

FEBRUARY 2021

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

Most Africans Will Not Receive the Coronavirus Vaccine in 2021



Countries across Africa are hunting for deals to obtain COVID-19 vaccines at affordable prices, but their limited funds will cover less than half of their citizens. One estimate places access to a vaccine at one person out of 10.

In Uganda, nine million doses of the life-saving vaccine have been ordered — enough for just 20-

percent of the population.

In Egypt, the government has only been able to acquire 100,000 doses, enough for just 50,000 people, a small fraction for a population of 98 million people.

“Rich countries have enough doses to vaccinate everyone nearly three times over, whilst poor countries don’t even have enough to even reach health workers and people at risk,” said Mohga Kamal Yanni, from the People’s Vaccine Alliance. “The current system, where pharmaceutical corporations use government funding for research, retain exclusive rights and keep their technology secret to boost profits, could cost many lives.”

[Read more.](#)

Image courtesy of the World Health Organization.

Global Ebola Vaccine Stockpile Announced

Story UNICEF, WHO, IFRC, and MSF announced in early January 2021 the establishment of a global Ebola vaccine



stockpile to help with outbreak response.

The stockpile will allow countries, with the support of humanitarian organizations, to contain future Ebola epidemics by ensuring timely

access to vaccines for populations at risk during outbreaks.

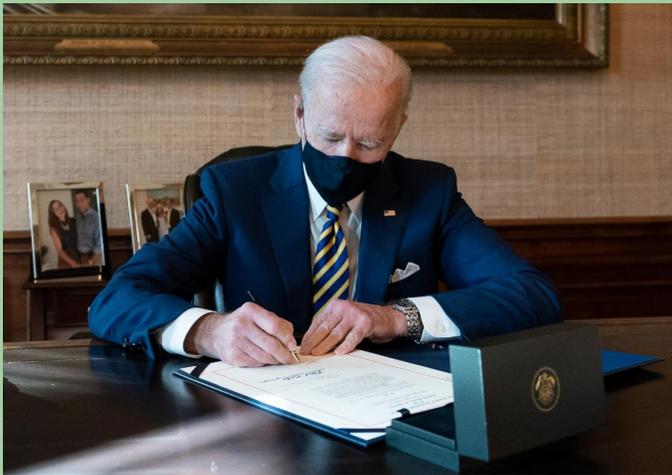
The vaccine, which is recommended by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization for use in Ebola outbreaks as part of a broader set of Ebola outbreak response tools, protects against the Zaire ebolavirus species which is most commonly known to cause outbreaks.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is reminding us of the incredible power of vaccines to save lives from deadly viruses,” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “Ebola vaccines have made one of the most feared diseases on earth preventable. This new stockpile is an excellent example of solidarity, science and cooperation between international organizations and the private sector to save lives.”

[Read more.](#)

Image courtesy of the World Health Organization.

New President, News Executive Orders



Washington D.C. — On Wednesday, January 20, Joseph R. Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States. After all the pomp and circumstance, he quickly went to work signing executive orders, many of which are designed to undo the harm caused by the last administration. In regards to immigration, President Biden signed the following

executive orders:

1. **Recission**: of President Trump's Interior Enforcement Executive Order, essentially to stop extreme immigration enforcement and realign enforcement priorities
2. **Affirming** DACA protections, which urges the Department of Homeland Security to "preserve and fortify" DACA
3. **Ending** the Muslim and Africa bans
4. **Restoring** a proper census count
5. **Reinstating** DED status for Liberians

6. **Halting** border wall construction

Policies were also issued by the Department of Homeland Security:

1. **Pausing** deportations for 100 days. While this won't stop all deportations, it's a historical and significant move. Even though a federal judge blocked the rule last week, the ruling is expected to be appealed.
2. **Ending** the Migrant Protection Protocols Program, better known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy.

Details were also released on Biden's bill, the **U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021**. This bill is expected to:

1. Create a roadmap to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants and grant green cards immediately to DACA and TPS recipients.
2. Keep families together, including eliminating the "3- and 10-year bar" on those who are deported.
3. Grow the economy, partially by eliminating per-country visa caps.

Image courtesy of the White House.

Reform Organization's in France Call for an End to Ethnic Profiling

6 NGOs *launch the first*
CLASS ACTION TO
#STOPETHNICPROFILING
IN FRANCE



OPEN SOCIETY
JUSTICE INITIATIVE



REAJI

Paris — Last month a bailiff delivered a 145-page letter putting French government ministers on notice about their responsibility to address systemic police discrimination. It's the first step in a groundbreaking class action procedure brought by

six French and international organizations, including Human Rights Watch, to press for the structural reforms needed to end the long-standing scourge of ethnic profiling by police in France.

Human Rights Watch has worked on this issue since 2011, when we first spoke with dozens of French Black and Arab men and boys about their experience of repetitive, baseless, and abusive police stops. These "identity checks" often involve invasive body pat-downs and searches of personal belongings in the middle of the street, becoming, as one man put it, "the root of humiliation." More recently we spoke with children as young as 12 whose first interaction with the police was also their first experience of discrimination and exclusion.

[Learn more.](#)

More Topics to Explore

[Why the U.S. Needs a \\$15 Minimum Wage](#)

[Zimbabwe Bans Mining in National Parks](#)

[Jailed Indian Jesuit Pens Letter on Prisoners' Plight](#)

CALL TO ACTION

The World's Largest Lesson



Every month in this newsletter we write about the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Sometimes, like with any big project, it can be difficult to know where to begin. In this short video, you will find some suggestions on how to get started with the Global Goals.

The Goals are 17 beautiful ambitions that have the power to change the world. Wherever you are in the world #TheGoalsAreTheAnswer.

GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The world's population is constantly increasing. To accommodate everyone, we need to build modern, sustainable cities. For all of us to survive and prosper, we need new, intelligent urban planning that creates safe, affordable and resilient cities with green and culturally inspiring living conditions.

Some of the targets for Goal 11

include:

- **Safe and Affordable Housing** — Support affordable housing initiatives in your community. Encourage city leaders to provide affordable housing and consider the impact new developments will have on things like gentrification.
- **Provide Access to Safe and Inclusive Green and Public Spaces** — Public spaces should be accessible to everyone - women, children, all income levels, and fully accessible.
- **Reduce the Environmental Impact of Cities** — Look for ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle in your community.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Learn more about Sustainable Development Goal 11 [here](#).

U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAYS

2021

February 4

International Day of Human Fraternity

Following the devastation of the Second World War, the United Nations was established to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. One of its purposes is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems, including by promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. At the core of all the faith systems and traditions is the recognition that we are all in this together and that we need to love and support one another to live in harmony and peace in an environmentally sustainable world. [Learn more](#).

February 10

World Pulses Day

Pulses, also known as legumes, are the edible seeds of leguminous plants cultivated for food. Dried beans, lentils and peas are the most commonly known and consumed types of pulses. They are packed with nutrients and have a high protein content, making them an ideal source of protein particularly in regions where meat and dairy are not physically or economically accessible. [Learn more](#).

February 13

World Radio Day

Radio is a powerful medium for celebrating humanity in all its diversity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse. At the global level, radio remains the most widely consumed medium. This unique ability to reach out the widest audience means radio can shape a society's experience of diversity, stand as an arena for all voices to speak out, be represented and heard. Radio stations should serve diverse communities, offering a wide variety of programs, viewpoints and content, and

reflect the diversity of audiences in their organizations and operations. [Learn more.](#)

February 20

World Day of Social Justice

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality, or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability. For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of our global mission to promote development and human dignity. [Learn more.](#)



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