



# JUSTUPDATE

## ACT WITH JUSTICE IN MIND

### News from the Justice and International Mission Cluster

**June 3rd, 2020**

**Making the Online World More Human: A Dialogue Between Human Rights and Theology**

What do our relationships to the online world mean? What role do governments and technology corporations have in facilitating such realities, and their risks? How do we negotiate the different expectations we have in the online and other worlds we occupy? What theological convictions can we bring to bear on such questions? Join us for a discussion about the complex issues of privacy, citizenship, freedom, and rights in the digital spaces we occupy. Presented by Whitley College. Speakers: Rev. Brendan Byrne and Dr. Mark Zirnsak.

**Where:** Online, please register for a link

**When:** Wednesday 3 June, 7:00pm to 7:45pm

**Registrations:** [whitley@whitley.edu.au](mailto:whitley@whitley.edu.au)

**Cost:** Free

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**Consultation on Synod's Position on Climate Change**

The Synod Justice and International Mission (JIM) Cluster believes there is a need for the Synod to update its position on the urgency of addressing the causes of climate change and the actions that need to be taken in response. The JIM cluster is keen to hear the views of Uniting Church members on what action the Synod should take on climate change. A consultation paper can be downloaded from the website <https://justact.org.au/climate-justice-creation/reports/>. The page also provides details on how to provide your views on what position the Synod should take on climate change.

Hardcopies of the consultation paper can be ordered by contacting Mark Zirnsak on 0409 166 915 or e-mailing [mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au)

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**Consultation on regulating the online world to protect children and prevent harms**

The Synod Justice and International Mission (JIM) Cluster has written a consultation paper for congregations and congregation members to reflect on what is needed to regulate the online world to prevent harms. The JIM Cluster intends to bring a proposal to the November 2020 Synod meeting, which would set the principles by which the Synod should support or oppose particular measures to regulate the online world. The Uniting Church's existing position as it stands is that the protection of children and adults from sexual abuse takes priority over other concerns such as privacy. The JIM Cluster is keen to speak with congregations and church members that have an interest in the issue. The paper can be downloaded from <https://justact.org.au/inclusive-equal-society/reports/> Or hardcopies can be requested by e-mailing [mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:mark.zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au) or calling Mark Zirnsak on 0409 166 915.

Please note that the paper is not intended to be read by anyone under the age of 18 as it includes specific discussion of online child sexual abuse.

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**Let's talk race: a guide on how to conduct a conversation about racism**

Racism is an ongoing problem in Australia. It directly affects significant numbers of Australians. In annual surveys, about one in five Australians report having experienced racial discrimination during the previous 12 months. The Australian Human Rights Commission has developed a [website](#) and [guide](#) to assist Australian organisations in conducting meaningful and productive conversations about racism. It can be used in conventional workplaces, community groups, faith organisations, sporting clubs as well as other organisations. While the guide is designed to be useful as a 'proactive' document, it can also be used to assist in facilitating conversations about racism after an incident has occurred.

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**Covid 19 - What does it mean? Where to next?**

Is the virus the beginning of human self destruction or a window of opportunity to build a better world? Caesar D'Mello and Brendan James invite you into a wide ranging Zoom conversation. Presented by Pax Christi Victoria Inc. *International Christian Peace Movement*

**Where:** Online, please register for a link

**When:** Sunday 14 June, 2:00pm-3.30 p.m.

**Register:** [ahmkerr@hotmail.com](mailto:ahmkerr@hotmail.com)

**Cost:** Free

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**A Viral History of the World**

Pandemics change the course of history in strange and unpredictable ways. An international panel of eminent historians will join Per Capita's Emma Dawson to look back at pandemics from the Black Death to Spanish flu to AIDS to draw lessons that might help guide us through the current crisis.

Featuring: Melbourne University's Prof Janet McCalman, Per Axelsson from University of Umea in northern Sweden and Linda Bryder from Auckland University.

**Where:** Online, please register for a link

**When:** Thursday 4 June, 1:00pm -2:00pm

**Register:** [HERE](#)

**Cost:** Free

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**Filthy, Rich and Homeless**

On the eve of the latest season of this SBS docu-drama Daniel Stone will talk to past and present participants and the show's producers, to explore new ways of bringing pressing social issues to life. Featuring Skye Leckie, deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne Arron Wood and the Blackfella Production team.

**Where:** Online, please register for a link

**When:** Friday 5 June, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

**Register:** [HERE](#)

**Cost:** Free