 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

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear hardship today. Thich Nhat Hanh

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.

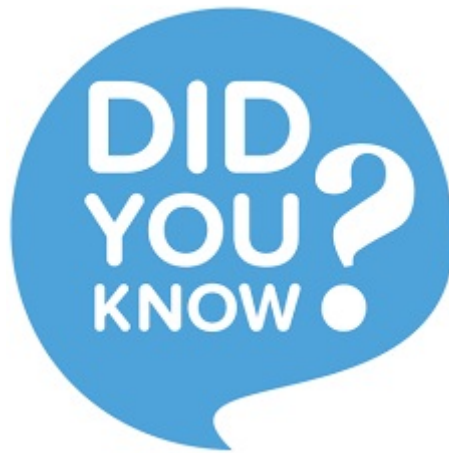
Previous editions are available at <https://www.erc.org.au/newsletters>

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 International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) found in a recent Report entitled: '*Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour & Forced Marriage*' the number of people living around the globe living in slavery - defined as a situation of "exploitation that a person cannot refuse or cannot leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, or abuse of power" increased by 9.3 million from 2016 to 2021. Startling statistics were revealed:

- Nearly one out of every 150 individuals on earth were enslaved in 2021- approximately 28 million in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriages.
- In 2021 on any given day nearly 50 million people were in forced labour or forced marriage.
- The authors of the report estimate nearly one out of every 150 individuals on earth were enslaved last year.
- Factors which influenced and heighten the risk of modern slavery include the "COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts and climate change: all of these things in recent years have led to unprecedented disruption to employment and education, increases in extreme poverty and forced and unsafe migration, and an upsurge in reports of gender-based violence".
- Modern slavery "occurs in almost every country in the world, and cuts across ethnic, cultural, and religious lines," the ILO, Walk Free, and IOM noted. "More than half (52%) of all forced labor and a quarter of all forced marriages can be found in upper-middle-income or high-income countries."
- The majority (86%) forced labor occurs in the private sector, with (14%) imposed by state authorities. Commercial sexual exploitation accounts for 23% of private sector force labor, and four fifths of those trafficking victims are women and girls.

- Nearly one in eight of the roughly 28 million people subjected to forced labor last year were children (3.3 million) - of these more than half were trapped in commercial sexual exploitation.
- An estimated 22million people were living in forced marriages in 2021, the "the true incidence of forced marriage, particularly involving children aged 16 and under is likely far greater" according to the three groups that compiled the report.

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder said in a statement "Nothing can justify the persistence of this fundamental abuse of human rights".

Antonio Vitorino, Director-General of the IOM the new report "underscores the urgency of ensuring that all migration is safe, orderly, and regular."

Link to Full Report:

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf



The remote community of Yuendumu is home to about 800 people.(ABC News: Hamish Harty)

Kumanjaji Walker's family revisits 'terrifying' night he died as inquest begins in Alice Springs

Samantha Jonscher, ABC News, 5th September 2022

In an emotional start to a three-month coronial inquest into the death of Kumanjaji Walker, the Northern Territory coroner heard first hand from members of the Warlpiri man's family about the night he died, urging the court to hear their voices.

Key points:

- Members of Mr Walker's family addressed the court and called for urgent action
- The coroner said she would come to the inquest ready to listen deeply

- Zachary Rolfe's lawyers will challenge some questions posed by the coroner

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this article contains an image of a person who has died, used with the permission of their family.

Mr Walker died after being fatally shot by Constable Zachary Rolfe during an arrest attempt in his hometown of Yuendumu, about three hundred kilometres from Alice Springs.

Constable Rolfe was found not guilty of all charges following a trial in March of this year.

The 19-year-old's death in custody is now the subject of a lengthy inquest in Alice Springs that will hear from more than eighty witnesses.

'An opportunity to forge a better way'

Mr Walker's cousin, Samara Fernandez-Brown, told the inquest that the trauma of his death is something Mr Walker's community is "trying to live with" and that it will stay with them "for generations."

"I was amongst my family when he was shot and I was there in the morning when we found out he had died," she told the court.

"The wails of my family's cries still haunt me: images of devastation, and most importantly, the fear."

Ms Fernandez-Brown was one of dozens of Yuendumu community members who travelled to Alice Springs for the inquest's opening day.

In a series of informal addresses, she was joined by Warlpiri elders Ned Hargraves and Robin Granites in calls self-determination following what they called a "terrifying" ordeal.

"We do not want you to tell us what we need ... we will tell you what we want," Mr Granites said.

Together they pushed for "urgent" change and Ms Fernandez Brown said the inquest was "an opportunity to forge a better way" on relations between police and remote communities.

Read full story:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-05/kumanjayi-walker-coronial-inquest-alice-springs-day-one/101405286>



Photo: Dylan River/SBS

In The Australian Wars, Rachel Perkins dispenses with the myth Aboriginal people didn't fight back

Heidi Norman & Anne Maree Payne, The Conversation, 21st September 2022

First Nations people please be advised this article mentions colonial violence towards Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Australian Wars is a new three-part TV series directed and produced by Arrernte and Kalkadoon nations filmmaker Rachel Perkins.

Perkins travels across vast territory to capture key aspects of a war that lasted more than 100 years, from the landing of the First Fleet in 1788 until the 1920s.

The series traces some of the key phases, sites and underlying features of frontier wars here on home soil.

It sets out to understand why the war was never declared, why the British didn't follow their own laws, and the tactics and strategies Aboriginal people deployed defending their land and survival.

Perkins asks us to consider this difficult history, why there are only a handful of monuments to this warfare, and how it should be memorialised.

To ask these questions, Perkins deploys stunningly shot re-enactments, archives, artefacts, biography, expert evidence and uses place to great effect.

The series treats the viewer with the ability to critically reflect and ask why we still struggle to come to terms with this history.

The frontier wars

The "frontier wars" were the conflicts between Europeans and Aboriginal people over access to land the British sought to occupy exclusively without any agreement, treaty or settlement. This series emphasises Aboriginal people resisted these wars in multiple ways, including warfare. Aboriginal people are still resisting these wars today, in the courts.

The Australian Wars is an important contribution to truth-telling. Perkins

provides a public reckoning with the means by which the British Empire – followed by independent democratic Australian governments – managed to grab the entirety of the land assets of the continent.

The dominant narrative of Australian settler colonialism was once sunny tales of possession, sustained by hard toil. Aboriginal acts of resistance, refusal and warfare were somehow miraculously omitted.

Only in recent decades has a more truthful account of the past emerged. New conversations and responsibility are slowly navigating the realities of the frontier, the shared history of “both sides” and how the past can be remembered.

Read full story:

https://theconversation.com/in-the-australian-wars-rachel-perkins-dispenses-with-the-myth-aboriginal-people-didnt-fight-back-190967?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202022%202022%20-%202409824076&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20September%202022%202022%20-%202409824076+CID_bf1a1b58b9e240312aa5e3550e4da50d&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=In%20The%20Australian%20Wars%20Rachel%20Perkins%20dispenses%20with%20the%20myth%20Aboriginal%20people%20didnt%20fight%20back



Indigenous elder and actor Uncle Jack Charles starred in films including *Wolf Creek* and *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*. He also co-founded Australia's first Indigenous-run theatre company. Photograph: SBS

Uncle Jack Charles: the ‘lost boy’ who found his way through storytelling

Jennifer King, The Guardian, 13th September 2022

Obituary: Aboriginal actor and activist overcame abuse and incarceration to

become one of the nation's most respected and cherished elders

"Once a lost boy, now found" is how Aboriginal activist, musician and actor Jack Charles described himself upon learning his father's identity in 2021. The Boon Wurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Woiwurrung and Yorta Yorta man, who was forcibly taken from his mother as a baby and assigned a criminal record, refused to be engulfed by the circumstances of his history. Instead, Charles' spirited resilience, despite an early life of wretched adversity, saw him become one of Australia's most respected and cherished elders.

Jack Charles, who has died in a Melbourne hospital aged 79, was a survivor of the Stolen Generations policy of assimilation. He experienced sexual abuse as a child while in the care of the state and, in the face of recurrent despair and discrimination, turned to heroin and crime before discovering theatre and a passion for acting. There he found he was able to share the painful stories of his life through drama and storytelling and, in 1971, co-founded Australia's first Indigenous-run theatre company, Nindethana, meaning "place for a corroboree".

In 1971 Charles missed out on the role of Aboriginal TV detective Boney but went on to appear in several films, including *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1978) and *Blackfellas* (1993) and in TV programs such as *Cleverman*, *Wolf Creek*, *Mystery Road* and *Play School*. The 2011 Helpmann Award-winning play, *Jack Charles V The Crown*, in which he voiced his life story alone on stage, was just one of hundreds of theatre performances.

"I like to think of myself as a blackfella sans frontières, a blackfella without borders. I get to play all manner of blackfellas from different parts of the nation and countries here in Australia, so that's who I am," he said.

Jack Charles was born in Carlton, Victoria, in 1943 to Blanche Charles and, as he later discovered, was one of 13 children. In a 2021 interview, he said it was the policy that he be "taken from his mother's breast directly" but before the protection officers could do so, his mother sneaked away. They travelled to Daish's Paddock near Shepparton to an Aboriginal camp and it was from there that, four months later, he was forcibly taken from his mother, made a ward of the state of Victoria and ascribed a criminal record.

"So, my first offence ... was as an Aboriginal boy, four months old, child in need of care and attention. That was the offence," he said.

At two years old, he was sent to Box Hill Boys' Home where he lived until he was 14, the only registered Aboriginal boy there. Here he was teased about his skin colour and "whitewashed" of his family and race. Along with verbal cruelty, Charles and other boys faced sexual abuse. In 2022, Charles was the first to appear at the Yoorrook Justice Commission's hearing where his testimony included a recount of spending his first night in jail as 16-year-old after going to a pub to learn his mother's whereabouts. At the time living in a foster home and nearing the end of a glass beveller's apprenticeship, he recalled in his

biography crying himself to sleep.

Read full article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/sep/13/uncle-jack-charles-the-lost-boy-who-found-his-way-through-storytelling>



Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI. Image: Supplied

Seeing what lies near our doorsteps

Henri Nouwen once suggested that if you want to understand the tragedy of the Second World War, you can read a hundred history books about it and watch a thousand hours of video documentaries on it, or you can read the Diary of Anne Frank. In that single memoir of young girl imprisoned and later executed by the Nazis you will see, first-hand, the tragedy of war and what war does to the human soul.

The same might be said about the refugee crisis now taking place everywhere on borders around the world. According to statistics from the United Nations, there are now over eighty million refugees, displaced, homeless, nationless, frightened, and often hungry people on our borders around the world

Two-thirds of these are women and children, and the vast majority are not there by choice, seeking a better economic opportunity in another country. The vast majority of them have been driven from their homes and their countries by war, violence, famine, hunger, ethnic and religious cleansing, and by fear for their lives.

For many of us, this is a faceless, abstract problem. We have a generic sympathy for their plight but not one deep enough to keep us awake at night, unsettle our conscience, or make us willing to sacrifice some of our own comfort and security to do something for them or to pressure our governments into action. Indeed, too often we are over-protective of our borders and the settled, comfortable lives we live inside our nations. This is our country! Our home! We worked hard for the things we have. It is unfair to us to have to deal with these people! They should go back to their countries and leave us alone!

We need a wake-up call. A recent book, a novel, by Jeanine Cummins, *American Dirt*, gives us a fictionalized account of a young Mexican woman who because of violence and fear of death had to leave her life behind and flee with her young son in an attempt to reach the borders of the United States as an undocumented immigrant. Full disclosure, the book has been heavily criticized by many because it doesn't always measure up to the exact facts. Conversely, it has also been highly praised by many others. Be that as it may, the bottom-line is that this is a powerful story and a wake-up call, one meant to wake us up to the real tragedy of those who for reasons of poverty, violence, famine, fear, and hopelessness are forced to flee their countries in search of a better life (or any life at all!) elsewhere. Whatever the book's imperfections, it helps shatter the abstractness we can lean on to protect ourselves against having to look at the issue of refugees today.

Read full article:

<https://catholicoutlook.org/seeing-what-lies-near-our-doorsteps/>

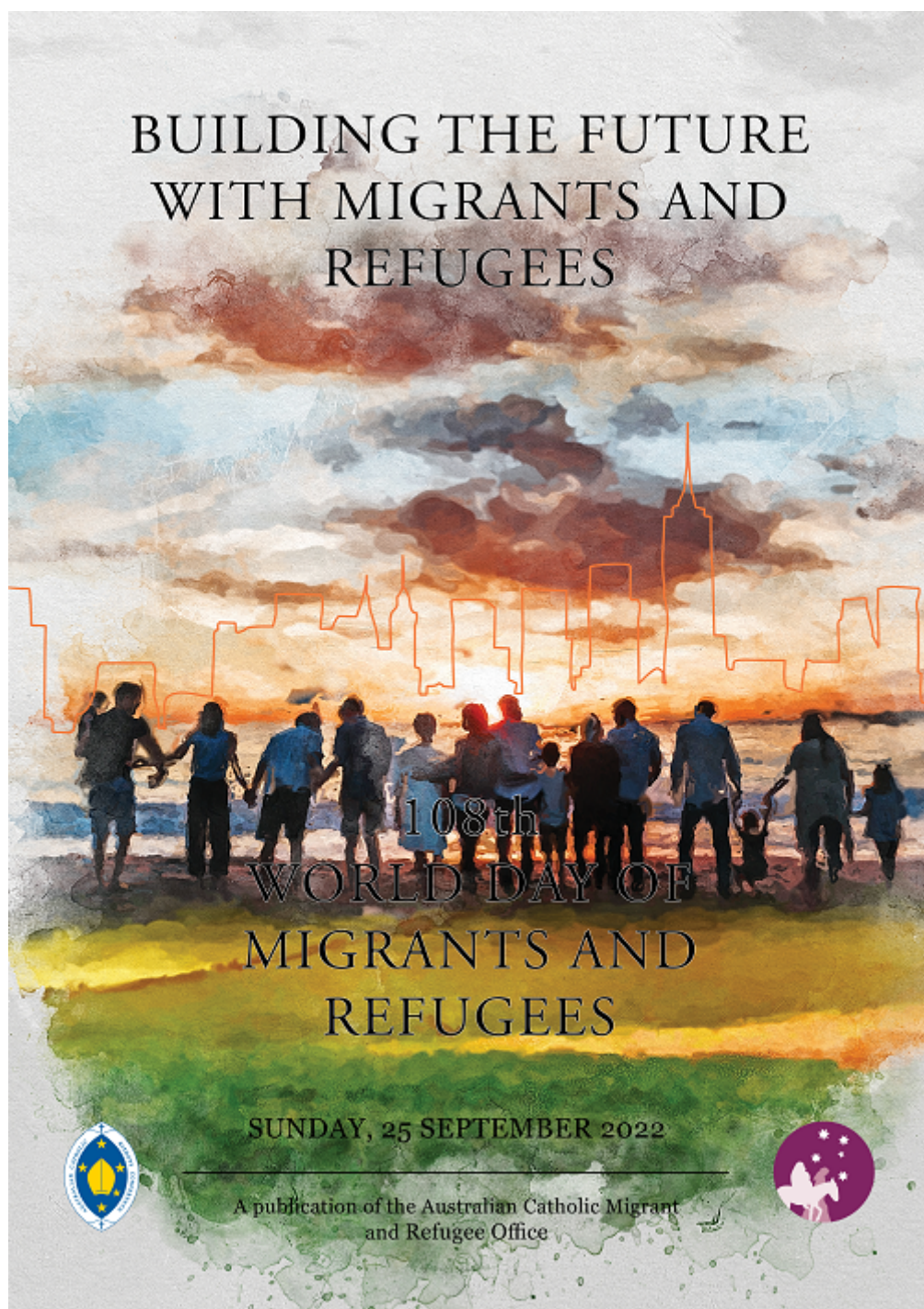


Image: Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office/Supplied.

Full Resource Kit:

<https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/resources/migrant-refugee-kit/booklet/1413-migrant-and-refugee-kit-2022/file>



The Nauru processing centre has been plagued by controversy, including violence, systemic sexual abuse of children, inadequate medical and psychiatric care, and a spate of suicides. Photograph: Remi Chauvin/The Guardian

The ‘egregious’ history of likely new Nauru operator includes allegations of gang rape and murder in its US prisons

Ben Doherty & Christopher Knaus, The Guardian, 5th September 2022

A Guardian investigation reveals the firm has been accused of ‘gross negligence’ that allegedly led to gang rape, murder and mistaken solitary confinement in its US facilities

The US private prisons operator likely to take over Australia’s offshore processing regime on Nauru has previously been accused of “gross negligence” and “egregious” security failures that allegedly led to the gang-rape of a woman in detention, the murder of two retirees by escaped prisoners, and the months-long solitary confinement of a US citizen wrongfully held in immigration detention.

The Department of Home Affairs is finalising negotiations with the US-based Management and Training Corporation, which the department has announced as its preferred tenderer to provide “facilities, garrison, transferee arrivals and reception services” for Australia’s offshore regime on Nauru from next month. No contracts have yet been signed.

An investigation by the Guardian has uncovered a litany of security breaches and custodial failures within MTC-run places of detention. MTC is the third-largest US operator of private prisons, running 21 corrections and immigration detention centres.

Nauru remains Australia’s sole offshore processing centre, after the detention centre on PNG’s Manus Island was ruled unlawful and ordered to be shut down by the country’s supreme court. Australia was forced to pay more than \$70m in compensation to more than 1,900 people it had illegally detained on the island.

Nauru and Australia signed a memorandum of understanding in 2021,

committing to an “enduring form of offshore processing” on the Pacific island state, and the new Labor government has committed to maintaining offshore processing as a policy.

Those currently held on Nauru are not in detention but living in the community. However, the detention centre remains on standby, ready to house any new boat-borne asylum seekers sent there by Australia.

The Nauru processing centre has been plagued by controversy, including violence against asylum seekers and refugees, systemic sexual abuse of children, inadequate medical and psychiatric care, and a spate of suicides.

The Nauru files, a cache of leaked internal working documents written by staff, detailed sexual violence against children as young as six, violent assaults against detainees, and systemic neglect. Senior United Nations officials said the Nauru camp was “cruel and inhuman” and a violation of the convention against torture. Médecins Sans Frontières said the mental health suffering on Nauru was “among the most severe MSF has ever seen”.

Read full story:

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/sep/05/the-egregious-history-of-likely-new-nauru-operator-includes-allegations-of-gang-and-in-its-us-prisons?CMP=share_btn_fb&fbclid=IwAR0ReRC-ZpTsrcOKcF4-4eHB3EK33nPvao82v4YyJKzKtr-5eqclQGWirA



Dennis Tipakalippa says he was not consulted about Santos' Barossa project, which will run a gas pipeline through his family's sea country. (Supplied: Rebecca Parker)

Tiwi Islands traditional owners win court challenge against gas company Santos' massive Barossa offshore project

Jacqueline Breen and Samantha Dick, ABC News, 21st September 2022

Tiwi Islands traditional owners have won a federal court challenge against Santos' \$4.7 billion Barossa gas project in the Timor Sea north of Darwin.

Key points:

- Santos must maintain a pause on work on the project that began after the

court challenge was filed

- Traditional owners told the court they were concerned about the project's potential damage to sites of cultural significance
- The court ruled the regulator failed to assess whether Santos' approval application showed it had consulted with all relevant parties

Environmental lawyers representing Munupi clan elder Dennis Tipakalippa argued the group was not properly consulted before approval for the project was granted by the federal regulator in February.

After a five day hearing, including a special on-country session where traditional songs and dances were performed as evidence in the case, federal court justice Mordecai Bromberg ruled that the project's approval was invalid.

The ruling means the gas giant has to maintain a pause on work on the project that began after the court challenge was filed.

The Environment Defenders Office had argued the approval granted by the National Offshore Petroleum and Safety Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) was unlawful.

Lawyers for Mr Tipakalippa said Santos had not consulted with the Munupi clan and gave the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) insufficient information about the project.

Elders including Mr Tipakalippa and sea rangers from the Tiwi Islands told the court of their concerns about the project's possible impacts on cultural and spiritual values as well as food sources and the marine environment.

The court ruled the regulator failed to assess whether the company's approval application showed it had consulted with all relevant parties, as required by law.

It also said NOPSEMA did not consider some material in the application that it was required to assess.

Read full story:

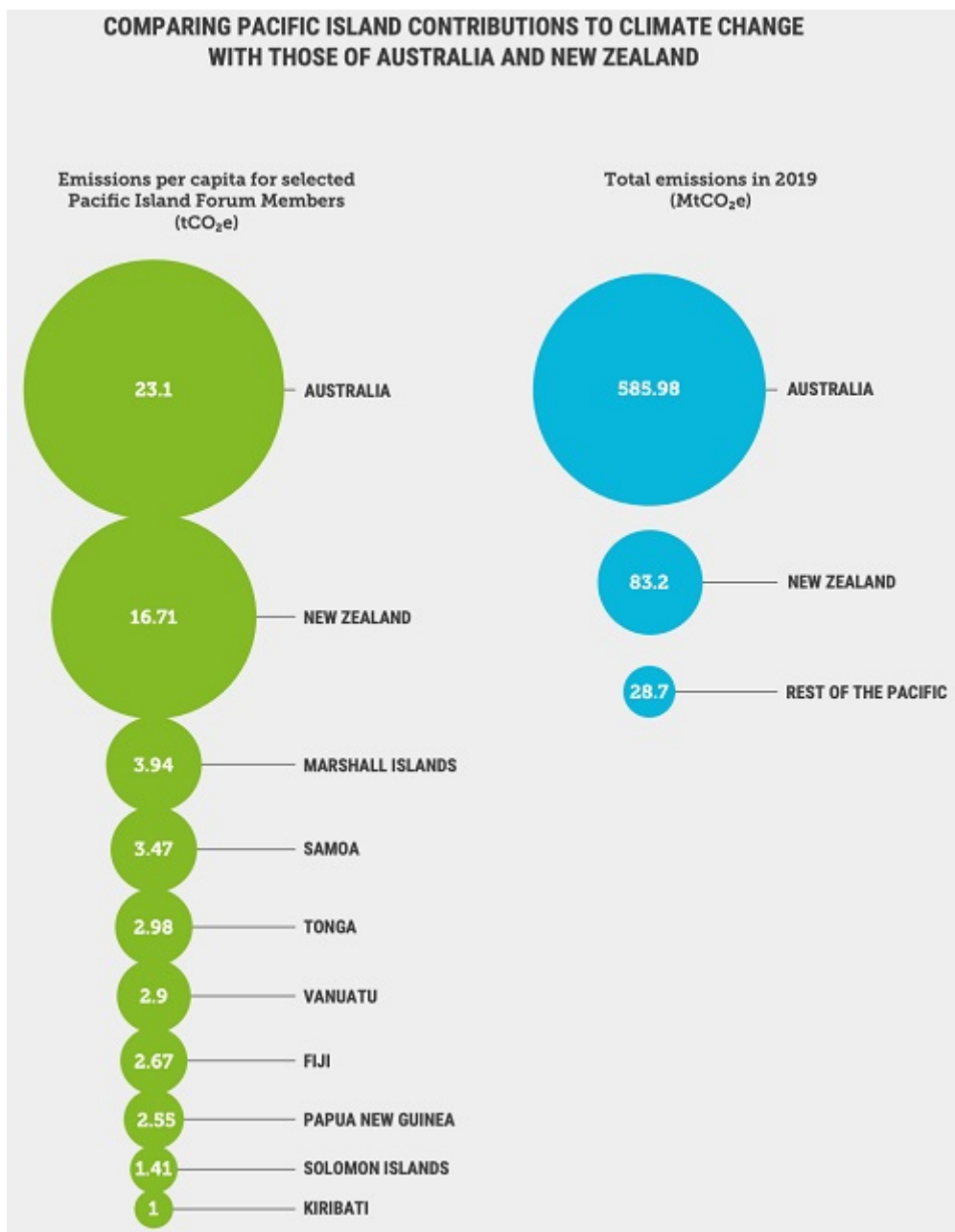
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-21/nt-tiwi-islands-santos-barossa-court-decision/101462146?fbclid=IwAR2z-67Ycfb58KLgtyw9ARqBIBOBBhhMWwMS4E3na9Uisq6Gnyyk31t5f4>

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Compassion requires us to
be weak with the weak,
vulnerable with the vulnerable,
and powerless with
the powerless.

Compassion means
full immersion
in the condition
of being human.

HENRI NOUWEN



Environment: Pacific wants Australian support for strong climate action

Peter Sainsbury, Pearls & Irritations, September 10th 2022

Pacific nations want climate action not military bases. Emissions and temperatures keep rising and forest fires keep increasing.

Pacific nations' security priority is tackling climate change

The bottom line of a recent Climate Council report is that Australia, and other high-emitting Pacific rim nations, should worry less about China's growing interest in the Pacific and focus more on reducing their own greenhouse gas emissions and working harder to ensure that global emissions fall to zero as quickly as possible.

This is a message that is strongly endorsed in the report's Foreword by

Pacific Elders Voice, an independent group of previous leaders in the region, who say:

'The primary security threat to the Pacific islands is climate change. Without urgent global action to cut emissions our countries, especially low-lying atoll states, face the prospect of annihilation due to rising sea levels.'

The ex-leaders acknowledge the new Australian government's ramped up commitment to tackling climate change but are also clear that more must be done, and soon, if Australia wishes to convince Pacific islanders that they take the existential threats faced by the Pacific nations seriously.

They want to see no new coal and gas, new finance for unavoidable loss and damage caused by climate change, greater integrity in any Australian carbon offset schemes, plus not using offsets as a substitute for actual emissions reductions, support by Australia for Pacific nations' priorities at COP27 in November, financial support for resilience and insurance programs in the Pacific, and working with the Pacific nations to drive global climate action.

The Climate Council report identifies four major climate-related threats to the islands: more destructive tropical cyclones, sea level rise and coastal flooding, coral bleaching and degradation of marine ecosystems, and more extreme droughts and more intense rain. The report's main recommendation is that Australia should support the Pacific nations' own positions and priorities:

- Recognise that climate change is the single greatest threat to the security and livelihoods of Pacific peoples;
- Cut emissions at a pace that reflects the science and will limit warming to 1.5oC, the level that is critical to the survival of many Pacific nations;
- End the use of fossil fuels in OECD nations by 2030, and around the world by 2040;
- Support adaptation and provide finance to the Green Climate Fund to address climate impacts;
- Provide financial support to address irreversible loss and damage arising from climate change.

Our new government might be engaging more than the last one with Pacific nations but it isn't obvious that they are taking the Pacific's own priorities seriously.

Read full article:

<https://johnmenadue.com/environment-pacific-wants-australian-support-for-strong-climate-action-10-september-2022/>



A man sits surrounded by floodwaters in Sohbat Pur city, Pakistan (Image: AP/Zahid Hussain)

‘Poverty is going to multiply’: Pakistan’s humanitarian crisis has only just begun

Amber Schultz, Crikey, 14th September 2022

Crikey speaks to Save the Children Pakistan director Muhammad Khuram Gondal about the flooding devastation across the country.

It’s difficult to describe the vastness of the floods in Pakistan. Water has engulfed a third of the country, destroyed the homes of 33 million people and impacted more than one in five Pakistanis. It’s a devastating example of climate carnage, with more rain on the horizon.

But even if the rain stopped and the waters receded, Pakistan’s crisis has only just begun. An entire generation risks missing out on schooling; families are grappling with lost homes, farms and income. And water-borne diseases, famine, and exploitation are fuelling the humanitarian and climate crisis.

Immediate urgency on the ground

Save the Children Pakistan director Muhammad Khuram Gondal has spent the past few days providing aid in Sindh in the south of Pakistan. The scenes on the ground, he tells Crikey, are devastating.

“Still the water is there and it’s not going anywhere. Yesterday, it rained in Karachi and in the northern areas of Pakistan as well and in the next 10 days we will be receiving more and more water,” he said. This year, the country has received 2.9 times more rain than the national 30-year average.

Gondal, along with around 80 staff, has been deployed across the country — first delivering aid following the droughts and heatwave and now providing emergency flood assistance.

A key concern is drinking water: rivers have burst and become contaminated with fertiliser and sewage, while wells are underwater. Locals are relying on bottled water to be delivered, but Gondal said the floods are so vast and waters so high that humanitarian organisations haven’t been able to reach many impacted villages.

“We are short in number and far-flung areas take a while to reach for assistance, so it’s very hard to reach them every single time with water

supplies,” he said.

On high ground, makeshift camps have been established housing thousands of people in each. Disease has started to spread: diarrhoea, cholera, dengue fever, malaria, polio and COVID-19 are just some of the outbreaks the United Nations has recorded.

A famine looming

The world is already facing a food crisis following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, with millions of tonnes of grain trapped in the country, farms destroyed and the harvesting season interrupted. Food prices skyrocketed since the invasion began, causing shortages across Syria, Yemen and Nigeria.

Pakistan is also among the world’s top 10 producers of wheat, cotton, sugarcane, mango, dates, kinnow (a citrus fruit similar to oranges) and rice. In Sindh, 90% of crops have been wiped out, with more than 1 million livestock lost so far.

Even when the waters eventually recede, there’ll be no bouncing back: fertile soil has been washed away and contaminated, with fungus spreading across farmland. Agriculture is the backbone of the country’s economy, employing more than 36% of the workforce.

“We’d be at least losing a couple of cycles of cultivation. With the kind of population we have in Pakistan, I think the food shortages would be huge — a famine is anticipated very early on,” Gondal said.

Malnutrition is already a major issue: two-thirds of children under five are anemic, and more than half are deficient in vitamin A.

Read full article:

https://www.crikey.com.au/2022/09/14/pakistans-humanitarian-crisis-has-only-just-begun/?utm_campaign=Weekender&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter



International Day of Peace 2022 September 21st

This year's theme is "End racism. Build peace."

The International Day of Peace is celebrated globally on September 21 every year.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

Secretary-General António Guterres said racism continues to poison institutions, social structures and everyday life in every society. It continues to be a driver of persistent inequality. And it continues to deny people their fundamental human rights. It destabilizes societies, undermines democracies, erodes the legitimacy of governments, and... the linkages between racism and gender inequality are unmistakable.

The International Day of Peace was observed on 16 September 2022 at United Nations headquarters. The program began with the traditional Peace Bell Ceremony in the Peace Garden.

The Peace Bell was donated by the United Nations Association of Japan in 1954. It has become a tradition to ring the bell twice a year: on the first day of spring, at the Vernal Equinox, and on 21 September to celebrate the International Day for Peace.

Read full information:

<https://www.zeebiz.com/trending/news-international-day-of-peace-2022-theme-history-and-significance-199858>

REFLECTIONS

Our Greatest Fear

Nelson Mandela, 1994 Inaugural Speech

***Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate,
but that we are powerful beyond measure.***

It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us.

***We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant,
gorgeous, handsome, talented and fabulous?***

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the world.

*There is nothing enlightened about shrinking
so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
We were born to make manifest the glory of God within us.
It is not just in some; it is in everyone.
And, as we let our own light shine,
we consciously give other people permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our fear,
our presence automatically liberates others.*



Pace - e - Bene Nonviolence Inspirations

"The complicated truth is that many of the oppressed are also oppressors, and many of the oppressors are also oppressed - nonviolent confrontation is the only form of confrontation that allows us to respond realistically to such complexity." Barbara Deming

"Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth . . . these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and woman's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all." Ban Ki-Moon

"The violence that exists in the human heart is also manifest in the symptoms of illness that we see in the Earth, the water, the air and in living things." Pope Francis

"One of the worst things about racism is what it does to young people." Alvin Ailey

"Kindness is universal. Sometimes being kind allows others to see the goodness in humanity through you. Always be kinder than necessary."
Germany Kent

"Peace means far more than the opposite of war. Peace, like love or like hope, is an action one can take, something that can be done, not just something that might arrive." Fred Rogers



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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