

JULY 2021

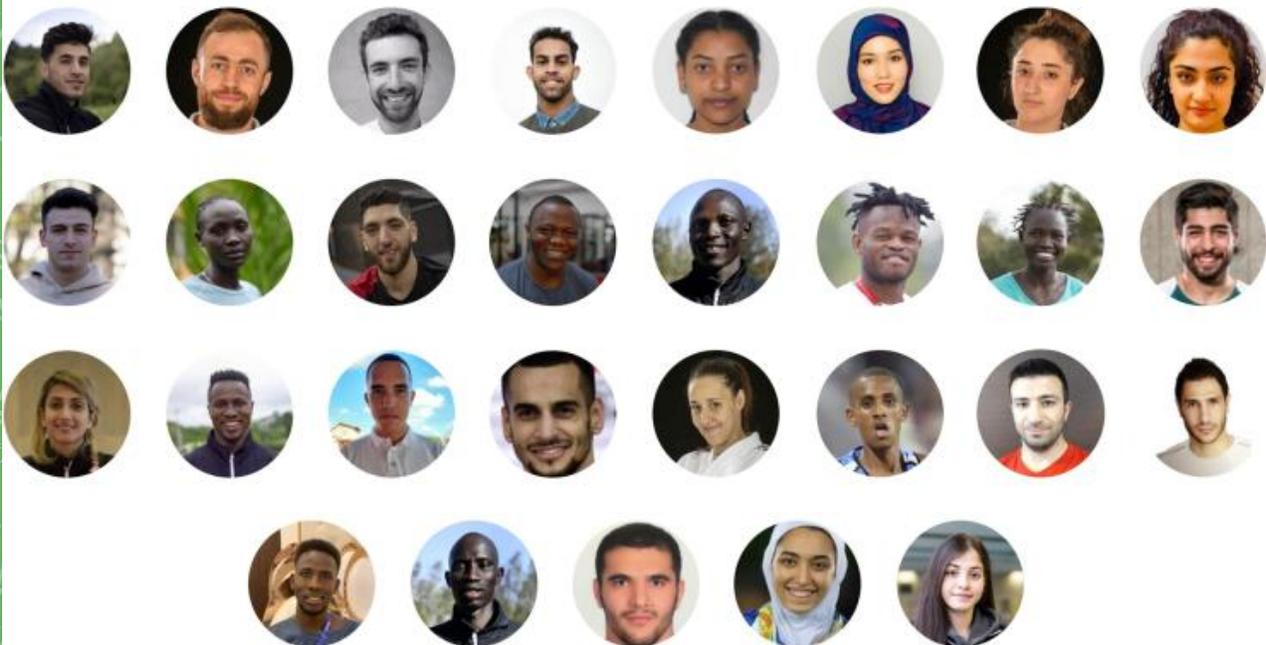
COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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

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SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS

Olympics: Refugee Team to Compete in Tokyo



29 athletes, 19 men and 10 women (pictured), will make up the Refugee Olympic Team that will compete in Tokyo under the flag of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

It is "a message of hope" to the world, said IOC President Thomas Bach, and a way to "raise awareness through sport of the plight of over 80 million displaced people worldwide."

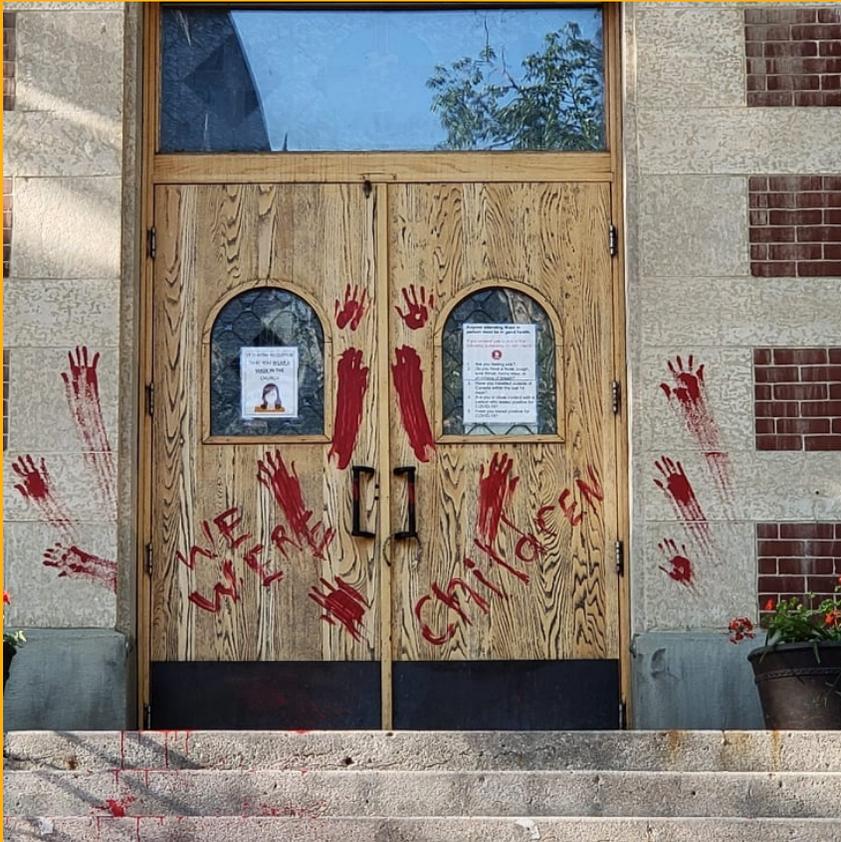
The athletes were selected from a group of 56 young men and women from 13 different countries, who could train thanks to the scholarships provided under the "Olympic Solidarity" program in 12 different disciplines: athletics, badminton, boxing, canoeing, cycling, judo, karate, taekwondo, shooting, swimming, weightlifting, and wrestling.

Recently addressing the athletes in a virtual ceremony, the IOC President said: "Congratulations to all of you," said Mr Bach. "I speak on behalf of the entire Olympic Movement when I say that we cannot wait to meet you in person and to see you compete. When you come together in Tokyo on

July 23, you will send a powerful message of solidarity, resilience and hope to the world. You are an integral part of our Olympic community, and we welcome you with open arms."

Read more [here](#).

Survivors of Canada's Residential Schools seek Justice



The doors of a Catholic cathedral in Saskatoon were painted with red handprints and the words "We were children" on June 24 following the discovery of 751 unmarked graves at the former Marieval Indian Residential School. Photo courtesy: Donna Heimbecker.

On May 27, the **Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation** announced the discovery of the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia. The school was run by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate from 1890 to 1969, when it was taken over by the federal government until it finally closed in 1978.

The discovery led to renewed calls for a papal apology to respond to the legacy of residential schools and revived questions about the church's role in colonialism in Canada.

Gerry Shingoose, a survivor of the Muscowequan Residential School in Saskatchewan, read about the discovery on social media. "I couldn't sleep that night," she said. "The number just stuck with me: 215 children. It brought up [memories of] my school, where we experienced children that died and also were buried on the grounds." **Muskowekwan First Nation** has identified **35 unmarked burials** on the site and expects to find more.

On June 25 it was announced that another 750 bodies were found at a residential school in Saskatchewan.

Read more from America Magazine [here](#).

Eritrean Catholic bishops angry over government's latest school seizures



Photo courtesy wikimedia commons. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:LocationEritrea.svg>

Catholic bishops in Eritrea have expressed anger at the forced takeover of church-run institutions as the government moved to confiscate or close more schools.

The latest seizure targeted early childhood and intermediate primary schools throughout the country. The schools were the last remaining Catholic Church-owned and operated educational institutions following an earlier seizure in 2018.

"We ... are deeply saddened and intimately hurt by the measures that the government is adopting by force or has already done so, taking away from us educational and health institutions that legitimately belong to us," the bishops said in a May 26 letter to Eritrea's education minister, Semere Re'esom.

"These measures, we hereby formally denounce and firmly reject," the Catholic bishops wrote.

"We declare that she (the Catholic Church) will never cease to claim the return of the social institutions forcibly taken away ... as well as the right to carry out all the services of which she had been deprived," the letter said.

Read more [here](#).

Soaring e-waste Affects the Health of Millions of Children, WHO Warns



Photo Courtesy of World Health Organization: Children and digital dumpsites: e-waste exposure and child health. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021 -

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240023901>

Effective and binding action is urgently required to protect the millions of children, adolescents and expectant mothers worldwide whose health is jeopardized by the informal processing of discarded electrical or electronic devices according to a new ground-breaking report from the World Health Organization: **Children and Digital Dumpsites**.

“With mounting volumes of production and disposal, the world faces what one recent international forum described as a mounting “tsunami of e-waste”, putting lives and health at risk.” said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “In the same way the world has rallied to protect the seas and their ecosystems from plastic and microplastic pollution, we need to rally to protect our most valuable resource –the health of our children – from the growing threat of e-waste.”

As many as 12.9 million women are working in the informal waste sector, which potentially exposes them to toxic e-waste and puts them and their unborn children at risk.

Read more [here](#).

More Topics to Explore

[As Eritrea Marks 30 Years of Independence, People Face Oppression](#)

[Filipino Military Comes Under Fire for 'Farmers Massacre'](#)

[Catholic organizations ask Bishops for pastoral, moral leadership on immigration](#)

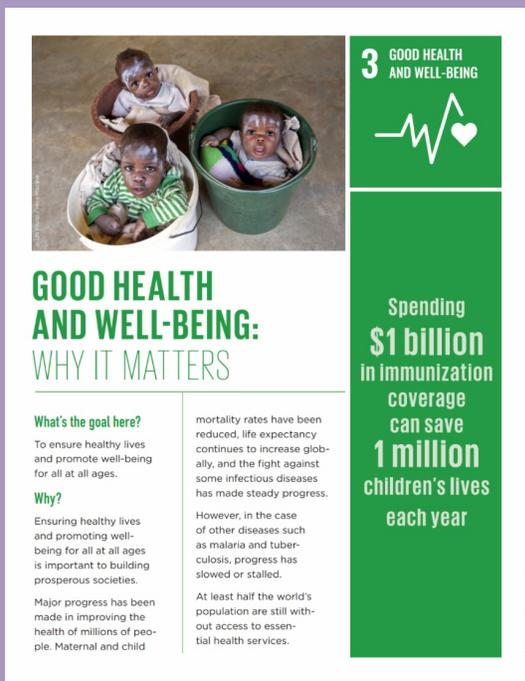
[The Pandemic Led To The Biggest Drop In U.S. Life Expectancy Since WWII, Study Finds](#)

CALL TO ACTION

Achieving good health and well-being starts with taking care of yourself and your family.

- Don't smoke. Sounds simple enough. However, if you struggle with this there are resources:
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/quit_smoking/index.htm.
- Eat a healthy diet and drink plenty of water. Try eating a vegetarian meal once a week - this will promote a health heart and help our planet.
- Never stop learning. Engaging in work or educational activities helps lift older people out of depression. So, learn a new language, read a lot, set up a book club. We have a monthly book club: **Comboni Book Club**.

GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Goal 3: Good Health & Well-being



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: WHY IT MATTERS

What's the goal here?
To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Why?
Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages is important to building prosperous societies.
Major progress has been made in improving the health of millions of people. Maternal and child mortality rates have been reduced, life expectancy continues to increase globally, and the fight against some infectious diseases has made steady progress.
However, in the case of other diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, progress has slowed or stalled.
At least half the world's population are still without access to essential health services.

Spending \$1 billion in immunization coverage can save 1 million children's lives each year

Over the last 15 years, the number of childhood deaths has been cut in half. This proves that it is possible to win the fight against almost every disease. Still, we are spending an astonishing amount of money and resources on treating illnesses that are surprisingly easy to prevent. The new goal for worldwide Good Health promotes healthy lifestyles, preventive measures and modern, efficient healthcare for everyone.

Some of the targets of goal 3 include:

- Fight communicable diseases
- Reduce maternal mortality
- Reduce road injuries and deaths
- Achieve universal health coverage.

Learn more about this goal [here](#).

U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAYS

2021

July 3
International Day of Cooperatives

Cooperatives have been acknowledged as associations and enterprises through

which citizens can effectively improve their lives while contributing to the economic, social, cultural and political advancement of their community and nation. The cooperative movement has been also recognized as a distinct and major stakeholder in both national and international affairs. [Learn more.](#)

July 15

World Youth Skills Day

World Youth Skills Day 2021 will take place in a challenging context, with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the widespread disruption of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. While vaccination rollouts offer some hope, TVET still has a long road to recovery, especially in those countries which continue to be overwhelmed by the spread of the disease. Youth skills development will face a range of unfamiliar problems emerging from a crisis where training has been disrupted in an unprecedented manner on a virtually universal scale. World Youth Skills Day 2021 will celebrate the resilience and creativity of youth throughout the crisis. A virtual event, organized by the Permanent Missions of Sri Lanka and Portugal to the UN, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, UNESCO and ILO, will offer an opportunity to reflect on skills that are needed today and for the future. [Learn more.](#)

July 18

Nelson Mandela Day

November 2009 — in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, UN General Assembly declares July 18 "Nelson Mandela International Day." Resolution [A/RES/64/13](#) recognizes Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in: conflict resolution; race relations; promotion and protection of human rights; reconciliation; gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups; the fight against poverty; the promotion of social justice. The resolution acknowledges his contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world. [Learn more.](#)

July 30

International Day of Friendship

Our world faces many challenges, crises and forces of division — such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses — among many others — that undermine peace, security, development, and social harmony among the world's peoples. To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity that takes many forms — the simplest of which is friendship. Through friendship — by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust — we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good. [Learn more.](#)

July 30

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Since 2003 the UN Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) has collected information on about 225,000 victims of trafficking detected worldwide. Globally countries are detecting and reporting more victims, and are convicting more traffickers. This can be the result of increased capacity to identify victims and/or an increased number of trafficked victims. Every country in the

world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims. [Learn more.](#)



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