



# Shalom News North America

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



September 2018



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## Integrity of Creation

### Season of Creation (9/1 – 10/4)

The Season of Creation is a special time for reflection and action for creation that begins on September 1 with the World Day of Prayer for Creation and extends through October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year's theme, *Walking Together*, calls us to strive to more deeply understand the lessons Jesus taught us through creation, to more authentically honor our Creator. As pilgrims together, we welcome the opportunity to awaken anew to the wonder of Earth, our common home, and to protect the web of life it shelters. [Prayer service](#), calendars of [ideas](#) and [inspiration](#). [Global Climate Action Summit](#) information.

### The Hope within Us

Canada's two largest churches have jointly declared that climate change and ecological degradation are central, enduring concerns for Christians. The declaration is contained in *The Hope within Us*, a document released July 23 from the Roman Catholic-United Church of Canada Dialogue in Canada. The report explores the spiritual resources of our common tradition for addressing climate change and working for ecological justice. [Learn more](#), [read document](#).

### World Cleanup Day (9/15)

On September 15, volunteers worldwide will come together to rid our planet of trash – cleaning up litter and mismanaged waste from our beaches, rivers,



forests, and streets. A powerful 'green wave' of cleanups will start in New Zealand and end 36 hours later in Hawaii, with millions of people working towards one goal: a clean and healthy planet. [Learn more](#), [get involved](#).

### International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (9/16)

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. The phase out of ozone depleting substances have not only helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations, but have also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change. [Learn more](#).

### Women and Climate Change

The impacts of climate change are [disproportionately borne by women](#). In the wake of climate disasters, it is most often women and girls who take responsibility for growing the family's food and collecting water, fuel, and other resources. Climate displacement also exposes women and girls to violence and threats including risk of rape, sexual exploitation, abuse, and human trafficking. The Women and Climate Change Act promotes approaches to climate change mitigation that uplift, include, and empower women. [Learn more/urge your representative to co-sponsor this legislation](#).

## Human Dignity

### Labor Day

As many of us enjoy a reprieve from our daily toil on September 3, let us remember the [more than 150 million children](#) – one in ten, globally – who are engaged in some form of child labor. Work that is described by the [International Labour Organization](#) as depriving children of "their potential and their dignity" and is "harmful to their physical and mental development." [Click here](#) to learn what SSNDs are doing, in partnership with Beyond Borders, to empower families and prevent children in Haiti from being trafficked into domestic labor. [Prayer resource](#).



### Bill for Indigenous Rights in Canada

On May 30, MPs in the House of Commons voted to approve the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill (C-262) by a margin of 206-79. Bill C-262 sets out a legislative framework requiring the federal government to collaborate with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in developing a national action plan to fully implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. When the Senators return on September 17, KAIROS will join other organizations in urging them to swiftly review and enact the Bill. [Learn more](#). Also read [Federal holiday to remember residential schools tragedy](#).

## LCWR Reaffirmation of Racial Justice

### Statement/Commitment

At its annual assembly, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious reaffirmed its commitment to a 2016 resolution that recognized “racism as a systemic, structural cause underlying and contributing to the multiple situations of injustice identified in the LCWR Call.” In the 2018 reaffirmation statement, the LCWR pledges “to go deeper into the critical work of creating communion, examining the root causes of injustice and our own complicity, and purging ourselves, our communities and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects.” [Read more.](#)

## International Literacy Day

On September 8, International Literacy Day will be celebrated around the world with the theme *Literacy and skills development*. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist. At least 750 million youth and adults still cannot read and write and 250 million children are failing to acquire basic literacy skills. This year, ILD explores and highlights integrated approaches that simultaneously can support the development of literacy and skills, to ultimately improve people’s life and work and contribute to equitable and sustainable societies.

[Learn more.](#)



## Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

National [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is observed from September 15 to October 15, celebrating the contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. This year’s theme is “*Hispanics: One Endless Voice to Enhance Our Traditions.*” [Learn more.](#) Check out this Education for Justice Hispanic Heritage Month [Toolbox of resources](#). (SSND EFJ username/password)

## Global Compact for Migration

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration was approved by United Nations members in mid-July after more than a year of meetings. 192 countries agreed on the text of the compact, although the United States had already withdrawn from the process last December, arguing that such multinational agreements subverted the power of individual governments to control national borders. While such global compacts are not legally binding, they do provide a framework for nations to work together to manage the current wave of migration – more than 24 million refugees in the world today, with the vast majority hosted in countries least resourced to support them. [Learn more](#), read about the [Vatican’s role in the securing agreement](#).

## Peace and Non-Violence

### Death Penalty

In August, Pope Francis approved [a revision to the Catechism](#) that declared the death penalty to be “inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person” (2267). While often described as a “reform” or a “change” of Church teaching, this new language actually builds on the tradition of the Church, applying it to today’s circumstances – as all social teaching does and should do. [Learn more](#). All Catholics are encouraged to work for the global abolition of capital punishment. Canada abolished the death penalty in 1976, while the U.S. remains the only western nation – and [one of only four “industrialized nations](#) – to retain the death penalty. [Click here](#) for advocacy and action resources, and please join us in [prayer for an end to capital punishment](#).

## International Day of Peace (9/21)

Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution, the International Day of Peace provides a



globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace. This year’s theme is “The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70.” [Learn more](#). Resources for [prayer and other actions, events listing](#).

## Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

September 26 is the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament as a high priority. It provides an opportunity to educate the public and their leaders about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them. [Click here](#) to learn about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and actions you can take to support elimination of all nuclear weapons.



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