

Pax Christi Australia (NSW)
Convenor's Report
September 2018

August 7, 2018 MSCJPIV Committee Meeting Bi-monthly meeting. Much of the meeting was about preparing for the MSC APIA (Asia Pacific India Australia) Conference will take place from September 10-21 at Kensington with Superiors, Brothers, Formators and JPIC Contacts from the region. The meeting was mainly concerned with organising activities for the JPI C participants.

August 8, 2018 NSW Ecumenical Council Peace and Justice Commission was postponed because Claude had to be in hospital

August 8, 2018 Action for Peace and Development was postponed for the above reason.



August 10, 2018 Human rights groups in Sydney stage protest action of Prof. Gill Boehringer's deportation

Representatives of advocacy human rights groups went this afternoon to the Philippine Consulate-General Office in Sydney to protest the imminent deportation of Professor Gill Boehringer.



The groups include Action for Peace and Development in the Philippines (APDP), Philippine Australian Union Links (PAUL), Migrante Australia, International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP), Association to Defend Freedom & Human Rights in Iran – Australia, GABRIELA Australia, Lingap Migrante, Philippines- Australia Women's Association (PAWA), Pax Christi Australia, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart Justice and Peace Centre (Australia), and Migrante Southwest.

Letters addressed to President Duterte and statements condemning the immigration detention, the continuing threat of deportation and calling on President Duterte to intervene to cancel the

blacklist order on Prof Boehringer were presented to the Consulate representative. The Consulate's response was to outline how they will transmit the letters to the Philippines and say that they understand the groups' concern.

The Consulate representative also stressed that it is up to the Bureau of Immigration in the Philippines to allow or deny a person entry to the Philippines even if they had been issued visa by the Consulate, and that a visa doesn't guarantee entry.

The letters pointed out that the Duterte government is "creating a pattern of deporting aged Australians who witness the harsh social and economic situation in your country, even though you have yourself recognised these problems and promised to address them. This does you no credit. This is damaging the relationship between our two countries.

In its statement, APDP stressed that "If President Duterte and his regime were upholding the dignity and rights of the Filipino people, they would welcome any interest in the human rights situation in the Philippines. Sr Fox and Prof Boehringer are true friends of the Filipino people upholding the dignity and rights of Filipinos, defending the rule of law, and overcoming poverty, injustice and violations of human rights."



This was a snap action also in front of the Consulate whilst bearing placards with the following calls:

- Stop deportation of Prof Gill Boehringer! International solidarity is not a crime!***
- Stop persecuting human rights defenders in the Philippines!***
- Hands-off Prof Gill Boehringer! Hands-off human rights defenders!***
- Cut Australian military aid to Duterte government!***
- Cancel blacklist system for international human rights defenders!***
- Cancel deportation orders on Professor Gill Boehringer and Sister Patricia Fox!***
- President Duterte, how dare you break another family! Let Prof Boehringer stay with family in the Philippines!***
- President Duterte: human rights violator! Prof Boehringer and Sis Pat: human rights defenders! Stop human rights violations in the Philippines!***





August 15, 2018 Welcoming back Australian professor Gill Boehringer at Sydney International Airport after his deportation from Manila



Professor Gill Boehringer

August 18, 2018 NSW Ecumenical Council Annual General Meeting at St George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Redfern.

Reports

[President's Report: NSWEC AGM 2018](#) Wies Schuiringa

[General Secretary Report: NSWEC AGM 2018](#) Fr Shenouda Mansour

[Interfaith Commission: NSWEC AGM 2018](#)

[Middle East Commission Report: NSWEC AGM 2018](#)

[Overcoming Family Violence: NSWEC AGM 2018](#)

[P & J Commission: NSWEC AGM 2018](#) Claude Mostowik

[Taize Report: NSWEC AGM 2018](#)

[Theological Reflection Commission: NSWEC AGM 2018](#)



Father Shenouda's Report began with a reflection on John 17:

The passage reminds us on how Jesus prayed for His disciples and prayed that they may be one. This prayer of having the one mind and one heart of unity is reflected in the work of the Council (Ecumenical). To be ecumenical is not to be an organic giant church. This is 'Not' ecumenism. There is a misconception on the principles of ecumenism. Ecumenism draws on to receive the other as a gift from God. If we replace the word for 'each other' with the term 'church, we have a new

understanding on how we need to deal with each as churches. We need to pray for the other as churches. We need to respect each other as churches. We need to embrace and love each other as churches. Who then is my neighbour? My neighbour is the other churches. We need to eliminate the word other and say, my friend, my church, my neighbour; we pray for each that we may be one...to act as one...to stand in solidarity with each other as churches...in good times and difficult times. Today, it is a time where we are able to support each ...to express the love each other...the unity that we pray for each other...the unity that we will stand next to each other...the mutual respect...the mutual understanding that we have some difference, but we all have a common goal If love and respect in the living God that loves us all. Amen!

August 27, 2018 Community Justice Coalition. This is the first meeting I have attended for some time after a deliberate break from the group. Much of the time was spent in preparing for the upcoming Forum at Parliament House on **Wednesday September 26, 2018 5.30pm - 7.30pm**
Theme: Examining recent downgrading of prisoner education and presenting new educational opportunities

Parliament House Macquarie Room, Macquarie Street, Sydney (Closest Train Station: Martin Place)

Speakers

Mr Luke Grant and Dr Anne-Marie Martin Assistant Commissioners Corrective Services
Mr Guy Zangari MP Shadow Minister for Corrections
The Hon David Shoebridge MLC The Greens Justice and Police Spokesperson
Ms Maxine Sharkey Deputy Secretary NSW Teachers Federation
Stephen Seymour Digital Life Lab University of Southern Queensland
Dr Jedidiah Evan Australian Catholic University

Forum Coordinators

The Hon [JOHN DOWD](#) AO QC, Former Attorney General and Supreme Court Judge and
The Hon [ELIZABETH EVATT](#) AC, Former Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia

Media present and questions from the floor.

Adults \$20, students, concession \$10 cash or cheque only

RSVP: info@communityjusticecoalition.org

Organised by: [The Community Justice Coalition](#) and the [International Commission of Jurists](#)

August 30, 2018 Pacific Climate Watch – Inter-congregational Voice on Climate Change in the Pacific

Coming Up

September 10-21 Missionaries of the Sacred Heart APIA Conference Kensington. This will commemorate 40 years of APIA

September 21, 2018 International Day of Peace

Time: 2pm.

Place: Fellowship Centre, Parramatta Mission, 119 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.(Close to Parramatta Train Station and Bus interchange)

At a time when there is much discord among people of different faiths resulting in disharmony and violence, this service offers people of different faith to come closer to look at humanity's common longing for peace, and work for a harmonious community. Prayers would be offered by fifteen different faith/cultural backgrounds for peace and harmony. Prayers would be interspersed by cultural performances. Refreshment would be served at the end of the service.

For more information please contact Rev Manas Ghosh 0429 892 548 or at manas.ghosh@parramattamission.org.au