

# Just Now



Nottingham Diocese  
Justice and Peace Commission  
Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham  
NG1 5AW

LENT 2015

Contact Martyn Swaby— 0115 9539811

Email: [jnnottingham@nrcdt.org.uk](mailto:jnnottingham@nrcdt.org.uk)

Website: [www.nottinghamjp.org](http://www.nottinghamjp.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nottinghamjusticeandpeace>

Twitter: [@Nottm\\_jandp](https://twitter.com/Nottm_jandp)



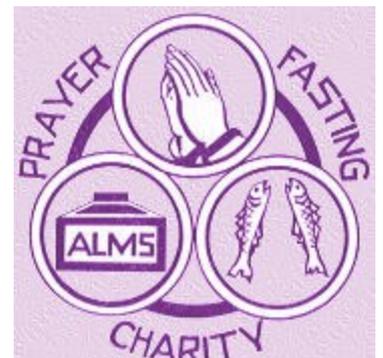
# LENT

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## **Appeal against the arms trade.**

The arms business has a devastating impact on human rights and security. The UK Plays an active role in the trade. In the first six months of 2014 alone, the UK granted arms export licences to 18 of the 28 states on its official blacklist; states about which the Foreign Office has significant human rights concerns (source: The Observer, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2014). This includes states with long histories of repression, intimidation and violence. The arms trade can be challenged because Governments have to listen to ordinary people. The trade can be stopped if enough people speak out. A campaign is being organised by John Dowling from Newcastle Upon Tyne to try to get people to write to Government asking that the UK withdraw from its role in the global arms trade. If you are interested in being part of this, please write to him at the following e-mail address: [jjthegeordie@outlook.com](mailto:jjthegeordie@outlook.com). John writes that “This should not place an onerous commitment on anyone. The idea is that two or three times a year, I will write a draft letter on issues around the arms trade and send it to those in the group. The people in the group will be asked to personalise it and then send it to the relevant Member of Parliament responsible for the arms trade. The letter will be concerned with the major issue of the day, usually one brought to public attention by organisations such as Campaign Against the Arms Trade.”

## **CAFOD updates!**

CAFOD Climate Update– click this link to find out about the postcard campaign:

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Lent-climate-postcards>

This year, Lent Fast Day is on February 27th. This link contains information and resources for the Fast Day, as well as resources for the whole of Lent:

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/CAFOD-in-your-area/Fast-Day>

**This Lent, the government will match every £1 that you donate to CAFOD, up to the value of £5m. This means that your donation has double the impact!**

## **FREE SIGNPOSTING TRAINING IN NOTTINGHAM**

Free signposting training is being offered to anyone who deals with people in need. This could be your local food bank, school family support workers, or any other organisation offering help to vulnerable people. There is scope for the training to run as one session, or a series of sessions, and also for it to be repeated if you can't make it first time around. Venues and times will be decided when the number of people interested has been finalised. The training is also open to clergy who feel they would like more information on directions to send parishioners who ask them for help. If you are potentially interested please contact the Justice and Peace office ASAP (contact details on front page), marking your email SIGNPOSTING TRAINING.

### **Lent Initiative- Fast and Pray.**

This Lent we would like to launch a project that will help unify the whole diocese in an act of worship in the name of Justice and Peace.

The aim is for every parish to devote one hour each week, to Pray and Fast for the intentions on the list. This will allow us to actively participate in supporting the wonderful work being done by many people and organisations across our diocese and across the world, such as: CAFOD, Pax Christi, The Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Church Action on Poverty, Emmanuel House and many others. These prayers could be followed by actions which Martyn will be discussing with anyone interested across the diocese, including in our schools. Booklets with the prayers and themes in are available for parishioners at the services and also to be taken to the sick and housebound so that they can join in and feel part of this offering.

If your parish or school would like to get involved in this initiative, please contact Martyn at [jpnottingham@nrcdt.org.uk](mailto:jpnottingham@nrcdt.org.uk) ASAP so that posters and packs can be sent to you.

Please support us in this project, for as Scripture says that 'the prayer of the one does much,' (James 5:16). So therefore the prayer of many together will be more powerful still.

## **Protect Migrant Workers and their Families**

At the AGM of Nottingham Justice and Peace, in November 2014, we were very fortunate to have Mr Paul Broadbent, the Chief Executive of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority as our main speaker. We were all shocked by the number of migrant workers who are being ill-treated and abused, and this is happening all over our Diocese and all over the country.

The Gangmasters Licensing Authority has a regulatory role fulfilled through Compliance and Enforcement functions. The authority administers and maintains a licensing regime; increasingly identifies instances of gross exploitation, human trafficking and forced labour; receives and disseminates intelligence in line with legislative requirements and national protocols; and works closely with law enforcement partners and stakeholders.

The number of potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism continues to increase – there were 1,746 referrals in 2013, an increase of 47% from 2012. For the first time (based on the fourth quarter of 2013) referrals for labour exploitation exceeded sexual exploitation – there were 12% more labour exploitation referrals to the NRM than sexual exploitation referrals.

As a result of discussions with Paul, the Nottingham Justice and Peace Commission will be sending information to all parishes in the Nottingham Diocese to explain how we can support Paul and his team in protecting all migrants workers, by knowing what to look out for, to know how we can help and to know who we can contact if we have any suspicions.

Please look out for this information which will be sent to all parishes in the two weeks following Lent. If you would like further information before then, please contact me at the Justice and Peace office (details on front page).

Thank you

Martyn Swaby (J&P Fieldworker)