

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## OPINION: SOUTHGATE SHOWED US A NEW ENGLAND. BUT THE OLD ONE HASN'T GONE AWAY

**David Olusoga** 13 July 2021

Despite England's collective sense of heartbreak, we could and should have been able to spend this week celebrating a second place finish at the Euros – a result that just a month ago would have been regarded as an extraordinary success. We should be busy pouring adulation upon an England team that exceeded expectations. We should be projecting their image and their remarkable backstories around the world, promoting their togetherness and their ethos as an expression of the best aspects of England and Englishness.

Instead, in a damp week, in a so-far largely dismal summer, as a third wave of a pandemic spreads invisibly among us, we are forced to defend our national team from an outpouring of hate. In doing so we have no choice but to confront the very worst aspects of English football, and the ugliest strains of English nationalism.

The toxic racism and swaggering hyper-nationalism that has for decades accrued around the English game has contaminated our national symbols, left millions feeling excluded from the national game, and damaged our reputation abroad. The rot has grown deeper in recent months, in part because our political leaders have allowed that poison to fester and – when they calculated that it was in their electoral interests – cynically refused to condemn it.

This tournament has been a tale of two Englands. In one of those Englands the national anthems of other nations are booed and fans from rival nations, some of them women and children, are abused in the stadiums and on the streets. In that nation, thugs throw bottles across Leicester Square and storm Wembley itself. In that England some “supporters” believe it is acceptable to boo our own young players, for deciding to support one another in the face of racist abuse ceaselessly directed at the black members of the squad.

Right now it is that England that is being written about in newspapers across Europe: the thuggery and the racism are the big stories, displacing the astonishing tale of England's revival under Gareth Southgate. We should perhaps be relieved that Sunday's violence took place in our own capital rather than in Rome, Paris or Berlin.

The alternative England, the one embodied by Southgate's team itself, is a nation that seems to flicker in and out of existence. The last time it openly celebrated its existence was three years ago, during the World Cup, when the team reached the semi-finals. Before that, it was nine years ago when, in another London stadium, we watched the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics: a celebration of youth, creativity and diversity. Since that

occasion we have had the “hostile environment”, Brexit, the Windrush scandal, and the ceaseless and calculated demonisation of Black Lives Matter and all things “woke”.

Southgate's England – encapsulated in his Dear England letter before this year's tournament began – is united, youthful and instinctively forward-thinking. It is diverse, and comfortable in its diversity. It has the potential, if we were able to fully embrace it, to reclaim and decontaminate national symbols. This England team aims to write its own history – in stark contrast to the cult of bitter, backwards-looking jingoism that exists among sections of its fanbase (the “10 German bombers”, “Two world wars, one World Cup” version of English identity).

From the start of Euro 2020, both of those Englands have been on display. In the capital of a nation still in denial about its imperial past, in a stadium originally built for an exhibition to celebrate the British empire, during a European tournament in which around a third of the players are people of colour – most able to trace their roots back to Europe's lost empires – England fielded a team made up of young men whose ancestors come from Ireland, Jamaica, St Kitts, Trinidad and Tobago, and Nigeria. Their backstories speak of historical truths we have yet to process. Their togetherness and commitment to anti-racism is the voice of the generation they represent, encouraged and amplified by Southgate's leadership.

Their talent and their stories invite us to reimagine what English patriotism could mean. But where there should have been support, there was booing; when there could have been political leadership, there was opportunism.

For Boris Johnson's government, the booing of the England team in the build-up to the tournament was a moment freighted with potential. Guided by its culture war strategising, it became its equivalent of Donald Trump's response to a murderous attack by white supremacists on demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia. Less crude and more calculating than Trump, Johnson and his advisers had no need to describe booing England fans as “very fine people”. Instead they spoke through silence; refusing to condemn them and dismissing the taking of the knee by England's players as “gesture politics”. The message was clear.

During the tournament the thinktank British Future released the results of a survey that showed that one in 10 people regard Englishness as a racial identity. In their minds, black people can never truly be English. Not many decades ago many more than 10% of us held that view. Yet although outnumbered, that 10% are never silent.

While England were winning, their hate was largely exiled to the toxic margins of social media. But literally within minutes of the team's first and only defeat, and given a free pass by the government to target their national team, those who believe blackness and Englishness are mutually exclusive unleashed their fury against the black players who missed penalties. The ugly events since Sunday's defeat have forced us to acknowledge just how deep the gulf between our Englands run. But the shame and shock that many people feel at the abuse directed against England's black players will not halt the drumbeat of calculated provocation and wilful division that has helped bring us to this point. That campaign is sanctioned by politicians so shameless that last week they donned newly purchased England tops, to cheer on a team whose moral stance they had derided only last month.

[https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/13/southgate-showed-us-a-new-england-but-the-old-one-hasnt-gone-away?fbclid=IwAROH\\_yKmgFSjEXrOMTJw5GJ-Hm8pGTbo1kdqhU67V6k9xX1WDLSo2f5lvzA](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jul/13/southgate-showed-us-a-new-england-but-the-old-one-hasnt-gone-away?fbclid=IwAROH_yKmgFSjEXrOMTJw5GJ-Hm8pGTbo1kdqhU67V6k9xX1WDLSo2f5lvzA)

## THIS IS ENGLAND

**Source:** Facebook post

This is England: Raheem Sterling, whose big sister would go with him to training and back every day, three buses each way, and never once complained, who called the day he bought his mum a house 'the best day of my life.'

This is England: Jordan Henderson, who spent most of the first lockdown last year organising the other 19 Premiership captains to help raise money for the NHS.

This is England: Marcus Rashford, who secured free school meals for vulnerable kids during school holidays after the government had refused to extend the programme, who lives by the words of his mother Melanie: 'take pride in knowing that your struggle will play the biggest role in your purpose.'

This is England: Mason Mount, who gave the shirt he'd worn in the semi-final victory over Denmark to a 10-year-old girl called Belle in the crowd, and in doing her made her smile a smile so incandescent it could melt the Siberian permafrost.

This is England: Tyrone Mings, who spent part of his childhood in a homeless shelter, who played non-league football while working as a barman and mortgage advisor, and who tells kids at the coaching camps he runs that the game is nothing unless they enjoy it, who was taunted with monkey chants on his England debut against Bulgaria and didn't pretend he hadn't heard, who turned to the assistant referee and said, firmly but without aggression, 'did you hear that?' As in: we've got a problem here, you're part of the officiating team, so this is your problem too and I'm not going to let you duck it, because though this was the most important match of his life there were some things which were more important still than that.

This is England: Luke Shaw, who when playing for Southampton watched Liverpool players file unseeingly past two small boys waiting for their autographs, and who went over and said 'I know I don't play for your team, but will I do?' and posed for a photo with them which they will never forget.

Yet, despite the brutal clarity of this moment, what Southgate's team have done remains astonishing. They have made an appeal to the best aspects of Englishness and done so against the direction of play, during an era in which politicians mobilise our worst instincts and darkest fears. Twenty-six young men and their remarkable manager have again reminded us that there is another path, another form of English patriotism, another way of being together and – if enough of us want it – another England.

The team gave us an insight into a modern nation. The racial abuse they received shows it won't be an easy transition.

• **David Olusoga** is a historian and broadcaster

This is England: Declan Rice, who would play cage football in New Malden every day after school and all day on Saturdays, not because he was the best but because he wasn't.

This is England: Bukayo Saka, who got As and A\*s in his GCSEs because his parents insisted that he work as hard inside the classroom as he did on the pitch, whose Christian name in Yoruba means 'adds to happiness.'

This is England: Kieran Trippier, who still speaks regularly to his old teachers at Woodhey High School in Bury because they looked out for him and his brothers, who every day has cause to reflect on the truth of the inscription by the school gates: 'where dreams may grow.'

This is England: Calvin Phillips, whose mum worked two jobs (one at Harpo's Pizzas, where you can now order the Calvin's Special) while his dad was in and out of prison.

This is England: Gareth Southgate, who until recently was most famous for missing a penalty he had the balls to volunteer for even though he'd never taken one before, because he knew what Teddy Roosevelt meant when he talked about the man in the arena.

These, too, are England: an incompetent government and an ineffectual opposition; a system which rewards the venal, the vainglorious and the mendacious; tribes which assume the worst of each other and snipe over Brexit, lockdown and masks; public services creaking under the strain of decades of underfunding; kids getting stabbed and women getting attacked; morons who boo the opponents' national anthems and shine laser pens at their goalkeepers; and so very, very much more. These too are England, and they will still be so next week, next month and next year.

But, if only for today, there is an England of Raheem Sterling and Jordan Henderson, of Marcus Rashford and Mason Mount, of Tyrone Mings and Luke Shaw, of Declan Rice and Bukayo Saka, of Kieran Trippier and Calvin Phillips, and of Gareth Southgate. If only for today, this is my England. You choose yours.

## ENGLAND PLAYERS TARGETS OF RACIST ABUSE

England forward Marcus Rashford apologised for his penalty miss but said he "will never apologise for who I am" after he was one of three players subjected to racist abuse following England's Euro 2020 final defeat. Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka missed their spot-kicks as Italy won 3-2 in a shootout after a 1-1 draw. All three players were targeted on social media after the game.

"I felt as if I'd let everyone down," Rashford wrote in a statement. The 23-year-old Manchester United attacker added: "I can take critique of my performance all day long, my penalty was not good enough, it should have gone in but I will never apologise for who I am and where I came from. I've felt no prouder moment than wearing

## MARCUS RASHFORD'S STATEMENT IN FULL:

"I don't even know where to start and I don't even know how to put into words how I am feeling at this exact time. I've had a difficult season, I think that's been clear for everyone to see and I probably went into that final with a lack of confidence. I've always backed myself for a penalty, but something didn't feel quite right. During the long run-up I was saving myself a bit of time and unfortunately the result was not what I wanted. I felt as though I had let my team-mates down. I felt as if I'd let everyone down. A penalty was all I'd been asked to contribute for the team. I can score penalties in my sleep, so why not that one?"

It's been playing in my head over and over since I struck the ball and there's probably not a word to quite describe how it feels. Final. 55 years. 1 penalty. History. All I can say is sorry. I wish it had of gone differently. Whilst I continue to say sorry I want to shout out my team-mates. This summer has been one of the best camps I've experienced and you've all played a role in that. A brotherhood has been built that is unbreakable. Your success is my success. Your failures are mine.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOW SUPPORT FOR MARCUS RASHFORD

Marcus Rashford has said he was "on the verge of tears" when he saw his mural which was vandalised had been covered in hearts and supportive notes. Rashford said: "The communities that always wrapped their arms around me continue to hold me up."

The artwork in Withington, Manchester, was defaced following England's defeat to Italy in the Euro 2020 final. Several swear words were daubed across the mural alongside the word "Saka". Greater Manchester Police said an investigation had begun into the racially-aggravated damage at the mural.

## BUKAYO SAKA 'KNEW INSTANTLY OF HATE' HE WOULD RECEIVE AFTER ENGLAND DEFEAT

"I will not let that moment or the negativity that I've received this week break me," Saka posted on social media. He said: "I knew instantly the kind of hate that I was about to receive and that is a sad reality that your powerful platforms are not doing enough to stop these messages. I don't want any child or adult to have to receive the hateful and hurtful messages that me Marcus and Jadon have received this week.

those three lions on my chest and seeing my family cheer me on in a crowd of tens of thousands."

A mural in Rashford's hometown of Withington was defaced after his penalty miss, before it was covered in messages of support. On Monday, England boss Gareth Southgate said the racist abuse was "unforgivable", and Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the Football Association also condemned it. The Metropolitan Police is investigating the abuse and said "it will not be tolerated", while the UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU) has also launched an investigation.

Messages of support were posted on a Marcus Rashford mural in his hometown after it was initially defaced.

I've grown into a sport where I expected to read things written about myself. Whether it be the colour of my skin, where I grew up, or, most recently, how I decide to spend my time off the pitch. I can take critique of my performance all day long, my penalty was not good enough, it should have gone in but I will never apologise for who I am and where I came from. I've felt no prouder moment than wearing those three lions on my chest and seeing my family cheer me on in a crowd of tens of thousands.

I dreamt of days like this. The messages I've received today have been positively overwhelming and seeing the response in Withington had me on the verge of tears. The communities that always wrapped their arms around me continue to hold me up.

I'm Marcus Rashford, 23-year-old black man from Withington and Wythenshawe, South Manchester. If I have nothing else I have that. For all the kind messages thank you. I'll be back stronger. We'll be back stronger." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/57814154>

There has been an outpouring of support for Rashford on social media and people have also posted positive messages over the covered-up graffiti on the mural. Notes and drawings with the words "role model", "wonderful human" and "hero" have been attached to the wall. Rashford, Sancho and Saka were described as "national heroes".

Those who brought the messages and hearts said they wanted to show solidarity with the Manchester United striker and stand against racism. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-57806142>

There is no place for racism or hate of any kind in football or in any area of society. And, to the majority of people coming together to call out the people sending these messages, by taking action and reporting these comments to the police and by driving out the hate by being kind to one another, we will win. Love always wins."

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/57855251>

## DEAR ENGLAND - A LETTER FROM GARETH SOUTHGATE, ENGLAND NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM

8 June 2021

Dear England,

It has been an extremely difficult year. Everyone in this country has been directly affected by isolation and loss. But we have also seen countless examples of heroism and sacrifice. It's given us all a new understanding of the fragility of life and what really matters. When you think of the grand scheme of things, perhaps football doesn't seem so important. And what I want to speak about today is much bigger than football.

As we go into this summer, I know that there will be a lot of emotion tied up in the Euros, and in this England team. I can't possibly hope to speak for an entire country, but I would like to share a few things with you, as we begin this journey.

There's something I tell our players before every England game, and the reason that I repeat it is because I really believe it with all my heart. I tell them that when you go out there, in this shirt, you have the opportunity to produce moments that people will remember forever. You are a part of an experience that lasts in the collective consciousness of our country.

We saw that during Russia 2018, with the street parties, the barbecues and with every drop of beer thrown into the air in celebration. When England play, it's not a few thousand — or even a few million — watching on subscription. You are representing more than 50 million people.

You remember where you were watching England games. And who you were watching with. And who *you* were at the time.

The first England match I really remember watching was in the 1982 World Cup, when I was 11. It was the first World Cup England had qualified for in my lifetime and I was obsessed. I had the wall chart, ready to fill in with every result, every goal scorer, every detail. I rushed home from school for England's opener against France to see Bryan Robson score after just 27 seconds! To witness that as a young Manchester United-supporting midfielder whose hero was Robson ... well, it's safe to say I was hooked. Later that same year, I watched Luther Blissett get a hat trick in a 9-0 win over Luxembourg. That specific result might have been forgotten by many but it really stuck for me.

Every game, no matter the opposition, has the potential to create a lifelong memory for an England fan somewhere.

*Why do we care so much?*

Like with our own memories of watching England, everyone has a different idea of what it actually means to be English. What pride means.

For me, personally, my sense of identity and values is closely tied to my family and particularly my granddad. He was a fierce patriot and a proud military man, who served during World War II. The idea of representing "Queen and country" has always been important to me.

We do pageantry so well in Britain, and, growing up, things like the Queen's silver jubilee and royal weddings had an impact on me.

Because of my granddad, I've always had an affinity for the military and service in the name of your country — though the consequence of my failure in representing England will never be as high as his. My granddad's values were instilled in me from a young age and I couldn't help but think of him when I lined up to sing the national anthem before my first international caps.

My belief is that *everyone* has that pride. And that includes the players. What is sometimes forgotten is just *how much* it means to the players. Players are fans too, after all. That's how it starts. It starts with kids sitting in front of TVs, with wall charts and heroes.

Undoubtedly, we're in a different era now, where footballers aren't as accessible to fans as they once were. They don't ride the same bus home from games, or meet in the pub for a pint and a post-match analysis. But, despite all the changes in modern football, what cannot be questioned about the current generation of England players is their *pride* in representing this country.

This idea that some players don't know what it means to play for England — or don't care — has become something of a false narrative.

You don't need to dig deep to realise that. You only need to see what I see when an under-15 comes into St. George's Park for the first time, or when a senior player arrives on their first call-up. The pride for them, their families and their communities back home is *huge*.

The journey to earn an England cap is an incredibly difficult one, regardless of background or circumstance. Only around 1,200 players have represented England at senior men's level. *Ever*.

It's a profound privilege. Don't forget, many of our lads started out at Football League clubs like Barnsley, MK Dons and Sheffield United. Their backgrounds are humble. For them to make it to this point as one of the chosen few in England's history ... well, it simply doesn't happen without pride.

This is a special group. Humble, proud and liberated in being their true selves.

Our players *are* role models. And, beyond the confines of the pitch, we must recognise the impact they can have on society. We must give them the confidence to stand up for their teammates and the things that matter to them as people. I have never believed that we should just *stick to football*.

I know my voice carries weight, not because of who I am but because of the position that I hold. At home, I'm below the kids and the dogs in the pecking order but publicly I am the England men's football team manager. I have a responsibility to the wider community to use my voice, and so do the players.

It's their duty to continue to interact with the public on matters such as equality, inclusivity and racial injustice, while using the power of their voices to help put debates on the table, raise awareness and educate.

Social media has been a key resource in giving our players a platform and has been a positive tool in so many ways. In fact, I feel like this generation of England players is closer to the supporters than they have been for decades. Despite the polarisation we see in society, these lads are on the same wavelength as you on many issues.

That said, there are times when my parental instincts kick in. I can't help it. After all, I'm old enough to be a father to most of my players!

I see players scrolling on their phones straight after the final whistle and I think ... *Hmmm, is that a particularly good idea?* Reading abusive comments on Twitter or Instagram is never going to help performance. There are genuine risks for our players online and I will always want to protect them, but I would never put rules on how or when they use their accounts while on England duty. I trust them and know they are mature enough to make their own decisions, to do what's right for their mental health and to keep being a force for good as we strive for a better society.

The last 18 months have put added pressure on everyone, I know. Venting that might have taken place while walking out of the stadium, or in the pub has been transferred online. I get that. However, there are things I will *never* understand.

Why would you tag someone in on a conversation that is abusive? Why would you choose to insult somebody for something as ridiculous as the colour of their skin? *Why?*

Unfortunately for those people that engage in that kind of behaviour, I have some bad news. You're on the losing side. It's clear to me that we are heading for a much more tolerant and understanding society, and I know our lads will be a big part of that.

It might not feel like it at times, but it's true. The awareness around inequality and the discussions on race have gone to a different level in the last 12 months alone.

<https://www.theplayerstribune.com/posts/dear-england-gareth-southgate-euros-soccer>

## VIEWPOINT: RACISTS MUST BE CONFRONTED AT ALL LEVELS

**Paul Donovan** 13 July 2021

The success of the England football team has rightly been acclaimed throughout the land. The players and management have been a real credit to an open, outward looking country that is welcoming to all.

Most of the team are descended from migrants to this country, from Marcus Rashford and Raheem Sterling to Declan Rice and Calvin Phillips. Without immigration, this team would not exist. The manager Gareth Southgate and his players have condemned racism, homophobia and sexism in all of its forms. They have been fine ambassadors for the country and all that is best about it.

Rashford has been superb in taking on the government on providing food for school children. Raheem Sterling has stood up against vile racism, as well as being an outstanding player in the tournament. Liverpool's Jordan Henderson has stepped up to help out during the pandemic. The team has come to represent everything that is best about the country.

The England team should help spread unity in the country, after the ravaging 18 months of the pandemic. Prior to that there has been the division sown by the prolonged Brexit process.

I am confident that young kids of today will grow up baffled by old attitudes and ways of thinking.

For many of that younger generation, your notion of Englishness is quite different from my own. I understand that, too.

I understand that on this island, we have a desire to protect our values and traditions — as we should — but that shouldn't come at the expense of introspection and progress.

Regardless of your upbringing and politics, what is clear is that we are an incredible nation — relative to our size and population — that has contributed so much to the arts, science and sport.

We do have a special identity and that remains a powerful motivator. In a funny way, I see the same Englishness represented by the fans who protested against the Super League. We are independent thinkers. We speak out on the issues that matter to us and we are proud of that.

Of course, my players and I will be judged on winning matches. Only one team can win the Euros. We have never done it before and we are desperate to do it for the first time. *Believe me.*

But, the reality is that the result is just a small part of it. When England play, there's much more at stake than that. It's about how we conduct ourselves on and off the pitch, how we bring people together, how we inspire and unite, how we create memories that last beyond the 90 minutes. That last beyond the summer. That last forever.

I think about all the young kids who will be watching this summer, filling out their first wall charts. No matter what happens, I just hope that their parents, teachers and club managers will turn to them and say, "Look. That's the way to represent your country. That's what England is about. That is what's possible."

If we can do that, it will be a summer to be proud of.

Yours,  
Gareth Southgate

Unfortunately, following defeat in the final of the European Championships, the other side of the UK emerged, as the racists surfaced again, subjecting the black players to a lot of vile abuse. They were condemned from most quarters. This was the unacceptable face of Britain. Racism has always existed in the UK but had become publicly unacceptable and made illegal by legislation like the Race Relations Act.

However, these previous efforts to confront racists and racism merely drove it underground or into more covert forms. It was always still there. The referendum on EU membership, with its focus on migrants helped to take the lid off racism once again. The result, the vote in favour of Brexit was to effectively give licence to the racists to come back out from under their stones. That is not to say that all Brexiteers are racists far from it, but the divisive debate, with its anti-migrant over tones certainly brought racism back out into the open.

Maybe it is a good thing because now racism is so blatant again, people across the country will need to confront it. This is happening, which is encouraging. The bravery of the footballers and other in the public eye is to be applauded for the role they have played.

One last thought to ponder. This country was built on immigration, the England football team are all descended from migrants. Without migration, this ageing country will sink. We are already seeing skills shortages, courtesy of leaving the EU. Many of those people that worked in our care homes, staffed the NHS, picked the crops and served the coffees have now gone home. There could come a time when the UK has to go out to beg people to come here to work. Those people are unlikely to come to an island that is hostile to them and dominated by racism. A selfish economic argument but one that many of those who will increasingly need the services of the sectors mentioned would do well to dwell upon.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42618>

• **Paul Donovan** is an award-winning Catholic journalist and Councillor for Redbridge. See his blog 'Between the Lines': <https://paulfdonovan.blogspot.com/>

## **NEW REPORT ON RACE AND RACISM IN ENGLAND**

Where we are now: Civil Society report on the state of race and racism in England to the United Nations CERD, 2021

This report provides a civil society perspective to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) by examining the situation of race and racism in England.

The Runnymede Trust have acted as the curators of evidence submitted by a broad coalition of organisations, on the EHRC's procedural request to conduct an independent civil society review on the state's progress on race and racism in England over the past 4 years. The report has been compiled with evidence from over 100 civil society organisations across the country and has been endorsed by 78 NGOs and race equality organisations. We received over 50 written submissions from institutions, CSOs, academics and other individuals in response to the call for evidence for this report.

Our report shows that racism is systemic in England and impacts BME groups' enjoyment of rights. Legislation, institutional practices and society's customs continue to combine to harm BME groups. As a result, in England, BME groups are consistently more likely to live in poverty, to be in low-paid precarious work and to die of COVID-19. Disparities facing BME groups in England are sustained across the areas of health, housing, the criminal justice system, education, employment, immigration and political participation.

**Click here to read the report in full:**

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/CERD/Runnymede%20CERD%20report%20v3.pdf>

### **Background**

The UK ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in 1969. By ratifying CERD, the UK agrees to take action to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms, including:

- eradicating racial hatred and incitement to hatred
- taking action to combat prejudices which lead to racial discrimination
- guaranteeing the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination on grounds of race, colour, or national or ethnic origin

The implementation of CERD is monitored by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Around every five years, the Committee reviews how well each state is putting into practice the rights in CERD. Around this time, civil society organisations in the UK set out a shadow report that sets out how the Government has implemented CERD, and what measures need to be taken.

[Read the written evidence submissions here.https://www.runnymedetrust.org/cerd-2021](https://www.runnymedetrust.org/cerd-2021)  
<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/cerd-2021>

## URGENT ACTION REQUEST: ASK YOUR MP TO SPEAK OUT FOR REFUGEES

The Government's new Nationality and Borders Bill not only fails to protect those in need of safety, but also treats them as criminals. Will you take action against this anti-refugee Bill?

On 19 and 20 July the Bill will be debated in Parliament for the first time - and we need you to ask your MP to speak out for refugees at this crucial moment.

The Nationality and Borders Bill will mean that thousands of vulnerable people who would currently be accepted as refugees will no longer be given safety in the UK due to the method of their arrival. Some could be criminalised and put in prison for up to four years.

People seeking asylum whose claims 'inadmissible' will have to wait a period of time before their application can be processed, whilst the Government tried to remove them to so-called 'safe countries'.

The proposed changes will lead to people being held in reception centres that could be offshore, which is likely to have a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of already vulnerable people.

The Government insists that it supports the expansion of legal routes to the UK, but unfortunately, nothing in the Bill makes good on those claims.

Please write to your MP today and join us in fighting these cruel changes. **NB. Using your own words will have greater impact.**

Dear MP,

I'm writing to you with one simple request – to stand up for refugees in this country.

When the Second Reading of the Nationality and Borders Bill takes place, it's vital that MPs stand up for the principle of refugee protection for everyone seeking asylum in the UK.

The Government claims that its legislation will break up smuggling networks, but nothing in the proposals would actually stop people arriving in the UK. Instead, the bill punishes vulnerable people who are seeking our protection after fleeing war, persecution, and tyranny.

At the very moment we should be giving people support and a fair hearing, the bill proposes that we criminalise them, or put them into the limbo of 'temporary protection', uncertain about their futures and unable to integrate.

These new plans will be costly and simply increase delays and inefficiency in the system, either as people wait longer before they are able to access the asylum system, or as they cruelly and needlessly pass through our courts and prisons system.

The Refugee Council will be providing a full written briefing on the bill ahead of Second Reading, but if you can only raise three points, please emphasise:

1. All people seeking protection should be allowed to make an asylum claim, no matter how they have arrived in the UK. Creating a two-tier system that grants lesser rights to those who arrive in the UK irregularly is a violation of the Refugee Convention and misunderstands why and how people flee oppression.
2. When vulnerable people are on our shores, we must receive them fairly and treat them decently. Proposals to house people seeking asylum in 'accommodation centres' undermines that approach, meaning people will be less able to access the support and legal advice they need, and will be less likely to have their claims heard through a fair process.
3. We need more safe and legal routes so that refugees can arrive in the UK without making dangerous journeys. In the immediate term, that should mean two things: first, a strong commitment to resettling 10,000 refugees each year, on an ongoing basis. Second, proposals to restrict refugee family reunion for certain groups must be scrapped. Refugee family reunion is a vital lifeline that brings separate families back together, and must continue.

It is hard to overstate the importance of the current moment for refugees in the UK. We have an opportunity to say that we are proud to offer protection, and that refugees are welcome, but we need to be strong and united in doing so.

Let us be clear: these proposals that will soon be debated amount to an anti-refugee bill. In that context, I hope you will take this opportunity to stand up for refugees, and for the future of the UK's asylum system.

Yours sincerely,

<https://act.refugeecouncil.org.uk/campaign/urgent-ask-your-mp-speak-out-refugees> SEE ALSO: <https://care4calais.org/>

## STOP PRESS: 5-YEAR WORK VISAS FOR WAR REFUGEES TO FILL WORK SHORTAGES

Priti Patel is set to announce a new five-year visa for refugees fleeing war, reserved for those who can show proof they have the skills to fill jobs in the UK that are suffering a shortage of workers. The Home Secretary will next week reveal a new displaced talent mobility scheme, offering refuge to highly skilled people currently living in refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan, under plans first reported by *The Times*.

People who have fled conflict in Syria, Gaza and Iraq will be eligible for the pilot scheme, which will initially just cover 100 refugees and their families, granting them a skilled work visa that allows sanctuary in the UK for up to five years. Under Patel's strict points-based criteria for the scheme, refugees will need to provide evidence that they possess the skills required for jobs on the UK's list of occupation shortages – including engineers, care workers, nurses, IT workers, architects and vets. The new programme is reportedly modelled on similar skilled migration schemes in Australia and Canada, where temporary visas can often represent the first step towards permanent migration for those seeking refuge.

Patel's Home Office has said the new scheme will be in addition to other resettlement routes for refugees entering the UK. However, the UK recently ditched a commitment made two years ago to resettle around 5000 refugees a year in the UK, in a scheme that only started in February this year. Instead, the Home Office scrapped this target figure in March and announced no new figure for its new plans for UK immigration.

On Monday, MPs will debate and vote on the new Nationality and Borders Bill – which will bring a landmark overhaul of the UK's asylum system into legislation.

Patel is expected to tell parliament: "The British people have always been generous to refugees. This is a source of great national pride and will never change. Part of our firm but fair approach is to strengthen the safe and legal ways in which people can enter the UK. And I can announce that this government will take action to help those displaced by conflict and violence access our global points-based system. We will work with the charity Talent Beyond Boundaries and other partners on a pilot project to enable more talented and skilled people who have had to flee their homes, to safely and legally come to the UK and contribute to our country. This country does right by those in need."

But humanitarian campaigners have warned the new points-based scheme prioritises skills over the much-needed safe asylum of refugees. "A scheme that supports refugees to rebuild their lives in the UK is to be welcomed but this is a tiny drop in the ocean in the provision of safe routes for people fleeing war, terror and oppression," Enver Solomon, chief executive of the Refugee Council, told *The Times*. "Without a long-term plan to resettle tens of thousands of people in need of safety this government's commitment will continue to ring hollow."

The government is working with charities including Talent Beyond Boundaries, who helped create the Australian and Canadian schemes, on the new pilot programme.

A group of Conservative MPs, including ex-immigration minister Caroline Nokes and MPs David Simmonds and Tim Farron, signed a statement on Wednesday urging Priti Patel to put a number on the UK's commitment to resettling refugees, ahead of the debate in parliament on Monday. "Given the polarised nature that public debate can take we will work for unity rather than hostility within our communities," the statement said. "In order for safe routes to have the desired effect of preventing people from making dangerous journeys, it is necessary to have sufficient ambition about the overall number of people able to access the routes provided. The existing safe routes should be maintained and not reduced." <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/home-office-to-announce-five-year-work-visas-for-skilled-refugees/ar-AAMg4U2>

## REFUGEE NEWS UPDATE

On 28 July 2021, it will be 70 years since the UK signed the UN Refugee Convention. Following the horrors of World War Two, we committed alongside other nations to protect people fleeing war and persecution. Since then, the convention has saved thousands of people – including those fleeing ethnic cleansing in the Balkans, torture in Zimbabwe and war in Syria. That's something we can all be proud of now, and something we must protect for the future.

It's particularly vital because the Government's Bill threatens the UK's commitment to the fundamental principles of the convention and of the UK as a place of refugee protection. As the UN warned of the UK's plans recently in unusually strong language: "UNHCR is concerned that the plan, if implemented as it stands, will undermine the 1951 Convention and international protection system, not just in the UK, but globally." That's why on 28 July we will celebrate the convention and launch a new campaign to help preserve our commitment to its principles, and a fundamental rethink of the Government's proposals and Bill.

Seven refugees from seven decades and seven places will come together to celebrate 70 years of the UK welcoming refugees. They will tell their powerful stories and the people who welcomed them. Just as the UK did 70 years ago, the seven people taking part will sign their names to signify support for the spirit of the convention. But this time they will be signing a large orange heart – the symbol of a kinder, fairer approach to refugees.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bj\\_d-Kn9Vh1FqbM5Ez9EEwn\\_3PrIbKDGIANVXi1Vk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bj_d-Kn9Vh1FqbM5Ez9EEwn_3PrIbKDGIANVXi1Vk/edit)  
<https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/>

## MPS WHO VOTED FOR AID CUTS 'HAVE BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS'

**Jo Siedlecka** 15 July 2021: Many thousands will die as a result of harsh cuts to the UK's aid budget voted in by MPs on Wednesday, aid agencies warn. In spite of appeals from charities and faith leaders, there were 333 votes to 298 - a majority of 35, in favour of the government's plan to slash its international development budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI.

Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, told ICN: "It is beyond despicable that the government is hiding behind fiscal formulas to abandon the world's most vulnerable. Its economic rationale for its aid cuts is fatuous. The 0.7 per cent commitment is already tied to economic growth, declining, or rising with it. The cuts in aid, whilst increasing defence spending just underlines how cynical this is. The truth is this is a political decision, which is at the expense of the world's most vulnerable and marginalised communities affected by Covid and climate change. Today's vote was an opportunity to show that 'Global' Britain is better than this, yet it is clear this Government is not."

Neil Heslop, chief executive of the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), said: "It is no exaggeration to say that this decision by parliament will devastate international development charities all around the world and the end result is that lives will be lost as a direct consequence." Heslop said the UK has a history as a world leader in international development and "to turn our back on that legacy is an historic mistake." "Valuable, life-changing programmes, built up over years with the support of UK taxpayers, now risk collapse and any vision of a global Britain has been placed in jeopardy," Heslop said.

Among projects being dropped are child health programmes. Medics warn that if 5.6 million children are left unvaccinated, this could cause up to 100,000 deaths.

Danny Sriskandarajah, Oxfam GB's chief executive, said the vote "is a disaster for the world's poorest people. With more people in need of humanitarian assistance than at any time since World War II, aid is needed more than ever. The cuts to UK aid are having a direct impact on thousands of lives today, and a delay in restoring aid will be felt for generations to come in parts of the world ravaged by conflict, climate change, and Covid-19 pandemic." He said there was a gap between the rhetoric of 'Global Britain' and "the reality of a government breaking its promises to the world's poorest and further undermining the UK's credibility on the international stage. These cuts won't balance the books; the government is putting politics above the lives of world's most vulnerable communities," he said. memory, and for girls in particular, the chance for an education could be lost forever."

Global Justice Now said MPs who voted to support the government's cut to international aid have "blood on their hands".

Christian Aid said the last-minute vote "speaks of a government trying to escape its responsibilities to the world's poorest people." Pete Moorey, Christian Aid's head of UK advocacy and campaigns, said: "This reckless and controversial vote will essentially decimate aid for years to come. It beggars belief that, in the middle of a global pandemic with extreme poverty rising, we are turning our backs on the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. Rather than listening to current and former archbishops, cardinals and church leaders across the UK, this last minute vote speaks of a government trying to escape its responsibilities to the world's poorest people. This decision will do untold damage to Britain's standing and reputation at home and abroad. We will continue to oppose these cuts. Now more than ever, the UK should be leading the way in tackling crises such as climate change, Covid, and conflict that are affecting so many of the world's poorest communities." <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42629>

### LINKS

**ICN 24 April 2021 - Archbishops condemn UK aid cuts** - [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41932](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41932)

**ICN 1 July 2021 Lord Alton on aid cuts- 'We have broken our word and broken trust'** - [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42543](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42543)

## PETITION TO STOP AMAZON DESTROYING UNSOLD GOODS

**PETITION TEXT:** Please stop destroying items that can help hospitals, charities, homelessness, food banks, the list goes on. Donate them to Amazon staff or charities, or even sell them to us at a reduced cost instead. It's soul destroying to stand and process thousands of items to destroy, knowing full well they are perfectly sellable items. Hundreds of beautiful perfumes, 60 year-old single malt whisky, champagne etc... sealed makeup, expensive vitamin supplements, and thousands of books destroyed.

It would be very nice if Amazon workers could benefit from these items - if not free but at discounted price, and some to be donated to charity. As they say "charity begins at home" and I think we're very much part of that home.

Put these items to good use where they're needed most, anything left should be given to charities. Needlessly destroying items that can be put to good use when times have been so tough for so many is unacceptable and entirely avoidable.

### SIGN THE PETITION HERE:

[https://the.organise.network/campaigns/2039?rkey=fVp7WshX8qYzps9H&utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=facebook&utm\\_campaign=VvF8ngfS64nfC4J9](https://the.organise.network/campaigns/2039?rkey=fVp7WshX8qYzps9H&utm_source=share&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=VvF8ngfS64nfC4J9)

**BACKGROUND:** ITV News: Amazon destroying millions of items of unsold stock in one of its UK warehouses every year <https://tinyurl.com/txkv7ubz>

## CHRISTIAN CND - 'AN IMPORTANT WITNESS FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD'

**Ellen Teague** 14 July 2021: More than 90 people joined an online meeting on 12 July to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CCND). Catholic peace campaigners were there in force, including Bruce Kent, Valerie Flessati, Pat Gaffney, Fr Rob Esdaile, Ann Farr and Joan Sharples. Several members of the Executive of the National Justice and Peace Network were also present, including the Chair and Vice Chair, Paul Southgate and Anne Peacey. A keynote speaker summed up the feeling of the meeting by saying CCND has been "an important witness for a nuclear-free world."

Revd Tony Miles spoke first from Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, where the historic first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly was held in January 1946, and which saw the first resolution passed calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons. He spoke about many Christians supporting CND as part of their vocation.

Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati gave highlights of CCND campaigning. We saw photos from a 1970 vigil: 'Stop pollution at Porton', the British research establishment for chemical and biological warfare. In 1972 the international community reinforced the post-World War 1 ban on chemical and biological weapons. Then a photo from 1973 of Easter protests at Faslane, the Scottish home of Britain's nuclear weapons, showing an exorcism service. "Christians brought into CND a new way of looking at things, naming the evil of nuclear weapons for what it is, and applied Church tradition, our symbols and liturgical drama to nuclear weapons," said Valerie. In the 1980s, Christian CND assembled several thousand people to surround the Ministry of Defence in London, where preparations were and are made for nuclear war. Speakers at events over the years have included Fr George Zabelka, the peacemaker who did an about-face on nuclear weapons some years after serving as a chaplain to the US air crew who dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 and giving them his blessing. She said, "it has been a privilege to work alongside those inspirational people."

One participant said, "I will never forget Bruce turning up at Greenham Common - the site of cruise missiles - to bring chocolates and some warming Scottish 'water of life' during the biblical 40 days of rain after the caravans were evicted in September 1982, and many times after that!" Bruce Kent was the general secretary of CND from 1980 to 1985 and is today an honorary vice-president.

Marie Dennis of Pax Christi International spoke about the Vatican and nuclear weapons, and the role of Pax Christi. "For a long time the Vatican called for nuclear disarmament but was ambivalent about nuclear deterrence," she said; "it is Pope Francis who has profoundly questioned the moral justification for nuclear deterrence and this is a shift in Catholic teaching." The Holy See participated actively in negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and was among 122 states that voted in favour of its adoption in 2017. The Holy See signed the TPNW when it opened for signatures on 20 September 2017 and deposited the Holy See's instrument of ratification on the same day, making the Holy See the first state to ratify the treaty. Pope Francis condemns the possession of as well as the threat

to use nuclear weapons. Marie said, "Pax Christi International has been working for nuclear disarmament since we were founded over 75 years ago. We are strongly supportive of the TPNW and every other move toward abolition and we are active members of ICAN - the International Campaign to abolish nuclear weapons."

Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal, the Methodist Honorary President of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, felt CCND has been "an important witness for a nuclear-free world." And singled out Bruce Kent as "a great inspiration." He was disappointed about the UK Government's position on keeping hold of nuclear weapons and even increasing numbers of weapons recently. He described nuclear expenditure as, "scandalous, especially in a world with widespread hunger." He felt the ministry of Christ is, "hospitality and healing not harming and hurting," adding that, "war is an outdated approach to resolving tensions" and "peacemaking is not a soft option for it needs hard listening and conversation." He urged anti-nuclear campaigners, "always to keep hope alive, sustained by the spirit of God." He concluded with, "we cannot support violence as a means of building a better world."

The Church of England Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, reflected that the British government, as a nuclear weapons state, "is in contravention" of UN multilateral initiatives against nuclear weapons. "Nuclear weapons are not only immoral but illegal" he said; "from a fiscal angle there are better things to spend money on and from a military angle nuclear weapons are no use." He underlined that the most basic human instinct is love, "and Christians must witness to the peace of God which passes all understanding."

Participants heard a new 60th anniversary hymn by Sue Gilmurray and Christopher Idle, 'Let us raise our voice' and prominent on the images used to illustrate it were Patricia and Michael Pulham. They have been involved since the early 1980s and are Catholic activists in the CCND Executive. "What impressed us about CCND was the way the campaign was built around the Church Calendar," they said after the commemoration. These included the first Peace Pentecost they attended at Upper Heyford and Ash Wednesday at the Ministry of Defence alongside Pax Christi. They have been involved in interfaith prayers outside the United Nations Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty and regular visits to London Embassies, calling countries to account on their defence and disarmament policies.

The Pulhams reflected this week: "Our hopes for the future are obviously that nuclear weapons become a thing of the past, and that as a way to achieve this, our Government engages with the TPNW, and certainly does not increase its warhead numbers. We hope that peacemaking and a Nuclear Weapons-Free world become a recognised part, not only of the leadership of the Christian Churches, but of their congregations too."

**Christian CND** <https://christiancnd.org.uk/>  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42625>  
**Read Marie Dennis' talk in full here:**  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42633>

## IRISH PRIMATE DEEPLY DISHEARTENED AT BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S 'TROUBLES AMNESTY'

Source: Irish Catholic Media Office 15 July 2021

Archbishop Eamon Martin, Primate of All Ireland said in a statement: "The British government's decision to ban all Troubles-related criminal and civil actions, and legacy inquests, will be seen by many victims as a betrayal of trust which denies justice to them and to their loved ones. It is disturbing that victims and survivors, those have paid the highest price for the fragile peace we all enjoy today, once more feel marginalised and neglected.

I was particularly disappointed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson's naïve comments in the House of Commons suggesting that his legacy proposals would allow Northern Ireland to "draw a line under the Troubles". At this painful time I ask for prayers of comfort for victims suffering on all sides in the conflict, and for truth and justice to prevail in the interest of the common good. Dealing with the legacy of our shared past is not an easy task. It is a complex undertaking which belongs to all of us. It has no "quick-fix". No "line can be drawn" to relieve the deep hurt still carried in the aftermath of years of violence, death and life-changing injury.

The 2014 Stormont House Agreement, signed up to in good will by all parties, sought to deal with our legacy in a collaborative and honest way which respected fully the input of victims in achieving consensus. It is therefore deeply disheartening to witness a key signatory renege on this joint commitment.

Sadly, this week's announcement has been expected. In April 2020 the Catholic bishops in Northern Ireland published a considered statement criticising the UK government's approach towards the legacy of the past. Its content included correspondence to the Secretary of State, Mr Brandon Lewis, and it remains relevant.

The bishops supported the ongoing pursuit of appropriate criminal, legal and civic justice for all victims. They addressed prioritising victims as the focal point of a response to dealing with the legacy of the past; equal access to justice for all; facing the past however painful; achieving authentic reconciliation for a just and stable peace; and concern that the proposed legislation for Northern Ireland would mirror the provisions of the Overseas Operations (Service Personnel and Veterans) Act 2021 which does not honour human rights, avoids the rule of law, does not offer justice to victims, nor provides for a modality to underpin long-term peace and stability in a transparent, fair and equitable context. See: [www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/04/08/catholic-bishops-in-northern-ireland-criticise-uk-governments-approach-to-legacy-of-the-past/](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/04/08/catholic-bishops-in-northern-ireland-criticise-uk-governments-approach-to-legacy-of-the-past/)

As the British government is now facing criticism from all quarters concerning its unilateral decision, the announcement begs the age-old question: "Cui Bono?" ("Who benefits?"). <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42634>

## CARBON LITERACY COURSE

Faiths4Change are offering Liverpool City Region residents fully-funded places on an accredited 'Carbon Literacy' course that explores climate change and carbon footprints as a way to live faith, care for Creation and act on climate justice. Carbon Literacy is about growing our awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis. The course enables learners to connect issues of climate change to their personal motivations, grow their understanding of climate science, explore issues of climate justice and plan to take high-impact actions. This is the first course nationally to explore carbon literacy from faith perspectives.

Kate from Emmanuel Parish, Fazakerley, said "A few of us have in recent weeks decided that we need to form an eco church group, but we didn't really know where to start or what to do. Then we stumbled across Faiths4Change Carbon Literacy Training and booked on just to get us going. I'm so glad we did! The training the team delivered is outstanding. I learnt so much, in such a safe, non-judgemental setting and it was such a good way to start forming as a group. Sharing this experience with the others from my church has no doubt gelled us together and we can now work as a team on supporting each other and our church & parish to help tackle climate change. And I'm so relieved to know that we can call on Faiths4Change at any time to help us achieve that goal."

Freda said "I have been aware of climate change issues and have personally taken small steps such as conserving water and having no food waste BUT I had never heard of the carbon cycle and much of the science of the early modules. It was a big learning curve for me but so well presented." And Kelly added "Just the right level of information, breaks and discussion so it was not too much to take it but really a full fun day of learning."

This Carbon Literacy training is being offered to up to 400 residents across the Liverpool City Region thanks to a grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Community Environment Fund. The course has been developed by Energy Projects Plus: [epplus.org.uk/](http://epplus.org.uk/) and is being run with partner Zero Carbon Liverpool: [facebook.com/ZeroCarbonLiverpool/](https://facebook.com/ZeroCarbonLiverpool/) A secular version of the course is available through our partners, please contact Faiths4Change with enquiries.

**Evening courses in July:** 21st and 22nd July, (7 - 9pm each day)

- Please note, you can join any of the courses as an individual. If you have a group of 10 people who would like to take the course together, we can offer you your own training date. Please get in touch directly to arrange. Contact Annie Merry and Liz Atherton to enquire and book a place: [annie@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:annie@faiths4change.org.uk) [liz@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:liz@faiths4change.org.uk)

## CAFOD REPORT EXPOSES DEADLY ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ACROSS LATIN AMERICA

**Source: CAFOD** 14 July 2021: Just weeks after G7 leaders renewed commitments to "safeguard the planet for future generations", a new report by CAFOD has found that they are falling dangerously short, as those on the frontlines of protecting the environment face unprecedented attacks.

The new report *Protecting our common home: land and environmental human rights defenders (HRDs) in Latin America reveals* a shocking pattern of environmental and human rights abuses that drastically impacts already underrepresented groups, including: women, indigenous, people of African descent, and small farming communities.

Many killings, threats, and attacks against HRDs have been linked to corporate activity, fallout from the coronavirus pandemic and growing inequality. Now, the defenders are calling on state and business leaders to step-up to protect people and planet.

"As a woman, I've suffered humiliation and discrimination", explained Victoria, an environmental defender from Peru where, since the start of the pandemic, nine indigenous leaders have been killed for defending the Peruvian Amazon. "I have been criminalised for nine years of my life. I have suffered from psychological abuse, low self-esteem, harassment, and unemployment. Alongside personal stress, there's been the discrediting of my family."

Across Latin America, an unprecedented 264 killings were recorded in the region - the highest number worldwide. According to Frontline Defenders, over 40 per cent of these killings were linked to issues around land, indigenous rights, and the environment.

Despite the increasingly hostile environment, HRDs are finding innovative ways of resisting harmful state and corporate activity, including collective mobilisation and international advocacy, which is helping them to push for change. More support, however, is needed.

"For me, defending territories means defending life," said Juana, an environmental human rights defender in Guapinol, Honduras, where eight HRDs have spent more than 22 months in jail for defending national park rivers against mining projects.

Throughout Latin America, communities rely on the land, water and forests to survive, with many working to safeguard the planet and its natural resources for future generations. However, unequal access to and control over land is a key element of the deeply rooted and growing inequality across the region. According to the UN, in 2020, 209 million people - over a third of Latin America's population - lived in poverty, an increase of 22 million on the previous year. This inequality and exclusion, paired with the knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, is helping to feed the perpetual cycle of environmental attacks against HRDs and their communities.

"In every corner of the globe, land and environmental HRDs are under attack" explained co-author of the report and CAFOD's Latin America representative, Emily Mulville. "But these attacks are particularly acute in Latin America. Faced with massive inequality and widespread impunity, they suffer violence, criminalisation, and stigmatisation, often with nowhere to turn for protection. This reality is unacceptable, outrageous and deadly."

The charity is calling for urgent preventative action from UK and EU governments as "international governments, bodies, and businesses all have a responsibility to prevent and end abuses in the supply chains of multinational companies operating in Latin America," Mulville continued. "Human rights defenders help to keep governments and businesses in check, ensure that models of development put people ahead of profit, and protect our planet. And, only by tackling the drivers of these attacks - including the powerful political and economic forces profiting from their land, water and forests - can we protect these courageous men and women who are risking their lives to save the planet for us all."

**Read more here:** <https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/Policy-and-research/Private-sector/Human-rights-Latin-America>

**Download the report here:**

<https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/56617/776987/version/1/file/Protecting%20our%20common%20home%20HRD%20in%20Latin%20America.pdf>

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42626>

## GERMANY FLOODS: AT LEAST 80 DEAD AND HUNDREDS UNACCOUNTED FOR

At least 80 people have died and hundreds more are unaccounted for in Germany after some of the worst flooding in decades. Record rainfall in western Europe caused rivers to burst their banks, devastating the region. Belgium has also reported at least 12 dead after the extreme weather, which political leaders have blamed on climate change. The Netherlands is also badly affected, with further flooding in Luxembourg and Switzerland.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has pledged full support for the victims. In Germany, the states of Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia were worst hit. During a visit to a hard-hit area, Armin Laschet, premier of North Rhine-Westphalia, blamed the extreme weather on global warming, saying climate protection measures must be accelerated. Scientists have repeatedly warned that human-induced climate change would bring pulses of extreme rainfall such as this one.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-57858829>

## AMAZON RAINFOREST NOW EMITTING MORE CO2 THAN IT ABSORBS

Cutting emissions more urgent than ever, say scientists, with forest producing more than a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide a year - **Damian Carrington Environment editor, *The Guardian*** @dpcarrington Wed 14 Jul 2021

The Amazon rainforest is now emitting more carbon dioxide than it is able to absorb, scientists have confirmed for the first time. The emissions amount to a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, according to a study. The giant forest had previously been a carbon sink, absorbing the emissions driving the climate crisis, but is now causing its acceleration, researchers said. Most of the emissions are caused by fires, many deliberately set to clear land for beef and soy production. But even without fires, hotter temperatures and droughts mean the south-eastern Amazon has become a source of CO<sub>2</sub>, rather than a sink. Growing trees and plants have taken up about a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions since 1960, with the Amazon playing a major role as the largest tropical forest. Losing the Amazon's power to capture CO<sub>2</sub> is a stark warning that slashing emissions from fossil fuels is more urgent than ever, scientists said.

The research used small planes to measure CO<sub>2</sub> levels up to 4,500m above the forest over the last decade, showing how the whole Amazon is changing. Previous studies indicating the Amazon was becoming a source of CO<sub>2</sub> were based on satellite data, which can be hampered by cloud cover, or ground measurements of trees, which can cover only a tiny part of the vast region. The scientists said the discovery that part of the Amazon was emitting carbon even without fires was particularly worrying. They said it was most likely the result of each year's deforestation and fires making adjacent forests more susceptible the next year. The trees produce much of the region's rain, so fewer trees means more severe droughts and heatwaves and more tree deaths and fires.

The government of Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, has been harshly criticised for encouraging more deforestation, which has surged to a 12-year high, while fires hit their highest level in June since 2007.

Luciana Gatti, at the National Institute for Space Research in Brazil and who led the research, said: "The first very bad news is that forest burning produces around three times more CO<sub>2</sub> than the forest absorbs. The second bad news is that the places where deforestation is 30% or more show carbon emissions 10 times higher than where deforestation is lower than 20%." Fewer trees meant less rain and higher temperatures, making the dry season even worse for the remaining forest, she said: "We have a very negative loop that makes the forest more susceptible to uncontrolled fires."

Much of the timber, beef and soy from the Amazon is exported from Brazil. "We need a global agreement to save the Amazon," Gatti said. Some European nations have said they will block an EU trade deal with Brazil and other countries unless Bolsonaro agrees to do more to tackle Amazonian destruction.

The research, published in the journal *Nature*, involved taking 600 vertical profiles of CO<sub>2</sub> and carbon monoxide, which is produced by the fires, at four sites in the Brazilian Amazon from 2010 to 2018. It found fires produced about 1.5bn tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year, with forest growth removing 0.5bn tonnes. The 1bn tonnes left in the atmosphere is equivalent to the annual emissions of Japan, the world's fifth-biggest polluter.

"This is a truly impressive study," said Prof Simon Lewis, from University College London. "Flying every two weeks and keeping consistent laboratory measurements for nine years is an amazing feat. The positive feedback, where deforestation and climate change drive a release of carbon from the remaining forest that reinforces additional warming and more carbon loss is what scientists have feared would happen," he said. "Now we have good evidence this is happening. The south-east Amazon sink-to-source story is yet another stark warning that climate impacts are accelerating."

Prof Scott Denning, at Colorado State University, said the aerial research campaign was heroic. "In the south-east, the forest is no longer growing faster than it's dying. This is bad – having the most productive carbon absorber on the planet switch from a sink to a source means we have to eliminate fossil fuels faster than we thought."

A satellite study published in April found the Brazilian Amazon released nearly 20% more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere over the past decade than it absorbed. Research that tracked 300,000 trees over 30 years, published in 2020, showed tropical forests were taking up less CO<sub>2</sub> than before. Denning said: "They're complementary studies with radically different methods that come to very similar conclusions."

"Imagine if we could prohibit fires in the Amazon – it could be a carbon sink," said Gatti. "But we are doing the opposite – we are accelerating climate change. The worst part is we don't use science to make decisions," she said. "People think that converting more land to agriculture will mean more productivity, but in fact we lose productivity because of the negative impact on rain."

Research published on Friday estimated that Brazil's soy industry loses \$3.5bn a year due to the immediate spike in extreme heat that follows forest destruction.

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/14/amazon-rainforest-now-emitting-more-co2-than-it-absorbs?fbclid=IwAR2u-KOM5qgfxNw\\_hZU-aKef8nyPzNrJ503jFD9VZRqcaDcniUkzCvg1fj8](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jul/14/amazon-rainforest-now-emitting-more-co2-than-it-absorbs?fbclid=IwAR2u-KOM5qgfxNw_hZU-aKef8nyPzNrJ503jFD9VZRqcaDcniUkzCvg1fj8)

## CLIMATE CHANGE: 'NO MORE EXCUSES' AT COP26 CLIMATE SUMMIT - POOR NATIONS

**Matt McGrath** Environment correspondent BBC News online

More than 100 developing countries have set out their key negotiating demands ahead of the COP26 climate meeting in Glasgow. These include funding for poorer nations to fight and adapt to climate change and compensation for the impacts they will be subjected to.

Those backing the plan represent more than half of the world's countries. Without progress on these points, they say that COP26 will be worthless and will end in failure.

- Amazon regions emit more carbon than they absorb
- EU unveils sweeping climate change plan
- Carry on flying, says government green plan

COP26 in November is expected to be the most important meeting on climate change since the Paris agreement was drawn up in 2015 and there are huge expectations that it will deliver significant progress in the battle against rising temperatures.

But this new position paper is a warning shot from more than 100 of the world's poorer countries, which are dismayed by the lack of progress they've seen so far - particularly at the G7 meeting in the UK in June.

They've set out five key issues which they say are critical for them in the negotiations:

- **Cutting emissions:** Despite some progress, the sum total of climate policies in place will not keep global warming within the limits that governments agreed in Paris in 2015. An acceleration of net zero targets is urgently needed, led by those with the biggest responsibility and capacity.
- **Finance:** At the failed Copenhagen COP in 2009, richer countries promised \$100bn a year in climate finance by 2020, with increased annual sums from 2025. That target has not been met, say the developing countries - and it needs fixing if they are to trust the richer countries to keep to what they negotiate. This fund is intended to help those lower-income countries adapt to and fight climate change.
- **Adaptation:** The developing countries are calling for at least 50% of climate finance to be used to help the most vulnerable to adapt to the effects of global warming.
- **Loss and damage:** The historical failure of richer countries to cut their emissions adequately means that the most vulnerable are already experiencing permanent losses and damage. Responsibilities have to be acknowledged, say the poorer countries and promised measures delivered.
- **Implementation:** Since Paris, rich and poor have haggled over issues like carbon trading and transparency. The developing countries want to see these questions finally resolved and want all countries to agree five-year common timeframes for their national climate plans.

"Highly vulnerable countries like Somalia are already suffering disproportionately from the impacts of climate change," said Mahdi M Gulaid, deputy prime minister of Somalia, one of the countries behind the plan. "COP 26 must be a key moment of delivery and there can be no more excuses for unfulfilled promises, particularly climate finance."

The poorer nations draw parallels with the Covid-19 pandemic. They say that a failure to deliver vaccines and debt relief after Covid, will send a signal to these countries that they will be alone when climate impacts bite harder.

"Despite Covid understandably taking the headlines, climate change has been getting worse over the past year as emissions continue to rise and the lives and livelihoods on the front line suffer," said Sonam P Wangdi of Bhutan, who will chair the Least Developed Countries Group at COP26. "COP26 needs to be a summit where we see action not words. We have enough plans: what we need is for major economies to start delivering on their promises. Our economies are suffering in the face of increased climate impacts and budgetary strains: either we invest our way out of this mess or we face a brutal decade of loss and damage."

In the report, the countries lay out what's termed a "fair share accounting", which allocates emissions cuts based on historical responsibility and the capacity to act.

Under that scenario, the US would need to reduce emissions by 195% below 2005 levels by 2030. This could be made up of a 70% cut in domestic emissions plus \$80bn a year in support for developing countries. For the UK, a similar approach would see a 70% emissions cut by 2030 plus \$46bn a year in climate finance.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-57839368>

## JOIN THE UK CHURCHES' RELAY TO COP26

This November, world leaders are meeting in Glasgow for important climate negotiations. We believe it's time to make decisions which protect people not bank balances, to decide that no country will go into debt tackling climate change. It's a decade-defining opportunity to make a stand. It's time to rise to the moment.

**Young Christian Climate Network** are organising this Relay to COP26 to show we care about climate justice and creation care. We want to see systematic change on a global and a local scale. We hope that by running this relay, we can raise awareness of COP26 and our imperative as Christians to engage in creation care theology, individually and corporately. Although this relay is organised by young adults, we welcome and encourage participants of any age. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvLgNaBBq8tHS1sqf66MKHOSP1m2mts7aEYnFSt6nQjDoQA/viewform>

**ROUTE:** St Ives 11-13 June, Exeter 30 June-3 July, Bristol 13-6 July, Reading 29-30 July, London 5-8 August, Birmingham 24-26 August, Manchester 10-12 September, York 21-23 September, Newcastle 4-6 October, Edinburgh 21-23 October arriving in Glasgow 30 October.

The climate crisis is a reflection, and a cause, of deep injustice in the world. This crisis arises from our abuse of God's creation, and our broken relationship with our neighbours worldwide who suffer most from its consequences. We are convinced of the Biblical mandate to care for creation, and lament its exploitation.

COP26 is the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which is being held in Glasgow from 1-12 November 2021. COP refers to the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At the summit, delegates including heads of state, climate experts and negotiators will come together to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. As well as the negotiations, there will also be space for countries, international organisations and other delegates to showcase climate action, highlight diverse climate change issues and share knowledge. (Information taken from [ukcop26.org](http://ukcop26.org))

Despite steps being taken to reduce the effects of climate change, not enough is being done. Particularly in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic and recovering from a global recession, it is more important than ever to mitigate climate risks and to bring about a global green recovery. In particular, the Paris Agreement made in 2015, following COP21, set a framework whereby all countries are asked to submit renewed commitments to action every five years. These are called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The current NDCs are the only ones we have so far, and they do not go far enough. At the level of ambition we have at present, we will still see an increase in global average temperatures of past 3 degrees.

This year is the first time countries must update their commitments. It's really important that countries close the gap - that the level of commitments match the level of ambition needed to limit warming to two degrees. This means this year is essentially the first time we get to see if the Paris Agreement works - if the major countries fail to raise their ambition, the countries most affected by climate change will lose trust in the international process. <https://www.yccn.uk/>

The Cop26 relay is passing through Shrewsbury diocese in September including a walk from Romiley into Heaton Moor on 9th September and out again to Mossley on 13th. There will be activities in Heaton Moor all weekend. It goes from Chapel en le Frith to Romiley on 8th September. They are looking for accommodation and support and walkers. There's a Zoom meeting every 2 weeks on a Tuesday evening to find out more or go to [RELAY | YCCN](#)  
**See also** PEOPLE'S WALK FOR THE PLANET – A PILGRIMAGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE: <https://caminotocop.com/>

## SCOTLAND: SHORT FILM HIGHLIGHTS ANCIENT PILGRIM ROUTE

A new, short video has been produced on behalf of Faith in Cowal that showcases the rich religious heritage and newly established pilgrim routes across Argyll's spectacular Cowal peninsula.

Promoting 'The Cowal Pilgrimage', the video is narrated by Jim Ritchie and includes a captivating backing track written by Skye Beautyman, Gordon Whyte and Ciaran Whyte (performed by the eXp Youth Work School of Music).

Faith in Cowal project lead, Dan Romani, explained: "After launching a network of pilgrim trails in Cowal just a few weeks ago, we've produced a video that we hope will entice people to come and try them out. It reveals fascinating landmarks in all their glory such as Kilmorich church in Colintrave, the carved stones in Kilmodan and Lochgoilhead and Kilmun Church on the banks of Holy Loch, highlighting the natural beauty of the peninsula all the while. It's aimed at anyone visiting this stunning part of the world, be they cyclists, ramblers or campervan enthusiasts and was created by Glasgow based company Code Word Zebra with production by Subtle Sensor and features a number of Dunoon residents helping out as 'extras'.

"There's such a strong footprint of early Christianity in Cowal and we're delighted that this short film brings it to life in such a vivid way" added Dan. "We hope the video, and the 200 mile network of trails themselves, will appeal to visitors to the area".

The video, along with information about the pilgrim sites and detailed walking guides for The Cowal Pilgrimage, can all be found on the Faith in Cowal website: <https://faithincowal.org>

**Find the video on YouTube here:** <https://youtu.be/leAV08xMLO4><https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42632>

## EXHIBITION - CROSSINGS: COMMUNITY AND REFUGE

A powerful display highlighting the perilous journeys made by refugees, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Featuring the Lampedusa cross, alongside Syrian born artist Issam Kourbaj's installation *Dark Water, Burning World*.

Starting in Coventry Cathedral the exhibition is touring England and will be ..... From Saturday 29 May 2021 to Sunday 5 September 2021 at the People's History Museum, Left Bank Spinningfields Manchester M3 3ER 10.00am - 4.00pm. Please note the museum is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The museum is free to visit with a suggested donation of £5. Contact the Museum 0161 838 9190

The Lampedusa cross was made by the Italian island's carpenter Francesco Tuccio, from fragments of a boat that was wrecked off the coast of Lampedusa on 11 October 2013. The boat was carrying Eritrean and Somali refugees attempting the crossing from Libya to Europe. Tragically over 300 people drowned. The island's inhabitants helped to save 155 others, risking their own lives in the process. Tuccio, moved by refugees' experiences, but frustrated that he could not make a difference to their situation, made a cross for each of the survivors as a symbol of salvation and hope.

*Dark Water, Burning World* by artist Issam Kourbaj examines the plight of Syrian refugees and the journeys they undertake. The installation includes twelve little boats made from repurposed bicycle mudguards, jam-packed with upright, extinguished matchsticks, evoking huddled groups of people making the dangerous sea crossing to Europe. These escaped people now carry visible and invisible scars, scorched into them by the separation from their homeland. The once beautiful and abundant sea has become a terrifying expanse on which the lives or deaths of thousands are decided.

**Find out more and register to visit:**

<https://phm.org.uk/installations/a-british-museum-spotlight-loan-crossings-community-and-refuge/>

## FINAL CALL FOR ENTRIES TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING FILM COMPETITION

Young people across Europe are being invited to produce a short film, approximately four minutes-long, based on the Slogan 'Slavery - Human Trafficking - Near YOU!' and using some or all of the tags #StopTheDemand, #BreakTheChains, #EndTheCycleTOGETHER.

The film can be produced by an individual or a team. Competition winners will receive £2000 for first place, £1000 for second place, and £500 for third place. If entering as a team, the prize money is per entry, so will be shared between team members.

The deadline date of entry is 20 August 2021.

Winning entries will be shown in London at RENATE's Film Festival, which will take place on 12 September 2021 across two venues in London. The first-place winner will be shown at BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts), and all three winning entries will be shown at the Royal Society of Arts.

Pope Francis has described human trafficking as a 'crime against humanity'.

RENATE'S President, Sr Imelda Poole IBVM and MBE, says: "anti-slavery work is the mission of God and an element of the Church's promotion of social justice." She hopes young people, through the competition, will help RENATE, "to abolish all forms of human trafficking and exploitation that violates the human dignity and rights of persons." This week the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See has nominated Sr Imelda Poole as a 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report Hero. Chargé d'Affaires Patrick Connell: "Sister Imelda has shown extraordinary dedication and leadership advocating for victims of human trafficking."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42549>

**For more information and entry details see:** [www.renateevents.net/film-competition](http://www.renateevents.net/film-competition)

**Renate** Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation

## PILGRIM CROSS

Exciting news! The Student Cross community has chosen a new name: PILGRIM CROSS, to reflect our diversity, growth and direction. Keep watching our socials for any updates and how to get involved. We can't wait to welcome walkers new and old to our pilgrim body.

#rebrand #pilgrimcross #diversity #pilgrims #newadventures #oldfriends

<https://studentpilgrimcross.org/>

## DIARY DATES

### JULY

**23-25 NJPN conference '2021: Moment of Truth'** in Derbyshire. A few places are still available for the Annual Conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) 23-25 July 2021, which is looking at ecological conversion and Care for Creation, at: [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/)

### AUGUST

**6 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Flower Memorial** 8pm at The Groves, Chester. Annual event to remember those who died and suffered as a result of the atomic bombs dropped in 1945, and in the firm belief that it must never happen again. All are welcome to meet at the Bandstand for readings, a period of quiet reflection, and the dropping of flowers on the river. Please bring white flowers if you wish.

**6 and 9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.** More information and resources will be available here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/prayer-and-seasonal/>  
Pax Christi has a resource looking at the **UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/secondary/workshop-resources/>

**9 Commemorating the death of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter.** Pax Christi has a range of resources exploring his life and witness: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/peace-people-2/blessed-franz-jagerstatter/> We will be having our annual commemoration service at 6:30pm and more information will be available here nearer the time: [https://paxchristi.org.uk/event/franz-jagerstatter-service/?instance\\_id=952](https://paxchristi.org.uk/event/franz-jagerstatter-service/?instance_id=952)

### SEPTEMBER

**1 World Day of Prayer for Season of Creation**

**1 September-4 October Season of Creation** <https://seasonofcreation.org/>  
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/ourwork/environment/season-of-creation/>

The Climate Sunday initiative is calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold a climate-focused service on any Sunday before COP26 (November 2021). The Season of Creation (1 September– 4 October) may also be a suitable time. Encourage your priest to celebrate a special Mass – resources from <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Climate-Sunday-Mass>

**5-12 Root & Branch Inclusive Synod** <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org>

**18–26 Great Big Green Week** - a National Week of thousands of events celebrating how communities and groups are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encourage others to get involved too. Everyone is invited. Can you help plan an event or join others locally - <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/>

**21 UN International Day of Peace**

Sadly *The Universe* weekly newspaper has been forced to close due to decreasing sales but NJPN's weekly column will continue online on Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) and articles will be uploaded onto our website at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

● Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.

● Sign up for regular news and information from NJPN including **a new fortnightly e-bulletin with a comprehensive round-up of current events, campaigns, e-petitions and resources** (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) or contact [ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org) or [admin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org) 020 7901 4864

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*