



Shalom News North America

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



July 2010



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“Alert to rapidly evolving conditions in a changing society, we discern which world conditions we are called to address. . . . and what the urgent educational needs of our times are.”

- School Sisters of Notre Dame YAS General Directory #37

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Hope for Realizing MDGs



The new Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report Card finds that many of the world's poorest countries are making the most overall progress towards

achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the set of promises world leaders made to significantly reduce extreme poverty, illiteracy and disease by 2015. Eleven of the 20 countries making the most absolute progress on the MDGs are amongst the poorest countries in Africa. The analysis also finds that most low and middle income countries are making

progress on most of the key MDG indicators. [Click here](#) for details.

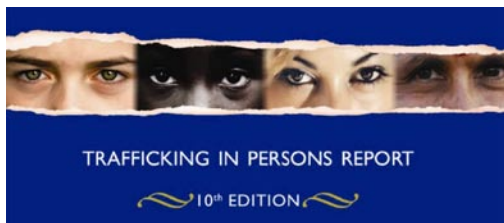
World Cup Global Education Summit

For the first time, a political summit will be hosted alongside a major international sporting event. The Education for All 1Goal Campaign reports that a July 7 global education summit in Cape Town, South Africa, will provide world leaders the chance to draw up a roadmap to ensure that every child is in school by the time the next World Cup soccer competition takes place in 2014. The summit also represents the last chance for world leaders to gather to discuss Education for All before the [Millennium Development Goals Summit](#) in September. [Click here](#) to learn more.



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Global Progress in Addressing Human Trafficking



Across the globe, countries are making progress in the fight against human trafficking, according to the recently released 2010 [Trafficking in Persons Report](#) by the U.S. State Department. Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Syria were reported as making significant efforts over the past year, while Cuba, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, and Zimbabwe were among the countries named as making the least effort to combat trafficking. The 2010 version of this annual report included a review of the U.S. for the first time. See [The Christian Science Monitor](#) and [CNN](#) for news coverage of this important report.

Child Protection Act – Let Your Voice Be Heard

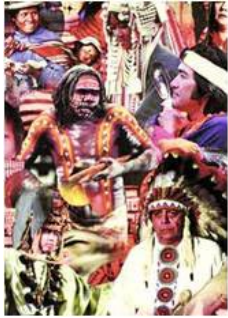
UNICEF estimates that there are nearly two million children trapped in the commercial sex trade. It doesn't have to be this way. Research has shown that targeted investments in public justice systems can result in an overall decline in the numbers of children being victimized. The proposed Child Protection Compact Act (S. 3184) builds on that successful model by authorizing the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Office to provide significant resources to develop competent judicial systems that rescue children and bring traffickers to justice in selected focus countries. [Click here](#) to learn more and take action.

Talitha Kum Web site

The new Web site for Talitha Kum, the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons, under the auspices of the UISG, is now ready for visitors. The Web site address is: <http://www.talithakum.info>.



International Day of the World's Indigenous People August 9



The goal of this day is to further strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment, and social and economic development. [Learn more here.](#)

Stolen Children: Truth and Reconciliation – The Canadian government formed the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as part of the court-approved Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The purpose of the commission is to create a historical account of the residential schools, help people heal, and encourage reconciliation between aboriginals and non-aboriginal Canadians. Lots more information about the Stolen Children and the TRC can be [found here.](#)



“The only way to come into our full healing as the First Peoples of Canada is to forgive.” [Click here](#) to learn about the **Charter of Forgiveness** presented by aboriginal leaders to the Canadian government.

Integrity of Creation

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Voices for Earth



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, whose feast day is July 14, is honored as the patron saint of ecology. Orphaned at the age of four when smallpox took the lives of her father, a Mohawk chief, and her mother, a Catholic Algonquin, Kateri survived the smallpox, but she was weakened, scarred, and partially blind as a result. She was called “Tekakwitha,” which means “The One Who Walks Groping for Her Way,” because the brightness of

the sun blinded her and she would have to feel her way as she walked. Her name is sometimes translated as “The One Who Puts Everything in Order” or “To Put All into Place.”

Given the great need for right order and healing in our household of Earth, especially in the waters and coastlands of the Gulf of Mexico, it seems most appropriate to share a request for prayer from another Native American, Chief Arvol Looking Horse, the present Chief of the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota Nation of the Sioux – [click here.](#)

Peace & Non-Violence

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Nuclear Security?

July 1 is the anniversary of the signing of the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) by 189 states in 1970. While it has been both honored and violated over the years, its three goals of non-proliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology are still considered achievable as witnessed by a [Review Conference](#) of the member nations in May of this year. The final declaration of that conference requires the nuclear states, including the U.S., to speed up arms reduction and also calls for a discussion on a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

In a separate meeting in April, President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a [new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty](#) requiring both

countries to reduce their nuclear warheads by 30% over the next seven years. While considered a step toward nuclear disarmament, it still leaves each country with 1,550 deployed warheads and 700 long-range missiles. Is that supposed to make us feel more secure?

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki – As we remember the tragedies of August 6 and 9 in 1945 when the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 220,000 people – over 80% of them civilians, let us continue our [call for nuclear disarmament.](#)

[Click here](#) for a **Prayer Service for a Nuclear Free World**, in commemoration of the anniversaries of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Shalom News North America is an e-publication of the Shalom North America Coordinating Committee (SNACC) of the School Sisters of Notre Dame– Judy Bourg (DA), Tim Dewane (ML), Rose Mary Sander (CA), Jeanne Wingenter (MK), and Paulette Zimmerman (SL). Your comments, suggestions, and feedback are always welcomed. Email us at justiceandpeace@ssnd-milw.org

