



Pax Scotia

Issue 18

Inside:

TPNW: beyond the first year - P2

PCS on the world stage - P3

Scottish Bishops: 40 years against nukes
- P4

This very peace-oriented event is organised by the Ahl Al Bait Society of Scotland and The Scottish Bishops Committee for Interreligious Dialogue. On February 4 from 6pm-7pm, **Dr Sara Parvis and Sr Fatemah Araghi** will dialogue in the context of 'efforts must be made to free women from historical and social conditioning that runs contrary to the principles of their faith and dignity' (Human Fraternity Document). It will be hosted by Dr Mary Cullen.

Register at
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-day-of-human-fraternity-women-in-dialogue-tickets-248832373327>

International Day Of Human Fraternity



Women in Dialogue

A conversation in context of "efforts must be made to free women from historical and social conditioning that runs contrary to the principles of their faith and dignity." (Human Fraternity Document signed by Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb)

Dr Sara Parvis

Dr Mary Cullen

Sr Fatemah Araghi



**4TH FEBRUARY 6-7PM 2022
STREAMED ON ZOOM**

Please Register via the link below

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-day-of-human-fraternity-women-in-dialogue-tickets-248832373327>

'Human fraternity' guides our commitment to overcome discrimination

By **Marian Pallister**
Pax Christi Scotland chair

When Pax Christi International was founded in Europe in 1945, its tenets were to establish peace, respect for human rights, justice and reconciliation. Three-quarters of a century later, Pope Francis brings these objectives together in his quest for true human fraternity, and Pax Christi Scotland's aim to address discrimination in all its forms stems from these Christ-given intentions.

In his Prayer Network (find it at <https://www.popesprayer.va/>) this year, Pope Francis asks us to think of each month's intention in the context of fraternity – and in his Prayer Intention for January, he invited us to pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution, asking that their own rights and dignity be recognised, 'which originates,' he said, 'from being brothers and sisters in the human family'.

I know that brothers and sisters can bicker – sometimes fall out disastrously – but confronted by outside criticism or danger, families stand together in solidarity. And of course, 'solidarity' is another of Pope Francis's key words. At the very least, 'solidarity' means holding shared aims, and at its best and most powerful, it means harmony.

As members of the human family, we are confronted by the threats of climate change, of weapons of mass destruction – and on a daily basis by the destructive power of discrimination that shuts out those who are perceived to be 'different'.

We readily campaign to end the threat of a climate disaster, of the possession and use of nuclear weapons. I'd like to see more vocal protests against the discrimination that devastates the peace of mind of our brothers and sisters – the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the stranger. Otherwise, we're not taking a blind bit of notice of Matthew 25:35-40.

Marian Pallister
Pax Christi Scotland chair

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Where next after the Treaty's first anniversary?

Linda Pearson, major activist in Don't Bank On The Bomb Scotland, has some excellent advice as we move forward in the next stages of ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction.

<https://nukedivestmentscotland.org/new-report-reveals-nuclear-ban-treatys-impact-on-the-financial-sector-one-year-on/>

On the DBOTB website, Linda notes that in this first year since the treaty became part of international law, another five states have joined and significantly, the first NATO non-state party, Norway, has committed to attending the First Meeting of States Parties of the treaty as an observer.

In January, PAX-ICAN issued their latest report, *Rejecting Risk: 101 policies against nuclear weapons*. This explains that many nuclear weapons producers have operations in several countries. When one of those countries joins the treaty, the company now can't conduct any nuclear weapons related activities within the country without facing penalties – 'an increasingly material risk for these companies' and a reputational and financial risk for their investors. That's why divestment is the most effective tool right now against nuclear weapons.

Linda suggests we:

- Contact NatWest Group and other UK financial institutions about their investment policies using the simple template emails at <https://investinginchange.uk/action/>
- Contact our local councillors to request that they support a resolution calling on their pension fund to divest from nuclear weapons: <https://nukedivestmentscotland.org/local-authority-divestment-resolutions/>
- Share these links on social media and encourage others to act!

Don't Bank On The Bomb and the Nobel Prize winning ICAN (Pax Christi Scotland partners both) tactics are effective. This is Highland Council's response to a Pax Christi Scotland member's inquiry about its pension fund investments in nuclear weapons:

'The Pension Fund Trustees agreed to arrange a workshop on adoption of a Statement of Investment Principles as regards investments and loans last year, and I have asked colleagues in Assets, Finance and Resources for an update on its conclusions. I will let you know the results. There is a lot of work being undertaken at present across the public sector pension world on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and their role in investments including pensions, and the Comhairle through the Highland Council Scheme is involved in that work.'



Pax Christi Scotland had a presence at the Faslane nuclear base on the Clyde on January 22, 2022 – the first anniversary marking the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons becoming part of international law. Grace Buckley, our treasurer, and chair Marian Pallister, each read statements supporting the Treaty.

Also at the Faslane gate were representatives from ICAN Scotland, Scottish CND, Justice and Peace Scotland, Catholic Worker, and members of the Peace Camp.

ETHICAL FINANCE

Susi Snyder, coordinator of the research, publication and campaigning activities of the DBOTB report, who spoke at Pax Christi Scotland's 2021 Zoom event on ethical finance and peace, says: 'The treaty has teeth, and it's taking a bite out of the bank accounts of the companies behind nuclear weapons.'

She adds, **'Investors behind \$3.9 trillion in assets say the TPNW is why they're saying no to nuclear weapons.'**

More than 101 financial institutions now have public policies against nuclear weapon related investments, as reported in the latest PAX and ICAN Don't Bank on the Bomb report *Rejecting Risk: 101 policies against nuclear weapons*. This report is a must read, and Susi stresses 'Together we've managed to keep \$14 trillion out of the hands of the nuclear weapons industry.'

If we continue to campaign, we can add to that. The ICAN and DBOTB websites both have template letters to make the task easy.

<https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/policy-analysis-report-rejecting-risk/>

Pax Christi Scotland & Sri Lanka



The positive news towards the end of last year that Police Scotland would no longer carry out training of Sri Lankan security officers was very welcome.

Pax Christi Scotland had worked with Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice, Freedom From Torture, and Human Rights Watch. Mercedes Villalba MSP picked up the baton from Neil Findlay when he left the Scottish Parliament and pursued the issue with vigour, as did **Sunday Post** journalist Marion Scott. We argued that having worked for many years with the Sri Lankan forces, Police Scotland had not changed a culture of torture and gender violence – an argument consolidated by speakers at our on-line event about the situation.

Now, however, Marion Scott has reported in the **Sunday Post** that a letter from the Foreign Office says:

'Police Scotland's decision does not mean that there will be no future programme of UK-funded support to the Sri Lankan police. The British High Commission is considering its approach to any future programme and the ongoing review will be taken into account alongside a number of other factors. We continue to engage with the Government of Sri Lanka on these important issues.'

We will continue to add our voice to this important campaign, calling on the UN to seek a nonviolent situation for this troubled state.

Our Campaign for Peace in Korea

Pax Christi Scotland chair Marian Pallister joined campaigners on line in South Korea and the UK on January 19 to take forward the plan for peace in the peninsula.

Sandwiched between Japan and China, Korea was particularly vulnerable after World War II. The United States (which had dropped nuclear weapons on Japan in 1945) wanted to disarm the Japanese army and repatriate the Japanese population (around 700,000 people) in Korea. In August 1945, the US and the Soviet Union agreed to divide the country for administrative purposes. The arrangement led to politicisation and the Korean War began on June 25, 1950. It involved troops from the UK as well as the US. An armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, with a clause that sought the removal of allied forces and strategies to re-unite North and South Korea.

But as Heak-Jib Ra pointed out at the January meeting, 70 years later no progress has been made. No peace treaty has been signed.

That is why Pax Christi Scotland has joined with Pax Christi Korea and the ecumenical movement in the UK and Ireland and in Korea to seek peace by 2023. You will have seen the Korean Peace Petition on our website. If you haven't signed yet, please do. As Heak-Jib Ra said: 'The Korean peninsula is an ideal place to start working for world peace.'

<https://www.paxchristiscotland.org/> and scroll down our home page.

Nationality and Borders Bill

Pax Christi Scotland members have received encouraging responses from their MPs concerning the anti-refugee Nationality and Borders Bill.

Proposed amendments that would have protected victims of trafficking and modern slavery, removed clauses that will criminalise asylum seekers, and ended Home Office profiteering from citizen application fees were voted down. However, Angus B. MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, noted that efforts to modify the Bill are not over – **so our continued action is vital.**

Mr MacNeil said: 'Rest assured my colleagues and I at Westminster will continue to press the UK Government to drop its hostile environment approach and to give Scotland the immigration powers it needs to create an immigration system that reflects our values as an open and welcoming nation.'

Pax Christi Scotland

Engaging with the world, seeking peace

40th anniversary of the Bishops' Condemnation of Nuclear Weapons

In **March 1982**, the Scottish Bishops' Conference made a powerful statement that condemned the possession and use of nuclear weapons.

In the intervening years, the weapons of mass destruction that are now stockpiled by the nine nuclear nations have grown not only in size but in power. The devastation caused by those first bombs dropped by the US on Hiroshima and Nagasaki would be magnified many times over were today's nuclear weapons to be used.

Pope Francis has, of course, during his papacy condemned the manufacture, possession and use of such weapons and in 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons made all such weapons illegal.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Scottish Bishops' Conference statement, **Bishop William Nolan**, Bishop of Galloway, will speak at our Pax Christi Scotland commemoration event on March 21 at 18.30 UK time. Please put it in your diaries. The registration link (there'll be reminders) is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkcO2hqjltE9w2mBsJopJBhICk79-jikjU>

Membership Reminder

Most membership fees were due in November at the time of the AGM.

You can pay on the membership page of our website. If you pay by online banking, please give your name to identify your payment.

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

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

Explore the website for all our activities: www.paxchristiscotland.org

Where to find Pax Christi Scotland:

www.paxchristiscotland.org

<https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland>

@PaxScotland (Twitter)

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

The Peace of Christ – Our Faith Defines Our Work

Pax Christi Scotland hopes to do what it says on the tin – to work for the peace of Christ.

Pope Francis has said: 'True peace is not a balance of opposing forces, and it is not "a lovely façade" simply covering conflicts and divisions. Rather, peace calls for daily commitment -- it's homemade -- starting from God's gift, from the grace which he has given us in Jesus Christ.'

In Lent this year, please join **Pax Christi Scotland's Stations of the Cross** online event on April 5 at 18.30 UK time.

Prepared by our chaplain Fr John Convery and executive committee member Arianna Andreangeli, this journey of prayer and meditation will focus on seeking the peace that Pope Francis says will triumph, banishing the words "division", "hatred" and "war" from the heart of every man and woman'.

The registration link (there'll be reminders) is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZludeqhQzMuGdSO78dmDn0E1WPWFeJHKWAK>

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 Computers -

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

Pax Christi Scotland now has a Youtube Channel where you can find recordings of past events. Find us at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCcmLpQv27Py_ul14szp95g

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