



NONVIOLENT NEWS



Nonviolence and campaigning news from INNATE

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CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT

The Chernobyl Children's Project was founded six years ago in response to the plight of the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Its main work is engaged in sending humanitarian aid to Belarus and western Russia. The Chernobyl Children's Project will be marking the 10th anniversary of the disaster (26th April) in a special way;

- The largest mobile aid convoy, consisting of 30 ambulances and 4 medical aid trucks will depart for the Chernobyl area and will arrive for the anniversary on April 26th. The convoy will cost in the region of £170,000.
- The project have specific plans to rebuild and renovate an orphanage in Belarus and a hospital in western Russia. The cost here is in the region of £100,000.
- Over 700 children from the affected areas of Chernobyl will be brought to Ireland for rest and recuperation this summer, both to individual family homes and to the Barretstown Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Co Kildare.

As we move towards the 10th anniversary of what has been declared by the United Nations as the "greatest environmental catastrophe in the history of mankind", Chernobyl has become a byword for environmental disaster. Radiation has become an invisible enemy that, according to the latest UN report, has marred the lives of 9 million people including 3 - 4 million children. Not only has radiation endangered the genetic future of those exposed to it, but its evil power of destruction has also damaged the intricate cycle of all life. The suffering is medical, environmental, emotional, psychological and economical. Chernobyl has become a tragedy of planetary proportions as radiation recognises no territorial boundaries. The people of the region were exposed to radioactivity 90 times greater than that from the explosion of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. The main long term concern is the effect of continued, relatively low-dose exposure to radioactivity.

* Contact: Chernobyl Children's Project, 8 Sidneyville, Bellevue Park, St Luke's, Cork. Tel. 021 - 506411. Fax 021 - 551544. The British CCP can be contacted at: Chernobyl Children's Project (UK), One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NZ. Tel 0161 - 834 8176.

* Adi Roche's moving book "Children of Chernobyl" is published by Harper Collins at UK £7.99. It's 178 pages and available widely (ISBN 0-00-627927-9); all royalties go to the Project.

SPREAD YOUR WINGS WITH IVS/VSI

International Voluntary Service and Voluntary Service International (respectively the Northern and Southern groups of SCI/Service Civil International) now have available their "International Workcamps 1996" brochure covering Ireland, Europe, N America and N Africa. This is available for £2 from either office or £2.50 including postage. IVS, 122 Great Victoria Street, Belfast 2, phone 01232 - 238147; VSI, 30 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1, phone 01 - 855 1011.

WAYS OUT OF CONFLICT

"Ways out of conflict - Resources for community relations work" by Duncan Morrow and Derick Wilson is a new guide to facilitating cross community meetings for adults in Northern Ireland. It covers nine themes which are loosely ordered into three categories; Understanding stable and divided societies; Coping with conflict; Finding ways out. Copies of "Ways out of conflict" are available at £20 (plus £2.50 postage and packing) (cheques payable to: 'Understanding Conflict Trust') from: Derick Wilson, Understanding Conflict Trust, c/o 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NT. Further info from Derick Wilson at 01265 - 324550 (Fax 01265 - 324904).

PAX CHRISTI TRALEE

An information evening on Pax Christi, with a view to setting up a local branch, will take place in St John's Pastoral Centre, Tralee at 8 pm on Wednesday 17th April. Further information: Sylvia Thompson at 066 - 37484.

Nonviolent News is produced at least 10 times a year by INNATE, an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education, 16 Ravensdale Park, Belfast BT8 0DA, Phone/Fax 01232 - 647106; your news welcome. Deadline for next issue: 1st May. Address Supplement: addresses of workshop providers at the INNATE "What's going on?" seminar appear with this issue...ask if you want one but didn't get it.

LANDMINES

The exciting news in the Republic is that the Fianna Fail-sponsored bill to ban landmines in Ireland may be debated in the Dail on 16th or 17th April. The bill states that the Minister for Foreign Affairs "shall prohibit the production, procurement, transfer, sale, repair, stockpiling, import and use of anti-personnel landmines in the State". This could be significant in adding further international pressure on those countries who do deal in landmines. Pax Christi is urging people to write to their TDs or the Minister for Foreign Affairs to support this private member's bill.

As part of Pax Christi's ongoing campaign on the issue there will be a public meeting and press conference to coincide with the likely Dail debate. Pieter van Rossem (Pax Christi Netherlands), Ian Woodmancy (Oxfam England) and Ann Capelle (Handicap International, Brussels) will speak at a public meeting in the Walton Lecture Theatre, Trinity College Dublin, at 7 pm on Monday 15th April; they'll also address a press conference at Buswells Hotel, Dublin at 11 am the following day, Tuesday 16th April.

* Pax Christi, 52 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 2. Phone 01 - 496 5293.

Meanwhile Oxfam, North and South, are also engaged in a campaign on the issue (the UN Convention on Inhumane Weapons reconvenes 21st April so it is a good time to put political pressure). They are encouraging people to write to their local MP in the North or the Rt Hon David Davis, Minister for State, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Downing Street, London SW1A 2AL. A sample letter and further information are available from Oxfam. They also invite sponsorship to help people locally, worldwide, affected by landmines.

* Oxfam, 52-54 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7HN. Ph 01232 - 230220; Oxfam, 19 Clanwilliam Terrace, Dublin 2. Phone 01 - 661 8544.

PEACE PEOPLE ELECTION INTERVENTION IN NORTH

The Peace People are planning to put together a 'peace partnership' platform for the 30th May elections. Ciaran McKeown stated that "the Peace People will not themselves form either a political party or part of a coalition. But for the purpose of influencing the nature of the constitutional settlement, we will have no hesitation in throwing ourselves with all our energy and enthusiasm into an election". Despite not getting onto the government's initial list [Ed - the government decide who can contest this 'modified list system' election] the Peace People are optimistic about making it onto the final slate. The Peace People have produced a 'Manifesto for a peace partnership' document based on their Citizens Campaign policies and this is available from: Peace People, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE. Ph 01232 - 683465; Fax 683947.

[Ed: Among those included in the government's initial list to contest the elections are the Green Party, Sinn Fein, SDLP, Natural Law Party and a number of unionist and loyalist parties; also excluded is the IRSPI].

NESTLE BOYCOTT CONTINUES IN DUN LAOGHAIRE/RATHDOWN

Nestle failed to show at a 29th February meeting of Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council, to which Baby Milk Action were also invited, to debate the Council's policy to boycott Nestle products. Nestle had protested about this policy, hence the meeting. The boycott policy thus continues (in protest at Nestle's immoral promotion of bottle milk in a situation where a baby dies every 30 seconds from unsafe bottle feeding).

[Green Newsletter #67]

JOTTERS/COPYBOOKS FOR PEACE

This is a campaign to put jotters/copybooks in prominent public or semi-public places to encourage people to sign and add personal comments or feelings about peace. A compilation will then be made and the jotters distributed to various bodies. Contact: Brendan O'Reilly, 14 Larchfield Road, Goatstown, Dublin 14. Phone 01 - 295 1811; Mobile 088 - 529297.

DEBT & DEVELOPMENT: PARISH PACK

The Debt and Development Coalition have produced a 'parish pack', in association with Christian Aid, suitable as a resource on world hunger and debt for ministers, priests and church groups. Its costs £2 from Debt and Development Coalition Ireland, Dalgan Park, Navan, Co Meath. Tel 046 - 21525; Fax 046 - 22799.

COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING

An Irish branch opened in 1992 and is actively campaigning for better conditions for farm animals, and for EU recognition that these animals are sentient creatures capable of suffering. It peacefully campaigns by raising public awareness, political lobbying and by education in order to improve legal protection for farm animals and to encourage more humane, alternative production methods. CIWF produces a quarterly magazine and invites new members to join in its work (Membership is £14 a year, £6 unwaged). Contact: CIWF, PO Box 208, Cork City. Tel 021 - 272441; Fax 021 - 274525. Contact persons: Mary-Anne Bartlett, John Tierney.



WHAT'S GOING ON?

[Ed note: not "What on earth's going on??!!"]

There was a request for the addresses of workshop providers at the INNATE Belfast seminar on 9th March to be included in Nonviolent News. Here they are (workshop leaders in brackets) -

- Nonviolent Communication (Brenda Blair); 73 Albert Road, Sandycove, Co Dublin. Ph 01 - 280 1524.
- Peer mediation in primary schools (Jerry Tyrrell); EMU Promoting School Project, Magee College, Northland Road, Londonderry BT48 7JL. Ph 01504 - 375225; Fax 01504 - 260737.
- Nonviolent action for human rights (Iain Atack); PBI/Peace Brigades International, 1 Warwick Terrace, Dublin 4. Phone Dublin/01 - 868 75 40.
- Person-centred facilitation (David McKittrick); PACE/Protestant and Catholic Encounter, 174 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2ED. Phone 01232 - 232864.
- AVP/Alternatives to Violence Project (Sheilagh Reeper-Reynolds); 80 Woodlawn Park Drive, Firhouse, Dublin 24. Phone 01 - 451 2583.
- The work of the Mediation Network in Northern Ireland (Noreen Christian); Mediation Network, 74 Dublin Road, Belfast BT2 7HP. Phone 01232 - 438614.

Other inputs were provided by:

- Guus Meijer on INCORE, Aberfoyle House, Northland Road, Derry BT48 7JA. Phone 01504 - 375500; Fax 01504 - 375510; EMail INCORE@Incore.ac.uk
- Colin Craig on Corrymeela, 8 Upper Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NT. Tel 01232 - 325008. The Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle is at 5 Drumaroan Road, Ballycastle BT54 6QU. Tel 012657 - 82626.
- Sean O Baillí on Kilcranny House, 21 Cranagh Road, Coleraine BT51 3NN. Phone/Fax 01265 - 321816.

*This was a 'taster' seminar and it is hoped to organise a more focused day in the autumn leading on from this. Plans will be made at the next INNATE networking meeting taking place on Thursday 16th May at 7.30pm in Quaker House, 7 University Avenue, Belfast; all interested welcome, queries to INNATE at Belfast 647106.