

OCTOBER 2020

COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Justice and peace-related news, actions, and resources from the
Comboni Missionaries, North American Province

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SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS

Police Killings in Philippines Rising amid Covid-19 Pandemic



MANILA — According to its own statistics, the Philippine government's bloody "war on drugs" has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In August, the statistics show, that the police killed 46 people during anti-drug operations.

Human Rights Watch had reported a more than 50 percent increase in "drug war" deaths during the COVID-19 lockdown, from April through July. The new data from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency's monitoring system, #RealNumbersPH, shows that the situation is getting worse.

Photo Credit: Philippines intensifies war on drugs (Photo from: Al Jazeera)

[Read the whole story here.](#)

Environmental racism: Climate change disproportionately affects people of color



In recent months, the larger climate movement has started to embrace the fight against environmental racism.

Environmental racism is the disproportionate impact environmental hazards have on people of color. Environmental

justice is the movement's response to environmental racism.

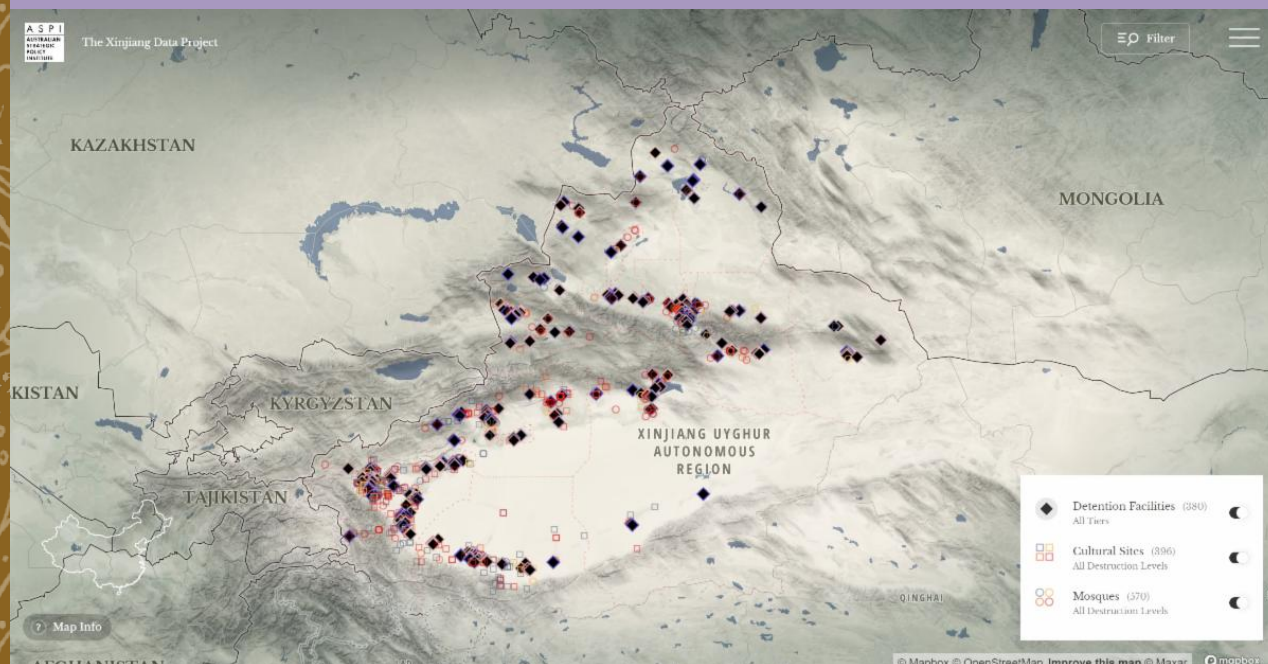
According to [GreenAction](#) — a grassroots environmental justice movement, "Environmental racism refers to the institutional rules, regulations, policies or government and/or corporate decisions that deliberately target certain communities for locally undesirable land uses and lax enforcement of zoning and environmental laws, resulting in communities being disproportionately exposed to toxic and hazardous waste based upon race."

Not only do threats related to climate change disproportionately affect developing countries (in which a majority of citizens are people of color), but negative environmental activity affects communities of color in developed nations much more seriously than white communities. In the United States, the communities most likely to experience environmental racism are the indigenous communities and poor urban black communities.

In July, *Time* magazine wrote about environmental racism, stating 'For decades, environmental-justice advocates in the U.S. have worked to bring attention to the heightened environmental risks faced by communities of color: higher levels of lead exposure, higher risks of facing catastrophic flooding, and poorer air quality, to name just a few.'

Photo Credit: *Pollution released by refinery fire. Greg Kunit/Creative Commons (Flickr)*

[Read more from Time Magazine.](#) [Read more from the UN.](#)



Study finds China continuing to build internment camps

XINJIANG — For several years now China has been building internment camps to detain Uighurs and people from other Muslim minorities.

China describes these internment camps as vocational and training and reeducation programs that aim to alleviate poverty and counter terrorism threats. Accounts from survivors indicate possible human rights abuses happen regularly at these centers.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute has identified nearly 400 internment camps established across the region since 2017, ranging from lowest security reeducation camps to fortified prisons.

This new information comes after China said it was winding down its "reeducation" programs.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Photo courtesy CDC Global.

US Congress Passes Bill to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

WASHINGTON D.C. — After years of delay, the U.S. House of Representatives passed Savanna's Act in late September.

This new law will help law enforcement respond to the crisis of hundreds of Native American women mysteriously disappearing or being murdered.

Savanna's Act is named for Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind of Fargo, North Dakota, a pregnant 22-year-old Spirit Lake tribal member who was killed in 2017. This law would establish national law enforcement guidelines between the federal government and American Indian tribes.

It now heads to the president to be signed.

[Read more.](#)

More Topics to Explore

[Amnesty International Forced to Halt Work in India](#)

[Attempt to muzzle media sparks anger in Pakistan](#)

[Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy has thousands of asylum seekers still stuck at the border](#)

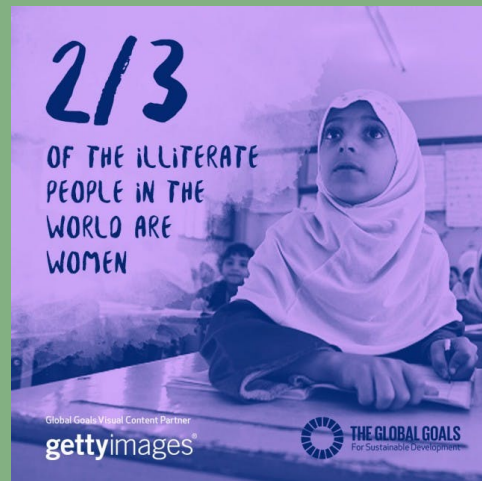
[U.S. bishops urge immediate halt to federal executions](#)

CALL TO ACTION

Support Equal Rights

Together we can achieve gender equality together. Find organizations to support, information to share and some useful tips for your everyday life that can really make a difference.

1. **Celebrate International Day of the Girl on October 11.** Find out more [here](#) and [here](#).
2. **Voice your support for equal pay for equal work.** Women earn 10 to 30 percent less than men for the same work. Pay inequality persists everywhere.
3. **Educate yourself.** Be aware of gender stereotypes. Recognize them, avoid them, and educate others about them.
4. **Raise your voice.** Stand up against harassment. Whenever you see or become aware of harassment, whether in the workplace, streets, home, or the online space, raise your voice against it.
5. **Find female mentors/leaders.** Ensure that some of your role models or mentors are women. There's a lot you can learn from women in positions of authority.
6. **Financial support.** Support a charity that helps end discrimination and fights for equal rights.
7. **Leave no woman or girl behind.** These four short [films](#), made by [AfricaCreates.org](#), highlight some of the challenges facing women and girls, the action the Goals promise, and how women and girls are fighting for their rights. Share them and help spread the word!



GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals



On October 11, 2020, we will celebrate International Day of the Girl. It is incredibly important to celebrate girls and women as we strive for Gender Equality.

Gender bias is undermining our social fabric and devalues all of us. It is not just a human rights issue; it is a tremendous waste of the world's human potential. By denying women equal rights, we deny half the population a chance to live life at its fullest. Political, economic and social equality for women will benefit all the world's citizens. Together we can eradicate prejudice and work for equal rights and respect for all.

Did you know?

- Worldwide, nearly 1 in 4 girls aged 15 to 19 is neither employed nor in education or training compared to 1 in 10 boys of the same age. By 2021 around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day — including 47 million pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19.
- 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence. Emerging data shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, violence against women and girls (VAWG), and particularly domestic violence, has intensified.
- At least 60% of countries still discriminate against daughters' rights to inherit land and non-land assets in either law or practice.

[Learn more.](#)

U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAYS

2020

October 1

International Day of Older Persons

International Day of Older Persons 2020 will highlight the role of the health care workforce in contributing to the health of older persons, with special recognition of the nursing profession, and a primary focus on the role of women — who are relatively undervalued and in most cases inadequately compensated. The 2020 observance will also promote the **Decade of Healthy Aging (2020—2030)** and help bring together UN experts, civil society, government and the health professions to discuss the five strategic objectives of the Global Strategy and Action plan on Aging and Health while noting the progress and challenges in their realization. [Learn more.](#)

October 5

World Teachers Day

In 2020, World Teachers' Day will celebrate teachers with the theme "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future." The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession worldwide, take stock of achievements, and draw attention to the voices of teachers, who are at the heart of efforts to attain the global education target of leaving no one behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly added to the challenges faced by already overextended education systems throughout the world. It is no exaggeration to say that the world is at a crossroads and, now more than ever, we must work with teachers to protect the right to education and guide it into the unfolding landscape brought about by the pandemic. [Learn more.](#)

October 10

World Mental Health Day

This year's World Mental Health Day, on October 10, comes at a time when our daily lives have changed considerably as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given past experience of emergencies, it is expected that the need for mental health and psychosocial support will substantially increase in the coming months and years. This is why the goal of this year's World Mental Health Day campaign is increased

investment in mental health. [Learn more.](#)

October 16 World Food Day

The COVID-19 global health crisis has been a time to reflect on things we truly cherish and our most basic needs. These uncertain times have made many of us rekindle our appreciation for a thing that some take for granted and many go without: food. Food is the essence of life and the bedrock of our cultures and communities. Preserving access to safe and nutritious food is and will continue to be an essential part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for poor and vulnerable communities, who are hit hardest by the pandemic and resulting economic shocks. [Learn more.](#)

October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

In a world characterized by an unprecedented level of economic development, technological means, and financial resources, that millions of persons are living in extreme poverty is a moral outrage. Poverty is not solely an economic issue, but rather a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses a lack of both income and the basic capabilities to live in dignity. [Learn more.](#)

October 24 United Nations Day

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday. This year we celebrate the UN's 75th anniversary with the theme 2020 and Beyond — Shaping Our Future Together. [Learn more.](#)



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