



Shalom News North America

An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.



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Peace & Non-Violence

People of Peace by Jeanne Wingenter, SSND

“To be people of faith in times of doubt, to be people of hope in times of despair, to be people of peace, O Lord, your instruments of peace.” Carey Landry’s rendition of St. Francis’ peace prayer keeps running through my mind lately as the news reports of the mass murders in Norway; the violence, looting and destruction in London and other cities in England; the flash mobs ransacking cities and attacking bystanders in Chicago, Philadelphia and other cities across our country seem to clash head-on with our SSND focus on this month’s [International Day of Peace](#) and our commitment to Shalom as a way of life.



As an international community we pray for peace every day, but what else can we do? How do our thoughts, our words and our actions radiate and promote peace?

As educators, how do we teach peace? How do we facilitate peaceful interaction?

The approaching tenth anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks might give us pause not only to remember the victims of that event and of other violent attacks but also to reflect on the causes, the reasons underlying such actions and what systemic changes we might help to foster. “To

be people of peace, O Lord, your instruments of peace.”

The International Day of Peace is September 21. Please [click here](#) for more information and resources.

Economic Justice & Human Dignity

Addressing Global Poverty

Knowing that more than 1.4 billion people still struggle to live on less than \$1.25 a day, much more must be done to eradicate the scourge of extreme poverty. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) coordinate the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) as a joint UN effort to build a global coalition committed to supporting countries in building national social protection floors for their citizens. The [Social Protection Floor](#) (SPF) is a basic set of social rights, services, and facilities that every person should enjoy. Sister Roxanne Schares (Shalom Office) and Sister Eileen Reilly (UN-NGO Office) join with the JPIC Commission of the Unions of Superiors General in Rome in encouraging sisters and others to support this initiative. [Click here](#) to learn more and take action to let your voice be heard!

Mind the Gap!

The statistics are startling: the wealthiest 1% of our population owns more than 90% of us combined; the wealthiest 1% of U.S. households owns 225 times as much wealth as the median household; the median

African-American household has less than 10 cents of wealth for every dollar of wealth owned by the median white family; more than 25% of Native Americans and Alaska Natives live below the poverty level. However, Pope Benedict XVI writes in *Caritas in Veritate*, “The dignity of the individual and the demands of justice require . . . that economic choices do not cause disparities in wealth to increase in an excessive and morally unacceptable manner.” In light of this encyclical and other Catholic Social Teaching, NETWORK, a Catholic Social Justice Lobby, has initiated the *Mind the Gap!* Campaign to address this disparity in wealth. [Click here](#) to learn more and join this campaign. Take action now by [signing this petition](#) asking the White House to look into this important issue.



**MIND
THE
GAP!**

Dignity of Work

After decades of struggle, domestic migrant workers and justice allies in Canada and across the globe, celebrate and welcome the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention by the International Labour Organization. The convention recognizes the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation. [Read more.](#)

“We are called to renew our commitment to the God-given task of defending human life and dignity, celebrating work, and defending workers with both hope and conviction. This is a time for prayer, reflection, and action.” – *Human Costs and Moral Challenges of a Broken Economy*, the 2011 U.S. Bishops’ [Labor Day Statement](#). Additional Labor Day reflection resources can be found [here](#).



Pray the DREAM

Between September 18 and October 9 many parishes and faith groups will be planning events and/or incorporating petitions, homilies, and prayers into the Sunday Masses in support of the [DREAM Act](#) and the youth who would benefit from it. Please visit the [Justice for Immigrants website](#) to learn more and join in!

Take Action to Stop Human Trafficking

The Catholic Coalition Against Human Trafficking (of which SSND is a member) tells us there are three important trafficking related pieces of legislation currently before the U.S. Congress. Follow these links to learn more about [Trafficking Victims Protection Act— Reauthorization](#) (S 1301), [The Child Protection Compact Act](#) (S 185), and the [Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act](#) (S 596). Please consider contacting your members of Congress today!

Integrity of Creation

Help Stop Tar Sands Pipeline

The proposed 1,700-mile [Keystone XL pipeline](#) would transport tar sands oil – the dirtiest petroleum fuel – from Canada to Texas, crossing agricultural lands, wetlands, rivers, drinking-water sources, and wildlife habitat. During this journey it will exacerbate global warming, obliterate habitat for endangered species, and [violate the rights of indigenous peoples](#). Just the method of extracting oil from tar sands could devastate Canada's boreal forest and wetlands. The world's leading climate scientists warn we cannot burn enormously greenhouse-gas-intensive tar sands oil and maintain a safe climate. Since the Keystone XL pipeline would cross international lines, it cannot be built without a “presidential permit” from the Obama Administration, so thousands are convening in Washington D.C. to protest the pipeline and all it stands for. Organizers hope to deliver a petition with at least 60,000 signatures to the President on September 3. Please consider adding your name to [this petition](#).



Moving Planet

On September 24, people will “take to the streets on bicycles, skateboards, foot, and more, coming together as a global community dedicated to moving our planet in a new direction” – away from fossil fuels and towards solutions to get back to 350 ppm (parts per million) of carbon dioxide, a healthy limit for all life on Earth. Participants won't just demonstrate that another world is possible – they will show that they're already building it from the ground up. Watch this [video](#) and consider getting [involved](#) in your community.

Protect Earth Community—Action Alert

When the U.S. Congress returns in September, the House will debate H.R. 2584, a spending bill that outlines the budget for the Department of the Interior and the EPA. Alarming, this bill includes nearly 40 anti-health, anti-environment amendments which attack the very programs that have protected our air, water, lands, and wildlife for decades. These amendments represent a very real threat to the planet and all members of the Earth community. Please [click here](#) to learn more and consider taking action today.

