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CPN PARTNERS

[Berkley Center: The Church and the World](#)

[Center for Human Rights & International Justice: Reconciliation by Jesuit Refugee Service](#)

[Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies: U.S. Weapons Fuel Mexico Violence](#)

A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: NEWS

[Philippines: Confronting Crucial Issues on Agreement between GPH and MILF](#)

[South Sudan: "Let us work for peace"](#)

[Colombia: Meeting of Local Initiatives for Peace](#)

[Colombia: Sant'Egidio Appeal for "Peace Now"](#)

[Democratic Republic of Congo: Campaign for Peace](#)

[South Africa: Bishops on the Forthcoming Elections](#)

RESOURCES

[Report: Christian Monotheism and its Opposition to Violence](#)

[Report: CRS on Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Projects](#)

[Call for Applications to M.A. in Peace Studies and International Relations](#)

[Job Opportunity: Lecturer in Peace Studies and International Relations](#)

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Berkley Center: The Church and the World

The newest program at Georgetown University's Berkley Center, "The Church and the World," led by Drew Christiansen, S.J. and Gerard Mannion, will examine the Catholic Church's teachings on justice and peace and the related global challenges of economic and social development, democracy and human rights, conflict resolution, and interreligious dialogue. [Learn more.](#)

Center for Human Rights & International Justice: Reconciliation by Jesuit Refugee Service

Recreating Right Relationships: Deepening the Mission of Reconciliation in the Work of JRS, produced by the Jesuit Refugee Service in collaboration with the Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice, came out of a workshop on reconciliation held in Cambodia in 2013. The manual describes the role of reconciliation in the work of JRS and explores how reconciliation can be fully incorporated into their projects. [The manual is available here](#) (PDF).

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies: U.S. Weapons Fuel Mexico Violence

The National Catholic Reporter published a series of articles on gun violence in Mexico, using reports from the [Trans-Border Institute](#) at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. Their report released last year, "[The Way of the Gun](#)" (PDF), outlines the nature and amount of arms trafficking that occurs from the United States to Mexico. Read the [NCR article here](#).

A PEACEBUILDING CHURCH: NEWS

Philippines: Confronting Crucial Issues on Agreement between GPH and MILF

"There is no doubt that the comprehensive agreement on the Bangsamoro or CAB is nearing the finish line," says Fr. Jun Mercado, OMI, who has worked closely on peace negotiations in the Philippines. However, in a recent written piece, he lays out 10 important issues including the use and definition of the word "Bangsamoro" and problems which if "not handled properly, they can be the proverbial 'kink' in the whole peace agreement." [Read the document here](#) (PDF).

South Sudan: "Let us work for peace"

The South Sudanese Church reached out to those involved in the Addis Ababa peace talks this month saying, "This message is simple: we want comprehensive peace in our beloved land. We are tired of war!" They summarize some of their key points from previous statements and ask to accompany the parties involved in the talks and give advice where needed. "In our prophetic ministry, we want to see a just and peaceful South Sudan inspired and transformed by Godly values towards holistic and equitable development for all people." Read the [full statement](#) (PDF).

Colombia: Meeting of Local Initiatives for Peace

Directors of the Church's social pastoral offices met this month for the second National Meeting of Local Initiatives for Peace in Colombia. They gathered from around the country to reflect on their common experiences and the challenges they have faced in their efforts to build a stable and sustainable peace. [Learn more](#) (in Spanish).

Colombia: Sant'Egidio Appeal for "Peace Now"

The Community of Sant'Egidio is calling for "peace now" in Colombia. As negotiations between the Colombian government and the FARC continue in Havana, Sant'Egidio's appeal "aims to express solidarity and encouragement so that peace dialogue continues beyond the events of the political and presidential elections scheduled in March and May respectively, in the conviction that the necessity of finding a final agreement is now a common acquisition." [Read more here](#).

Democratic Republic of Congo: Campaign for Peace

Mgr. Nicolas Djomo, Bishop of Tshumbe, gathered with other religious leaders in the diocese on January 19 to launch a campaign called “Woladi lakaso,” meaning, “Call to peace in our region.” Citizens, civil society groups, and political figures were present. Bishop Djomo told the group that God calls us to be peacemakers, and God gave us the means of intelligence, wisdom, love, and knowledge to do so. [Click here](#) for a description of the event (in French, PDF).

South Africa: Bishops on the Forthcoming Elections

The South African Bishops' Conference released a [statement](#) reminding people to register to vote and to vote in the upcoming May 7 elections, saying, “Vote for political parties whose policies truly serve all our people especially the poor and vulnerable. We must reject any sign of greed, ethnicity, corruption and self-enrichment.” They asked Catholics to vote as “responsible citizens,” stating, “there can be no better way of celebrating the freedoms which we enjoy than by participating fully in our country’s elections and participating in the shaping of our country.”

RESOURCES

Report: Christian Monotheism and its Opposition to Violence

The International Theological Commission has published a document entitled “God the Trinity and the unity of humanity: Christian monotheism and its opposition to violence.” The commission’s study explored the argument that there is a link between monotheism and wars of religion. They clarify that, “The Christian faith, in fact, sees the incitement of violence in the name of God as the greatest corruption of religion.” The [document is available in Italian](#) and will be translated into other languages. [Click here](#) for an outline and full description in English.

Report: CRS on Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Projects

Catholic Relief Services has released a new study, “Understanding Community Perceptions of Resilience: Discussions With Communities From CRS Disaster Risk Reduction Projects.” The study is based on interviews in 12 communities in Asia and Latin America and “offers recommendations and lessons learned about what types of programs are most effective in promoting resilience.” [Read the full report](#) (PDF).

Call for Applications to M.A. in Peace Studies and International Relations

The [Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations](#) (HIPSIR) is now accepting applications for an [M.A. degree in Peace Studies and International Relations](#). HIPSIR is part of Hekima College, which is a constituent college of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) and is run by the Jesuit order. Applications are due by July 10, 2014.

Job Opportunity: Lecturer in Peace Studies and International Relations

The [Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations](#) (HIPSIR) in Nairobi is currently recruiting for the position of lecturer in peace studies and international relations on a full time basis. This position is open to the diverse areas of interdisciplinary expertise in social sciences. Applications are due by March 7, 2014. [Learn more](#) (PDF).

Please send information on Catholic peacebuilding to cpn@nd.edu. To unsubscribe to this listserv, respond to this email with "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject heading. If you have received this email as a forward, you may subscribe to the listserv by emailing cpn@nd.edu.

The Catholic Peacebuilding Network (CPN) is a voluntary network of practitioners, academics, clergy and laity from around the world which seeks to enhance the study and practice of Catholic peacebuilding, especially at the local level. The CPN aims to deepen bonds of solidarity among Catholic peacebuilders, share and analyze "best practices," expand the peacebuilding capacity of the Church in areas of conflict, and encourage the further development of a theology of a just peace. While it is a Catholic network, the CPN believes that authentic and effective Catholic peacebuilding involves dialogue and collaboration with those of other religious traditions and all those committed to building a more just and peaceful world.

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