

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



JPIC Update November 2014

A call to campaign against TTIP

Behind closed doors, the EU and US are drawing up a new trade deal called the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). If agreed, TTIP would extend the power of big business over our society to unprecedented levels. Shamefully, the UK government are currently a major supporter.

The deal will reduce tariffs (taxes on imports and exports), but the major focus is likely to be on reducing 'non-tariff barriers to trade', which is the part that has elicited most concern from trade unions, and social justice campaigners. If nothing is done TTIP could:

Grant corporations the power to sue governments;

Lock-in the privatisation of public services like the NHS and education;

Undermine workers' rights;

Undo regulations that protects the environment, giving harmful industries like fracking an easier ride;

Remove food safety regulation to allow new GM crops, hormone pumped beef and chlorine washed chicken.

The new Commission President elect, Jean-Claude Juncker, put on record in a speech on 22 October his concerns about giving corporations the power to sue governments. He might have gone further had he not received a letter on 21 October signed by the UK government and 3 other member states telling Mr Juncker to ignore any concerns and 'stick to the mandate'.

No TTIP www.nottip.org.uk which includes several organisations such as World Development Movement www.wdm.org.uk/ttip are active in raising awareness and campaigning against the worst aspects of this agreement.

A call to abolish nuclear weapons.

Seven church leaders from different denominations, including Archbishop Malcolm McMahon have had a letter published in The Times which read:

As leaders of faith communities in Britain we believe that one significant contribution to a safer world is the abolition of nuclear weapons.

It is unacceptable that British citizens should be persuaded that their security depends on a credible threat to kill millions of innocent people. Our faith traditions reject the notion that reliance on the threat of mass destruction could ever be right.

We believe the Government should cancel the replacement of Trident. The £100 billion saved should be diverted to combating poverty at home and overseas; in providing affordable homes; investing in education and the NHS.

The Government must take a lead in current global initiatives which aim to create a nuclear-weapon free world. Our security does not exist in a vacuum: we must work for genuine global security in its many aspects. Tensions between nuclear weapons states must not divert attention from initiatives that would give impetus to the goal of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament.

Cancelling Trident would be a momentous step in this direction. Britain can lead the way".

In response to the letter Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi said that Christians should now to take firm action to urge the Government to cancel Trident and make the issue of the abolition of nuclear weapons key to discussion on security in the run-up to the General Election.

November 7th - Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture: Climate and Poverty

An agenda for social inclusion and sustainable development. 7pm at The Greenwood Theatre, King's College London, 55 Weston Street, SE1 3RA. Bishop Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo will reflect on the two greatest challenges we face today in a lecture titled *The Challenge of our Times: Climate and Poverty - An Agenda for Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development*. Tickets are free but *must* be booked in advance. More details at: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Events/Pope-Paul-VI-lecture> 020 7733 7900

November 8th – Westminster Annual Justice & Peace Study Day

The Welfare Myth of 'Them and Us', exploring how we ALL use welfare as our lives change 10.30am-3.30pm at St John Vianney Parish Centre, West Green Road London N15 3QH
Speakers: Sir John Hills from LSE and Helen O'Brien from CSAN.

November 8th - Peace Walk and Peace Gathering in SW2

The Walk will start at 5pm from the playground next to Tilford House (SW2 3SA) on Roupell Park Estate. Gathering will be at 6pm on the grass in front of Purser House (SW2 2JA) on Tulse Hill Estate, followed by refreshments. All welcome to this inter-faith event.

November 9th - Remembrance Lecture: 'Who will sing the anthem? Who will tell the story?'

Michael Morpurgo will give the annual MAW Peace Lecture, 3pm at the Imperial War Museum in London. <http://www.iwm.org.uk/events/iwm-london/michael-morpurgo-who-will-sing-the-anthem-who-will-tell-the-story>

November 12th Kingston - First World War Peacemakers: Lessons for today.

Speaker Pat Gaffney . 7:30 pm – 9:15 pm Kingston Quaker Centre, Fairfield East Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2PT Organised by Kingston Peace Council <http://www.kpc.gn.apc.org/>

November 16th to 22nd - Inter Faith Week

A booklet celebrating 2013 and planning for 2014 containing tips and ideas for event planners. Can be downloaded from the [Inter Faith Week homepage](#).

November 16th to 22nd Prison week For more information, please see: http://www.prisonweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/PW2014_LEAFLET_WEB.pdf

November 18th - Faith and Wellbeing

6pm – 8pm in the Assembly Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, SW2 1RW. An event in Inter Faith Week to celebrate contributions that faith groups in Lambeth are making to wellbeing in all its aspects and to share ideas for becoming more effective. All welcome.

November 18th – “Saving the Other”

Religions for Peace United Kingdom is arranging a series of talks on 'Saving the Other' a way in which to portray how different religions have helped save each other during times of conflict, as opposed to the image of religions creating conflict. The first lecture will be hosted by Lord Alderdice with Sally Becker as keynote speaker. 7 – 9.00pm in Committee Room 1, House of Lords. You are invited to register your interest to receive an official invitation, as spaces are limited.
Please email David Horner dvdhorner@googlemail.com

November 19th - Faith Action National Conference, 'Faith too significant to ignore'

10.00 - 4.30pm at Church House, Westminster, Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3NZ. Book via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-too-significant-to-ignore-tickets-12852786029?discount=FAConf2014>

November 22nd – Christian Ecology Link Annual Members' Meeting

2pm at St Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston, London NW1 1TA. Bring your own lunch, drinks provided from 1pm. Non-members are very welcome to the meeting and to the “Changing lives” workshop which follows it. www.greenchristian.org.uk

December 8th Pax Christi Annual Advent Peace Service

St Aloysius Church, 20 Phoenix Rd. Euston at 7.30. Followed by Christmas Market and mulled wine. www.paxchristi.org.uk All Welcome