

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

KIA TAU TE RANGIMARIE KI A TAATOU KATOA / WORKING FOR PEACE FOR ALL EVERYWHERE



This month's news...



Our shame: The colonial mindset creating trauma in the next generation

World Oceans Day "Gender & the Ocean".

UN Secretary General's visit to NZ and views on climate change

Tēnā koutou katoa

Matariki has begun. Happy New Year!

The Pleiades star cluster which appears on the horizon at dawn is the beginning of Matariki. The star cluster has been described as a Mother star with six daughters and is often referred to as the seven sisters. For 2019, let us reflect on this description in the deepest sense. Lets reflect on our relationship with each other, as family, as community.

Recently communities within Aotearoa New Zealand have been hurt by the actions of individuals, institutions and systems. Relationships are strained or broken. How do we restore relationship, foster peace and build resilience?

These are the questions I ask myself and perhaps are my personal foci points for the year ahead. My desire is that the whole world also reflect and practice this - and then maybe there will be a brighter future for all who come later,

Bridget Crisp rsm

Our shame: The colonial mindset creating trauma in the next generation.

Recently, the New Zealand media has highlighted the actions of Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Children, in the uplifting of children, particularly new-borns, from families. These actions are disturbing – it highlights vividly the systemic racism practiced throughout the country, that we in society ignore, pretend doesn't exist, condone, or don't recognise it for what it is.

In reading the newspaper and watching and listening to the news surrounding the event in May, when the agency tried to uplift a new-born baby from Hawkes Bay Hospital was painful. Questions arose within me as to why? More questions emerged as more information came to the surface...particularly around the lack of process. My assumption, in this case, is that Oranga Tamariki acted as "judge and jury". There was a lack of (or no) consultation with wider whanau, immediate family, and family health providers in the lead-up to the birth of our newest New Zealander. How was this case presented to the judge who signed off on this order to uplift? Did the judge get *all* the facts? Could there have been an opportunity to hear both sides?

Tina Ngata, guest writer for *The Spinoff* wrote in a piece on June 19th, "This is a systemic issue that is fed into through education, health, justice and corrections, not to mention economy, culture and heritage. This is a colonial, racist system doing what it was set up to do from its very inception: dispossess indigenous peoples in every way. Make no mistake: the system is not broken. It is operating exactly as it is intended."

(www.thespinoff.co.nz/atea/19-06-2019/uplifting-children-is-not-a-maori-problem-its-a-colonisation-problem/). Tina is blunt, but she is perfectly correct. We have a problem.

If New Zealand desires to show the world that "We are one" and lead the world by example – we need to start first by owning that we have a problem. This ownership of the problem needs to be acknowledged not only by our parliamentarians but all institutions, churches, community groups and every single citizen in NZ both the rich and the poor. Then, the hard work begins – changing attitudes and the system that perpetuates attitudes. Are we up for the challenge?

Bridget Crisp rsm

Recommended reading :

- '*Uplifting children is not a Māori problem. It's a colonisation problem*' by Tina Ngata in '*The Spinoff*', June 19th, 2019 ((www.thespinoff.co.nz/atea/19-06-2019/uplifting-children-is-not-a-maori-problem-its-a-colonisation-problem/))
- '*NZ's own 'taken generation'*' by Newsroom (www.newsroom.co.nz/@investigations/2019/06/11/629363/nzs-own-taken-generation)
- *Report on 'Care and Protection of Tamariki Māori in the Family Court System'* by Ngā Pae O Te Māramatanga New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence. (<http://www.maramatanga.ac.nz/node/1152>)

World Oceans Day “Gender and the Ocean”

June 8th was World Oceans Day and the focus of the day for 2019 was on gender equality alongside ocean preservation and health. The United Nations recognises that women are often missing at the decision-making level of ocean management regardless of the high interaction women have with the ocean from fishing, conservation through to the marine industry and ocean science.

As we look to manage and improve the health of our oceans let us also remember and reflect on the roles women have around the ocean environment. I also invite you if you have some time to go to UN WebTV and listen to some of the stories from women on their roles in and around the ocean, that was recorded on the World Oceans Day at the UN. There are two videos (part one and part two). The link for part one is <http://webtv.un.org/search/part-1-world-oceans-day-2019-gender-oceans/6045822296001/?term=oceans&sort=date> . Part 2 can also be easily found on the link page.

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Upcoming Event...

West Papua: The Pacific crisis we can no longer ignore.

Rosa Moiwend, West Papuan activist, human rights defender and researcher will be talking to us on the current issues within West Papua.

This event is organised by **West Papua Action Auckland** and **Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand**.

Come and join us **Monday 1st July** at **6.30pm, St Columba Centre**, 40 Vermont Street, Auckland.



UN Secretary General's visit to NZ and views on climate change.

Last month, the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres touched down in New Zealand before beginning his tour of the Pacific.

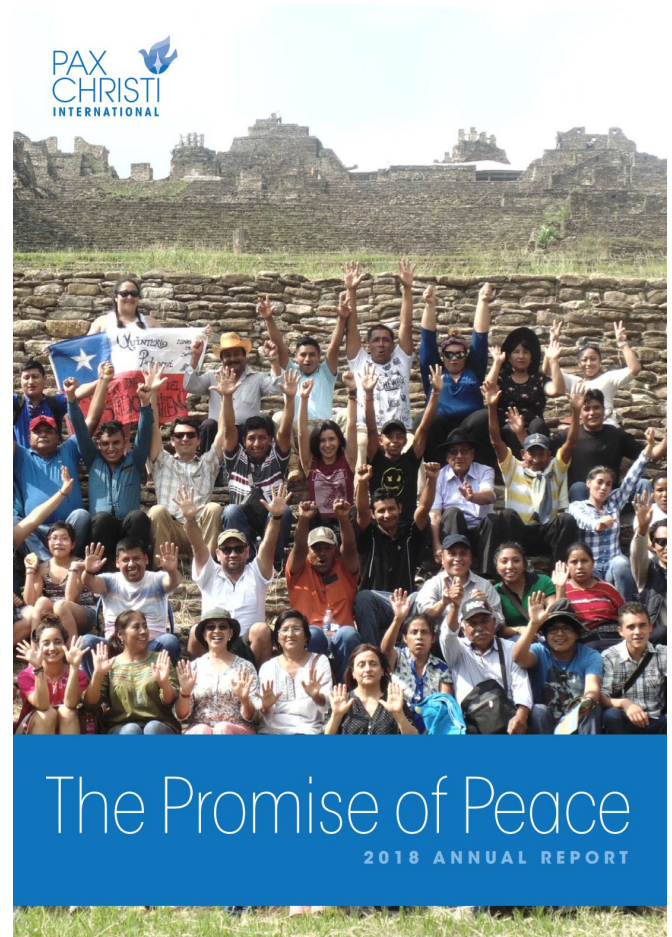
The primary focus of the Secretary General's trip to New Zealand was to show solidarity with the victims and families of the Christchurch terrorist attack and to reinforce his message around the urgent need for action on climate change.

There is concern that the political will, globally is lagging and that New Zealand and the Pacific Island countries will be the most vulnerable because of this lack of action.

The goals at COP21, in 2015, have yet to be met by all countries who agreed to limit greenhouse gas emissions so that warming will not exceed the 1.5° threshold. Global warming has been seen to be steadily increasing since the declaration and there is more evidence of numerous ice shelf collapse in many sites in Antarctica.

António Guterres praised the NZ Government's recent zero carbon legislation saying that this move by the government was "absolutely crucial" in the fight to combat climate change.

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2018



The Annual Report 2018 for Pax Christi International is now out and available to read. To download your copy go to www.paxchristi.net/sites/default/files/pax_ar_2018_digital.pdf

Worth Reading...

Listening to the People of the Land is available from Accent Publications. To order go to website: www.accentpublications.co.nz . The book is retailing for \$40.



Listening to the People of the Land

Christianity, Colonisation & the Path to Redemption

Edited by Susan Healy

Praying for Peace is available from Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand. To order go to paxnz@xtra.co.nz . The book is available for \$20 plus postage and packaging.

Praying for Peace

A selection of prayers and reflections



PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Pax Christi is an independent Catholic social justice organisation . We work hard to address issues of peace and justice at a local, regional and global level.

If you want to know more about Pax Christi, to join meetings, or to set up group meetings in your area, please contact paxnz@xtra.co.nz or ring 09 377 5541 / 021 72994.

Pax Christi relies on volunteers & donations to enable the work to continue.

To make an online donation our a/c name and number is: Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand 03-01730353-867-00
Please contact us for a receipt.
Your support is greatly appreciated.



DIARY DATES

- June 25th Matarki begins
- July 18th Nelson Mandela / Freedom of Speech.
- July 30th World Day of Trafficking of Persons.



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