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**April 15, 2019**

**April 15-20 Holy Week**

**April 20-28 National Parks Week**

**April 21 Easter Sunday**

**April 22 Earth Day**

**April 25 International girls Day**

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**TAKING ACTION
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| ***Holy Week*****As we begin the final week of Lent, we now invite you to magnify the impacts of your spiritual reflections and your lifestyle changes by** [**advocating for justice for the vulnerable communities**](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/6-AVPWhzjdXY96Y0iYrURQ) **hurt by extractives industries.** One way we can stand in solidarity with those who risk their lives to defend the earth and vulnerable communities is to [bring their stories to Congress](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/6-AVPWhzjdXY96Y0iYrURQ). Ensuring that Members of Congress hear from the first-hand experiences of environmental human rights defenders will help them understand the impacts of the policies they create.  [**Contact your Senators today**](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/6-AVPWhzjdXY96Y0iYrURQ) **and urge them to support Senate Resolution 80 (S.R. 80), which would establish a human rights commission in the U.S. Senate.*****Ban Uranium Mines in Grand Canyon***In 2012 thousands of uranium claims near Grand Canyon National Park were put on hold because of the very real, mounting threat of ruining this global treasure. New uranium mining on public lands near Grand Canyon would destroy sacred American Indian sites and wildlife habitat. It could permanently pollute the aquifers that feed the canyon's lifegiving springs and streams.That's why President Obama's administration ordered a 20-year ban on new uranium mining near this special place — and it's why we should now take the next step and make the ban permanent.[**Urge your member of Congress to permanently ban uranium mining on 1 million acres of nearby public lands by cosponsoring the Grand Canyon Centennial Protection Act.**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/5961312/53198338/1553509126?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9DQkQvQ0JELzEvNjE0MjkiLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiYzY5YTM3NjctNzc1Yi1lOTExLWI0OWUtMjgxODc4MzkxZWZiIiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJkc21pdGhAY3NqbGEub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=j90FLvBQal6NIrg-OVjyuMoPXlrq_2pBIXfaZj2qP8g=&sourceid=1005295&utm_source=action&utm_medium=email&emci=cd1732ef-ff56-e911-b49e-2818784db60e&emdi=c69a3767-775b-e911-b49e-281878391efb&ceid=650609&smartlinkdata=JmZuPURpYW5lJmxuPVNtaXRoJmVtPWRzbWl0aCU0MGNzamxhLm9yZyZhZGQxPTExOTk5K0NoYWxvbitSZCsmY2k9TG9zK0FuZ2VsZXMmc3Q9Q0EmcGM9OTAwNDkmbXA9MzEwODg5MjExOSZwPVNyLiZjPVVT) |

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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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***U.S. Congress Finally Votes to End One of Its Wars***

Following major public pressure by World BEYOND War and many other organizations, both houses of the U.S. Congress have finally voted together to end U.S. participation in a war, the war on Yemen. This is the first such use of the War Powers Resolution since its passage in 1973. Here's [**who voted which way**](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/mpss/c/IAE/ni0YAA/t.2ql/TN0P9QE7SnygO-ACEsVkOg/h2/FW-2B9TN18nWxdr1JqaUfIjLamnHAjcOXAklwvAKDXTMrc8v7RMhFhDwCSSNZ0iV8p9X1CLZQ3zMmF6YSfhLsypp0xWROneE3wn1AT4GIthTYzbDsxlV3JroIYwuXby8Ct4tFRHs43P6zyIQtHXWViHO9cjYr6IlFvd8fTZrvsxIwt1bWgzCTaRDxrbNh6740Mweo1Ah-2FD7YrhVcwz97nalstj3hdn8v7y0XXbaSaa2sPrwyGOqGi7DJV-2FCCbPVBhA0X9zrvlRqVnHaY7gq9eLUBjAJlj86w9NiZQGGucnq4p0DG4olgsmKtBNUeIoPRx5hlbXmubDj-2Fv7lISDy-2FEakwkstLkNmGrbqYX1lT2njY-2F-2FlYIMitoH7k9x58HM5-2Fgd). Now we need Trump not to veto, and if he vetoes Congress to override. Then we need Congress to pick another war to end, and another, and another, and the preparations for any more. **Thank you to everyone who has helped thus far!**

[***UN Women leader to focus on empowerment, ending violence against women***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lseDCCjbkDDhisuQCieHdeCicNGuCn?format=multipart)

Mohammad Naciri, regional director for the Asia Pacific arm of UN Women, says he will focus on the economic empowerment of women and ending violence against women in an effort to achieve gender equality. Naciri says involving men and boys in the gender equality movement and showing them how they will benefit is crucial.

***A new report has found that not only is marine plastic pollution damaging the environment, it is costing the world billions.***

The report, led by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, found that microplastic pollution will result in a 1-5 per cent decline in marine ecosystem service delivery. This equates to an annual loss of $500-$2,500 billion in the value of benefits derived from marine ecosystem services, globally.

The study broke this figure down to find that, based on 2011 values, every tonne of plastic that enters the ocean has a cost of between $3,300 and $33,000 of reduced environmental value.

[***UNSC unanimous regarding extension of N. Korea monitoring***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsyiCCjbkDDhjzzUCieHdeCicNUGJG?format=multipart)

Members of the United Nations Security Council this week voted unanimously to extend until April 2020 the mandate of an expert panel assisting a committee on sanctions against North Korea. Russian Deputy Ambassador Vladimir Safronkov voiced concerns that the sanctions are harming vulnerable North Korean citizens, while British deputy political coordinator David Clay countered that the sanctions were designed in a way that avoids humanitarian damage.

***How to lead a conversation with people who disagree***

In a world deeply divided, how do we have hard conversations with nuance, curiosity, respect? Veteran reporter Eve Pearlman introduces "dialogue journalism": a project where journalists go to the heart of social and political divides to support discussions between people who disagree. See what happened when a group that would have never otherwise met -- 25 liberals from California and 25 conservatives from Alabama -- gathered to talk about contentious issues. "Real connection across difference: this is a salve that our democracy sorely needs," Pearlman says.

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| [Watch now »](https://ted.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07487d1456302a286cf9c4ccc&id=22b8815c0c&e=21df47c728) |

[***UN chief says women are central to peacekeeping success***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsyiCCjbkDDhjzAeCieHdeCicNYfWb?format=multipart)

The participation and rights of women must be central to decisions made on peacekeeping, said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at a discussion on Women in Peacebuilding this week. The UN aims to see women hold 15% to 35% of military, law enforcement, justice and peacekeeping roles by 2028

* [**UN expert criticizes France for treatment of refugees, migrants**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsyiCCjbkDDhjzAaCieHdeCicNKxEw?format=multipart)
* **[UN agencies urge safe disembarkation for refugees on ship](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lsyiCCjbkDDhjzAbCieHdeCicNWpQZ?format=multipart" \t "_blank)**