

CONTENTS

Global

Peace Event Sarajevo: 100 years after World War I 2

Africa

Centre International pour la Promotion de la Création 2

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference 2

Americas and the Caribbean

Comissão Pastoral da Terra launches the report on land conflicts in Brazil in 2013 3

The Centre of Human Rights Fray Bartolomé de las Casas co-signs a letter asking for better guarantees for women SERPAJ Chile 3

Pax Christi USA on increasing deportations 3

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns 4

Peace Retreat of Pax Christi Montréal 4

Franciscan Mission Service interviews Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International 4

Asia-Pacific

JPD Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India 4

Middle East

Association Justice and Mercy's seminar "Assistance and Legal Aid in Lebanon" 5

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and Pax Christi USA call for a shared Jerusalem 5

PAX's seminar "We Are All Citizens" 5

Pax Christi mourns the assassination of Fr. Frans Van Der Lugt in Homs 5

Pax Christi France issues a statement in support of Syrian refugees 5

Pax Christi USA's article on Syrian refugees 5

Europe

Pax Christi Flanders and Broederlijk Delen on the Rwandan Genocide 6

Msr. Jan Van Cauwelaert 100th anniversary 6

Pax Christi Flanders 6

Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles on the 100 anniversary of WW I 6

Pax Christi Germany 6

PAX presents international guidelines for investment ban on cluster munitions 7

Pax Christi UK on the morality, legality and costs of the TNP 7

Pax Christi sections on the GDAMS 7

PAX Netherlands 8

Disarmament/Demilitarisation

Pax Christi on conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons 8

Pax Christi in support of CO and antimilitarism 8

Pax Christi USA co-signs letter from Catholic communities calling on nuclear disarmament 8

PAX Netherlands releases recommendations for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty meeting 8

Delegates of Pax Christi in Geneva attended the 1st meeting on Arms Trade Treaty 9

Pax Christi International co-signs a letter asking for the elimination of nuclear weapons 9

Pax Christi Italy participates in the Arena di Pace e Disarmo 2014 9

Human Rights

The Women's Fund for Peace and Human Rights launches the Yayori Award 9

PAX Netherlands calls to respect human rights in South Sudan 10

Peace Education

Caritas launches 2014 "Women Sowers of Development" Prize to honour women against hunger 10

CBCI hosts workshops on Catholic Social Teaching 10

Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights organises study visit to London and Dublin 10

Advocacy

Pax Christi International on "Facing the Dangers of 21st Century Great Power War" 10

Life and Peace Institute co-organises "PeaceNet Light" Conference 11

Pax Christi co-signs a letter calling for an end to the Overseas Contingency Operations 11

Pax Christi International co-signs a letter in support of the people of Western Sahara 11

International Calendar

International Calendar 11

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GLOBAL

Peace Event Sarajevo: 100 years after World War I

The year 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I, but it can also be seen as a way to remember that the 21st century has witnessed a world-wide rise of nonviolent actions and achievements as an alternative to war and violence. The [Peace Event Sarajevo](#) organised from the 6 to the 9 of June will represent an international exchange platform for debate and information on different topics related to nonviolence and peace.

The Peace Event Sarajevo 2014 is organized by both local and international coordinating committees and includes an [International Forum](#) with more than 100 workshops, a [Youth Camp](#) and other [Cultural Activities](#). During the event this year Pax Christi International will organise workshops on justice, faith, and disarmament. Please find more information [here](#) and the newsletter of the Peace Event [here](#). ■

AFRICA

Centre International pour la Promotion de la Création

Centre International pour la Promotion de la Création (CIPCRE), Pax Christi member organisation in Cameroun, received the visit of Bread for the World's representatives Mrs. Floretta Kayales and Mr. Lars Bedurke, both from Berlin. The visit allowed an exchange of views on the two organisations' latest work. Click [here](#) to know more (in French).

On 22 April, during a short stay in Belgium, Rév. Jean-Blaise Kenmogne, Director General of CIPCRE, met with José Henríquez, Secretary General of Pax Christi International. ■

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) whose Justice and Peace Commission is a member of Pax Christi International, has released some comments on the "National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey for 2012" published on 1 April 2014 by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa.

SACBC supports HSRC's findings that the perception of the HIV crisis in South Africa being over is far from being true. At the same time, SACBC highlights the lack of accuracy of recent UNAIDS reports, which suggest that new infections are declining and that the country has turned the corner in the fight against AIDS. Read more [here](#).

The SACBC launched a worldwide invitation to join them as they prayed for the country on the 27 of April 2014, Freedom Day. In this day, South Africa celebrates freedom and commemorates the first post-apartheid elections held on that day in 1994 in which the franchise did not depend upon race. To read the prayer, please click [here](#).

The SACBC expressed their support for the people in Nigeria after the recent bombings in Abuja. Archbishop Stephen Brislin has sent a letter to his counterpart in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria offering his deepest condolences to the families of the victims. The message also points out that dialogue should be recognised as a solution to any crisis and conflict. Read more [here](#). ■

AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

Comissão Pastoral da Terra launches the report on land conflicts in Brazil in 2013

Comissão Pastoral da Terra, Pax Christi member organisation in Brazil, has launched their annual report "[Conflitos no Campo Brasil 2013](#)" ("Conflicts on the lands in Brazil 2013"). The report summarises the information on conflicts and violence suffered by workers in the Brazilian countryside, including the indigenous and other peoples. According to the report, the Amazon is still a very violent place, since 55% of the traditional people that were victims of some form of violence in 2013 lived in the Amazon. Read more in Portuguese [here](#).

On 11 April, the Alagoas chapter of CPT organised a day of fasting with the theme "Give bread to those who starve and hunger for justice to those who have bread." CPT Alagoas began organising this annual public fasting 15 years ago to express solidarity with people suffering from hunger and other needs around the world, particularly the landless families. Read more in Portuguese [here](#). ■

The Centre of Human Rights Fray Bartolomé de las Casas co-signs a letter asking for better guarantees for women

The Centre of Human Rights Fray Bartolomé de las Casas, a Pax Christi International member organisation in Mexico, has co-signed a letter addressed to the Mexican authorities urging for measures to ensure security for women in the Chiapas region.

The letter – signed by many human rights agencies – asks for increased protection along with sanctions for those committing the crimes. Read the letter in Spanish [here](#). ■

SERPAJ Chile

SERPAJ (Peace and Justice Services for its acronym in Spanish) Chile, Pax Christi International member organisation, aims to create a space for critical reflection on specialised intervention programmes at different levels (individuals, families, communities, social networks). The first session of such programmes was held on 27 March in Los Lagos. According to SERPAJ Chile, they aim to have an increased critical reading of behaviour trajectories of children and adolescents. Read more in Spanish [here](#).

The Puerto Montt chapter of SERPAJ Chile and "Fundación Ideas para la Infancia" organised the colloquium "Parenthood: methodologies of evaluation and intervention". The colloquium opened spaces for dialogue and reflection on approaches to positive parenting and it was led by María José Rodrigo, doctor in psychology from the University of Salamanca (Spain), an expert in the Positive Parenting Approach and Evolutionary Psychology. Read more in Spanish [here](#). ■

Pax Christi USA on increasing deportations

Pax Christi USA has co-signed asking President Obama to stop deportations. The letter expresses concern over the increased number of deportations and points out that massive deportations have not created public safety but terror among communities and distrust of law enforcement officials. Read the full text of the letter [here](#). ■

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC), Pax Christi member organisation in the United States, supports the campaign launched by [United to End Genocide](#), the largest activist organization in America dedicated to preventing and ending genocide and mass atrocities worldwide.

On 25 March, members of the United States House Foreign Affairs Committee approved a resolution [urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people](#). If you live in the US, please use this [link](#) to let your representative know that you stand with the Rohingya and demand that they do too.

The MOGC asks US citizens to join them in denouncing the brutal murder of Honduran journalist Carlos Mejía Orellana, a member of the Jesuit-sponsored community radio station in El Progreso, Honduras. Mejía Orellana was covering sensitive topics like drug trafficking, government corruption, and land conflicts in Honduras. Read more [here](#). ■

Peace Retreat of Pax Christi Montréal

On 3 May 2014 Pax Christi Montréal organises the peace retreat "In a society of tension give meaning to your life by being a person of peace."

The aim of the event is for participants to better understand their own aspirations for peace and discover a multitude of means to sow peace in their families, communities, and workplaces and thus becoming persons of peace. Read more in French [here](#). ■

Franciscan Mission Service interviews Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International

The Franciscan Mission Service interviewed Marie Dennis, Co-President of Pax Christi International as part of its Lenten series "Poor and Free: A Spiritual Yes to Less." Marie Dennis has several ties to Franciscan Mission Service, including being the 2007 recipient of their Anselm Moons Award. In the recent interview, Marie Dennis addresses the nuances and complexities of responding to social injustices with generosity and joy. Read the entire interview [here](#). ■

ASIA - PACIFIC

JPD Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India

The Office for Justice Peace and Development of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (JPD-CBCI), Pax Christi member organisation, has released an article to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the assassination of the Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. CBCI organised a liturgy on 24 March in collaboration with the Embassy of El Salvador in New Delhi. Read more [here](#).

On 12 March, the JPD-CBCI released a Solidarity Message for the People of Syria. The message, issued by the CBCI's Executive Secretary, Dr. Charles Irudayam, expresses deep wishes for peace: "May all who are responsible for the current situation opt for peace!" Read the full message [here](#). ■

MIDDLE EAST

Association Justice and Mercy's seminar "Assistance and Legal Aid in Lebanon"

On 25-26 April, the Association Justice and Mercy, Pax Christi member organisation in Lebanon, co-organised the seminar "Assistance and Legal Aid in Lebanon". The seminar, held in Beirut, was addressed to lawyers and judges interested in improving the access of Lebanese people to their basic rights. Read more in French [here](#). ■

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and Pax Christi USA call for a shared Jerusalem

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Pax Christi member organisation in the United States, and Pax Christi USA urge US citizens to contact their local officials and ask them to support a "shared" Jerusalem where the rights of all are respected.

The messages should insist on a halt to home and property demolitions, end to settlement expansion, fair residency laws, and freedom of movement for education, worship and all aspects of daily life. Read more [here](#) and [here](#). ■

PAX's seminar "We Are All Citizens"

PAX Netherlands organised the seminar "We are all citizens. Syrian and Iraqi contributions to an active EU policy on preventing sectarian violence and promoting Freedom of Religion and Belief". The objective of the meeting was to contribute to an ambitious yet realistic policy for the EU and its member states to promote citizenship as the best guarantee for Freedom of Religion and Belief. Iraq and Syria were two specific case

studies. To read the meeting report, please click [here](#). ■

Pax Christi mourns the assassination of Fr. Frans Van Der Lugt in Homs

Pax Christi Flanders, PAX Netherlands, Pax Christi France and the International Secretariat have released articles in memoriam of the Jesuit priest Frans Van Der Lugt, who was murdered last 7 of April in Homs, Syria. The articles offer insights of the life and mission of Fr. Frans, who was very close to the international peace movement. Read the article of the International Secretariat [here](#), the article of Pax Christi Flanders [here](#), the article of Pax Christi France [here](#) and the article of PAX Netherlands [here](#). ■

Pax Christi France issues a statement in support of Syrian refugees

Pax Christi France issued a statement in support of the Syrian refugees who have been displaced as a result of the ongoing conflict. According to UN reports 6.5 million people have been displaced within Syria and some 2.6 million have fled the country, settling in neighboring states as well as in many European countries. The statement also points out that it is our responsibility to meet the 'needs of the heart' of these people by offering a welcome, an invitation, a smile or a gesture of friendship. Read more in French [here](#). ■

Pax Christi USA's article on Syrian refugees

Pax Christi USA has published an article – written by Tony Magliano – expressing his concern on the horrific moments that Syrian refugees have been going through for the past three years since the war started.

Quoting UN figures, Magliano offers an overview of refugees' dreadful situation and calls on everyone to collaborate on their assistance and relief. Click [here](#) to read the article. ■

EUROPE

[Pax Christi Flanders and Broederlijk Delen on the Rwandan genocide](#)

Pax Christi Flanders and Broederlijk Delen will organise a series of four evenings to commemorate the Rwandan genocide, which took place 20 years ago. The evenings will take place on 20/27 May, and 3/10 June in Brussels. For more information in Flemish please click [here](#). ■

[Msgr. Jan Van Cauwelaert 100th anniversary](#)

On Saturday, 12 April, Pax Christi International representatives attended the 100th anniversary celebration of Msgr. Jan Van Cauwelaert, CICM, held in the Parish of Saint Laurentius in Antwerp. Bishop Jan Van Cauwelaert was the first bishop of the Congolese diocese of Inongo, participating actively in the Second Vatican Council. He made a tremendous contribution to the work of Pax Christi International, always striving to highlight the importance of justice and peace in society and the church. He was Vice President of Pax Christi Flanders during 1984 – 1994. Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo, one of the first Vicar Generals of Van Cauwelaert and former Pax Christi International Co-President; Msgr. Philippe Nkiere Keana, CICM, current bishop of Inongo; and Sabine de Bethune, President of the Belgian Federal Senate attended the celebration. Read more in Dutch [here](#). ■

[Pax Christi Flanders](#)

Nadia Nsayi, Africa policy officer at Broederlijk Delen and Pax Christi Flanders, will provide an overview of the political and economic situation in DR Congo and opportunities for the future in the lecture organised on 26 April by the EIF Changemakers Minorities Forum, Vormingplus, and the Congolese community of Aalst. For more information in Flemish, click [here](#).

Pax Christi Flanders joined the celebrations of the first anniversary of the Arms Trade Treaty and issued a letter – jointly with Amnesty International – asking the President of the Flemish Parliament, Jan Peumans, and the Minister-President of Flanders, Kris Peeters, to help accelerate the negotiating process. The letter (in Flemish) can be accessed [here](#). Read more in Flemish [here](#).

[Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles on the 100 anniversary of World War I](#)

Pax Christi Wallonie-Bruxelles has released an article on the activities organised in Belgium and other parts of the world on the 100th anniversary of World War I. The article "Centennial in Belgium: What representations of the Great War today?" can be accessed [here](#) (in French). ■

[Pax Christi Germany](#)

Pax Christi Germany has sent a letter to German Chancellor Angela Merkel asking information about the steps taken by the Federal Government to end the drone war managed by the USA from its bases in Germany. Pax Christi Germany has shown its disapproval on the central role played by the U.S. base in Ramstein on drone attacks in Pakistan, Yemen and other countries.

This is, according to Pax Christi's principles, against peace and against the Law. Read more in German [here](#).

On 9 April Pax Christi Germany released an article on the current situation in Ukraine entitled "TrotzSpannungen Partner bleiben" ("Despite tensions remain partners"). Please click [here](#) to read it in German.

The Pax Christi Diocesan Board members in Germany met on 28-30 March in Nonnenhorn. Some of the main topics of the discussion were: culture of remembrance, military chaplaincy, independent soldiers, pastoral care and "Stop the arms trade" campaign. A cultural highlight was a visit to the Peace Museum of Pax Christi Augsburg. Read the complete programme [here](#) (in German).

Pax Christi Münster, Germany, has sent an open letter to the members of Parliament asking to increase the responsibility of Germany in promoting justice and in contributing to peace processes, so that problems are solved by cooperation rather than confrontation. Please click [here](#) to read more in German. ■

[PAX presents international guidelines for investment ban on cluster munitions](#)

PAX Netherlands has released international guidelines for investment ban on cluster munitions "[Banning Investments in cluster munitions producers; national legislation](#)". PAX calls on countries to prohibit this type of investment to develop more peaceful states. Read more in Dutch [here](#). ■

[Pax Christi UK on the Trident nuclear programme](#)

Pax Christi UK and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) organised a debate in

Kensington about the morality, legality and costs of the renewal of the Trident nuclear programme. The Trident programme aims to encompass the development, procurement and operation of the current generation of British nuclear weapons, and the means to deliver them. The debate, chaired by Pat Gaffney, Secretary General of Pax Christi UK, had the presence of Bruce Kent, vice president of CND and Pax Christi UK, who argued that nuclear weapons increase insecurity and uphold a willingness to commit mass murder. To learn more click [here](#). ■

[Pax Christi sections on the Global Day of Action on Military Spending](#)

The Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS, 14 April) is a global movement aiming to persuade governments to cut military spending and move the money to urgent human needs. Pax Christi International released a [statement](#) inviting faith-based organisations and religious communities worldwide to join the "Disarmament for Sustainable Development Campaign".

Pax Christi UK joined other peace and environment groups in Central London to symbolically redistribute the £38 billion military budget to government departments with greater needs; Pat Gaffney, Secretary General of Pax Christi UK, urged those taking part in the event to work all year round to make links between issues of conflict, poverty and the destruction of the environment.

Pax Christi Flanders conducted a [survey](#) among people on the street asking them if the Belgium government should invest in the purchase of a new combat aircraft.

Enrique Sierra, Pax Christi International Delegate at the UN in Geneva, attended a seminar in Geneva on Military Expenditure and its Relationship to the Purposes of the United Nations. ■

PAX Netherlands

PAX Netherlands expressed its concern about the growing use of armed drones and called for clear legal frameworks at both national and international level. According to PAX, allies must also make clear agreements on the use of information they share. The statement points out that such transparency will give the society an opportunity to influence the choices of the Dutch government. Read more in Dutch [here](#).

PAX Netherlands, together with several Congolese and international civil society groups, co-signed a letter calling on the UN peacekeeping mission to DR Congo (MONUSCO) to improve their efforts to protect civilians against the Lord's Resistance Army. As stated in the [letter](#), MONUSCO should be able to do more with the resources they have. ■

DISARMAMENT/ DEMILITARISATION

Pax Christi on conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons

On 24 April Pax Christi International's co-president, Marie Dennis, participated in the [Soka Gakkai International](#) Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons. The conference took place at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. Science and policy

leaders joined to consider the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and discuss pathways for collaboration between the faith and secular advocacy communities in the areas of non-proliferation and disarmament.

Click [here](#) for more information. ■

Pax Christi in support of conscientious objection and antimilitarism

The conscientious objection (CO) is "a sincere conviction, motivated by conscience that forbids someone from participation in war." Pax Christi supports the efforts of those struggling for a more peaceful world away from weapons and hatred and hence honours those who live by their values of justice and dignity for all. Read a reflection on this topic in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). ■

Pax Christi USA co-signs letter from Catholic communities calling on nuclear disarmament

Pax Christi USA co-signed a [letter](#) sent to the United States Secretary of State John Kerry ahead of the UN meetings on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that will take place in New York from 28 April to 9 May. The letter initiated by the Catholic community urges the United States to take specific steps towards nuclear disarmament. Pax Christi encourages local groups to consider signing as well. Read more [here](#). ■

PAX Netherlands releases recommendations for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty meeting

Pax Netherlands has released recommendations that will be presented at the Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to

the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This meeting will hold its third session from 28 April to 9 May 2014 at the United Nations Office in New York with the attendance of the Secretary General and the Senior Policy Advisor of Pax Christi International, José Henríquez and Paul Lansu. To read the recommendations click [here](#). ■

Delegates of Pax Christi in Geneva attended the 1st meeting on Arms Trade Treaty

Trevor Griffith and Enrique Sierra, delegates of Pax Christi at the UN in Geneva, attended the Arms Trade Treaty meeting on the 16 of April in Geneva. The purpose of the meeting was to present the Arms Trade Treaty's Baseline Assessment Project, an initiative of Coventry University and the Simpson Center (UK), under the auspices of the Center on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding of the Graduate Institute, Geneva and the Geneva Forum. To find more information on this project, please visit: www.armstrade.info

Pax Christi International co-signs a letter asking for the elimination of nuclear weapons

Pax Christi International has co-signed a letter addressed to the US Secretary of State John Kerry asking for the abolition of nuclear weapons. In the letter, sent on the 23 of April, many organisations working for peace asked the Secretary to take specific steps in that regard. The letter had broad dissemination during the Preparatory Committee of the Non-Proliferation Treaty meeting held at the UN in New York. To read the letter, please click [here](#). ■

Pax Christi Italy participates in the Arena di Pace e Disarmo 2014

On 25 April, Pax Christi Italy attended the "Arena di Pace e Disarmo 2014", an event held in the Verona Arena, Italy. The main goal of the "Arena di Pace e Disarmo" was to challenge the militarisation of economy and politics in Italy.

The programme included experiences of disarmament and demilitarisation, performances of Italian artists and the presentation of the "Disarmament and non-violent civil defense campaign". For more information in Italian visit: www.arenapacedisarmo.org/ ■

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Women's Fund for Peace and Human Rights launches the Yayori Award

The Women's Fund for Peace and Human Rights based in Tokyo has launched the "Women's Human Rights Activities Award" also called Yayori Award after the Japanese journalist and women's rights activist Yayori Matsui. This award is an opportunity to encourage people to follow in Yayori's passionate and courageous activism with women throughout Asia.

The Women's Fund for Peace and Human Rights focuses on the global promotion of women's human rights and peace affecting the past, present and future. Nominations will be accepted from the 1 June to 24 August 2014. The winner will be announced on 6 December. Read more [here](#). ■

PAX Netherlands calls to respect human rights in South Sudan

PAX Netherlands together with South Sudanese and other international NGOs sent an open letter to Salva Kiir, President of South Sudan, urging him to ratify the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The letter calls the attention on serious human rights violations, including attacks on civilians, looting and destruction of civilian property, acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

The message urges for prompt ratification of the African Charter, which would demonstrate the government's commitment to the improvement of the human rights situation in South Sudan. Read more [here](#). ■

PEACE EDUCATION

Caritas launches 2014 “Women Sowers of Development” Prize to honour women against hunger

On 8 March, International Women's Day, at the inaugural Voices of Faith event in Rome, Caritas Internationalis and the Fidel Götz Foundation launched the “Women Sowers of Development” Prize to honour the role of women in solving world hunger. To find out more about the award and apply with your own project or organisation (until 16 June), please click [here](#). The winner will be announced on 16 October, World Food Day. ■

CBCI hosts workshops on Catholic Social Teaching

On 19-20 and 26-27 March, the Office for Justice, Peace and Development of the

Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), Pax Christi member organisation in India, organised two Catholic Social Teaching workshops.

The main goal of these activities was to stress the need for mutual accompaniment of faith and action for justice. The first workshop was led in Patna by the Archbishop William D' Souza, while the second was held in Gujarat, convened by Fr Joseph Appavoo on behalf of the JPD-CBCI. Read more [here](#) and [here](#). ■

Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights organises study visit to London and Dublin

The Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights, Pax Christi member organisation in Croatia, has participated in a study visit to London and Dublin as part of the project “Triple A for Citizens” – access to information, advice and active help.

The programme is built on the principle that everyone has the right to be informed on their rights: The visit gave participants an opportunity to learn about systems that provide information, advice and legal aid in nine cities of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. Read more in Croatian [here](#). ■

ADVOCACY

Pax Christi International on “Facing the Dangers of 21st Century Great Power War”

“Facing the Dangers of 21st Century Great Power War” is a conference organised in New York on 3 May by different organisations working for peace and disarmament. In the conference, speakers address the risks of great power war, the

implication of those dangers for peace and disarmament efforts, the lessons to be learned from chemical and other arms control growing out of World War I, and the kinds of movements we will need to build to forge a path to a more peaceful world. Paul Lansu, Policy Advisor of Pax Christi International is one of the speakers in the event. To read the programme, please click [here](#). ■

Life and Peace Institute co-organises “PeaceNet Light” conference

Life and Peace Institute, Pax Christi member organisation in Sweden, co-organises with the Norwegian Ecumenical Peace Platform, the Church of Sweden and the Norwegian Church Aid a conference on peace advocacy on 15 May in Oslo.

The conference, “PeaceNet Light” will focus on the effectiveness of the advocacy work as a key tool for promoting peace and justice. For more information, please contact [Tor Kristian Birkeland](#), Coordinator of Norwegian Ecumenical Peace Platform. ■

Pax Chisti co-signs a letter calling for an end to the Overseas Contingency Operations

Pax Chisti co-signed a letter addressed to the Members of the US Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense calling for an end to the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). In the letter, 25 faith based organisations ask for a federal budget that fosters true human security while advocating for an elimination of the OCO account, a separate budget account from the regular Department of Defense Budget commonly referred to as the “War Budget” because it directly funds overseas

military operations. To read the letter, please click [here](#). ■

Pax Christi International co-signs a letter in support of the people of Western Sahara

On 16 of April, prior to the United Nations Security Council meeting on Western Sahara, 116 organisations from 21 countries issued a letter calling for the UN Security Council members to agree an expansion of the current MINURSO (United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara) to include the monitoring and protection of the human rights of the people of Western Sahara. Pax Christi International is one of the co-signatories of the [letter](#). ■

INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

Click [here](#) to view the International Calendar of upcoming events.

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