



## Justice & Peace Weekly Bulletin : 13 Oct 2021

Please send any comments or items for next week's news to  
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### GOOD NEWS

- **MALARIA VACCINE**
  - It is a truly historic moment that the WHO has given the go-ahead for the roll out for Africa of the first ever Malaria vaccine.
  - 94% of the global 229 million cases a year are in Africa and children are disproportionately affected, with 260,000 deaths a year.
- **THE BIG ISSUE CELEBRATES ITS 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**
  - *The Big Issue* was first published to help vendors find a way out of poverty, homelessness and hopelessness, giving a hand up instead of a handout. Since then, so much good has been achieved and its founder Lord John Bird has done much to campaign in Parliament and elsewhere on issues of poverty and homelessness.

### FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

- **INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY**
  - A young woman who is an eloquent and prominent campaigner with Down's lost her case last week at the High Court, challenging the government over a law that allows abortion up to birth for a foetus with Down's syndrome.
  - (I myself once heard at a medical/Christian conference in London, a young man stand up and say "Why do they want to get rid of us".)
  - People with intellectual disability are able to contribute much to our society. Their families deserve good help and support.
- **THE CONGO BASIN**
  - The Congo basin forest in West Africa makes such heavy rain, making it one of the richest and most valuable ecosystems on the planet. The consequences of cutting down the forest are that it will quite literally dry up the water supplies of millions of people. That means no more water or food in Ethiopia, 124 million people.
- **CHARITIES DEMAND RETHINK ON FOREIGN AID CUTS**
  - Aid charities have accused chancellor Rishi Sunak of attempting to mount a "stealth raid" on British foreign aid spending, squeezing the aid budget and that the new items will be designated as "overseas development assistance" in a way that would cut the amount spent directly on humanitarian aid. The government is already cutting overseas assistance from 0.7 per cent of national income to 0.5 per cent.

### ACTION OF THE WEEK

- **PRISONERS WEEK**
  - October 10 to 16 is Prisoners Week. There are 279 thousand people in prison in this country, the highest ratio in Europe.
  - Many are underprivileged and have been in the care system. Their families suffer a sentence as well, and there are 90,000 thousand children with a parent in prison.
  - Let us pray that for prisoners and prison staff, and that our prisons will offer more in the way of help and rehabilitation to prevent reoffending.

Mary Bradley