



# Pax Scotia

## Issue 38

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Marian Pallister, Pax Christi Scotland chair



## Peace & Climate Justice

### We can't have one without the other

I have said this before, but I make no apologies for saying again: peace and climate justice are inextricably linked.

This edition of *Pax Scotia* goes out as we come to the end of the Season of Creation. It began on September 1 (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) and on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, October 4, it will come to an end with the publication of a second 'Laudato Si' encyclical from Pope Francis.

Pope Francis has said that this will be a tougher version of the document he issued in 2015, which began the Laudato Si Movement and has encouraged ecological conversion around the world.

I suppose we could compare it to David Attenborough's earlier documentary series, which presented our planet in a sanitised version - one that has disappeared in his most recent work where we've seen the reality of the effects of climate change on our seas, our ice caps, our deserts and on the creatures desperately attempting to survive in increasingly alien surroundings.

Pope Francis gave us a pretty good road map for navigating the changes that humankind has brought upon itself. Bizarrely, although that road map has been embraced by people of other faiths and other denominations, I challenge you to find a dozen Catholics in *your* parish who have read it!

But I think we'd all better read this next document very carefully, because it urges the action that too many governments have refused to implement, even though they signed up to the 2015 Paris Agreement that pledged to make the changes needed to halt climate disaster.

I usually spend some time every year in Zambia, and of course, the pandemic prevented that. So when I was there in June of this year, I was distressed to see the effects of climate change on local farmers - farmers who have it tough enough as it is. If the rains don't come at the right times, if

when they do come they are too heavy and wash away seedlings, how are people to survive?

My friend Mirriam (you can hear my interview with her on our website) and her neighbour Agnes both believe they'll have to move very soon because the plots they have just can't sustain them.

They will move a few miles, probably have to pay higher rent, but they may find a water source that will make their work worthwhile.

But for too many people throughout Africa and Asia, the changes in the climate are making it impossible to stick around to earn a living and feed families. If you've seen Pope Francis's film *The Letter* you'll have an idea of the difficulties people are facing, not just in farming but in so many areas of life.

In some countries, the encroachment of migrants is leading to conflict (for heaven's sake, we just need to look at the UK and the hostility whipped up by Westminster and parts of the media). In other areas, there is just a desperation to find the means to survive.

And so we see the thousands of migrants ending up in small boats crossing the Mediterranean, the Aegean or the English Channel. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, it isn't enough to fish them out of the water, we have to go upstream to find out why they fell in.

And we KNOW why they've fallen in. We know that the northern hemisphere's industrialisation has created climate injustice for the southern hemisphere. We have to own it as injustice, act on it, and rescue peace while it still stands a chance.

*Marian Pallister*



*Greenham Common has a special place in our peace activism history. Today, with the planned storage of US B61 bombs at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, can a new generation step into the shoes of the women who campaigned so long and at such great personal cost? Vladimir Putin's reaction to the news suggests that this agreement with the US is a very dangerous one. Dr Rebecca Johnson reflects on the new situation...*



Dr Rebecca Johnson

## Greenham Lessons

*Dr Rebecca Johnson is an Ecofeminist peace & security campaigner, a British peace activist and expert on nuclear disarmament, the director and founder of Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, and a co-founding strategist and organiser of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, of which Pax Christi Scotland is a member organisation). She is CND Vice President and was a Greenham Common activist.*

The Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp started in 1981 because it seemed to be the only practical way for young people like me to take responsibility and stop the nuclear madness that threatened all life on Earth. We focussed on stopping the cruise missiles, highlighting nuclear dangers, and demanding the abolition of all nuclear arsenals. We took actions against nuclear testing in solidarity with the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Women and the Western Shoshone Nation, dispossessed and contaminated by UK nuclear test bombings.

Six years later the 1987 Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was signed, banning and eliminating ground-launched nuclear-armed cruise and ballistic missiles. That was a major success story for civil society and diplomacy, not NATO power - the explanation peddled by Margaret Thatcher's government. **We need to understand this as we again face nuclear threats and war in Europe.**

From 1987 to 2019, when Putin and Trump destroyed it, the INF Treaty worked well for mutual security. It contributed to bringing down the Berlin Wall and transforming Europe, enabling further unilateral, bilateral and multilateral actions that have eliminated over 47,000 nuclear weapons after 1987 and brought about the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the TPNW nuclear ban treaty.

Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine has killed thousands and threatened millions with nuclear war and is risking major nuclear disaster with its military actions in and around Zaporizhzhia and other nuclear power plants. This war is also acting as an obscene bonanza for weapons makers from NATO to North Korea.

The UK's current government is paying out billions in efforts to deploy new 'Dreadnought' submarines while struggling to keep the ageing Vanguard subs afloat. Meanwhile, the US is spending billions to deploy more B61 upgraded nuclear bombs – including in the UK at USAF/RAF Lakenheath.

Women, faith groups and grassroots activists are again at the forefront of movements to demand urgent action to abolish nuclear weapons and tackle the man-made climate emergency. International Humanitarian Law and multilateral diplomacy have moved forward since the 1980s, and have the capacity to play much bigger roles in building security and peace without nuclear weapons and fossil fuels. Across the world, climate, peace and humanitarian activists are working closely with the many governments that recognise the need to fulfil environment protection laws and fully implement international agreements such as the 2021 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

**Lessons from Greenham:** The military-industrial 'revolution' and colonial exploitation and destruction of indigenous and minoritised peoples and their lands are inextricably linked with nuclear weapons and climate heating. We must work together to get rid of all warmongers and nuclear

weapons.

Movements for peace and justice need to evolve but must never give up. Refusing to give up when cruise missiles were flown into the base in 1983, Greenham women and local people upped our nonviolent activism, widening the web and forming 'Cruisewatch' to protest and disrupt the nuclear convoys that were supposed to 'melt into the countryside'. Throughout the 1980s, hundreds of thousands of women (and many children and men!) were inspired to get involved with Greenham in many different ways. As activists disrupted nuclear test sites and nuclear bomb deployments across Europe and many parts of the world, 'Nuclear-free zones' were declared and campaigned for, often supported by mayors and councils protesting against nuclear testing and transports.

Emulating Greenham women's initiatives, grassroots activists combined with local people to protest and disrupt nuclear bases in many more countries. Faslane Peace Camp, which was founded by Scottish activists in 1982, was one of the earliest. Not long after that, Greenham women founded the Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp in 1984. The successes of Cruisewatch led to the Nukewatch network that still continues to raise awareness, monitor, track and protest the nuclear convoys that carry UK warheads between AWE Aldermaston, Burghfield, Coulport and other military facilities.

This means that we have international law and nuclear disarmament treaties on our side. If we unite peace, justice and Earth protectors in as many countries as possible, we stand the best hope of preventing nuclear use and further climate destruction. Instead of nuclear weapons costing the Earth, we must create the conditions for protecting Mother Earth and investing in climate action and peace instead of military-industrial destructivism and nuclear weapons.

Rebecca Johnson



# Enough is Enough

*Rania Murra is Director of the Arab Educational Institute & head of the Women's Programme. She's based in Bethlehem. The AEI is a member organisation of Pax Christi International and works closely together with Palestinian NGOs at both a local and national level, especially in the fields of education and non-violent actions. A Christian-Palestinian organisation promoting education, peace building and dialogue in the Palestinian cities of Bethlehem, Ramallah and Hebron, it was established in 1986. Here, Rania reflects on 'violence', and asks us to stand in solidarity to end the occupation in Palestine.*

The Arab Educational Institute (AEI) believes that violence is using physical force in order to do harm, damage, or kill someone or something. Violence has too many shapes, such as emotional, verbal, psychological, economical, sexual, political, etc.

The main two types of violence in our society are internal and external. The first one has been demonstrated in the violations of human rights against women, children, and the elderly among different factions or parties, as well as the internal divisions between Gaza and Ramallah entities.

As for the second one, the external is related to the presence of occupation and the settlers' violent measures against humans and all of God's creatures in our environment. Presently, the Palestinian reactions, especially in the West Bank, have been a kind of resistance against the extreme right-wing coalition of Netanyahu. The whole ongoing growth of violence and anti-reactions, whether internally or externally, is interrelated and has prompted us at the AEI to increase our efforts in our nonviolent and peacebuilding strategies and activities to address some of these challenges despite the limited financial resources.

The AEI has been analysing, studying, researching, and discussing both internal and external types of violence. After a deep study, we analysed the roots or causes of the types of violence, came up with some solutions, submitted some proposals, and got some funding for the following projects:

1) **Citizenship and Diversity** is an educational peace-building programme that aims at building better understanding, social cohesion, and equal, responsible, committed, and participating students and teachers in public issues and inner peace. This programme has been going on through not only entitlement and educational theoretical joint lessons at 30 government and private schools but also in training teachers on learning and teaching methods based on nonviolence, peacebuilding, and Pax Christ peace spirituality. The impact, life testimonies, and stories by teachers, students, women and parents have been published in AEI "Culture and Palestine: Series Publications," as well as placed as posters on the Separation Wall and named as the Wall Museum near our office at the Sumud Story House, Rachel Tomb area, north of Bethlehem. This has been the typical nonviolent work and role of AEI in promoting non-violence and peace education and a good model to both the Israeli occupation violence as well as to those Palestinians who violate human rights against their own people.

Also, this inter religious or inter faith programme has published two major booklets that have been developed and discussed and submitted to the PNA Ministry of Education as well as some universities and some educational circles. They are Sumud Syllabus



**Rania Murra,  
Director of AEI in  
Palestine**

"resilience, steadfastness, perseverance, deepening our three values: faith, peace and love, to exist is to resist". The second publication is the methodology booklet, which introduced some learning and teaching methods in nonviolent communication, dialogue and peace building, for example: Moral Dilemma approach, R.R.C.A and Socratic Method of Dialogue.

2) **Palestinian Women conducting advocacy for Civil Peace**: this project has been focusing on giving training sessions on different topics on nonviolence and peace building in order to prepare the young women in marginalised areas and conflict zones in Bethlehem and Hebron Districts to carry out advocacy campaigns and initiatives together with local society leaders and stakeholders. This is a very good model for both the internal and external violence that are damaging our society and to raise the voices: "Enough is enough."

3) **The Integral Ecology Approach**: is a project that has been based on the social teaching of our Catholic Church, which has inspired by His Holiness Pope Francis in His Laudato Si in 2015. This essential method has been explained, discussed and understood by our different involved groups of youth and women who are preparing to organise some initiatives that care not only for the physical environment but also for the human, cultural, economic and psychological components of the environment.

We call upon Pax Christi Scotland to pray, advocate, stand in solidarity and to work to end occupation and for all governments to put pressure on all to abide by the UN resolution.

*Rania Murra*

<https://aeicenter.org/history/>

## Our website

Blogs, podcasts, past and future events – these are all on our Pax Christi Scotland website. All newsletters are archived there. You can pay your annual membership fee on the Membership page and make donations. Please explore and share:

<https://www.paxchristiscotland.org>

Continued thanks to webmaster Chris Boles of Caledonian Websites:

<https://www.caledonianwebsites.com/>

## Membership Reminder

**Easiest method? Pay on the membership page of our website.**

If you pay by online banking, please give your name to identify your payment.

If you wish to pay by cheque, send to the address below, cheques payable to Pax Christi Scotland.

You can also make regular donations on our 'donate' page - thank you.

Membership fees are £10 for waged, £5 for unwaged.

Explore the website for all our activities:

<https://www.paxchristiscotland.org>

## Where to find Pax Christi Scotland:

<http://www.paxchristiscotland.org>

[@PaxScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland)

[@PaxScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland)

[@PaxScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland)

Snail mail:

Pax Christi Scotland  
c/o Xaverian Missionaries  
Calder Avenue  
Coatbridge ML5 4JS

## YouTube Channel

You can find recordings of all our events at:

<https://www.youtube.com/>

[@paxchristiscotland](https://www.youtube.com/@paxchristiscotland)

Click on the word 'Subscribed' and you will be informed whenever a new recording is posted.

Pax Scotia September-October 2023 Issue 38

**After much deliberation and in an effort to regularise membership dues, an invoice will be emailed to all current members at the start of October inviting you to pay by standing order. Thank you for all your support - we look forward to you signing up once more.**

# An October Vigil

Our work at Pax Christi Scotland has at its heart our faith, and so on October 2 we will hold an online vigil to keep in our hearts and minds the many around the world whose peace of mind and peace itself is threatened by so many different forces.

Pax Christi Scotland executive committee member Arianna Andreangeli and our chaplain Fr Jim Clark have collaborated to bring us a spiritual half hour as we come to the end of the Season of Creation and head into Mission Month.

Prayer guides us to action, and whether those actions are letter writing to MSPs, MPs, banks or pension funds, joining demonstrations to support refugees, peace in the Holy Land or the continued presence of weapons of mass destruction in our world, they are of great value because they speak for our brothers and sisters around the world.

To join us, register at this link and Zoom will send you information about the event at 7pm (UK time) on October 2:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrd-yqqT8uGdBYwIutnhTvD805RLIhtqKQ>

This link is also on our website ([www.paxchristiscotland.org.uk](http://www.paxchristiscotland.org.uk)), along with the latest blogs, podcasts, and previous newsletters.

PAX CHRISTI SCOTLAND



# An October Vigil



Pax Christi Scotland has once more asked Arianna Andreangeli and the Xaverian Mission (our chaplaincy) to prepare a special online vigil to remind us that all we do for peace is done with our faith at its root. Everyone is welcome.

## Dr Arianna Andreangeli

**Arianna** leads our October Vigil, reaffirming that our faith guides us in all that we do. Senior Lecturer in European Law at Edinburgh University Law School, Arianna is a member of the Pax Christi Scotland executive committee.



## Fr Jim Clarke sx

**Fr Jim**, our chaplain, is a Xaverian missionary. He and Arianna have prepared this special event reflecting Pax Christi Scotland's prayers & action for peace, human dignity & a nonviolent society.



October closes the Season of Creation. It's the month of the Rosary, month of the Synod, the month of Mission. Let us join together for a short vigil led by Arianna and Fr Jim.

October 2, 2023 18:30-19:00 UK time

To receive a link for the vigil, register in advance at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrd-yqqT8uGdBYwIutnhTvD805RLIhtqKQ>