



## COMBONI JPIC NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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

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### SELECTED GLOBAL TOPICS

## The U.S. War in Afghanistan is Over



After 20-years of war, the United States has withdrawn its military from Afghanistan. The United States went to Afghanistan after the attacks on the World Trade Centers and Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Nearly a decade ago, this war resulted in the death of Osama Bin Laden and the degradation of al Qaeda.

On August 14, President Biden remarked on the nation's withdrawal from Afghanistan saying, "One more year, or five more years, of U.S. military presence would not have made a difference if the Afghan military cannot or will not hold its own country. And an endless American presence in the middle of another country's civil conflict was not acceptable to me."

Within days of the announcement, the Taliban regained control of Kabul. On August 30, celebratory gunfire resounded across the Afghan capital as the **Taliban took control of the airport** following the withdrawal of the last U.S. troops, marking the end of a 20-year war that left the Islamist group stronger than it was in 2001.

#### What now?

Now that the war is over, we must deal with devastation left behind. Pope Francis has called for prayers and fasting for the people of Afghanistan. Pope Francis insisted that "in historical moments like this we cannot remain indifferent." Read

more [here](#).

Many people are calling for the United States to welcome more refugees from Afghanistan as people flee their homes looking for safety. Read more from Theresa La [here](#). Read a statement from some of our Bishops [here](#).

Activist Kathy Kelly has been advocating for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan for 20 years. Read her story [here](#).

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## IPCC Report: Code Red for Global Heating



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change released on August 9 their much-anticipated report, "Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis," outlining just how dire climate change is for our world. "Climate change is widespread, rapid and intensifying" the report states.

Secretary-General of the UN, Antonio Guterres tweeted "The evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions are choking our planet & placing billions of people in danger. Global heating is affecting every region on Earth, with many of the changes becoming irreversible. We must act decisively now to avert a climate catastrophe."

A release from the UN states "The report, prepared by 234 scientists from 66 countries, highlights that human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years.

"In 2019, atmospheric CO2 concentrations were higher than at any time in at least 2 million years, and concentrations of methane and nitrous oxide were higher than at any time in the last 800,000 years.

"Global surface temperature has increased faster since 1970 than in any other 50-year period over a least the last 2,000 years. For example, temperatures during the most recent decade (2011–2020) exceed those of the most recent multi-century warm period, around 6,500 years ago, the report indicates.

"Meanwhile, global mean sea level has risen faster since 1900, than over any preceding century in at least the last 3,000 years." Read the rest of the UN story [here](#).

Read the press release [here](#).  
Read the full report [here](#).

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## Haiti Desperate after Devastating Earthquake



On August 14, Haiti was struck by a devastating, magnitude 7.2 earthquake. The death count continues to rise as bodies are pulled from the rubble and rebuilding begins.

Heavy rainfall from tropical storms and hurricanes has hampered recovery efforts.

Much of the country had still not fully recovered from the 2010 earthquake that claimed the lives of nearly 200,000 people. Now the situation in Haiti is more desperate than ever.

There are many ways to help. Monetary donations are the best and easiest way to support recovery efforts. For a list of agencies to support click [here](#).

Accessing safe, clean drinking water will be a problem for many Haitians. Learn about how Water With Blessings is providing access to water [here](#). "The work in the southeastern peninsula of #Haiti, the hardest hit area after the #haitiearthquake, is beginning this morning. Our immediate goal is to place 2,500 Sawyer PointONE filters in the hands of new Water Women, thereby providing clean water to 50,000 people."

Read more about the earthquake in Haiti [here](#).

*Photo courtesy of Water with Blessings.*

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## More Topics to Explore

[AFRICA/KENYA - Kenya and Tanzania are now central to drug trafficking routes in Africa](#)

[Pope Francis Prays for Flood Victims in Venezuela](#)

[To Tell the Truth: How communities around the world are addressing and redressing societal wrongs](#)

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# CALL TO ACTION

## End Deforestation and Restore Degraded Forests



Humans need resources and cleared land for housing and farming. The biggest driving factors behind deforestation, where trees are permanently removed, are agriculture and subsistence farming, mining and construction, and for paper products and packaging.

Right now, 30% of the earth's surface is covered by forests, but it used to be much higher. And, it's decreasing at an alarming rate. This will impact us all:

- Trees remove carbon dioxide and help slow global warming.
- Tree roots hold the soil together, preventing deadly floods and landslides.
- By soaking up heavy rainfall, forests help to prevent ocean pollution and acidification.
- 80% or more of animals (including humans) depend on forests and savannah for survival. Fractured habitats are driving animal extinctions.

The Amazon rainforest is one of the fastest-shrinking forests in the world, yet it provides 10% of the world's oxygen. Each year, forests the size of Panama are permanently destroyed and not replanted, and currently, only 10% of Madagascar's original forests remain.

But what can individuals do?

Ultimately, governments and large corporations will have to work towards ending deforestation. However, individuals can still help. Here are a few suggestions:

- Avoid purchasing items containing palm oil.
- Purchase recycled paper products.
- Buy furniture made with certified renewable wood resources.
- Eat less meat.

- Plant trees
- Share the message: [Read and share - "Four Things You Should Know about Forests"](#)

## GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Goal 15: Life on Land



A flourishing life on land is the foundation for our life on this planet. We're all part of the planet's ecosystem and we have caused severe damage to it through deforestation, loss of natural habitats and land degradation. Promoting a sustainable use of our ecosystems and preserving biodiversity is not a cause. It is the key to our own survival.

There are many things we can all do to support life on land. Some of the targets of Global Goal 15 are:

- **Conserve and restore terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems:** Support local groups working to protect our freshwater streams, rivers, and lakes. For example, the [Ohio River Foundation](#) works to protect the Ohio River Watershed with which covers nine states.
- **Ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems.**
- **Prevent invasive alien species on land and in water ecosystems:** When choosing plants for your landscaping, choose native, locally grown plants.
- **Increase financial resources to conserve and sustainably use ecosystems and biodiversity.**

Learn more about this Global Goal [here](#).

## UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS

### 2021 Calendar

#### September 5 International Day of Charity

Charity, like the notions of volunteerism and philanthropy, provides real social bonding and contributes to the creation of inclusive and more resilient societies. Charity can alleviate the worst effects of humanitarian crises, supplement public services in health care, education, housing and child protection. It assists the advancement of culture, science, sports, and the protection of cultural and natural heritage. It also promotes the rights of the marginalized and underprivileged and spreads the message of humanity in conflict situations. [Read more](#).

#### September 8 International Literacy Day

The 8th of September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies, and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies. The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals** and the UN's **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. [Read more](#).

#### September 18

## International Equal Pay Day

International Equal Pay Day, celebrated for the first time this 18 September, represents the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls. [Read more.](#)

## September 21

### International Day of Peace

#### 2021 Theme: Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. [Read more.](#)

## September 26

### International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is one of the oldest goals of the United Nations. It was the subject of the General Assembly's first resolution in 1946, which established the Atomic Energy Commission (dissolved in 1952), with a mandate to make specific proposals for the control of nuclear energy and the elimination of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction. The United Nations has been at the forefront of many major diplomatic efforts to advance nuclear disarmament since. [Read more.](#)

## September 29

### International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction

This year we celebrate the first ever observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste. It also comes during the global COVID-19 pandemic, that has brought about a global wake-up on the need to transform and re-balance the way our food is produced and consumed. [Read more.](#)



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