



**Edmund Rice Centre**  
Awareness. Advocacy. Action

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## **ERC JUSTICE UPDATES**

### **April 2019 No.8**

Dear All,

Welcome to the 8th Edition of ERC Justice Updates your regular newsletter from the Edmund Rice Centre, on all sorts of matters relating to social and environmental justice.

**REMEMBER WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

**Dear ERC Supporter,**

It is with great sadness that the lead stories in this newsletter are those of the tragic, sad and totally abhorrent attack on innocent Muslims' at prayer in their place of worship in Christchurch New Zealand on the 15th March 2019. The Edmund Rice Centre offers sincere condolences to all those affected by the tragedy especially the family, friends and people of Christchurch, indeed all New Zealanders and Muslims everywhere.

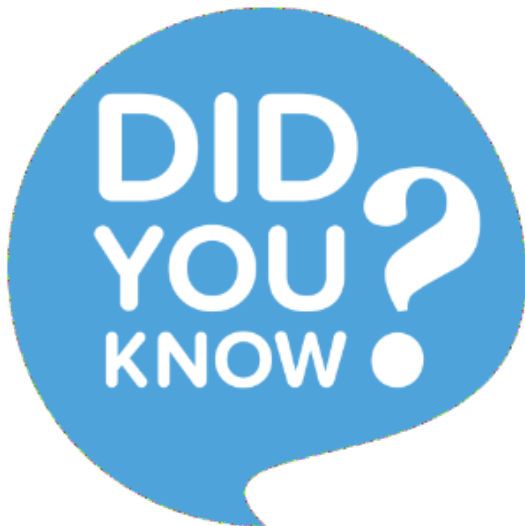
Thanks to those of you that provide feedback, it is really appreciated. Please do send us your feedback or any information you think would be good to include in further updates.

Don't forget to forward Justice Updates onto anyone or let me know their email address and I will subscribe them.

**Regards**

**Marita**

**Communications Project Officer,  
Marita McInerney**



- On Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>, The Australian Government will have detained men & women on Nauru & Manus Island for 2081 days.
- On 28 February 2019, it was reported that there were 394 people left on Nauru, 580 in PNG and 493 resettled in the US, 265 people had been rejected for resettlement in the US.
- Detention facilities in Australia Three different kinds of detention facilities exist on the mainland 1. Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs) 2. Immigration Transit Accommodation (ITAs) 3. Alternative Places of Detention (APODs). On 31 January 2019, there were 1,269 people in detention facilities. This included 89 women, children and 1,175 men

- “The ACT child protection system has failed indigenous families” said Warwick Fulton, president of St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn.

***The ACT has the second highest rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in out of home care in the nation. That rate***

*has almost trebled in the last 10 years.*

- "Pathways to Justice" A Report by the Australian Law Reform Commission in 2018 into Aboriginal Incarceration Rates. Law Council president Arthur Moses said the government has not responded to the report and that it painted a grim picture.

**'A national disgrace'**

**\* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are the most incarcerated people on Earth, according to the council.**

**\* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians make up three per cent of the total Australian population, but 28 per cent of the adult prison population.**

**\* Indigenous men are 15 times more likely to be in custody than non-Indigenous men, while Indigenous women are 21 times more likely to be in jail.**

**\* The rate of Indigenous incarceration has increased by 45 per cent since 2008.**



**Lament with Muslim Community in the Face of the Christchurch Tragedy**

On Monday 18 March 2019, staff and volunteers at the Edmund Rice Centre held prayers and reflection to remember those who were killed and to stand in solidarity with Muslim communities in New Zealand and Australia. The gathering was organised by Darryl Cronin, Aboriginal staff member at the Edmund Rice Centre and reflection and prayers were led by Father Claude Mostowik.

Defenceless and innocent women, children and men, fifty of them were killed and thirty four injured in the terrorist attack on Friday 15 March 2019 during prayer at the Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand. As Waleed Ali conveyed on Network 10 'The Project' on that Friday evening:

"I know exactly what those moments before the shooting began would have been like. I know how quiet, how still, how introspective those people would

have been before they were suddenly gunned down..... I know the people who did this, knew well enough how profoundly defenceless their victims were in that moment. This is a congregational prayer that happens every week like clockwork”.

The terrorist attack in New Zealand could well have happened in a Mosque in Sydney. Therefore staff and volunteers at the Edmund Rice Centre want to show that we care and that we will not let hatred determine who we are as a society. We need to change the narratives of hate and intolerance that have become so mainstream in our society and which are directed at people who are different. Racism, intolerance, and fear of others can contribute to hatred, vilification and contempt and this can lead to deadly consequences. We all have a responsibility to fight hatred and intolerance not with more hate but with vigilance, wisdom, kindness, love, respect, sharing, caring and tolerance.

[https://www.erc.org.au/lament\\_with\\_muslim\\_community\\_in\\_the\\_face\\_of\\_the\\_christchurch\\_tragedy](https://www.erc.org.au/lament_with_muslim_community_in_the_face_of_the_christchurch_tragedy)

## **'The most dishonest thing would be to say that I'm shocked'**

***Waleed Aly, Sydney Morning Herald, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2019***

*On Friday night, writer and television co-host Waleed Aly spoke on The Project about the mass shootings at two mosques in New Zealand. The clip has been shared tens of thousands of times and viewed more than two million times.*

*Here is a transcript of what he said.*

You'll have to forgive me, these won't be my best words. The truth is, I don't want to be talking today. When I was asked if it was something I wanted to do, I resisted it all day until finally I had this overwhelming sense that it was something in my responsibility to do so and maybe that's misguided.

But of all the things I could say tonight, that I'm gutted and I'm scared and I feel overcome with utter hopelessness, the most dishonest thing, the most dishonest thing would be to say that I'm shocked. I'm simply not.

There's nothing about what happened in Christchurch today that shocked me. I wasn't shocked when six people were shot to death at a mosque in Quebec City two years ago. I wasn't shocked when a man drove a van into Finsbury Park mosque in London about six months later and I wasn't shocked when 11 Jews were shot dead in a Pittsburgh synagogue late last year or when nine Christians were killed at a church in Charleston. If we're honest, we'll know this has been coming.

I went to the mosque today, I do that every Friday just like the people in those mosques in Christchurch today. I know exactly what those moments before the shooting began would have been like. I know how quiet, how still, how

introspective those people would have been before they were suddenly gunned down, how separated from the world they were feeling until the world came in and tore their lives apart.

And I know the people who did this knew well enough how profoundly defenseless their victims were in that moment. This is a congregational prayer that happens every week like clockwork. This was slaughter by appointment. And it's scary because, like millions of other Muslims, I'm going to keep attending those appointments and it feels like fish in a barrel.

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/oceania/the-most-dishonest-thing-would-be-to-say-that-i-m-shocked-20190316-p514q2.html>



***Jacinda Ardern: We will remember the tears of our nation***

**StuffNZ** March 29 2019

*'We gather here, 14 days on from our darkest of hours' - Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaks to crowds at the national remembrance service for the Christchurch shooting victims.*

*'We will remember the tears of our nation, and the new resolve we have formed,' Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has told the crowds gathered at the national remembrance service for victims of the Christchurch mosque attack, in the city's Hagley Park.*

**Prime Minister's speech at the National Remembrance Service**

*E rau rangatira mā, e ngā reo, e ngā mana*

*Tēnā koutou katoa*

*(I acknowledge amongst us today our distinguished leaders, speakers and those who bear authority)*

*Ngāi Tahu Whānui, tēnā koutou*

*(My greetings to the whole of Ngāi Tahu)*

*E papaki tū ana ngā tai o maumahara ki runga o Ōtautahi*

*(The tides of remembrance flow over Christchurch today)*

*Haere mai tātou me te aroha,*

*'In the days that have followed the terrorist attack on the 15th of March, we have often found ourselves without words', Jacinda Ardern told crowds at Hagley Park.*

*(So let us gather with love)*

*Me te rangimārie, ki te whānau nei,*

*(In peace, for this family)*

*E ora mārire ai anō rātau,*

*(So that they may truly live again)*

*E ora mārire ai anō, tātou katoa.*

*(So that we all may truly live again)*

*We gather here, 14 days on from our darkest of hours.*

*In the days that have followed the terrorist attack on the 15th of March, we have often found ourselves without words.*

*What words adequately express the pain and suffering of 50 men, women and children lost, and so many injured?*

*What words capture the anguish of our Muslim community being the target of hatred and violence?*

*What words express the grief of a city that has already known so much pain?*

*I thought there were none. And then I came here and was met with this simple greeting.*

*Asalamu Aleykum. Peace be upon you.*

Read more: [https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/christchurch-shooting/111645738/jacinda-ardern-we-will-remember-the-tears-of-our-nation?fbclid=IwAR3u0z\\_Hu\\_wmz7SVmQBDzEldBcsnSQSVelwbjQA7XPZKb31mMcwn8l9-2Nw](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/christchurch-shooting/111645738/jacinda-ardern-we-will-remember-the-tears-of-our-nation?fbclid=IwAR3u0z_Hu_wmz7SVmQBDzEldBcsnSQSVelwbjQA7XPZKb31mMcwn8l9-2Nw)





### **Pat Dodson's moving speech on the motion to censure Fraser Anning**

"We cannot let his words and actions define this chamber." Pat Dodson's moving speech on the motion to censure Fraser Anning.

Link to video:

<https://www.facebook.com/senator.patrick.dodson/videos/2161156064128932/>

**Phil Glendening, Director of ERC said, "Our Parliament has rarely heard a speech of this quality."**



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**MEDIA RELEASE - Monday 1 April 2019**

## **Labor Climate Announcement Welcome but Falls Short of Pacific Expectations**

Today's Labor climate announcement is a welcome development but fails to meet the call of Pacific island nations for Australia to abandon coal power generation within 12 years and prohibit new coal plants or expansion of existing ones, said the Pacific Calling Partnership (PCP) today.

Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang, PCP Outreach Officer, said: "Clearly, Labor's plan to slash national greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030 and reach a 50% renewable energy target by 2050 is an important step forward. However, it is nowhere near sufficient in light of the rapidly escalating climate crisis confronting humanity, including Australia's closest neighbours in



the Pacific.

"My home country is Kiribati - a small, low lying island nation in the Pacific - and every day my family feels the impacts of sea level rise, storms or drought."

Read

More: [https://www.erc.org.au/labor\\_climate\\_announcement\\_welcome\\_but\\_falls\\_short\\_of\\_pacific\\_expectations](https://www.erc.org.au/labor_climate_announcement_welcome_but_falls_short_of_pacific_expectations)



PCP Coordinator Corinne Fisher with Trish and Joshua from TuCAN

## **PCP Returns to Tuvalu for More Leadership Training**

**In March 2019, PCP Coordinator Corinne Fisher and Project Officer Vincent Sicari journeyed back to Funafuti, Tuvalu, to deliver Phase 3 of a program of workshops targeting young climate leaders. These workshops form an important part of PCP's response to requests by TuCAN (the Tuvalu Climate Action Network) to help build the leadership capacity of their youth and their ability to project their voice to the world, especially as it relates to climate change.**

**Phase 1, which took place on 5-7 November 2018, consisted of a three-day workshop facilitated by Phil Glendenning, Jill Finnane and Vincent Sicari. Phase 2 then saw workshop participants design and implement a project together with their TuCAN mentors. The projects selected were**

both exciting and relevant, showing strong commitment and enthusiasm by the young participants and their TUCAN mentors. Projects focused on climate change as it affects Tuvaluan women, the use of grasses to stabilise eroding coastal areas and climate change education in Tuvaluan schools. PCP was delighted with the three projects undertaken, as well as the mentoring received by each group from TuCAN. Thank you TuCAN!

Phase 3, which took place on 7-8 March this year, required participants to present their projects to PCP and explore how the work begun could best be progressed. We were impressed with the standard of work undertaken.

Phase 3 also involved further leadership and climate change training, culminating in the making of 7 short videos of the participants taking their climate change-related messages to the Australian people. All participants performed at a very high level and PCP will shortly be making these videos available on the internet.

Read More Including how to donate to PCP for their all important work:

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/erc/pages/1548/attachments/original/155289376/PCP\\_12th\\_April\\_2019\\_Newsletter.pdf?1555289376](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/erc/pages/1548/attachments/original/155289376/PCP_12th_April_2019_Newsletter.pdf?1555289376)



Photograph: Jerusha Sutton Photography/courtesy Waminda South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation.

## **Put decisions in our hands: closing the gap requires Indigenous involvement**

*June Oscar and Rod Little, The Guardian, March 21<sup>st</sup> 2019*

On National Close the Gap day, we ask to be seen as the dynamic, resilient and self-determining people we are

The way to start closing the gap is to support work being done by Indigenous-controlled organisations.

When the prime minister, Scott Morrison, tabled the 2019 Closing the Gap report last month, we were again reminded about the lack of progress made to address the inequality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. We know the statistics. They are part of the lived realities that confront our

families and our communities across the country.

Today, on National Close the Gap day, we are asking our fellow Australians to remove the deficit lens.

We are asking to be seen as the dynamic, resilient and self-determining people that we are.

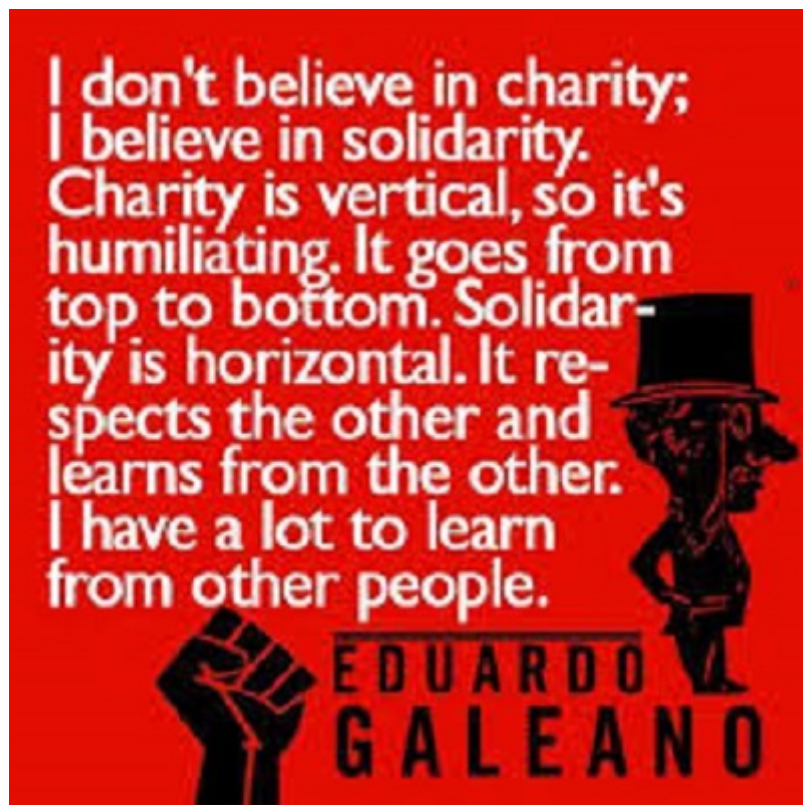
We know that there is a lot of work to do, but today we want to celebrate success and highlight our strengths and achievements.

We want to acknowledge the incredible work being carried out in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the country.

The 2019 Close the Gap report – Our Choices, Our Voices, prepared by the Lowitja Institute, highlights a number of organisations improving the health and wellbeing of our peoples.

[Read More:https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/21/put-decisions-in-our-hands-closing-the-gap-requires-indigenous-involvement](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/21/put-decisions-in-our-hands-closing-the-gap-requires-indigenous-involvement)

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## **Charity is no substitute for justice**

*John Falzon, Eureka street, Vol.29 No.6*

**One of the stranger reactions to franking credit reform was Prime Minister Morrison's claim it 'undermines the incredible work done by charities across Australia, including the fight against cancer', backing up Cancer Council Queensland's assertion that 'Two of our major donors ... have advised CCQ that they are unlikely to be in a position to donate if**



**this policy is introduced.' CCQ has since withdrawn its submission on this issue but the government continues to correlate franking credit reform with the erosion of philanthropy.**

For the record I support the proposed reform of franking credits. It is not, as some mischievously claim, a tax. It is the removal of a tax rebate that is currently provided to some wealthy retirees even though they are not actually paying the tax they are getting the rebate on! It's already confusing but it doesn't help when the waters are muddied with outright falsehoods. This is well explained by my [Per Capita](#) colleagues Emma Dawson and Tim Lyons in a recent [opinion piece](#).

What I want to reflect on here though is the reasonable question as to whether the purported impact on philanthropy cited above should, in general terms, be a consideration when weighing up public policy.

'Philanthropy', muses advertising agency owner Bert Cooper in one of the early episodes of *Mad Men*, 'is the gateway to power.' This is a rather cynical view of the act of giving but it is not without some truth in some cases, namely when the already powerful use discretionary funds to promote their own interests instead of the public interest. Philanthropy is considered primarily as a gateway to doing good in Australia. The work of charities and not-for-profits is highly respected and valued.

I say this as someone who has worked in the community sector for most of my adult life, including 17 years with Vinnies, 12 of which I served as the national council CEO. What I learned was that philanthropy is carried out not only by wealthy individuals but by people who are seriously struggling to make ends meet; people who, having gone through hard times, decide to give what is in effect a massive chunk of their meagre incomes, not as a paternalistic act of charity, but as a powerful act of human solidarity. What it made me ask though was how we arrived at a situation where charities have become the default mode of delivering essential social services.

Read More: [https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/charity-is-no-substitute-for-justice?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Eureka%20Street%20Daily%20-%20Monday%2025%20March%202019&utm\\_content=Eureka%20Street%20Daily%20-%20Monday%2025%20March%202019+CID\\_ca4c91c3fdca96304ef692bdde958644&utm\\_source=Jescom%20Newsletters&utm\\_term=READ%20MORE](https://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article/charity-is-no-substitute-for-justice?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Eureka%20Street%20Daily%20-%20Monday%2025%20March%202019&utm_content=Eureka%20Street%20Daily%20-%20Monday%2025%20March%202019+CID_ca4c91c3fdca96304ef692bdde958644&utm_source=Jescom%20Newsletters&utm_term=READ%20MORE)

## **REFLECTIONS**

*God always Heals us, and with the most amazing gentleness over time. **Julian of***

Norwich

*Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means  
to side with the powerful, not to be neutral*

**Paulo Freire**

*i am sorry this world  
could not keep you safe  
may your journey home  
be a soft & peaceful one  
rupi kaur 2017 'the sun and her flowers'*

My heart is sore - not on my account - but for you.

**Catherine McAuley, Letter to Elizabeth Moore, March 21, 1840. p.259**

*We are reclaiming a world precariously on the edge. We take action not  
with arrogance and certainty, but with humility and uncertainty. It is our  
giving that counts - not our success. But in selfless giving, we have  
victories. And through everyday actions, we reweave the web of life.*

**Vandana Shiva, Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace.**

Our hands

*The church is an old man with heavy robes*

*Heavy lidded, head bowed*

*Stooped*

*We are twisting, clutching, writhing*

*Pointing fingers, fists stamping tables or shaking in fury*

*But the old man is deaf and blind and besides*

*His head is low*

*And he sits within a prison cell*

*In time (strange hope from here)*

*Our rage and bodies soften*

*And a bell is heard again*

*Our hands find the gentle reality of our own skin*

*Another's warm palm and a voice that says it's okay to mourn*

*This is compassion*

*The pain of being human*

**— Clare Locke, Eureka Street, 19th March 2019**