



Edmund Rice Centre

Awareness. Advocacy. Action

ERC JUSTICE UPDATES

August 17th 2018 No.1



***WELCOME TO A NEW
NEWSLETTER***

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

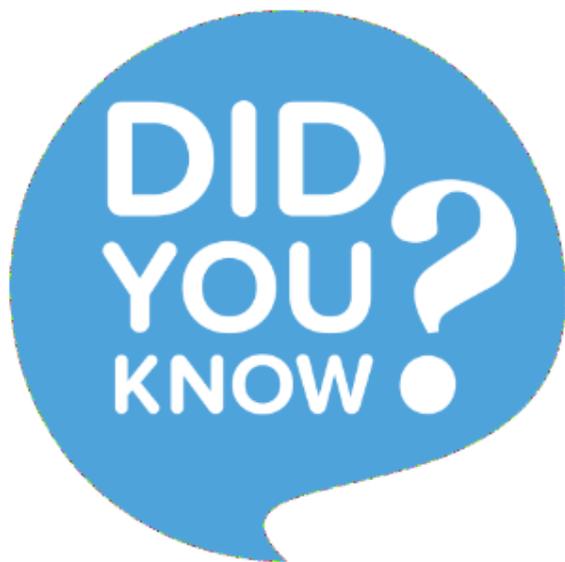
Welcome to ERC Justice Updates, the first installment of a regular newsletter from the Edmund Rice Centre, on all sorts of matters relating to social and environmental justice. Each fortnight ERC will publish an update for you to not only read but also to perhaps use in your own communications - across the Oceania Province and beyond. For those involved in the regular task of putting together a school or parish newsletter, or other form of communications to different groups, it can often be difficult to find resource material in a hurry! This newsletter is designed to assist with that process, but also to provide a regular forum for communication about social justice, human rights, and related things you might have missed, or don't want to miss! So feel free to cut and paste anything here that might be of use to you. Plus send us your feedback or information you think would be good to include in other updates.

My thanks especially to our Communications Project Officer, Marita McInerney for putting in the hard yards and compiling what we hope will become a useful resource for everyone.

All the best

Phil

Phil Glendenning AM
Director Edmund Rice Centre



- On Friday August 17th 2018, the Australian government will have **detained men, women & children on Nauru & Manus Island for 1850 DAYS**
- **ONE IN SIX** Australian youth have experienced **HOMELESSNESS**.
- According to the latest Global Slavery Index there are an estimated **15,000 people in MODERN SLAVERY inside Australia - SIX people per 10,000 across the country**.
- Pope Francis declared on August 2nd: **“The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,”** reads the Catechism of the Catholic Church now on the death penalty, with the addition that the Church “works with determination for its abolition worldwide.” *CRUX: 2 August 2018*

Syrian and Iraqi Refugees Empowerment Project - SIREP



Project Summary

After a pilot project in 2017, Edmund Rice Centre launched the Syrian and Iraqi Refugees Empowerment Project (SIREP) in early 2018. The overall aim of the project is to help newly-arrived Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Sydney with their immediate resettlement and long-term integration. The project has three interconnected components:

- 1) Mentor Program
- 2) Partnership Building
- 3) Settlement Experience Research

Mentor Program

The SIREP mentor program aims to assist newly arrived refugees in Sydney to articulate their needs, concerns and expectations. Volunteer mentors from Edmund Rice Centre work with the person they are assisting to assess their overall situation, identify their concerns and expectations, evaluate their professional needs, and assist them with finding a way forward. In doing so, mentors work with mentees to set short-term and long-term goals for mentees, and to identify and access the resources and services needed to achieve these goals.

Partnership Building

relevant stakeholders and organisations working in the refugee support and empowerment space, including:

(i) Religious and community leaders from the Syrian and Iraqi refugee community who are aware of the settlement needs and integration requirements of their communities.

(ii) Community organisations, service providers, schools and colleges that are directly or indirectly engaged with Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

(iii) Employment service providers, education assistance organisations and business support initiatives that support newly-arrived Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

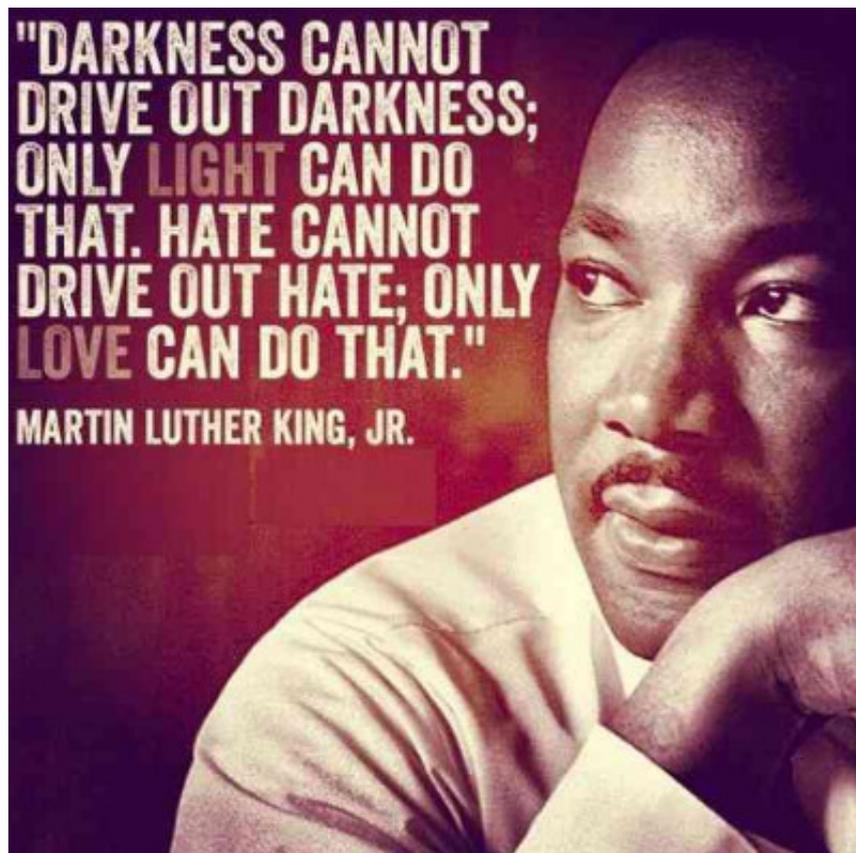
Settlement Experience Research

The third component of the SIREP is to prepare and publish an annual research report, reflecting on the settlement experience of newly-arrived Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Sydney. The research aims to inform relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations and the private sector about the opportunities, challenges and difficulties of resettlement and integration of Syrian

The second component of the SIREP is building working relationships and establishing referral partnerships with and Iraqi refugees.

If you would like to be part of this research project follow this link:

https://www.erc.org.au/refugee_empowerment_research_project



REFLECTIONS

'... the want in the world, the want in the Church, today as at other times - but today as never before - we need leaders who see farther than others, rise higher than others, act more boldly than others. they need not be numerous. but while few, they take with them the multitude and they save humanity!

'You did see further than others. You rose higher than others, acted more boldly than others, you took with you the multitude..... You taught many of us - more by who you were than by what you said; you led us, walking alongside and ever lording it over people; you inspired us to

be our best selves around the Gospel; and you challenged us to dream great dreams and to believe that nothing is impossible for those who believe.'

Homily by Fr. Michael Ryan for the funeral on August 1st 2018 for Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, Seattle USA.

The biggest human temptation is to settle for too little. Thomas Merton

He who is not angry when there is just cause for anger is immoral. Why? Because anger looks to the good of justice. And if you can live amid injustice without anger, you are immoral as well as unjust. St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

The things that will destroy us are: politics without principle; pleasure without conscience; wealth without work; knowledge without character ; business without morality; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice.

Mahatma. Gandhi

Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles. Ralph Waldo Emerson

To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; credible we must be truthful. Edward R. Murrow

He who is not angry when there is just cause for anger is immoral. Why? Because anger looks to the good of justice. And if you can live amid injustice without anger, you are immoral as well as unjust. St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)



Community Meeting re Health & Water Issues in South Tarawa

This June I spent 4 weeks in South Tarawa, Kiribati with staying with KiriCAN, a climate action network for community based groups (CBG), working, and learning from them. With them I had the privilege of spending time in the communities they're working in and speaking to many I-Kiribati working address the impact of climate change on their communities. Now I am volunteering with the Pacific Calling Partnership in Sydney, Australia and exploring what climate change, adaptation, and mitigation looks like through the perspective of CBGs in Kiribati.

I have come up with 3 crucial questions that we need to ask ourselves, the organizations we support and our countries as a citizen concerned about climate change and the role we take with our Pacific neighbours and the world.

1. What does climate change mean?

Our conversation about climate change is big picture. What does a smaller picture look like? We often focus on the intangible long term end of the world outcomes or the abstract, although important, scientific facts of climate change. In speaking with CBGs in Kiribati climate change as rising sea-levels threatens their existence. But climate change attaches to and extends vulnerabilities already there as a result climate change is also a lack of gardening tools, and increased unemployment

2. Who are we talking to about how climate change is happening?

Climate change from the top-down makes it easy to miss the voices from the

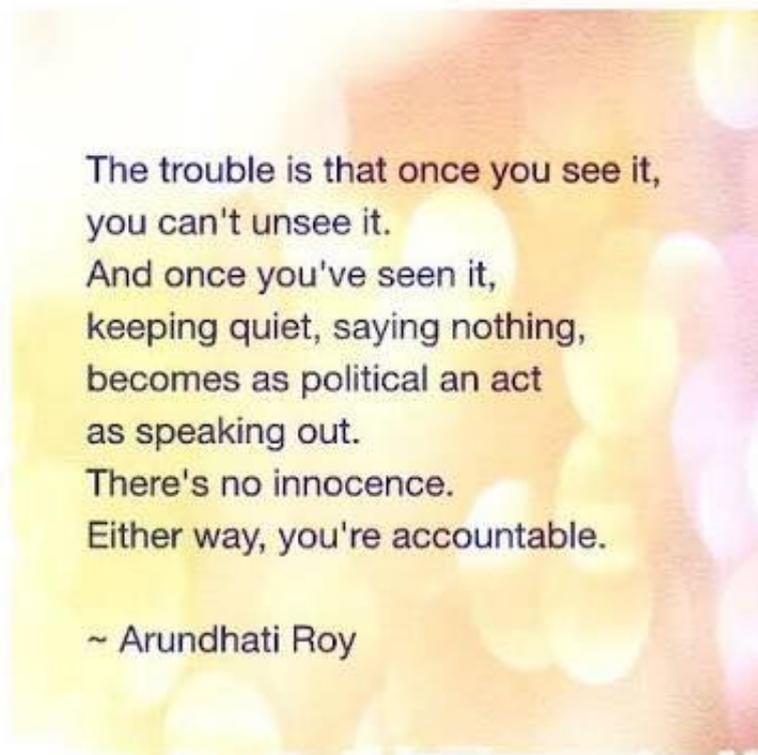
frontlines. We need to close the distance between adaptation policy and those being served by it for successful adaptation for Kiribati. The view of climate change from the community level is a critical lens to the shape of climate change particularly for voices in the community like women, and minorities who may not reach an international stage

3. When are we addressing climate change?

We need to expand what policy for adaptation to climate change looks like on the ground. In Kiribati funding and support for projects to build sea-walls and plant mangroves are essential to combating the effects of sea-level rise and climate change but the impact of gardening, rainwater tanks, and community health programs are essential smaller-scale contributions to the future of Kiribati. Community needs are integrally tied to addressing climate change now and in the future.

Want to be a part of the solutions for countries facing the most immediate impacts of climate change? Then let's ask ourselves, from the top policy makers to volunteers, hard questions about how we see climate change, and who we're allowing to shape it.

Kaleigh McIntosh PCP Canadian Intern at Edmund Rice Centre



PCP Media Release 13th August

'Proposed NEG will lead to a loss of Australia's credibility in the Pacific'