

# diarydiary

## FEBRUARY

23 - 8 March Fairtrade Fortnight  
28 - 1 March Fairtrade Experience, Concert Hall, Glasgow

## MARCH

4 Great Trade Debate, Can your shopping basket change the world?  
5 International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1970  
6/7 Go Bananas! The world's biggest Fairtrade banana action  
6 Women's World Day of Prayer  
8 International Women's Day  
21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination  
22 World Water Day  
23 World Meteorological Day  
24 Archbishop Oscar Romero assassinated 1980

Full details and links on the events page on our website [www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/events.shtml](http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/events.shtml)

## 24 march is the 29th anniversary of the assassination of Oscar Romero

### The Persecuted Church

*And I am glad, brothers and sisters, that our church is persecuted precisely because it is the preferential option for the poor and because it tries to become incarnate in the interests of the poor and say to all the people, those who govern, the rich and the powerful: if you do not become poor, if you do not take an interest in the poverty of other people as if they were your own family, you will not be able to save society.*

*(Oscar Romero - July 15, 1979)*

[www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk](http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk)

ISSUE 1: 2009



# IN THE red ....

Issue 1 : 2009

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Magazine 12



# help change a life

**SCIAF**  
for a just world



Every year, during the six weeks of Lent, many thousands of Scots come together to support SCIAF's WEE BOX, Big Change campaign. They make small sacrifices in their everyday lives in

order to help people across the world who are struggling to survive.

The focus of this year's campaign is climate change, which is already hitting poor people in developing countries hardest – those who have done least to cause it. Unpredictable rainfall and an increase in floods, droughts and hurricanes leave many families, who survive on what they can grow on their tiny plots of land, unsure of when to plant. Crops are drying out or are washed away by tropical storms; homes and livelihoods are being destroyed.

SCIAF is already helping poor families adapt to the changing climate through its support for local organisations in countries like El Salvador. By supporting the WEE BOX, Big Change Lent campaign, people from across Scotland make it possible for SCIAF to continue its life-changing work.

SCIAF is also part of a massive coalition of Catholic aid agencies around the world which are addressing the causes of climate change. They are calling for dramatic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions to be agreed at the UN meeting in Copenhagen at the end of this year. You can add your voice by supporting the climate justice campaign through SCIAF, and follow the latest developments on the Scottish climate change bill on SCIAF's website at [www.sciaf.org](http://www.sciaf.org).

The prayer materials offered by SCIAF this Lent also reflect our responsibility to care for God's creation.

Isadora Santo and her children, Francisco, Luis, Conception, Salma and Maria from El Salvador are the focus of SCIAF's WEE BOX, Big Change campaign this Lent. They used to survive on just one corn cob a day. Now, with support from SCIAF, they have been given training to help them overcome the harsh environment in which they live, and make the most of their land.

By digging trenches around their crops, they have improved irrigation so that when floods strike, plants are not washed away. Seed banks and storage containers enable them to keep a regular supply of food, which means they no longer have to go without during times of drought.

SCIAF also supplied Isadora with fruit trees and helped the family to set up a fish farm, providing them with a rich supply of nutritious food. By selling the surplus fruit and fish, Isadora earns enough to send her children to school.

Thanks to the support of Scottish people, families like Isadora's do not have to go to bed hungry, whatever the weather throws at them. By joining thousands of schools, parishes, community groups and individuals across the country and getting involved in the WEE BOX campaign, you can help SCIAF continue its work of changing lives.

Many people choose to give something up during Lent – like alcohol, chocolate or their daily bag of crisps – and put the money they save in their WEE BOX. Others hold events like coffee mornings, cake sales or karaoke nights to raise money.

A WEE BOX filled with £10 enables SCIAF to stock a fish farm, providing a whole family with a sustainable food source, so that they don't go hungry.

A WEE BOX filled with £20 can provide a family with the training to grow drought resistant crops. And for just £50, SCIAF can train a community to prepare for natural disasters like hurricanes, droughts and floods.

SCIAF has produced a range of materials to support individuals, groups, parishes and schools on their journey through Lent- from an A-Z of fundraising ideas and a 40 Ways, 40 Days booklet, with suggested activities for each day during Lent, to video clips and stories. Schools across Scotland will be sent Lent packs containing teaching aids, posters and an interactive DVD Rom featuring assembly ideas and a Tree of Life wall display.

There are also three prayer resources. The first is a little book of readings and reflections for Christians of all denominations called Show Me Your Face, written by Gerry Hughes SJ and Chris Boles SJ, and co-published by SCIAF and Pax Christi. It is illustrated with photographs from SCIAF projects around the world.

For community prayer in parishes and schools, SCIAF is offering a new Stations of the Cross booklet following the theme of poverty and climate change. It includes bidding prayers and a children's liturgy for the fourth Sunday in Lent.

The final resource is a little prayer card with a short reflection which can be used as a bookmark and read every day during quiet moments.

We may never meet Isadora, or the many thousands of people like her who are struggling to survive, but the money we raise for SCIAF this Lent and the actions we take will bring fresh hope to some of the world's poorest people. With your support, SCIAF can give mothers like Isadora the means to build a better future for their children.

To find out more about SCIAF's WEE BOX, Big Change campaign, and all the resources for Lent, visit [www.theweebox.org](http://www.theweebox.org).

Rachel Lamb

Help change a life this Lent with SCIAF

## The wisdom of children

The pupils of primary 4-7 of Letham small school in Fife put together their understanding of being a Rights Respecting School in the following presentation. It speaks for itself.



**Voice 1** Letham primary would like to become a recognised Rights Respecting School. That means everyone has to respect the rights of everyone else. But what does it really mean?

**Voice 2** Respecting is a way of behaving towards each other so that things are fair. So that people are listened to and nobody is treated in a way that they do not wish to be.

**Voice 3** Rights are special rules which help people understand how to keep things fair. UNICEF is a charity which watches out in particular for children who are not having their rights respected.

**Voice 4** Rights are things people need, not just things people want. Someone might want a mobile phone, but do they really need it? Someone might want to be first in the queue for dinners, but do they really need to be?

**Voice 5** With rights there are always responsibilities. If people need to be listened to, they have a responsibility to allow others to be listened to also. We don't just want you to listen to each other – we NEED you to listen to each other.

**Voice 6** There are some things everyone needs and has a right to. They are food, shelter, health, safety, friendship and education. We don't just want you to respect these things – we NEED you to respect these things.

**Voice 7** Children can make a big difference to the future of the world. We don't just want you to think about that –we NEED you to think about that.

**Voice 8** There is a big difference between wants and needs. If people don't get what they want, they might be unhappy – but if they don't get what they need, they might even die. We don't just want to be a rights respecting school – we NEED to be.

**Voice 9** Thank you for respecting Article 12 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child . . .

**Voice 10** 'Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and have their opinions taken into account'

**Voice 11** Which is a fancy way of saying. . .

**Voice 12** Thank you for listening!



# it's all in the game?

As a fairly avid follower of football, I was shocked by the latest revelations that Manchester City FC were offering to pay AC Milan £100 million for the transfer of Brazilian footballer Kaka, with a reported £500,000.00 per week for his salary. The transfer in the end did not go through, but it brought to mind an article I read in April 1998 from the Nottingham Diocesan J&P which also covered footballers wages. The footballers mentioned in the article below may have retired, and no doubt the wages are now even higher, but unfortunately everything else is still the same.

I write as a football fan and I am constantly reminded of two of my favourite football quotes in my post as a Justice and Peace worker. Viewers of the Saint and Greavsie show will remember the timeless classic "It's a funny old game." This was often used by Greavsie to describe any situation when he was lost for words. Also, when England departed from the European Championship following defeat by Sweden, the then England manager, Graham Taylor, remarked that it was "a game of two halves".

The Liverpool footballer, Robbie Fowler, is putting in a wage claim for £50,000 a week. The Prime Minister with the immense responsibility of overseeing Government policy is paid £143,000 a year. The ever-popular 'fat cats' are lucky to be paid more than £400,000 a year.

For the life of me, I can't see where Fowler's argument lies. He may well have a short career, as most footballers retire by the age of 35. He may well get injured during a game, but at 22,

Fowler has already had four seasons as a Liverpool regular. For a week of Fowler's wages, a Social Worker, a Teacher or a Nurse can be employed for a year in Liverpool. Does a goal that he may score once a week provide more social worth than a year's contribution from the above named professions?

Liverpool is one of the poorer areas of the country, unemployment has consistently been higher than the national average. If there is wealth to be generated from football, shouldn't it be channelled to areas of great need via a tax or levy? (Well it worked with the privatised utilities!)

Newcastle paid some £15 million for a footballer, yet Newcastle has always been one of the most deprived areas of the country. (I shudder to think how many heart operations could have been paid for in a local Newcastle hospital) Middlesborough pay their star players £42,000 a week, yet the incidence of child poverty and infant mortality is rising in the area. Why is it that poorer areas of the country pay their footballers so well?

I don't have any answers, nor do I have the power to order a wage cut for footballers or more resources for the Government New Deal projects, but what I do know, is that we have more than enough resources to provide operations for people on waiting lists. We have more than enough resources to provide family centres in every community that needs one. We simply allocate out resources in a "funny old way" and create "a game of two halves".



# THE AGE OF STUPID

## a new film about climate change

The following are the current screening details:

March 15; UK-wide peoples premiere, for one night only the film will screen in cinemas across the UK with a live link up to the solar powered Leicester Square event.

March 20; Cinema release for one week at the Edinburgh Filmhouse. It is hoped NGOs will take over screenings of the film, and organise speakers and stalls. If you can, please try to attend, along with friends and colleagues, one of the screenings in Edinburgh. First week ticket sales dictate whether the film expands to more screens in week two or is dumped in the bin. You could also try to persuade your local cinema to show a screening.

I was privileged to go to a preview screening of this film, and all I can say is don't miss it, it will completely change the way you think about climate change. For me it was life changing.

Have a look at the website for the film and for the campaign [www.ageofstupid.net](http://www.ageofstupid.net) and [www.ageofstupid.net/not\\_stupid](http://www.ageofstupid.net/not_stupid) to join the mailing list, email [daniel@ageofstupid.net](mailto:daniel@ageofstupid.net)



The film stars Pete Postlethwaite as a man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, looking back at 'archive footage' from 2008 and asking 'why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance' The film is directed by Fanny Armstrong of 'McLibel' fame.

But this is much more than a film: it is a whole campaign about climate change. The 'Not Stupid' campaign's mission is specifically to turn 250 million viewers of the film into climate activists all focussed on the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen this December, when the successor to the Kyoto Treaty will be finalised.

The power of the film lies in the fact that it can reach far outside the traditional campaigning demographic. For example, with just a three person team and no money, 'McLibel' was seen by more than 25 million people worldwide. So with more than a hundred times the resources of 'McLibel', they are aiming for ten times the viewers for 'Age of Stupid'.



# nuclear shift

Three retired senior British military figures have recently criticised the Government's plan to replace Trident in a letter printed in the Times 16 January 2009:

*Sir, Recent speeches made by the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and the previous Defence Secretary, and the letter from Douglas Hurd, Malcolm Rifkind, David Owen and George Robertson in The Times on June 30, 2008, have placed the issue of a world free of nuclear weapons firmly on the public agenda. But it is difficult to see how the United Kingdom can exert any leadership and influence on this issue if we insist on a costly successor to Trident that would not only preserve our own nuclear-power status well into the second half of this century but might actively encourage others to believe that nuclear weapons were still, somehow, vital to the secure defence of self-respecting nations.*

*This is a fallacy which can best be illustrated by analysis of the British so-called independent deterrent. This force cannot be seen as independent of the United States in any meaningful sense. It relies on the United States for the provision and regular servicing of the D5 missiles. While this country has, in theory, freedom of action over giving the order to fire, it is unthinkable that, because of the catastrophic consequences for guilty and innocent alike, these weapons would ever be launched, or seriously threatened, without the backing and support of the United States.*

*Should this country ever become subject to some sort of nuclear blackmail – from a terrorist group for example – it must be asked in what way, and against whom, our nuclear weapons could be used, or even threatened, to deter or punish. Nuclear weapons have shown themselves to be completely useless as a deterrent to the threats and scale of violence we currently, or are likely to, face – particularly international terrorism; and the more you analyse them the more unusable they appear.*

*The much cited "seat at the top table" no longer has the resonance it once did. Political clout derives much more from economic strength. Even major-player status in the international military scene is more likely to find expression through effective, strategically mobile conventional forces, capable of taking out pinpoint targets, than through the possession of unusable nuclear weapons. Our independent deterrent has become virtually irrelevant except in the context of domestic politics. Rather than perpetuating Trident, the case is much stronger for funding our Armed Forces with what they need to meet the commitments actually laid upon them. In the present economic climate it may well prove impossible to afford both.*

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, General Lord Ramsbotham, General Sir Hugh Beach, House of Lords, London SW1

Reflecting on this, a former NATO commander has suggested that Britain is close to giving up its nuclear weapons. The statement was part of a feature on disarmament on the BBC Radio 4's World Tonight. General Jack Sheehan is former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic and was speaking in support of the

stance recently taken by three retired senior military figures in the UK. Speaking on 29 January General Sheehan said:

*'I think the UK is very close to saying we're the first permanent member of the Security Council to do away with nuclear weapons. I think it is entirely possible that the British government, for a lot of good reasons, could do it and it would lead the world. All of a sudden you call into question why the French have such a system. It creates an impetus for the US and Russia to move away from this position they're currently in, to start a dialogue to build on.'*

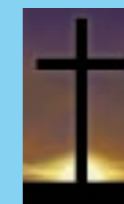
Injecting a dose of political scepticism into the debate on BBC Newsnight, former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo said:

*'I think the logic of the letter is absolutely faultless, that is to say that the independent deterrent isn't independent any more, it is quite inconceivable that we could use it without the permission of the United States, it's absolutely useless against terrorists and it doesn't buy us a seat at the top table because everybody knows that it is useless and there is a very strong case for redeploying the money away from the nuclear deterrent which we will never use into weapons that we actually would use such as cruise missiles and aircraft carriers and they probably would make a contribution to giving us a seat at the top table... I think it would be an extremely difficult decision for any British Prime Minister to give up the nuclear deterrent because we've invested so much political and national capital in it and we believe it's very closely tied to our prestige, but there is no logic left in having the independent nuclear deterrent.'*

In short then, faultless arguments (they should be: the anti nuclear lobby has been using and refining them for fifty years). Recent polls suggest upwards of two thirds of people opposed to nuclear weapons. So when Mr Portillo says 'we believe it's very closely tied to our prestige,' it's worth asking: 'Who's this we?' **TD**

**With the magazine there is a 'Replacing Trident – not a done deal' postcard to send to your MP, please post it promptly. Extra copies of the postcard for groups and parishes can be ordered direct from Scottish CND tel: 0141 433 2921 email: [john.ainslie@banthebomb.org](mailto:john.ainslie@banthebomb.org)**

## Overcoming the Cross of Hunger



Risen Lord, shed your light on those who live in the shadow of death and warm the hearts of those who have lost hope, that they who daily bear the cross of hunger may find your Promised Land, and move from slavery to freedom.

As we proclaim your Easter song help us to die to greed and rise to justice, to abandon apathy and take up action, that rich and poor together may travel the road to freedom, and be restored to your resurrection life.

Amen.

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# gaza

## 2 perspectives

**Shai Golden is the editor of the weekend section of Haaretz, the main Israeli daily paper**

**S**o what did we actually fight about? If the purpose of the campaign/war was to end the smuggling of weapons and ammunition by Hamas, apparently the most we accomplished was a postponement...

Israel chalked up one significant achievement in this conflict. Since 1967, [military action] - as well as the prolonged years of the intifada - damaged Israel and harmed it not only diplomatically, militarily and regionally, but mainly as far as its fighting national ego is concerned...

It seemed that there was always something or someone standing in the way of the Israelis and preventing them from striking at their enemies 'the way it should be done,' 'to the bitter end,' the way the IDF can, had it only be allowed to do so...

This time, it seems, Israel decided to ignore everything and everyone. The use of 'disproportionate force' achieved the results and the desired pictures. The sights of the destruction from the heart of Gaza are shocking. The number of victims is horrifying - mainly the relative percentage of the "uninvolved." But Israel beat Hamas, Gaza and the Gazans in a manner that proved to it that it really is in charge and that it is able to go crazy if it so desires...

The pictures of the destruction, more than they were directed at the eyes of Israel's enemies, were directed at Israeli eyes. Eyes that are hungry for revenge, pride and national respect...

The freedom to go crazy, the freedom that was taken from Israel, like the freedom to feel again, even for a brief period, the existence of a real 'boss' in the region, is a freedom that Israel has acquired for itself with a great deal of Palestinian blood in these three weeks, and it is also the main, if not the only asset it has as it emerges from this war...

Paradoxically, a strong Israel, unified and burning with a sense of justice, an Israel that circled above the bodies of its defeated rivals with the hardheartedness of a victor, is an Israel that is far more ready for peace. Perhaps more than ever.

**Uri Avnery is a veteran Israeli peace activist and a moving spirit in Gush Shalom, the Israeli peace movement.**

**N**early seventy years ago, in the course of World War II, a heinous crime was committed in the city of Leningrad. For more than a thousand days, a gang of extremists called 'the Red Army' held the millions of the town's inhabitants hostage and provoked retaliation from the German Wehrmacht from inside the population centres. The Germans had no alternative but to bomb and shell the population and to impose a total blockade, which caused the death of hundreds of thousands.

Some time before that, a similar crime was committed in England. The Churchill gang hid among the population of London, misusing the millions of citizens as a human shield. The Germans were compelled to send their

Luftwaffe and reluctantly reduce the city to ruins. They called it the Blitz.

This is the description that would now appear in the history books - if the Germans had won the war...

The real aim of this war (apart from gaining seats in the coming elections) is to terminate the rule of Hamas in the Gaza Strip. In the imagination of the planners, Hamas is an invader which has gained control of a foreign country. The reality is, of course, entirely different.

The Hamas movement won the majority of the votes in the eminently democratic elections that took place in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. It won because the Palestinians had come to the conclusion that Fatah's peaceful approach had gained precisely nothing from Israel - neither a freeze of the settlements, nor release of the prisoners, nor any significant steps toward ending the occupation and creating the Palestinian state. Hamas is deeply rooted in the population - not only as a resistance movement fighting the foreign occupier, like the Irgun and the Stern Group in the past - but also as a political and religious body that provides social, educational and medical services.

From the point of view of the population, the Hamas fighters are not a foreign body, but the sons of every family in the Strip and the other Palestinian regions. They do not 'hide behind the population', the population views them as their only defenders.

Therefore, the whole operation is based on erroneous assumptions. Turning life into living hell does not cause the population to rise up against Hamas, but on the contrary, it unites behind Hamas and reinforces its determination not to surrender. The population of Leningrad did not rise up against Stalin, any more than the Londoners rose up against Churchill.

The failure to grasp the nature of Hamas has caused a failure to grasp the predictable results. Not only is Israel unable to win the war, Hamas cannot lose it.

Even if the Israeli army were to succeed in killing every Hamas fighter to the last man, even then Hamas would win. The Hamas fighters would be seen as the paragons of the Arab nation, the heroes of the Palestinian people, models for emulation by every youngster in the Arab world. The West Bank would fall into the hands of Hamas like a ripe fruit, Fatah would drown in a sea of contempt, the Arab regimes would be threatened with collapse.

If the war ends with Hamas still standing, bloodied but unvanquished, in face of the mighty Israeli military machine, it will look like a fantastic victory, a victory of mind over matter.

What will be seared into the consciousness of the world will be the image of Israel as a blood-stained monster, ready at any moment to commit war crimes and not prepared to abide by any moral restraints. This will have severe consequences for our long-term future, our standing in the world, our chance of achieving peace and quiet.

In the end, this war is a crime against ourselves too, a crime against the State of Israel.

# newsbrief . . . newsbrief

**SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE RALLY:** Stop Climate Chaos Scotland will be holding a Climate Change Rally in April 2009. All coalition members and their supporters are being encouraged to spring into action for a strong Scottish Climate Change Bill. We will be gathering to lobby MSPs outside the Scottish Parliament, from 11am - 2pm, on Wednesday 22nd April 2009. For further details of the rally contact SCCS Co-ordinator Gail Wilson on [gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk](mailto:gail.wilson@rspb.org.uk) or 0131 311 6500

**SCOTTISH CLIMATE BILL - VISIT YOUR MSP:** On Thursday 4th December the Scottish Climate Change Bill was introduced to Parliament. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement before it becomes an Act at the end of 2009. Make it your New Year's Resolution to visit your MSP - and go as soon as you can - the earlier you go the more influence you have. To help inform your visit download a free briefing pack from: <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/scotland>

**STILL ON CLIMATE CHANGE - CLIMATE CHANGE FUND:** Keep Scotland Beautiful will administer the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge fund of £18 million over the next three years. With a maximum grant of £1,000,000 per application, the fund is aimed at encouraging community initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Full details at [www.itsourfuture.co.uk](http://www.itsourfuture.co.uk) (from *Sepa View*)

**THREE QUARTERS OF REFUGEE WOMEN 'HAVE BEEN RAPED':** A report by the Refugee Council released on 5 Feb, found three quarters of refugee women have been victims of rape, in their home country and in the UK, and 15 per cent became pregnant as a result of their ordeal. Donna Covey, chief executive of the Refugee Council said: 'We are all aware that rape and sexual violence are commonplace in conflict situations, and our project confirms this. However, what is truly shocking is that women continue to suffer when they come to the UK.' Rape is recognised under international law as a 'weapon of war'. It often goes hand in hand with the physical violence carried out in countries undergoing a perpetual civil war. The women who manage to escape these areas and come to the UK seeking asylum are often faced with other hardships such as destitution and a government that does not recognise their needs, the report says. Full article: Blaine Williams, politics.co.uk <http://tinyurl.com/bpfx4t>

**WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE:** February 20 2009 was an important day for everyone in the global village, but especially for those of us committed to living the Good News of peace and justice. The World Day of Social Justice was being observed for the first time following its unanimous adoption by the 192 member States of the United Nations during their November 2007 General Assembly. For more details visit: <http://un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlJustice/>

**VATICAN RATIFIES CONVENTION BANNING CLUSTER BOMBS:** The Vatican has signed and ratified a new treaty to end the production and use of cluster bombs. It has appealed to the international community to ban 'this inhumane type of weapon.' In a speech during the signing ceremony on 3 December, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Vatican Secretary for Relations with States, said the Vatican chose to sign and ratify the convention the same day in order to send 'a strong political signal' to the rest of the world. The United States and other major countries that produce cluster weapons - including Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan

- have not signed the convention which will come into effect in mid-2009. The Archbishop urged those nations who continue to produce, export or use these deadly munitions to heed the numerous civilian victims' call for disarmament and to sign the convention. Web: <http://tinyurl.com/ajq9tn>

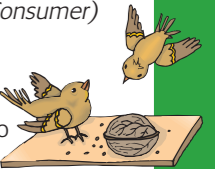
**FOUL PLAY: END MANUAL SCAVENGING BY THE 2010 COMMONWEALTH GAMES:** It is estimated that around 1.3 million Dalits (formerly known as 'untouchables') in India, mostly women, make their living through manual scavenging - a term used to describe the job of removing human excrement from dry toilets and sewers using basic tools such as thin boards, buckets and baskets, lined with sacking, and carried on the head. Manual scavengers earn as little as 7p per day. Though this vile and inhumane practice was abolished by law in India in 1993 the practice continues and money set aside for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers has not been released. Dalits face violence and intimidation when protesting or speaking out against the lack of policy implementation and the violation of their rights. Despite this threat an organisation has been set up by manual scavengers in India called Safai Karmachari Andolan 'The Liberation Movement of those employed as scavengers'. They have launched an international campaign to demand an end to this practice by the Commonwealth Games, in Delhi October 2010. Dalit Solidarity Network is campaigning in the UK in solidarity with them. For more information visit Dalit Solidarity Network: [www.dsnu.orghttp](http://www.dsnu.orghttp)

**WHAT KIND OF SHOPPER ARE YOU:** DFID has just launched a witty online game to help consumers plot their own 'ethical compass'. You are asked to tackle 10 quick questions to find out which 'shopping tribe' you belong to. Are you a 'caring consumer' or a 'Coulda woulda shoulda'. I am sure all our readers will fall into the 'caring consumers', or 'green warriors' categories, but get your family, friends and work colleagues to try it out and see how they get on. It might make them think. Check it out at: [www.dfid.gov.uk/ethicalcompass/](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/ethicalcompass/)

**GUIDE TO CRUELTY FREE FOOD:** The RSPCA has prepared a newly up-dated guide to ready-made food products containing only free-range eggs. Although you may choose to buy free range whole eggs, it is difficult to find out what kind of eggs are used in ready made products. In fact about 85 per cent of all eggs used in products such as mayonnaise, quiche, pasta, cakes and sandwiches, are from hens kept in cruel battery cages. The guide also has a list of restaurant chains and tourist attractions that only have free-range eggs on the menu. The booklet is available to download from [www.rspca.org.uk/eggs](http://www.rspca.org.uk/eggs) and can also be sent direct to mobiles by texting EGG to 60022 (source *Ethical Consumer*)

**GOOD NEWS FOR FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: FEED THE BIRDS - ETHICALLY:** Gardman, the suppliers of garden products have introduced into Britain, the first fairtrade-certified wild bird feed. Check out your local garden centre, if they don't stock it, ask them to.

**FAIRTRADE SMOOTHIES:** AgroFair have just launched the first Fairtrade smoothies not made from concentrate - OKE Smoothies. Flavours include Raspberry, Blackberry & Banana and Mango, Orange & Pink Guava. All Agrofair fruit is transported by sea and not by air. The fruit in OKE smoothies is sourced from small farmers and co-operatives in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Peru and will be on sale in ASDA and some independent retailers. (source *Ethical Consumer*)





# poverty truth commission

Paul Chapman from Faith in Community Scotland talks about the forthcoming Poverty hearings

On Saturday 21 March from 2 to 5 in the afternoon at the City Chambers in Glasgow, people from the poorest areas of Scotland will be testifying to some of the problems they encounter in their struggle with poverty. They will also share their vision of a world of economic justice and suggest steps that can be taken to overcome poverty.

We encourage you to be in the audience as these 'Testifiers' speak the truth about poverty, using music, drama, videos, rap, dance and monologue. They will be challenging a group of 'Commissioners' - leaders from the media, government and the church who are in a position to take steps to change the situation.

## A MORAL CRISIS

The sad truth is that the people who define the health of the economy seem often to be restricted in their vision to the well-being of the wealthy; and quite oblivious to the welfare of those who depend week by week on their employment or their benefits. And while those on the top of the pyramid are quite comfortable, the people on the bottom have been treading water, not able to get ahead of inflation. In fact, in addition to stagnating salaries and inadequate benefits, if you take into account mounting credit card and other debt, non-wealthy people have been losing ground. It is they who know personally that the economy is not doing well, that people around the world are suffering while the few at the top prosper, they have long suspected that the whole house of cards was due to collapse. The yawning gap between rich and poor could not continue forever. It is the moral failure, the hubris of the masters of finance, that they were so socially and economically separated from the majority that they didn't

seem to know that falling salaries and mounting debt foretold a crisis.

It's a moral scandal that the society is so divided that the movers and shakers simply don't know what life is like in poorer neighbourhoods. Or perhaps they do know and don't care. There is no excuse for this moral failure.

To reach across this divide is an act of moral courage, an act of love. We need to hear each other to develop the empathy that understands 'the other' in a way that leads to action to restore economic equity. The 'testifiers' at the Poverty Truth Commission are seeking to reach out and intend to be heard. The Commissioners have vowed to listen and to respond with action.

The testifiers include the members of Kinship Carers, an association of grandmothers in Glasgow who didn't anticipate spending their senior years caring for little children - a task that takes more energy than they really have. But these grandmothers have little choice now that the children have been abandoned by their parents who are victims of drugs and alcohol and deep depression. The grandmothers refuse to lose another generation.

Members of Kinship Carers will testify at the Poverty Truth Commission. Young people from Ruchazie and Provanmill will talk about the problems of gangs and territorialism that are part of their reality. We'll hear from working men and women who struggle to keep food on the table and from people who have no permanent job or home. But these and the other testifiers have not lost hope. They have a vision of economic justice that they continue to pursue to make a better world for all of us.

## Church leaders endorse SCHA statement on homelessness

To coincide with Poverty & Homelessness Action Week, leaders of Christian churches in Scotland, including Bishop Moran of Justice and Peace and Bishop Cunningham of the Commission for Pastoral & Social Care have endorsed a call by Scottish Churches Housing Action for intensive investment in affordable housing.

The Bishops along with the Moderator, the Primus of the Episcopal Church and nine other leaders support a return to post World War II levels of affordable house-building as a way of avoiding the worst effects of the recession.

The call comes in a paper to First Minister Alex Salmond MSP, Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling MP and other political leaders. It calls on the administrations at Holyrood and Westminster to get

together in facilitating a massive boost to public investment in affordable housing.

The paper claims that building affordable homes for rent and for sale will have a triple impact: 1. it will help those who'll be made homeless in the recession; 2. it will keep people in jobs in the property, building and related industries; and 3. it will keep tax revenues from those jobs flowing to the exchequer, while avoiding unemployment pay-outs.

Alastair Cameron, SCHA Chief Executive said: "We welcome the recent announcement of further funds for affordable housing development, but we've made clear to the Scottish Government that it still doesn't address the scale of the problem. We're not asking them to do this despite the recession - we say it's part of how to deal with it."

## archbishop's statement on gaza

Speaking at St Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow on Sunday January 4th, Justice and Peace Sunday, Archbishop Mario Conti made the following statement on the current conflict in Gaza.

It would be remiss of me to talk of justice and peace without making comment on the warlike situation in Southern Israel and Gaza following rocket attacks by Palestinians on Israelis and the bombing and invasion of Gaza by Israel.

I have been appalled at the violence first displayed against, and now by Israel - rockets met by bombs and a tank invasion.

Israel is not ready to accept criticisms of its actions from the international community which, while recognising its right to self-defence, almost universally considers its military response as disproportionate, and at base ill-conceived as a strategy to win the peace that must in the longer term be achieved.

There will be resentment in some quarters at a bishop appearing to criticise one of the parties, but I speak as Archbishop of a city which has a twinning relationship with Bethlehem, and as one of more than a hundred pilgrims who recently visited the Holy Land and heard from those directly affected by the tensions in that area. Just weeks ago we saw for ourselves the siege conditions under which people daily live in the West Bank. By all accounts these

conditions are even more severe in Gaza, and lead to a climate of frustration, the very climate which we know from Northern Ireland, allows and fosters the sort of violent action to which Israel is now responding with mighty force.

Fear stalks both sides of the Gaza border and the innocent lives of children, women and men are put at risk, and currently within Gaza, destroyed in large numbers. Immense damage is done to property and to the infrastructure by bombs and rockets; worse still is the damage done to relationships between two peoples, both of which have a right to live in secure peace. The whole peace process is put in jeopardy and further cause for resentment is given by the continued conflict. This resentment will fester for as many years as people remember the harm done to them and the injustices they have suffered.

All we can do is add our voice to those who call for an end to the violence on both sides, and pray that the Prince of Peace will move the hearts of men and women to desire reconciliation, co-operation and a common purpose - the building of stable neighbourhood communities to the benefit of all.

## new refugee report focuses on destitution

A new report by the British Red Cross and Refugee Survival Trust has asked for changes to the asylum process to reduce destitution among refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland. The report - entitled 21 Days Later - found that about £6,000 in small grants are distributed to destitute refugees and asylum seekers every month in Scotland to help them pay for basic essentials, such as food, accommodation and clothing. However, over the past five and a half years, almost 70 per cent of this money should have come from statutory agencies rather than charities.

Laurie Naumann, from the Refugee Survival Trust, said: "The report shows there are simple, yet key failures in the asylum support system that result in unnecessary destitution. Both adults and children, who have travelled thousands of miles to escape persecution, often find their nightmare continues as they face destitution in Scotland."

The report, named after the three-week 'move-on' period given to those whose asylum application has been refused, demonstrates that those seeking sanctuary in the UK are most likely to experience destitution during this crucial 21-day period.

On a more positive note, the new report - designed to show how simple changes could improve the lives of hundreds of people living in Scotland - makes it clear that the situation is slowly improving, not least because the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) is taking more responsibility for cases at its Glasgow office.

Phil Taylor, regional director of the UK Border Agency, said: "This report will make a positive contribution to our ongoing dialogue about asylum seekers and refugees stakeholders in Scotland."

"I look forward to working with the Red Cross and Refugee Survival Trust to resolve administrative issues that might cause disadvantage to asylum seekers and refugees. Together we'll strive to make improvements to the asylum system wherever possible."

Nick Scott-Flynn, head of British Red Cross refugee services, explained: "Our growing relationship with the UKBA is a step in the right direction and should be promoted throughout the UK as an example of how the voluntary and statutory sectors can work together to reduce destitution and improve the lives of hundreds of families who have already been through enough."



# scottish fair trade forum progress report



**John McAllion, the first chair of the Forum, reviews its development, initiatives and challenges for members in the future.**

It will soon be three years since First Minister Jack McConnell announced that Scotland had joined forces with Wales in a bid to become the world's first Fair Trade nations.

At that time, there were few people in Scotland who had any idea of what was meant by a 'Fair Trade nation'. Fair trade supporters knew about the Fairtrade Foundation's campaigns for fairtrade towns, schools, colleges, universities, places of worship and even workplaces. But no-one, including the Fairtrade Foundation, knew how the accepted criteria for awarding fairtrade status to all of these might be applied to an entire country.

In the event, the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly went their own way and drew up their version of 'measurable countrywide criteria' based on the number of local authority zones and higher education institutions which had either achieved or were working towards fair trade status; as well as the level of national support for fair trade as reflected in consumer surveys of fair trade sales and awareness of the fair trade movement.

Of course, on its own such a top-down approach to what was supposed to be a genuinely national campaign could never have worked. Somehow 'the people' had to be involved and so the Scottish Fair Trade Forum was established as a means of involving the grassroots and broadening and deepening the criteria for achieving Fair Trade nation status. The 2009 AGM of the Forum was held in Perth at the end of January. So what progress has been made one year on from its formal establishment?

As with any newly created institution, a great deal of time and effort was initially expended on the nuts and bolts of putting the organisation onto a sound legal footing – drawing up memorandum and articles of association, achieving charitable status, registering as a company limited by guarantee etc.

Necessarily, an equal effort had to be expended on putting the Forum on to a sound financial footing. Core funding of £180,000 over three years was secured from the Scottish Government. An additional £40,000 of project funding and £20,000 for advertising and marketing was negotiated from the same source. A range of further funding applications to the Department of International Development and to Lloyds TSB are currently awaiting final decision.

Office space was secured with the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations at Mansfield Place in Edinburgh. Betsy Reed, our campaign coordinator, set about recruiting a volunteer team to staff the office and to help with a variety of tasks from producing and distributing regular newsletters to supporters, coordinating Fairtrade Fortnight programmes and dealing with the grind of office administration.

A great deal of time was also spent recruiting a professional company to set up a website that will be the main means of communicating with the Forum's grassroots supporters across the country ([www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk](http://www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk)). A scheme was created to distribute grants of up to £500 to support local

activities and campaigning by fair trade groups and organisations across the country. All of the £20,000 allocated to this scheme has already been successfully distributed.

Producer tours were organised, with Kenyan farmer Julius Ehang'atha taking part in 30 different Scottish events during last year's Fairtrade Fortnight and Malawian fair trade activist Towera Jalakasi scheduled to tour Scotland this year. The Board itself visited Stirling and Inverness to host open forums with local supporters, and co-organised a successful Scottish Fair Trade Campaign Day in Dundee in partnership with the local fair trade group and the Fairtrade Foundation.

On the political front, close contact was maintained with the Scottish Government and Parliament. Government Minister Linda Fabiani and her officials have been consistently supportive with the Minister agreeing to write a blog for our website during this year's Fairtrade Fortnight. We received all party support for establishing a Fair Trade Nation cross party group in the Parliament. The Forum was invited to give evidence to a parliamentary committee on the Scottish Government's international development policy and was awarded a place on the Government's advisory board on international policy.

However, progress on applying fair trade and ethical principles to the £8 billion spent annually by Scotland's public sector on goods and services has been mixed. While there has been cross party political support for the principle of ethical public procurement, civil servants have continued to argue that specifying fair trade within public contracts would be 'anti-competitive' under European procurement rules.

Unbowed, the Forum has continued to press for ethical public procurement. We now sit on the advisory board of a project promoting poverty aware procurement in universities in Scotland and Northern England. Funded by the UK Department for International Development, the project is looking at practical ways in which public contracts can be designed to prevent adverse impacts on poor producers across the South. It will report in two years time and will hopefully provide us with concrete arguments and examples of how public procurement can be made fair.

At the January AGM the Forum's new Board was elected for a three year term. Their aim is to drive Scotland forward to becoming a Fair Trade nation, not in name only but by ensuring that fairness pervades every activity in the nation's private and public spheres. The challenge could not be greater.

If we are to meet that challenge, we will need the support of everyone in Scotland who believes that the future is fair trade. We are looking for volunteers to act as ambassadors who can represent the Forum at public meetings, for local Fairtrade Fortnight coordinators, for organisers to plan future Fair Trade Campaign days, and for office and admin helpers. Above all we need as many supporters as possible to get involved in the campaign. If you want to be a part of our campaign, go to our website where details of how to become involved in all or any of these ways will be posted.

**Scotland – a Fair Trade Nation  
– together we can do it!**



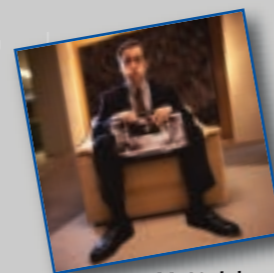
**MARCH FOR JOBS, JUSTICE  
AND CLIMATE ON SATURDAY  
28 MARCH 2009 IN LONDON**

On 2 April the leaders of 20 of the world's biggest economies meet in London to tackle the recession and global financial crisis. An unprecedented platform of organisations across domestic, international, development, labour rights, anti-poverty groups, environmental, faith and women's groups, such as the Trade Justice Movement, the TUC, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Everychild, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Friends of the Earth, Fairtrade Foundation, Oxfam, Tearfund and WWF, amongst many others, have come together to call on political leaders to put people first during this economic crisis. This platform is called Put People First: Job, Justice and Climate.

## WHY ARE WE CAMPAIGNING?

Even before the banking collapse caused recession, the world suffered vast poverty and inequality and faced the looming threat of climate chaos. Governments, business and international institutions have followed a model of financial deregulation that has encouraged short-term profits, instability and an economy fuelled by ever-increasing debt, both financial and environmental.

There should be no going back to business as usual. The only sustainable way to rebuild the global economy is to create a fair distribution of wealth that provides decent jobs and public services for all, ends global inequality and builds a



Here is an updated version by David McNeish, Parliamentary and Policy Officer for Citizens Advice Scotland.

# downtowndownturn

It's almost 45 years since Petula Clark had a hit with Downtown (well within the J&P age cohort). Here is an updated version by David McNeish, Parliamentary and Policy Officer for Citizens Advice Scotland.

**When you're alone and life is making you lonely  
then you know its time - downturn**

**When you've got worries and no cash for your  
curries then you know its time - downturn**

**Just listen to your stocks and shares  
go plunging ever downwards**

**As they nationalise the bankers and then pay  
them all a bonus  
How did you lose?**

**The lights might go out this year  
You can remember your troubles,  
remember your cares its a  
Downturn - Brown got us into this  
Downturn - says he'll get out of this  
Downturn - everything's gone to the wall**

**Don't hang around and let your problems surround  
you, you are not alone - downturn  
Maybe you know some little places to go to**

low carbon future. The platform believes that this is a constructive message of hope and that the recession must not be an excuse for putting off action for global justice or to stop climate chaos. Creating a just, fair and sustainable world is the only lasting way out of recession.

On 28 March thousands of people will march through London as part of a global campaign to challenge the G20 leaders. Our message is clear. We must put people first.

- Put People First: Decent jobs and public services for all
- Put People First: End global poverty and inequality
- Put People First: Build a green economy

## WHAT YOU CAN DO?

- Please come to the demonstration if you can – we need your help in getting the message to all political leaders about the need for fundamental change.
- Check out the website [www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk](http://www.putpeoplefirst.org.uk) for more details on how you can have your voice heard over the coming weeks.

## DETAILS

Assemble: 11am at Embankment (Nearest tube: Temple. Please note that the Victoria line is suspended that weekend).

Rally: From 2pm at Hyde Park (Nearest tubes: Marble Arch and Hyde Park).

Received from Anne Callaghan of the Trade Justice Movement

that are yet to close - downturn  
Just listen to economists pretend  
they saw it coming  
Hedging and short selling and then out of here  
they're running  
Cap in their hand  
The lights might go out this year  
You can remember your troubles,  
remember your cares its a  
Downturn - spend to get out of it  
Downturn - save to get out of it  
Downturn - everything's gone to the wall  
Downturn (Downturn) [repeat and fade out!]

And to show that he's not just an excellent parodist, David says 'here's a prayer I wrote in the Celtic tradition. They had prayers for raking ashes, milking cows etc - not so relevant for most of us these days. But going to an ATM - there's a task we do all too often..'

**All giving God  
As I withdraw cash  
Let me not withdraw from you  
Grant me a generous heart  
Content to spend itself on you  
Amen.**