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We listen deeply to the cry of Earth heard most loudly in the cry of those made poor and we are moved to attend with urgency to the woundedness of our global community.

*International Presentation Association Assembly 2007*

This edition of Society *Justice Jottings* notes the devastating effects of climate change on the Pacific Island peoples, ways in which we can help lessen the need for human trafficking by supporting Fair Trade projects and the failure of the N.T. Intervention to meet the needs of Aboriginal peoples.

*Anne Shay, Peta Anne Molloy*

*IPA News*

Miguel d'Escoto, a Mary Knoll priest, was elected the President of the UN General Assembly 2008-09. Fatima sent his opening statement which she described as 'a radical speech'. It is nine pages long but we would like to share some parts of it. It is such a great speech.

Change — real, credible change — is the watchword of the day. Even more than political will, we will need to summon great spiritual strength to carry out the changes needed to democratize the United Nations. This, in turn, will strengthen its capacity to contribute, with growing effectiveness, to the supreme cause of peace in our world. But knowing that we are in need of great spiritual strength must not discourage us — it is within our reach.....

Let us put to rest forever the unhealthy aspiration of

dominance of one over the other.

Let us free ourselves, as well, from addiction to war and violence in general. Such dreams and behaviour are incompatible with the principles, to which we have all committed ourselves, within the Charter and with the ideal of a world at peace and with international security.

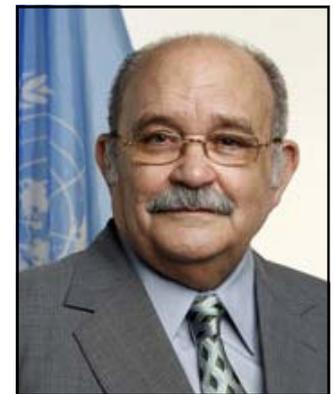
Let us work together now to make a truly "United Nations" — united, fraternal, joined in solidarity. Now is the time for all of us to begin the process of turning weapons into ploughshares to feed a hungry world.

Let Gandhi be for us not only someone to whom we render tribute in speeches and declarations but, more importantly, a paradigm that we try to emulate.

Let us honour his global legacy by putting the greater good of our shared Humanity at the forefront of our collective endeavour to build a world community at peace with itself and in harmony with the Earth, our shared home.

Let us give genuine democracy and peace a chance.

Let us conduct ourselves as the people we are: all sisters and brothers,



Fr. Miguel d'Escoto

reconciled with one another and committed to living in non-violence and SOLIDARITY. A democratized United Nations will be the indispensable tool for achieving these lofty goals. Thank you."

## The Cry of the Poor ...

### Some Good News!!!

#### Commonwealth Funding to Combat People Trafficking

In a media release on 23 October the Minister for Home Affairs Bob Debus announced \$1million in funding to help four Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) in their efforts to combat people trafficking: the Anti-Slavery Project, Project Respect, the Scarlet Alliance and **Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans** will each be granted \$250,000 to provide vital outreach for trafficking victims and conduct education and awareness initiatives on people trafficking.

“It’s time to recognise the tireless efforts of these NGOs in the protection of victims of people trafficking and in raising awareness of the crime in the broader community,” the Minister said. “It’s fortunate that the number of trafficking victims in Australia remains low, but we must

remain vigilant.”

He continued, “NGOs have been making a valuable contribution and have lobbied hard for victims. This funding recognises the important work they do along with a number of Government agencies in developing Australia’s anti-trafficking strategy. The funding is being provided from confiscated criminal assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act.”

In June 2008, Mr Debus convened the first National Roundtable on People Trafficking, which brought together for the first time more than 20 Government agencies and NGOs.

The Government will also approach legal education and training bodies, such as the National Judicial College, for assistance in developing resources to assist judges, prosecutors and jurors.

#### What Can We Do?

One of the many reasons why slavery still exists in our world is that there is a growing demand for cheap labour across the world.

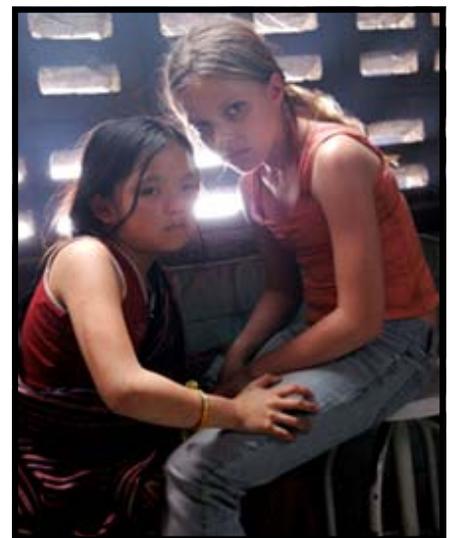
You can help fight trafficking:

1. Buy fair trade certified products - you can guarantee that you are not perpetuating labour exploitation.
2. Talk about human trafficking with other people. By spreading awareness in the community you are ensuring that this social justice issue isn't ignored by Australians.

cf CLRI(NSW) Social Justice Committee

Nothing in nature grows forever, it goes in a cycle.  
Seeds germinate, grow tall, age, senesce, die and decompose.  
Other seeds sprout in their compost.  
Yet our modern technological society is based on the ideology of a cancer cell...it must continue to grow.  
That means that our use of resources and energy must also grow.  
To do this we are quite simply trashing our world.  
The sense of wonder is a fundamental connection to something larger than ourselves.  
As such it is 'true spirituality'. Our sense of wonder has thus 'got in the way of' consumerism and our society up til now has tried to suppress it in us, just as it tries to suppress our ability to think for ourselves.'

( A Sense of Wonder Hadyn Washington)



ACRATH website

## ... and the Cry of the Earth



### Pacific Calling for Climate Justice

A human rights forum, **Pacific Calling for Climate Justice**, was organised by the Pacific Calling Partnership and among its partners is the Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes NSW [CLRI(NSW)]. The forum brought together people from across the Pacific, Australia and the Torres Strait.

Susana Lolohea from Fiji reminded the forum that the world has form when it comes to turning a blind eye to unpleasant realities, saying

*The warnings about tobacco smoking, the rise of Nazism, the dangers of asbestos, the Rwandan genocide, the coup culture in Fiji - as a society we were warned, but chose to follow the path of disbelief, either because burying our head in the sand was easier, or because it was in the interest of big business to discredit the*

*warnings. Global warming is no different.*

Sister Claire Anterea of Kiribati asked the Forum, "What is happening to our right to a livelihood, to our safety, to our water, to our culture?" She also echoed the words of the President of Kiribati,

"Some industrialized countries might be arguing that climate change would hurt their economic development. Sadly, I say, no! Climate change is not an issue of economic growth it is an issue of human survival." Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, June 2008

The forum came up with issues and proposals for consideration by the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 14) in

Poznan, Poland, in December 2008.

The **Social Justice Committee of CLRI** (NSW) have asked religious congregations to mobilize behind the resolutions of the Pacific Calling Partnership forum for the good of the peoples of the

Pacific in view of the upcoming 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 14) in Poznan, Poland, in **December 2008**. Any support you can give to the resolutions will be much appreciated.

#### Two of the Conference resolutions are:

**Australia must take a lead, as a matter of utmost urgency, in the development of a regional approach to climate-related migration;**

**Such a regional approach to migration must prioritise the Pacific and increase the choices of Pacific Islanders. Issues to consider include human rights, freedom of movement, education & training to increase resettlement options.**

#### Everyone can help the environment by household recycling



WHEN you read and eventually recycle a newspaper, it will be one of the 2 billion newspapers and magazines recycled in Australia every year. In addition to making Australians the world's best newspaper recyclers, this also helps to reduce greenhouse emissions by more than a million tonnes a year.

When you have any can of drink, recycling that can will save enough energy to power the TV set for three hours. Given that Australians recycle more than 2.3 billion cans a year, the greenhouse emission savings are significant.

#### Buying Christmas gifts

When you buy something from Oxfam Unwrapped, your donation goes straight to help support Oxfam programs and you receive a card to give your friend or family member that tells them about the gift bought in their honour.

To start this clever gift giving, visit [www.oxfamunwrapped.com.au](http://www.oxfamunwrapped.com.au), and see what to do.



**LONG ROAD** The Government will wait a year before making changes.

## Australian Society of Presentation Sisters



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# Northern Territory Intervention

## Voices of the residents of Yuendumu

'We, the residents of Yuendumu, want you to listen to the following statement and take our message back to the Federal and NT Governments.

We talked to the Review board and now the Government is not even listening to the report and is keeping this intervention going almost unchanged. It is an insult to us.

We say NO to income management. We can look after our own money.

We want the *Racial Discrimination Act* 1975 reinstated now, not in 12 months.

We want the Government to listen to us, talk with us, consult with us, and do things proper way.'

**Harry Nelson; Peggy Brown; Valerie Martin; Robbie Robertson; c/o Yuendumu Mining Co. 8956 4040**

## Voice of a remote area nurse

Chris Wilson, a remote area nurse working in prescribed communities says about the mandatory children's health checks:

***Children in remote communities are the most examined in Australia. The intervention has not turned up anything that was not already known—it is the follow up treatments that need to be***

***concentrated on...Once again, most of this money benefits those who least need it, those comfortable and already employed professionals. The intervention would have done far more good if it had been invested in the established health services, as well as in measures to reduce poverty, developed in consultation with the communities themselves.***

(Check Out CCJP November 2008)

## Voices from Darwin

The distance people have to travel to access Centrelink is worrying for many (21%), especially given the increase need for attendance at Centrelink offices and the cost of travel to and fro so frequently.

*We live in the bush, 30 minutes from Peppirementi, and there is no Centrelink out here. We can't use the store cards to pay for fuel or vehicle upkeep.*

Many people reported difficulties with having to transport groceries (40%) – issues include:

- the distance from major shopping centres where they are now forced to shop;
- the cost of transport to and from shops;
- the difficulty of carrying

large quantities they are now being forced to buy at once (to use up the store card).

*'It means we have to shop at Coles. So we do a week's shopping in one go. With no money for a taxi, we have to carry groceries on the bus. It's harder for the aged and disabled.*

*Submission of Darwin Aboriginal Rights Coalition to Senate Select Committee  
May 2008*

