



Pax Scotia

Issue 8



Pope Francis' prayer intention for April is 'We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes & even in democracies in crisis.'

When fundamental rights are abused (or are not present) human trafficking easily becomes a profitable industry – and we must face the fact that **we** benefit from that industry that exploits those producing cheap clothes, goods and food.

We may not risk our lives fighting for the fundamental rights of those who are trafficked – but we can act to change a global system that marginalises the most vulnerable.

See P4 for details of our April 13 Zoom conversation on human trafficking. As our speakers will explain, this is a complex situation, fuelled by abuse of political and financial power. Are we are complicit? How do we ensure human rights?

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Seeking the antibodies of justice, charity and solidarity...

By John Dornan
Pax Christi Scotland
member

In the Gospel reading for Easter Thursday, Christ appears to his disciples and greets them with the words, "Peace be with you." After confirming that he is not a ghost, He asks for something to eat - a very human and practical request. Perhaps that should be our starting point this Easter.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Pope Francis has encouraged all of us to be practical, to try to meet the needs of the human family, particularly its poorest and most vulnerable members. As vaccination programmes offer hope of relief from the restrictions affecting work, travel and social life, we need to heed his words collected in a publication called "Life after the Pandemic"

(<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-08/life-after-pandemic-pope-francis-michael-czerny-book.html>).

While we would expect him to offer words of comfort and hope, "Let us once again listen to the proclamation: He is risen and is living by our side", at other times, the Pope has referred specifically to the challenges set by the pandemic in its wider implications: "The globalisation of indifference will continue to threaten and tempt us in our journey... May we find within us the necessary antibodies of justice, charity and solidarity."

At time of writing the UK government has announced a 'defence review' which will include increasing its stock of nuclear warheads, part of strengthening the reach of 'global Britain'. How should we respond to this, particularly at Easter? Pope Francis suggests: "We must not be afraid to live the alternative – "a civilization of hope: against anguish and fear, sadness and discouragement, passivity and tiredness... built daily, uninterruptedly... [requiring] a committed effort by all.. a committed community of brothers and sisters".

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

John Dornan

Pax Christi Scotland's Action roundup

This is a forum for **all** Pax Christi Scotland's members and friends. Please email our chair (marian.pallister@zen.co.uk) to share your peace actions and concerns. In keeping with the aims of Pax Christi International's aims "to transform a world shaken by violence, terrorism, deepening inequalities, and global insecurity," Pax Christi Scotland seeks to work in the home, the school, the parish and the wider world to create a nonviolent society.

What issues do **you** think should be addressed to achieve such a society?

Here are some of the actions – and results – taken in recent weeks:

A Pax Christi Scotland member in Shetland has planted seeds and plans to sell on the plants to raise money for people who are forced to flee their homes because of war.

From the Central Belt, another Pax Christi Scotland member who wrote to the Co-operative Bank about investment in nuclear weapons received this reply:

"We're very proud of our long-held position to refuse banking services to companies that are involved in the manufacture or transfer of nuclear weapons. We're also very proud to be included in the Don't Bank on the Bomb Hall of Fame (<https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/2019-hall-of-fame/>) and it's disappointing that we're still the only UK bank on that list.

While we're not campaigning on nuclear divestment currently, it is an issue we care about deeply, along with the other commitments within our Ethical Policy. You can find out more about our Ethical Policy and current campaigns here:

<https://www.co-operativebank.co.uk/values-and-ethics>

It's clear that you share our passion for avoiding investment in nuclear weapons, and I want to thank you for taking the time to contact us about this important issue".

Our chair, Marian Pallister, made contact with our 'twin' Pax Christi organisation in South Korea – Pax Christi Korea and Pax Christi Scotland were granted membership status by Pax Christi International at the same time. She also met on Zoom with the Churches Together In Britain & Ireland Korea Group and the outcome of this international get together is that on **Sunday July 25 at 12 noon UK time (8pm/20h Korean time)**, Pax Christi Scotland will host a Zoom conversation highlighting the campaign for denuclearisation on the Korean peninsula, a campaign echoed in Scotland where we also seek to rid our shores (and our world) of nuclear weapons. The date of the Zoom is significant – July 27 marks the anniversary of the armistice signed in 1953 that formally ended the war in Korea. But as we know, for seven decades, the Korean Peninsula has experienced a most precarious peace. We hope you will join this international sharing of reflections on peace.

And in August, we will ask whether Clause 6 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, to compensate victims of nuclear weapons testing, will be honoured in the UK. Watch out for links to each event.

Reflections on Peace

Reading & watching our way to post COVID peace

* It's interesting that women seem to have the most 'peace-friendly' takes on how we should move forward in a post COVID world.

Katherine Trebeck's book was written prior to the pandemic, but the time for her ideas for an economy with humanity at its heart is surely now. ***The Economics of Arrival: ideas for a grown-up economy (with Jeremy Williams)*** suggests that the quality of our lives is undermined by the drive for economic growth at all costs. Trebeck and Williams describe a new challenge: a move from expansion to inclusion.

Trebeck's Ted talk

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lt9NKuIHTDE>) is a great introduction to her ideas, which we heard at more length on the Scottish Laity Network Lenten Journey (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGP3KWET2i8&t=610s>).

* **Ray Acheson** is Director of Reaching Critical Will, the disarmament programme for Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the oldest women's peace organisation in the world. Founded in 1915 during World War I, women came together in The Hague, Netherlands, from warring and neutral countries, to talk about how to demilitarise their countries to prevent conflict in the future. Acheson continues that work in the context of 2021, leading a feminist organisation that looks at disarmament and demilitarisation alongside issues related to women's rights, human rights more broadly, the environment, racism and all of the other structural problems facing society today.

Her new book is ***Banning the bomb, smashing the patriarchy*** (Rowman & Littlefield, June 2021) & you can pre-order at <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781786614919/Banning-the-Bomb-Smashing-the-Patriarchy>.

Using Zoom to Encourage Encounter and Peace

By Pax Christi Scotland
executive committee member
Rosalyn Mauchline

In the last few weeks, I have become aware of newscasters reporting such as "it is a year since" - the first COVID case, "...a year since" the first lockdown etc. This led me to reflect on things that I had been involved in during the last year - things that in all honesty I would not have been so involved in if it had not been for COVID.

I have been lucky as I have remained healthy. So, for me it is also "a year since" I learnt what Zoom was, "a year since" I learned how to put "favourites" onto Youtube and find web sites. Not that I am at ease with my computer - it still seems to have a mind of its own at times. However, if I had been told a year ago that I would be talking to someone working in South Sudan about *Laudato Si* or with someone in the USA about ending nuclear weapons and the Catholic NonViolence Initiative, I would not have believed them.

Both have happened in this last year.

I have been able to talk to people around the world who are trying to follow the example of Pope Francis in their daily lives, and it has been inspirational. Closer to home I have attended many of the meetings run by the Scottish Laity Network and the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre where they have had speakers from all over the world who have shared their knowledge and sometimes challenged our own ideas.

Similarly, our own Pax Christi Scotland meetings, such as our vigil the day that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force and our conversation on gender violence in response to Pope Francis' prayer intention for February, have been thought provoking and brought speakers from around the world into **my** world. Would I have had these opportunities in a pre-COVID world? Obviously not.

For me, one particularly important message that has come from these meetings reflects what Pope Francis emphasises in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* - **encounter**. It is not enough for us to talk - we must act. We must make friends with those who are marginalised - the poor, the homeless, refugees and others. COVID has made that difficult, but I believe we all must take forward this instruction from him in our post-COVID world.

Human Trafficking? – What Price Human dignity?

The issue of human trafficking and modern slavery was raised during our *Breaking the Cycle of Human Violence* Zoom conversation in February.

As the Pax Christi International mission is 'to transform a world shaken by violence, terrorism, deepening inequalities, and global insecurity,' this was clearly a concern that Pax Christi Scotland had to address. Surely 'deepening inequalities and global insecurity' play their part in creating human trafficking? We have sought, as always, to bring you a wide range of viewpoints, and we invite you to join our discussion on April 13 at 7pm. Our speakers are:

- ✚ **Carmen Artigas Moreno**, Lawyer, specialised in international law and the right to development. United Nations Internal Justice Council, joining us from Uruguay.
- ✚ **Dr Paul Rigby**, social work lecturer at Stirling University, a leading authority on child trafficking, and member of the advisory group of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- ✚ **DCI Stephen Healey**, from Police Scotland's National Human Trafficking Unit.
- ✚ **Emily Kenway**, writer, former adviser to the UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, activist, & author of 'The Truth about Modern Slavery'.

To join this important conversation on April 13, 2021, 7pm-8.30pm, register in advance at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtceChqT8oG9yll5zcDYjyKvCqeGfiCP4s>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Pax Christi International: Series of short videos on Nonviolence

Dr Martin Luther King Jnr said "...nonviolent resistance is a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love".

We have learned what nonviolence is *not* – certainly not a meek acceptance of injustices. Nonviolence requires some action on our part – whether it is the presence at Faslane, the dialogue with those with whom we disagree, or the support and overt respect we give to the vulnerable, the marginalised, the man in the ditch in the Good Samaritan parable so extensively explored by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*.

Pax Christi International has produced a series of four short videos which we can access on its website at <https://paxchristi.net/2021/02/16/new-videos-understanding-nonviolence/>

Each comprises a series of brief interviews that explore

- [Defining nonviolence](#)
- [Understanding nonviolence](#)
- [Planning for nonviolence](#)
- [Nonviolence in action](#)

Each is useful viewing for our journey towards a nonviolent and peaceful society.

The website

Don't forget - you can now see planned events & links to past ones on our website. The newsletters are archived there. You can pay your membership 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/>

Where to find Pax Christi Scotland:

www.paxchristiscotland.org
<https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland>
[@PaxScotland](https://twitter.com/PaxScotland) (Twitter)
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To join Zoom conversations from the Edinburgh Jesuit Centre, go to edinburghjesuitcentre@jesuit.org.uk or see their Facebook page.
To catch up with Scottish Laity Network's Lenten Journey and retreat, email slaitynetwork@gmail.com
And find Eco-Congregation events at <https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org>