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**We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connections to this land and we thank them for the care they have shown to Earth over thousands of years.**

May we embrace the energy of passion, strength and courage shown to us by Nano Nagle and become for those who are oppressed, sparks of love, of compassion, of justice and hope.  
*Prayer IPA Assembly 2012*

**In reflecting on the injustices of today, we hear the call to be people of compassion, love, justice and hope to the oppressed people in our land and beyond.**

*Peta Anne Molloy, Anne Shay*

### *Reflections on the Apology 5 years later*



Photo: [www.walgettams.com.au/](http://www.walgettams.com.au/)

I acknowledged and I'm grateful that Kevin Rudd apologised to our people.  
*Aunty Millie Ellis*

As our dear Elders pass, so does a bit of our culture. We must teach the children so that our culture never dies.  
*Jedda*

I'm very teary eyed this year. It's the 5th year since the Apology speech and it's all coming up again. When Prime Minister Rudd gave the apology speech, it was the first thing on the agenda. Saying the words, "we say sorry," to the First Nations People of Australia, the Aboriginals, it started the healing. We all cried. By doing this, it opened up many doors and pathways which enabled Stolen Generation people a chance to be brought home and reunited with families.  
*Aunty Margaret Lawnton*

We are connected to the origin of being through our stories. Through these stories we are deeply connected to our Country and to our families.

We are also connected to the history of colonisation and its terrible impact in our homelands. We are connected to our imposed separation from our spiritual places and our forced removal from family and identity. Although we have endured isolation, fear, despair and disarray, our strength is in our reconnection.  
*Dr Norman Sheehan*

*Link-Up (Old) Anniversary Booklet 2013*



Poster: Reanna Bono [www.justact.org.au/](http://www.justact.org.au/)

### *Recognition - Change to the Constitution*

The Australian Constitution is the foundation document for our laws and our government, but is silent on the special place of our first Australians

The Australian Government is now committed to pursuing meaningful change in the Constitution – change that unites the nation and reflects the hopes and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians by:

- Recognising the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- Reflecting the nation's fundamental belief in the importance of equality and non-discrimination by removing references to race; and

- Acknowledging that additional effort is needed to help close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' disadvantage.

Successful constitutional change will not occur without the support of the majority of Australians. More time is needed to build the necessary support for a successful referendum.

**All Australians are encouraged to learn more and get involved in building support for constitutional change.**

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/programs-services/recognition-respect/constitutional-recognition-of-indigenous-australians>



## *Exploitation of Peoples ...*

### *Asylum Seekers - Hear the Voices...*

#### *You are called to be an active member of IPA*

In drafting a statement from the 2012 Assembly, the delegates made it clear that the work and ministry of each individual Presentation person was essential to the mission of IPA. Every time we **pray for a more just society**, every time we **speak up for fairness and sharing**, every time we **support another person in her justice work**, we are being active members of the International Presentation effort to bring about a fairer and more inclusive world for everyone. **Never underestimate your power for good!**

(Seeds March 2013)



The decision to place asylum seekers in the community with no work rights and limited assistance is a retrograde step, and ultimately harmful not just to asylum seekers but also to the countries where they could potentially be resettled once their claims have been recognised.

Denying asylum seekers the right to work for up to five years, even when they have been recognised to be

refugees with claims on Australia's protection obligations, will make the lives of already vulnerable people more miserable, deprive them of their dignity and force them to be a burden on the Australian taxpayer

The 'no-advantage policy' is an absurd policy based not on fact but on political expedience and wishful thinking. The members of the expert panel should, in the light of all the information available, recant their recommendation that such a test be applied.

Australia is not walking away from its responsibilities under the UN Refugee Convention;

it is sprinting away at great speed.

The Convention says refugees may not be penalised for their mode of entry into a country.

As one of the few signatories to the Refugee convention in this region, Australia should be acting as a beacon of protection for asylum seekers and refugees. Instead it is providing an example to other countries as to how to deter desperate people from seeking asylum, and how to punish those who do. The 'no-advantage' test is a blot on Australia's reputation: it is cruel, inhuman and immoral.

*Justice Trends* March 2013

### *More Voices*

The recent arrest of an asylum seeker for an alleged sexual assault on a female student at the Macquarie University has been followed by calls to stop allowing men, women and children seeking asylum to live within the community on bridging visas while awaiting assessment of their applications for resettlement as refugees. Here are some of the voices speaking out on behalf of the innocent:

'This kind of vilification of asylum seekers is unacceptable in this nation', and there should 'never be special categories of laws for different categories of people . . . The rule of law should apply to all and we should not set some people apart.

*Russell Broadbent MHR*

'This is a classic example of lowest-common-denominator politicking.'

*Phil Glendinning ERC*

#### **Children in Detention**

**Australia is the only refugee Convention signatory nation to have a policy of indefinite detention for asylum seekers, no matter what their age.**

**As of 31 Dec 2012 there were 1221 children (aged under 18 years) in immigration detention.**

**Hundreds of these children are on their own.**

**There are at least 34 children on Manus Island.**

*ChilOut* 5/3/13

# Exploitation of Peoples ...

## The Voices of Women ... for Women

### Malalai Joya



When women learn to read and write, many of them become extraordinary activists. These brave women are running projects and organizations that are really working on behalf of women's and human rights, like the Social Association of Afghan Justice Seekers. And now women are even coming onto the streets and demonstrating, wearing the burka, in resistance against the U.S. and NATO and also against the Islamic fundamentalists.

This is a positive example and a source of hope. In the history of Afghanistan, we have never before seen this kind of activism by women. In different parts of Afghanistan there are small protests -- in Kabul, in Helmand Province and in many other places -- and for the first time women are joining these protests. I hope that with time, there will be a broader movement in Afghanistan like in many of the Arab countries. It will take time.

As the great German writer Bertolt Brecht said,

"Those who struggle may fail.

Those who do not struggle have already failed."

<http://www.malalaijoya.com/dcmj/>

In 2005 Malalai Joya became one of 68 women elected to the 249-seat National Assembly and was the youngest member of the Afghan parliament.

After speaking out against former warlords and war criminals in the Afghan parliament in 2007, she was suspended from the parliament. Since then she has survived many assassination attempts. She travels in Afghanistan with armed guards and has worked tirelessly on behalf of Afghani women and to end the occupation of her country.

In January 2013 Malalai spoke to US journalist Elsa Rassbach in Berlin. The following is part of her response to Elsa's question, *Where do you place your hopes for the future of Afghanistan?*



### International Women's Day

## International Women's Day Breakfast



Friday 8 March saw Presentation people join 1200 women and men who attended the International Women's Day Breakfast at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

We were privileged to have Sally Sara as guest speaker.

For many people Sally needed no introduction. It was impressive to learn more of her wide range of experience as a journalist and foreign correspondent in more than 30 countries.

In her address Sally spoke of the violence of war experienced by the

Afghani women and children who comprise 75% of the population. She also gave us an insight into the psychological effect that exposure to violence has on the soldiers and journalists who encounter this on a daily basis.

Although she is physically safe in Australia, the recurring memories have followed Sally home and continue to invade her life.



Women in PNG experience some of the highest levels of violence in the world. The money raised on International Women's Day will go to UN Women's Critical Services Initiative in PNG to ensure that communities are better placed to meet the needs of women and girls experiencing violence and to provide the services they so desperately need.

Read more at:

<https://unwomen.org.au/iwd/projects>

# ... of Earth and Peoples

Climate change has been identified by both the World Health Organisation and the United Nations as one of the most pressing modern dangers to human health, already causing **hundreds of thousands of deaths per year**. Many of these fatalities occur as a result of **climate change-related hunger or communicable disease**, especially in the face of a world food crisis caused largely by unpredictable weather patterns which cripple farmers' ability to meet the needs of growing populations. Because of this, we must include food shortages, rising prices and famine amongst the perceivable effects of climate change in our world today. In fact, food prices are already rising due to extreme climate conditions, even in the developed world— in the first quarter of 2012, prices increased by 8% in Europe due to abnormally cold weather disturbing the wheat crop. This trend is set to continue on a global scale.

Unfortunately, for the next generation, the forecast will not improve without careful and continued management by world leaders. In 2012, researchers at the United Nations Rio+20 conference revealed that **the number of malnourished women and children could increase by 20%- affecting every one in five—within a decade, as a direct result of climate change.**



## Now is the time to act!

The policies enacted by all levels of government in Australia will have an effect on our own shores and abroad, for today and the critical years to come. **Ensure that the vote you cast at this year's federal election is informed about and respectful towards the planet which we inhabit.**

*Watermark* CLRI NSW



## What is Climate Justice?

*"Climate Justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of*

*climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly. Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources."*

*Mary Robinson*

*"World peace is threatened not only by the arms race, regional conflicts and the continued injustices among people, but also by the lack of respect for nature."*

*Pope John Paul II, 1990*

## CARBON TAX

From an economic point of view, the carbon tax is a **cost-effective** means of reducing greenhouse emissions. At its core, it addresses the problem of major emitters not facing the full (economic and social) costs of their actions - that is, without a price on carbon, business and industry are able to pollute for free. The tax applies to Australia's largest 500 emitters, who - when taxed by the government—are forced to pass this extra cost onto consumers. While this doesn't sound ideal, the idea of the carbon tax is that organisations who produce their goods with less emissions will be able to **sell their goods for less** as well, bringing such organisations to the forefront of the market. The ALP has also tried to minimise the impact by compensating businesses and low-income households. According to SMH Economics correspondent Peter Martin, the carbon tax "has boosted the cost of living scarcely at all", contrary to anti-carbon tax rhetoric.

*Watermark* Mar 2013

**Care for God's Creation:** It is a requirement of faith that we care for God's creation. It is the habitat of all humanity and all other species and we are called to pass it to the next generation in good order. Exploiting its resources purely for profit and destroying the resources which are essential to life are sins of which our modern world is only now becoming aware.

*Seeds 2013*

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***A concern for all Australians is the Opposition's promise to scrap the carbon tax.*** email or write about your concerns to Shadow Minister [Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Greg.Hunt.MP@aph.gov.au) and the Minister for the Environment [Greg.Combet.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Greg.Combet.MP@aph.gov.au)  
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