



# J/P ALERT

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF MEN JUSTICE AND PEACE OFFICE



**MAY 2013** (*en español*)

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## *Immigration Reform Update*

The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved 13-5 the bipartisan Senate immigration reform bill, S. 744, allowing the bill to make its way to the Senate Floor for further discussion and a vote from all Senators!

During the amendment process, our Interfaith Immigration Coalition made more than 3,000 calls, and we were a big part of defeating the worst

amendments and gaining modest improvements to the bill, specifically helping immigrants in detention, Violence Against Women Act recipients, and children; prohibiting dangerous deportations; discouraging racial profiling; and restricting immigration enforcement actions near schools, hospitals, victims services locations and places of worship.



Senators will be in their home states until Monday, June 3rd. The debate on the Senate floor is likely to begin as early as June 10th. **It will be incredibly important to set up [local visits](#) with your Senators and Representatives and their staff** this week when they're at home to make

sure they know that their constituents care about immigration reform. Make sure to also attend town halls that your Senators and Representatives might be hosting, write letters to the editor and opinion editorials in your local paper, encourage your community members to make calls and write letters to the members' offices, and organize and take part in creative actions alongside immigrant rights' groups to raise your voices in support of immigration reform.

**Watch and share these videos** to help mobilize your community:

- Erika has mother and brother taken from their home: [click here](#) (2 mins.)
- Bishop John Wester, Chairman of US Bishops Committee on Migration: [click here](#) (4 mins.)

## *Nuns on the Border*

May 28 - June 18, 2013

NETWORK is gassing up the bus and heading back out on the road-this time to talk about our broken immigration system and the need for compassionate reform! This is a chance to speak out about immigration reform benefiting the 100% of our nation and to stand in solidarity with our bishops in the call for commonsense legislation to end our broken system.

The journey begins on the night of the 28 in New Haven with a blessing and a "kick off" at Liberty Park New Jersey in sight of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty the next day. The bus will then head down the eastern seaboard as far as Florida and then head west across the bottom of the United States (including New Orleans and a LOT of Texas) and then up California ending at Angel Island in San Francisco Bay (that is Ellis Island West) on June 18. More details of the trip: [click here](#)

The bus trip will also serve to lift up the fact of our country's sin that slaves were brought here involuntarily. Additionally, we are also looking at lifting up the reality of the indigenous people as well as the "new" arrivals as we are all part of this nation and need to work together for the benefit of all.

If you or your folks (nuns or otherwise) would be interested in helping, you'd be welcome. NETWORK is looking for folks who would like to get involved. They need:

- Folks who can help to organize the local events.
- People who have ministries the bus riders can visit.
- Sisters who are interested in riding the bus for three to five days.

If you or someone you know would like to get involved please contact Ashley Wilson at [awilson@networklobby.org](mailto:awilson@networklobby.org). Send her:

- Your contact info
- Brief description of how you can help

## ***Worker Justice and Wage Theft***

***US Catholic*** recently published an interview with ***Kim Bobo*** who founded the national Interfaith Worker Justice that has sparked a revival of the old Faith-Labor alliance. The topic is what can the church do for worker justice in the U.S.: [click here](#) for the article. ***For practical resources*** on stopping wage theft, [click here](#).



## ***Response to Bangladesh Injustice***

*Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility*: Concerned that human rights catastrophes like the April 24 collapse of the Rana Plaza in Bangladesh might recur if sweeping reforms aren't promptly implemented, a global coalition of institutional investors managing more than \$1.5 Trillion are calling on apparel manufacturers and retailers to join the Accord on Fire and Building Safety.

Rev. Seamus Finn of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, ***"Rana Plaza was an unprecedented workplace disaster, and a tragedy we truly believe could have been avoided. The industry needs a global standard and solution lest what happened in Dhaka happens five years from now in another country. Many European companies have already joined the Accord and we want to ensure that the momentum continues here in the U.S."*** For the full press release and statement [click here](#).

## *Financial Transaction Tax*

"While the income of a minority is increasing exponentially, that of the majority is crumbling. This imbalance results from ideologies which uphold the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation, and thus deny the right of control to States, which are themselves charged with providing for the common good." -- **Pope Francis**

Treaties of financial disclosure and closing tax loopholes are key initiatives. In addition, many argue that a financial transaction tax (FTT) would raise more revenue than any other revenue proposals, and thus enhance the argument for at least maintaining the responsible programs for the poor and marginalized. The FTT would place a **very small tax (usually between 0.0001% and 0.5%) on different financial transactions**. The general purpose of a FTT would be to help enhance the financial stability of the existing monetary system by curtailing "undue speculation," creating a long-term benefit by reducing short-term turnovers in financial instruments. **Stability in financial markets helps protect the common good**. The Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace has explicitly endorsed the idea.

Read this article from Catholic groups for more details: [click here](#)

**Legislative Action:** Support Rep. Keith Ellison's Bill H.R. 1579 "Inclusive Prosperity Act": [click here](#).

## *CEO Pay*

**AFL-CIO LAUNCHES PAYWATCH:** The AFL-CIO is launching its annual Paywatch report and website highlighting excessive CEO pay at S&P 500 companies. This year's site will take a special look at CEOs from the corporate backed "Fix the Debt" group, which has worked to protect tax loopholes for corporations and the richest 1 percent.

Early reports show that CEOs who are working to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid while protecting tax loopholes are receiving record high salaries and cushy retirement packages. Visit [www.PayWatch.org](http://www.PayWatch.org) . Check out this informative graphic about the [comparison of hourly earnings](#).

## *Gun Violence*

Senators who voted against the bill to address gun violence are losing support. For details [click here](#)

Now the attention is shifted to the House. After a great meeting Monday May 6th with national faith leaders and Vice President Joe Biden, we've worked to help the bipartisan House bill on background checks (HR 1565) get 161 cosponsors so far! Thanks to outreach from tens of thousands of Americans committed to reducing gun violence, this number is more than elevenfold what it was just a few weeks ago.

[Will you help it climb higher?](#)

Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence have created a special "take action" page where you can enter your zip code and a template message will appear that is specifically created based on whether your representative is already a cosponsor, should be a cosponsor, or needs additional encouragement.

[Please take two minutes to add a personal touch and send a message today](#). Those that have signed on in support deserve a BIG thank you, and those that haven't need to hear

from their constituents.

Thanks so much for keeping faith with us and the thousands across the country pushing for meaningful background checks. If you want to participate in the national coalition the **next call is Wednesday, June 5, at 1 p.m. eastern time, call in number: 559-546-1000; passcode: 1048330#.**

## *Climate Change*

Catholic Coalition on Climate Change Adds New Resources to Website

[The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change website](#) is a one-stop shop for the Church's witness on climate change and environmental justice. The site has been updated with additional and revised resources including:



*Annotated Bibliography of Catholic Statements on Energy:* The Coalition has compiled an annotated bibliography of important Catholic statements and articles on key energy issues. The resource, which includes information on Clean Energy, Tar Sands, Fracking/Natural Gas, and Nuclear, can be [viewed online](#) or [downloaded as a PDF](#).

### [Melting Ice, Mending Creation: A Catholic Approach to Climate Change](#)

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change has announced the 2013 Feast of St. Francis program, which will provide photographic evidence of the melting glaciers across the globe and a review of the [Pontifical Academy of Science's](#) Working Group statement, "Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene." A free Educational Toolkit and other resources will be available during the late summer that will help you promote and create your own community event!

## *Restorative Justice*

### **New State Legislation Passed**

The Restorative Justice Pilot Project ([HB 13-1254](#)) passed the Colorado State legislature on May 7th. **Colorado State Representative Pete Lee** is a true champion of restorative justice and enacting its principles and practices into law. He recently co-sponsored **The Restorative Justice Pilot Project** (HB 13-1254).

This new law will initiate a Restorative Justice fund via a \$10 surcharge on offender fees. These dollars will help seed new pilot projects and develop research and evidence on the value of restorative justice. The money will also support a position for a state Restorative Justice Coordinator that supports the State RJ Council and RJ programs around the state. Perhaps most importantly the new law will provide the opportunity to almost all juveniles referred to the justice system.

*For more resources such as DVD's on RJ [click here](#).*

### **Restorative Justice in the Holy Land**

Check out, use, and perhaps host a screening of this new **Israeli-Palestinian documentary, "Two Sided Story,"** which highlights the power and possibility of dialogue and reconciliation among Israelis and Palestinians. [View the trailer](#).

This newly released film - directed by Emmy Award winner Tor Ben Mayor – tells the story of 27 Palestinians and Israelis who meet through a [Parents Circle](#) project and begin to

explore the experiences and narratives held by the "other side." By listening deeply to one another's personal stories, rather than arguing over political views, these participants slowly begin to connect and see each other as people first, rather than enemies.

This year, the Parents Circle is committed to **holding 100 screenings** of "Two Sided Story" and dialogues in synagogues, mosques, churches, colleges, schools, community and dialogue groups, and living rooms all across the United States. If you would like to [join our initiative](#) and **host a screening or want more information, please contact Shiri Ourian at [americanfriends@parentscircle.org](mailto:americanfriends@parentscircle.org)**.

*Two Sided Story* is the proud international winner of the Fetzer Institute's [What in the World are You Doing Prize](#).

## *Sisters in Palestine*



### **Advocacy Conference Report:**

Secretary of State John Kerry and President Obama have recently visited the Holy Land. As Israel continues to build settlements in the

E-1 area and Palestinians struggle with unity, time is running short for a two-state solution. On May 20-21, over 100 participants from across the nation gathered in DC to learn more about this issue and visit congress to advocate for ensuring \$370 million in economic aid to the Palestinians, calling for the Congress to speak out about the injustice of settlements as the President has done, and to visit Christian churches if they go to the Holy Land. Included in these asks was the call to stop the taking of land in the Cremisan Valley where Salesian Sisters and a monastery operate.

**To contact Secretary of State Kerry to help the Sisters, [click here](#).**

## *Sexism and Militarism*

Recent news reports about sexual assault in the U.S. military have rightfully gathered some political attention and for some a bit of "shock" and "surprise." For instance over 26,000 sexual assaults were estimated in 2012, up from 19,000 in 2010. This is over 70 per day. However, only about 3300 were reported in 2012 as about 62% of victims who do report abuse face retaliation in some way. "In all, one in three military women have been sexually assaulted, a [rate twice as high as the civilian rate](#)." The leader of the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention unit was also recently arrested for sexual assault. [Click here](#) for more details.

However, if we reflect more deeply on the conceptual and practical connections between sexism and militarism, we might wonder if at minimum this is not a "surprise," if not even somewhat expected. Does the *machismo*, behaviors of dominance, objectification of the other, [official reprimands for empathy](#), glorification of violence, and patriarchal cultural trends all create a way of seeing the world and habits of behavior that make sexual assault not necessary of course, but certainly more likely? It seems probable that this is the case. Here is a [video of a soldier](#) named Ethan McCord who served in Iraq, encountered a civilian massacre, and testified about when he sought counseling his superior told him to "get the sand out of your vagina." Other soldiers have also reported being told this phrase. Scholar Betty Reardon wrote [this article on the deep interconnections between sexism and militarism](#). Even UN military "peacekeepers" have exhibited some patterns of sexual abuse and even rape.

The answer to this scourge of sexual assault is not about giving women more leadership and combat roles in the military or even simply about rule changes in military policy. Instead, the answer is more about deeply analyzing the way some of the militaristic habits mentioned above tend to cultivate *some* unhealthy behaviors...and then transform both.

## ***Unarmed Women Confronts "terrorist"***

Are you sure? Don't we "need" armed force to confront and deal with people who commit terrorism? Recently in Britain a women, mother of two got off a bus to confront two armed men who just killed a British military man: [click here](#) for the story. Although this was unplanned, Ingrid tapped into a different kind of power that humanized the situation through a few key tactics, which were probably regular practices for her.

1. She used distraction by calling their attention away from the victim and their hostility.
2. She asked them why they had done this (seeking understanding).
3. She asked what they wanted (close to asking for or listening for their human need).
4. She refrained from blaming statements or using threats both in her words, her posture, and her lack of arms.

These integrative power tactics (i.e., acting in accord with human dignity regardless of what the other does, in order to humanize the actors and situation) helped defuse their hostility and prevent any more killing in the immediate moment. What if we did plan for these moments with her orientation? What if we had teams of persons trained in these and other skills of intervention? What can we learn for broader, larger-scale conflicts?

## ***Nominations Requested – Leadership Award for Young Adults***

The nomination process is open for the 2013 [Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award](#), sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. This award honors a Catholic young adult (age 18-35) engaged in efforts to end the root causes of poverty in the United States. The winner receives \$1,000 and is honored at an annual reception attended by dozens of bishops. [Watch a video about the 2012 winner, Karl Kumodzi.](#)



Help us celebrate young adult involvement in the mission of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to fight poverty in the United States. Please spread the word to parishes, community organizations, college campuses, young adult ministers and other potential nominators, or nominate someone yourself!

***JP Ministry Tip: Create "Meta Peace Team"***

One of the cutting edge developments in peacebuilding initiatives is the creation of "peace teams." There are international organizations such as the [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#), Peace Brigades International, and Christian Peacemaker Teams. But increasingly, there is the experiment with domestic peace teams in U.S. communities, such as the [DC Peace Team](#), Meta Peace Team (Michigan), [Cure Violence](#) (Chicago), etc. These teams use a broad range of nonviolent conflict intervention skills, such as protective presence, monitoring of streets, direct gang intervention, restorative justice, and peace education, etc. ***They represent a key part of the fuller horizon of Gospel peacemaking, which is not often imagined.*** I encourage you to learn about these and pray about if God is calling you to work with, educate others about, or develop one in your area.

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- *assists major superiors in their role as leaders;*
- *promotes dialogue and collaboration with the conference of bishops and other major groups in church and society;*
- *provides a corporate influence in church and society.*

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