



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

Tensions Escalate in Ethiopia



The government of Ethiopia expelled seven senior UN officials, prompting a meeting by the Security Council to discuss the escalating conflict in the country. UN diplomats had previously criticized a "de-facto" blockade, preventing international aid from reaching people in Tigray. Hundreds of thousands of people in the northern region of Ethiopia face famine, and in the absence of aid, starvation looms.

Ethiopia's stability is a linchpin of maintaining a fragile peace in eastern Africa. The country is Africa's second-most-heavily populated.

In August, the government expelled aid workers from the Dutch arm of Doctors without Borders, accusing them of supporting and providing arms to Tigrayan forces. More than 20 aid workers are among the thousands of people who have been killed in the conflict. To date, more than two million people have been displaced.

Read more about the UN response [here](#).

Photo courtesy of ACI Asia.

Rapid Arctic Warming Poses New Risks



The melting of Arctic ice could release unknown viruses, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and even nuclear waste, according to a new report.

Dr. Arwyn Edwards noted in *Nature Climate Change* that most of the nine million square miles of the Arctic is unknown, as are the hazards presented by its rapid warming.

The USSR conducted more than 100 nuclear tests in the region between 1955 and 1990, and a US under-ice nuclear-powered research facility in Greenland produced a significant quantity of radioactive waste.

Dr. Edwards told the BBC, "Changes in the Arctic's climate and ecology will influence every part of the planet as it feeds carbon back to the atmosphere and raises sea levels.

"This review identifies how other risks can arise from the warming Arctic. It has long been a deep-freezer for a range of harmful things, not just greenhouse gases."

Read the BBC's full coverage [here](#).

Photo courtesy of NASA.

New Legacy Museum Shares History of Slavery



The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) announced the opening of its new Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration in Montgomery, Alabama. Founded in 1989 by Bryan Stevenson, an acclaimed public-interest lawyer and bestselling author of *Just Mercy*, EJI provides legal assistance to innocent death row prisoners, confronts abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aids children prosecuted as adults.

The new Legacy Museum provides a comprehensive history of the United States with a focus on the legacy of slavery. From the transatlantic slave trade and its impact on the north and coastal communities across America through the domestic slave trade and Reconstruction, the museum provides detailed interactive content and compelling narratives. Lynchings, codified racial segregation, and the emergence of over-incarceration in the twentieth century are examined in depth and brought to life through film, images, and first-person narratives.

Situated on a site where enslaved Black people were warehoused and forced to labor in bondage, the Legacy Museum offers an immersive experience with cutting-edge technology, world-class art, and critically important scholarship about American history.

Along with the critically acclaimed National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which opened in April 2018, the new museum presents a unique opportunity for visitors to reckon with challenging aspects of our past.

Read more about EJI [here](#).

Photo courtesy of EJI.

More Topics to Explore

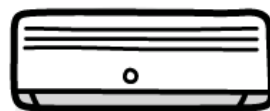
[United Nations Envoy Sees Hope for Israeli-Palestinian Relations](#)

CALL TO ACTION

Individual Steps to Curb Climate Change

6 actions preventing climate change

1. Reduce emissions



2. Save energy

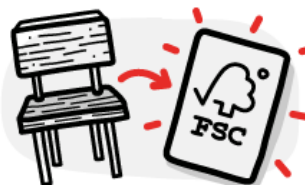
3. Implement the 3 sustainability "Rs"



4. Your diet?
A low-carbon one



5. Take action to
save forests



6. Demand sustainable
measures



1. Reduce emissions

Drive less, if you can, and use more sustainable transportation, such as cycling, public transportation, or walking. For long-distance travel, try trains. They emit less CO₂ per travel mile than airplanes.

2. Conserve energy

Adjust your thermostat to reduce energy consumption by air conditioners, furnaces, and electric heaters. Make sure to shut appliances off completely; standby mode can be an energy vampire. These steps will save you money while you help to save the planet.

3. Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle

Refuse: Don't purchase products with excessive packaging and say no to single-use items.

Reduce: Consume less and be more mindful of items you must purchase or use. Combine trips when running errands and don't buy more than you need.

Reuse: Mend old clothing items, repair (rather than replace) broken appliances, and take advantage of second-hand outlets—thrift stores, garage sales, and online markets.

Recycle: Household metal, paper, and some plastics can be recycled, but so can old electronics and building supplies.

4. Eat low carbon

- Reduce your consumption of animal products. Animal agriculture is one of the single largest contributors to climate change.
- Try to eat food that is local and in-season. This means less shipping, fewer trucks, and better produce.
- Stay away from highly processed foods and those that come with excessive packaging.

5. Protect our forests and native plants

- Plant trees and cultivate plants native to your area. This will allow for a lot of CO₂ absorption and provide a habitat for wildlife and pollinators.
- When in the outdoors, take only photos, leave only footprints. Be extra cautious when making a campfire, especially in dry conditions.
- If you use wood for construction, select lumber with an FSC certification or other evidence of sustainable practices.

6. Lobby for change

Individuals can make a difference, but government and industry have a far greater impact on our environment. Let your favorite brands and vendors know that protecting the planet is important to their customers and support elected officials who prioritize our natural resources and promote environmentally friendly policies.

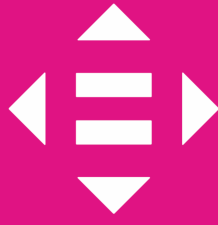
For more ideas, visit [Sustainability for All](#).

Graphic courtesy of Active Sustainability.

GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Goal 15: Life on Land

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reducing inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind are integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Inequality within and among countries is a persistent cause for concern. Despite some positive signs toward reducing inequality in some dimensions, such as reducing relative income inequality in some countries and preferential trade status benefiting lower-income countries, [inequality still persists](#).

[COVID-19 has deepened existing inequalities](#), hitting the poorest and most vulnerable communities the hardest. It has put a spotlight on economic inequalities and fragile social safety nets that leave vulnerable communities to bear the brunt of the crisis. At the same time, social, political, and economic inequalities have amplified the impacts of the pandemic.

On the economic front, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased global [unemployment](#) and dramatically slashed workers' incomes.

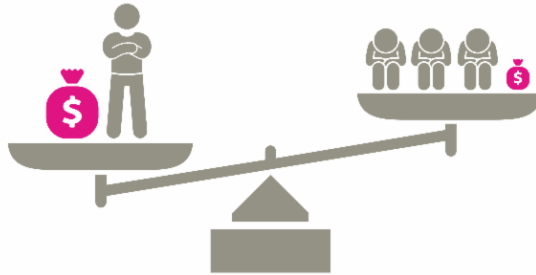
COVID-19 also puts at risk the limited progress that has been made on [gender equality](#) and women's rights over the past decades. Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their sex.

Inequalities are also deepening for [vulnerable populations](#) in countries with weaker health systems and those facing existing humanitarian crises. Refugees and migrants, as well as indigenous peoples, older persons, people with disabilities, and children, are particularly at risk of being left behind. And [hate speech](#) targeting vulnerable groups is rising.

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

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

THE PANDEMIC
IS LIKELY TO REVERSE PROGRESS
MADE IN REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY
SINCE THE FINANCIAL CRISIS



COVID-19
ESTIMATED TO INCREASE THE AVERAGE GINI
FOR EMERGING MARKET AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
BY 6%



THE GINI INDEX MEASURES INCOME INEQUALITY AND RANGES FROM 0 TO 100, WHERE 0 INDICATES THAT INCOME IS SHARED EQUALLY AMONG ALL PEOPLE, AND 100 INDICATES THAT ONE PERSON ACCOUNTS FOR ALL INCOME.



THE PROPORTION OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION WHO ARE REFUGEES HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE 2010

FOR EVERY 100,000 PERSONS,
311 ARE REFUGEES (2020)

REMITTANCE COSTS
ARE AT AN ALL-TIME LOW AT 6.5% (2020)



FURTHER PROGRESS IS NEEDED
TO REACH THE 3% TARGET



IN 2020, 4,186 DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES
WERE RECORDED ON MIGRATORY ROUTES WORLDWIDE

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2021: [UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2021/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/)

UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS

2021 Calendar

October 2

International Day of Nonviolence

The International Day of Nonviolence is observed on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of nonviolence.

According to the General Assembly resolution that established the commemoration, the day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of nonviolence, including through education and public awareness." The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of nonviolence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance,

understanding, and nonviolence." [Read more.](#)

October 4

World Habitat Day

The theme for this year's World Habitat Day is "Accelerating urban action for a carbon-free world." The theme recognizes that cities are responsible for some 70 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions with transport, buildings, energy, and waste management accounting for the bulk of urban greenhouse gas emissions.

Events and activities during World Habitat Day will explore how national, regional, and local governments and organizations, communities, academic institutions, the private sector, and all relevant stakeholders can work together to create sustainable, carbon-neutral, inclusive cities and towns. [Read more.](#)

October 10

World Mental Health Day

The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

The celebration provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide. [Read 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, it is a moral outrage that millions of persons are living in extreme poverty. 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.

Persons living in poverty experience many interrelated and mutually reinforcing deprivations that prevent them from realizing their rights and perpetuate their poverty, including:

- dangerous work conditions
- unsafe housing
- lack of nutritious food
- unequal access to justice
- lack of political power
- limited access to health care

[Read more.](#)

October 24

United Nations Day

UN 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.

There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power, and normative impact of the United Nations. Today, the urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfill the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater. [Read more.](#)

October 31

World Cities Day

Cities worldwide are increasingly suffering the effects of climate-related disasters, such as floods, droughts, sea-level rise, heat waves, landslides, and storms. At least 130 port cities with over one million inhabitants are expected to be affected by coastal flooding and the one billion people in urban informal settlements are particularly at risk.

Creating more sustainable, climate-resilient societies involves addressing a range of issues including poverty reduction, ensuring basic services livelihoods, the provision of

accessible, affordable, and adequate housing, investing in infrastructure, upgrading informal settlements, and managing ecosystems. Successful, well-governed cities greatly reduce climate-related risks for their populations. [Read more.](#)



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