



G7 LEADERS 'WASTE OPPORTUNITY OF CORNWALL SUMMIT

By CAFOD Director Christine Allen.



The heads of the government at the summit, which took place in Cornwall between 11-13 June, “wasted a precious face-to-face meeting to encourage each other and deliver urgent and desperately-needed action on COVID and the climate crisis”, Allen said.

G7 leaders announced the group of rich countries would provide one billion vaccines over the next year – although the World Health Organization has said 11 billion jobs will be required to bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control.

The heads of government also reiterated a previous pledge to provide \$100 billion in ‘climate finance’ – money to assist countries hit hardest by the impacts of global heating – rather than setting out how this goal would be achieved.

Christine Allen said:

“It is clear that the G7 leaders have not adequately heard the voices of the world’s poor in relation to vaccines and climate finance.

“Will the actions of these G7 nations create necessary trust around the world as we move towards the next major summit in the UK – COP26? I’d say that’s unlikely.”

“If Boris Johnson believes that ‘global Britain’ is a force for good, then he needs to show by his actions the moral imperative to take urgent action for a fairer, greener and just world.”

[Sign the CAFOD Petition about COP26](#)

Vaccine commitments not enough to end the pandemic

Campaign groups including CAFOD said a commitment by G7 countries to provide an additional one billion vaccines to poorer nations over the next year was insufficient, given the group’s pledge to “vaccinate the world by getting as many safe vaccines to as many people as possible as fast as possible”.

Aisha Dodwell, Head of Campaigns at CAFOD, said:

“Rich countries have secured more than enough vaccines to cover their own populations, but what they are offering the



rest of the world will only help a fraction of those yet to be vaccinated.

“If G7 leaders are serious about securing vaccines for all, then they should all support proposals for a waiver to the COVID vaccine patent put forward by South Africa and India and backed by an increasing number of world leaders, including Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron.”

Lack of ambition on climate in run-up to COP26

CAFOD campaigners had urged Boris Johnson to use the G7 summit to build momentum ahead of [the COP26 climate talks the UK is hosting in November](#).

Leaders reiterated the importance of the 1.5C global warming target, promises to reach net zero by 2050 and commitments to improve financial support for low-income countries to deal with the climate crisis.

But the prime ministers and presidents in Cornwall failed to make more ambitious financial commitments.

Aisha Dodwell said:

“Before COP26, we need wealthy nations to significantly step up their spending on climate finance for the countries and communities struggling to deal with the effects of climate change.

“We also need all wealthy nations to immediately end support for new fossil fuels, both domestically and internationally.”

G7 ignores calls to #CancelTheDebt

The G7 leaders in Cornwall backed moves to allocate additional financial support to countries struggling to pay debts at the same time as fighting the pandemic through what are known as ‘Special Drawing Rights’.

These are a mechanism for providing additional finance or ‘assets’ to countries, but the heads of government at the summit pushed for these to be made available through loans rather than grants, which risks adding to debt burdens for low- and middle-income countries.

The leaders at the summit failed to discuss the cancellation of debts, which is critical for helping countries facing debt crises to recover from the pandemic and which Pope Francis has urged governments to support.

CAFOD have a petition urging the UK Government to take a position at the COP26 talks that ensures poor countries (who have done least to contribute to climate change) are not disadvantaged by the agree actions.

[Sign the CAFOD Petition about COP26](#)



National Justice and Peace Network Conference 2021



Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

23-25 July 2021



CAFOD Summer FUNraiser



By raising money you'll be helping people around the world who are suffering because of the climate crisis, the pandemic and poverty.

What can I do as a Summer FUNraiser?

Are you a wannabe Olympian, tennis pro or football star? Take on an active challenge for

'2021: Life on Earth – Moment of Truth'

As climate change, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death.

Decisions to be made this year at the COP26 climate summit and in the recovery from the pandemic are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity the like of which we will never see again.

At Conference 2021 we will take inspiration from Laudato Si, Fratelli Tutti and secular thinking on integral ecology. We will seize this moment of grace for the changes and choices now confronting us.

To book a place at the conference please click here: [Conference | NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK \(justice-and-peace.org.uk\)](https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference)

CAFOD this summer in celebration of the return of international sporting events! Run,

cycle, swim, play tennis or football, or anything else that you love doing.

You can do it on your own or with your family! You'll be helping people around the world who are suffering because of climate change. Here are some examples of the challenges you could take on:

- Run or cycle a particular distance over a period of time
- Do a swimming relay or get sponsored to swim in the sea.



- Play a tennis marathon on holiday or get sponsored per penalty shot playing football.

BISHOPS URGE GOVERNMENT TO RETHINK IMMIGRATION PLAN

The Catholic Universe, 15th May 2021

The Catholic bishops of England, Wales and Scotland have told the British Government that it must rethink its New Plan for Immigration, as they warn it will provide a ‘charter for trafficking’.

In a letter to Home Secretary Priti Patel, Bishop William Kenney CP, a member of the Santa Marta Group, strongly encourages the Government to refocus its response so that it provides support for victims, instead of criminalising them.

Whilst welcoming the Government’s commitment to ensuring that police and courts have the necessary powers to bring perpetrators of modern slavery to justice, while giving victims the support they need to rebuild their lives, Bishop Kenney expresses serious reservations over elements of the new immigration plan.

‘The policy statement makes extensive reference to abuse of protection mechanisms, placing disproportionate emphasis on a very small number of cases and proposing more restrictive criteria for

support, while overlooking the genuine failings in the UK’s response to trafficking and modern slavery,’ he writes on behalf of the Santa Marta Group.



‘The reality is that a significant proportion of victims are never identified, most of those who are do not receive adequate support, and prosecutions of criminals responsible for exploitation are extremely rare.’

Bishop Kenney strongly encourages the Government to modify its approach to prioritise three key elements: an effective National Referral Mechanism that efficiently identifies and supports victims; consistent recognition that modern slavery is not an immigration offence; and focus on pursuing perpetrators, not criminalising victims.

‘The introduction of new barriers to entering and seeking asylum in the UK risks pushing more people into the hands of traffickers,’ writes Bishop Kenney. ‘Across the world it has been consistently demonstrated that policies criminalising those seeking sanctuary and introducing new border security



measures do not save lives but are simply a charter for trafficking.'

In a separate joint letter to Ms Patel, Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, and Bishop William Nolan, Chair of the Scottish Bishops' Commission for Justice and Peace, also warn that 'tougher border security and a less generous asylum system' will 'risk driving more people into the hands of criminals'.

'We believe in tackling trafficking through combining a strong response to organised crime, with the opening of more safe and legal routes to sanctuary, while ensuring that victims are never criminalised,' they write.

'How we respond to those in need has profound implications for our society. We must keep in mind that welcoming successive generations of refugees has greatly enriched our communities.

'It is therefore imperative that we continue to make room for people who seek safety and a home among us in the UK.'

In their letter, the bishops also call for clear resettlement targets and proper support for civil society groups welcoming refugees through community sponsorship.

'Creating arbitrary divisions based on people's method of entry will have profound

implications for those who need our support most,' the bishops write.

'We know that many families and individuals have no choice in the route that they take and to penalise them on this basis dangerously undermines the principle of asylum. We oppose any move to treat differently those forced to risk their lives or make difficult journeys to reach safety and those who are selected for organised resettlement routes.'

Highlighting Pope Francis' call for Catholic communities to host refugee families, the bishops note that 'parishes across the UK have been at the forefront of welcoming people through Community Sponsorship'.

Whilst being encouraged by the Government's commitment to a new UK Resettlement Scheme and ensuring that more people can enter through the Community Sponsorship route, the bishops also warn that 'the impact will be limited without ambitious targets or proper support for civil society groups'.

They urge the Government to incorporate these into resettlement policy as it is developed.





LEEDS DIOCESAN J&P RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S 'NEW PLAN FOR IMMIGRATION'

Recently the Commission wrote to the Home Secretary expressing concerns over the Immigration Plan:

Dear Home Secretary,

The Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Leeds is alarmed by the proposals for asylum seekers as outlined in the Government's New Plan for Immigration, which we consider to be unfair and arbitrary.

The major points we object to are:

1. Any Asylum Seeker arriving outside a Government resettlement programme, will be treated as an illegal migrant. They will never be given indefinite leave to remain and it is assumed they will leave at some point.

This disregards the often perilous situations people have fled, is likely to separate families, and is contrary to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: that everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. Asylum Seekers will be housed in camps or barracks separate from the community.

This is poor practice leading many to depression, self-harm and suicide. It also isolates asylum seekers from our communities. Through our parishes and community organisations, our Catholic community has welcomed and supported many asylum seekers,

valuing the subsequent friendships, and supporting people through the harsh regime of destitution and no recourse to public funds.

3. The proposals state that to speed up court cases only predetermined reports and evidence should be used by agreed parties.

This does not allow for the submission of new evidence or reports and does not specify who 'the parties' are. We know of cases where the Home Office has used discredited or out of date reports. This would leave no possibility to challenge them.

4. The Government states anyone not disclosing all the facts of their case immediately will be deemed not credible. Yet we know that disclosing issues of sexuality, rape or torture can be extremely traumatising and often people feel unable to do so in the initial stages. This is especially true in what is often a hostile environment and instead people rely on other facts about their case in the hope that it will be enough before they disclose the full extent of their difficulties.

It is a flawed approach which makes sweeping assumptions about people's ability to relate difficult and disturbing information. Often people are fearful that the same prejudices that faced at home might be present here.

These proposals demonise and stigmatise vulnerable people, appear to be motivated by a lack of compassion and generosity, and are contrary to Catholic social teaching. We therefore urge you to abandon them.



SEASON OF CREATION 2021

The Season of Creation in the Church's year runs from **01 September** (the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) through to the feast of St Francis of Assisi on **04 October**. This period is also celebrated in a similar style in several other denominations.

This year the theme is 'A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God'.

The Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer, Chair of the Ecumenical Season of Creation Steering Committee and Program Executive for Lutheran Theology and Practice for the Lutheran World Federation, encouraged all Christians to use the season to take action and to truly create a home for all of creation.

"The Season of Creation theme focuses on the fact that the Earth belongs to God, and each beloved creature belongs to this common home (Psalm 24:1). The Greek word for 'home' is oikos. By rooting our theme in the concept of home, we point to the integral web of relationships that sustain the well-being of the Earth.

"We have to ensure a just home for all creatures for life on our planet to thrive, and that requires ecological, economic and technological solutions that are rooted in a faithful vision of justice for the dignity of every creature.

The Commission is planning two online liturgies – one at the beginning and one at the end of the season.

Clear Running Water?

An hour of reflection and prayer to recognise God's presence in the beauty of Creation and a call to harness the energy of the Holy Spirit to live more sustainably within our Common Home and to encourage others to do the same.









Tuesday 7th September 2021 @ 7:30pm

Register via Eventbrite to receive a link:

<https://tinyurl.com/leedsjpcreation1>



EVENTS

 Sun 27th Jun 2pm-4.30pm	<p><u>Myddleton Laudato Si Mini Pilgrimage Walk & Social Event</u></p> <p>This short, guided walk through the Nature and History in this part of our Diocese will take in the site of the Mediaeval village and go through the farm and woodland, ending at the Myddelton Calvary. To register your interest and/or intention to come by emailing communications@dioceseofleeds.org.uk</p>
 Mon 5th July 7pm-8.30pm	<p>Non-Violence – Responding to the Cry of the Earth</p> <p>Join Pax Christi for a conversation about the part Non –Violence can play in protecting the earth. To register please click here Meeting Registration - Zoom</p>
 Wed 7th July	<p>Make Britain support the Global Nuclear Ban (Day of Protest)</p> <p><i>We want huge peace sign protests across the region demanding that the British government endorse the TPNW and abandon its commitment to nuclear weapons. If you want to organise an action, get in touch with the office and let us know how we can support. You can contact us on info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk</i></p>
 Wed 7th July 	<p>Information Workshops-Leeds Citizens anti-racism campaign</p> <p>Leeds Citizens, in partnership with Leeds Church Institute and Leeds Methodist Mission, is exploring the possibility of launching a city-wide anti-racism campaign to try and bring about change on the issues of racism and race equality using community organising tools of listening and action, leadership development and learning. There are two sessions to choose from: Option 1: 1.30pm – 3pm Option 2: 7pm – 8.30pm if you are interested in attending, please email events@leedschurchinstitute.org</p>
 Friday -Sunday 23-25 July 2021	<p>National Justice and Peace Conference 2021 LIFE ON EARTH – MOMENT OF TRUTH Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick</p> <p>There will be opportunities to take part in workshops and activities throughout the weekend as well a JUST FAIR consisting of more than 20 stalls from different agencies displaying goods and resources. https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/NJPN-Conference-2021-Booking-Form.pdf</p>

Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.

See our website for details of these and other events which may be of interest.