****

**October 28, 2019**

"It may well be that the days when nations will turn mighty armies into powerful peace movements, and deadly weapons into harmless ploughshares are still years away. But it is a source of real hope that there are today world organizations and influential groups and individuals who are striving earnestly and courageously for world peace." —Nelson Mandela

**October**

October is Respect Life Month

Oct. 24-30 Disarmament Week

Oct. 31 World Cities Day

**November**

Nov. 6 International Day for Preventing Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Nov. 16 International Day for Tolerance

 **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless
\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

***Crisis in Haiti***

The Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph have a mission in Haiti. Sr. Edna texts that schools have been closed and will not open till the streets are calm. The country is paralyzed and has been in lock down for many weeks. Sister states that food is difficult to get and everything is very expensive. When you are able to get to the market, there is little food there due to no deliveries, roads are blocked. Electricity is scarce and so is gas. If the Sisters run the generator, they need diesel and that is difficult to find and extremely expensive.The conditions in Ley Cayes were and remain very bad.

This article from New York Times gives more information on the crisis. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/20/world/americas/Haiti-crisis-violence.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share>

Please pray the attached prayer for the people of Haiti.

 [***Urge Your Senators to Support and Cosponsor S.661***](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/bJb30WL0-1tgTgYWdbTlUQ)
Please urge your senators to support and cosponsor [S.661](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/_yT_gqRRqm1XXozM9f6f_g), the Child Trafficking Victims Protection and Welfare Act of 2019.  S.661 was first introduced in March 2019 by Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and has been referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for further action.

S. 661 will require Customs and Border Protection (CBD) to will require CBD officials to develop guidelines for the treatment of children in its custody which includes the provision of basic necessities such as clean water, educational resources, recreational activities, adequate nutrition and safe and sanitary living conditions.  The bill will also require CBD to assign licensed child welfare professionals at certain points of entry to identify victims of trafficking and ensure they receive adequate care while in CBP custody.

Additionally, the bill will ensure provisions are made to prevent family separation by assisting the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Health and Human Services (HHS) in reuniting separated families. Prevention of family separation will provide safe repatriation and reintegration of the children who return to their country of nationality or last habitual residence, keeping children out of the hands of traffickers.

It’s crunch time on a key piece of legislation that would give law enforcement a vital tool in the fight against human trafficking.

 ***Corporate Transparence Act***

This week the **U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the bipartisan Corporate Transparency Act** **(H.R. 2513). This legislation, more than a decade in the making, would require businesses to disclose the real or “beneficial” owner in their corporate paperwork.** This information wouldn’t be available to everyone but it would be available, under certain circumstances, to law enforcement.

|  |
| --- |
| [Take Action](https://www.e-activist.com/ea-action/enclick?ea.url.id=4232043&clid=2013&ea.campaigner.email=vwI1GTbCs8%2FxAZIuv90cr5mQCvNVYxKY&ea.campaigner.id=42l570BPCGmha0eWUOvjsw==) |

 **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

 **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

[***Investigator reports "alarming" malnourishment rates in N. Korea***](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/lTBhCCjbkDDiAGmYCieHdeCicNUyCl?format=multipart)

North Korea's failing economic and agricultural policies are leading to violations of its citizens' human rights and nearly 11 million people -- half the population -- are malnourished, says United Nations human rights investigator Tomas Ojea Quintana. "The country's economic resources are being diverted away from the essential needs of the people," Quintana warns.

***El Paso Bishop’s Pastoral Shines Light on Racism, White Supremacy***

On October 13, Bishop Mark Joseph Seitz, Bishop of El Paso, issued a pastoral letter on racism and white supremacy. Notes that “Sin unites people around fear and hate. We must name and oppose the racism that has reared its head at the center of our public life.” Titled, “Night Will Be No More,” this reflective, challenging and inspirational document shines a light in the darkness of our current social context. Read more: <https://www.hopeborder.org/nightwillbenomore-eng?fbclid=IwAR2xezvtLM__RMwmjp7-zVHWgKLh70rKmx2kAIFpKNIivyhb47-OJv5guRg>

***Syria***

A chain reaction of events over the past two weeks in Syria have effectively reordered the conflict’s balance of power, with Russia emerging as the key power broker in Syria. USIP’s [**Mona Yacoubian**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=387700b648bf47240471768394de6b3636f15460d81f62fcc72a370247a4812f9d8ab81e6d291b0d00909beeceb1d21b1feb2d5b3360012e) analyzes the deal between Moscow and Ankara and its implications for Syria and the broader region.

For more on the rapidly evolving situation in Syria, [**listen to Yacoubian on our weekly podcast, “On Peace.”**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=387700b648bf47245023eb8d1323b29acdee9bbe5d4741bcdda2fb96115c85c2f5be2419a0176c80f2b9eef1bf8189410941e3bdc5582760)

[Read the Q&A](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=387700b648bf4724c95401035eb869fc7921b0dbc48e5e8905be995bbc64c8bee5b056f5ff11e90f9ad3e29aab3403d83a3a687bf0e4a26a)

***Afghanistan***

Amid growing political uncertainty and an indefinite pause in the peace process, Afghan leaders need to find a way to forge a stable path forward. This Special Report examines the possibility of a loya jirga—a grand national assembly derived from a local tradition for resolving disputes.

[Read the report](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=e24a2ef582ea95775f9cd0d0ae5d7daefb5168d17f5843e8ec3d51d61786e7a59daa4cdc0ef0c33b97ee6f826c9487849b6ad8711ff166cf)

**Pax Christi USA in the News:**

* U.S. bishops urged to raise nuclear alarm, [National Catholic Register](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010DycrJyzAeAzGxfztethZGF_-MU2k4dEn-mwm4bErP_-XX4PKxggaL_Kll1Ci0RV4paF4yR_G0eioai-rbHXRTdraNDs8CsEkiXIcowakC95HH7FHOI1kzNdw6H9iL3hktxIjcadoLb9W4xHWcJGUx4Lp_Ld2zi2vE909na8ZCGPXbupHAVn_Sh9jb6hM9Ugf47jTr9OW-BE3M0wToVbnznyYh2BGMxzLp4V3IqIijssE2VIK8Of-omXc9XeJdfJ&c=rWovgXshgVF-RFLIgeFFG8i3zk44ZRzEctGR2d8aW3cNUusAOsSBIg==&ch=AHqrcolTa8hk_QcY4H-p2fbmlU28iRoqW6YBbgaxiU9YDyr4Y3BY4g==)
* Cardinal Tobin Joins Hundreds of Catholics in Nonviolent Action for Immigrant Children, [Ignatian Solidarity Network Blog](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010DycrJyzAeAzGxfztethZGF_-MU2k4dEn-mwm4bErP_-XX4PKxggaL_Kll1Ci0RVBRckPlv6UA-3OUmko4pHTIPxAYHLehw_4wI5YVKLrq0qJNQNSJ8awqvHQmRVODclyIp58Mq1cLeLHVdLXeYW1jQT7N9Lk9YiP5H5FtN95pEZKwumV9Jg5gZfq6Nw64QDhWqUICEr-C4CvEnR0QWicbZAcBR9xvPUC0T87gflLIvD7ahHGQrnrmJPaFIlmSpXBgBmRuWVVn6exhbhTb9-Jg_SWate6N866_wQmi19h-s4CEcEc2WrUA==&c=rWovgXshgVF-RFLIgeFFG8i3zk44ZRzEctGR2d8aW3cNUusAOsSBIg==&ch=AHqrcolTa8hk_QcY4H-p2fbmlU28iRoqW6YBbgaxiU9YDyr4Y3BY4g==)

***Thoughts to Ponder***

"Peacemakers . . . experience enormous joy
in living every day.
The sunrise is more beautiful.
The music more moving.
The blueberries more sweet.
Peacemakers enter a room and others relax
for their self-contentment and joy of living
is contagious."

—Blackwolf (Robert Jones)

 "I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free so other people would be also free. . . . I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear." —Rosa Parks