

Many women will die because of cuts in funding

Six months ago President Trump signed an executive order that will prevent millions of women around the world receiving health care. The order reinstated a policy from 1984 which stated that any NGO seeking American funding has to pledge that it will not carry out abortions anywhere in the world nor talk to women about terminations. This means that any organisation working in health care which gets American funding must sign an agreement or lose all funding from the world's top aid donor. In reality this means that more women will be forced to go to backstreet abortionists. Ironically it is likely that the number of abortions will increase as a result and, of course, more women will die. Marie Stopes International estimates that there will be an extra 660,000 abortions in Nigeria alone over the next 4 years and that 10,000 women will die as a result. In Mozambique even Aids funding is in danger in a country where 10% of adults are HIV positive. Projects relating to HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, sexual and reproductive health and sexual rights are all in jeopardy.

Dates for your Diary:

1. 20th August—Hymns and Pimms at the Cathedral Deanery Garden in aid of Kagera 4.30—6.30
2. 30th October Fairtrade Coffee Morning—Just Traid in St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds. 10.00—12.00

Prayers:

1. For the 1.4 million refugees in Jordan
2. For the continuing growth of Fairtrade in Suffolk and for the farmers and producers that benefit from the scheme.
3. For the women in developing countries who are no longer able to access contraception, safe abortions and advice on HIV thanks to cuts in funding from the USA.

If you would like one of us to speak about issues in developing countries then please contact Richard Stainer at richard.stainer14@gmail.com or Carol Mansell at carol.mansell@btinternet.com .



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich



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World Development Newsletter

Fairtrade and Sainsbury's

We are sure many of you are aware that Sainsbury's is removing the Fairtrade mark from some of its tea products and piloting a new scheme which they claim will give producers a better deal. The problem is that the new 'fairly traded' mark will be administered and monitored by Sainsbury's itself and the company will decide how the social premium will be spent rather than the producers themselves. Many feel that this means there will be a lack of transparency as there will not be any independent monitoring of the fairly traded scheme. The fact that Sainsbury's is also removing the producers' control over how the social premium is spent smacks of neo-colonialism 'we know better than you do what you need'. As a Fairtrade diocese, made up of many Fairtrade churches, we need to question Sainsbury's decision and encourage them to change their mind. Many of us involved in the 'Fairtrade Town' movement have already written to Mike Coupe the CEO of Sainsbury's and signed the petition on the Fairtrade Foundation website. The more of us that can do this the better. You can find out more at www.change.org/p/sainsbury-s-dont-ditch-fairtrade where you will also find the petition. You can also email Mike Coupe on mike.coupe@sainsburys.co.uk. If you shop at Sainsbury's it is also worth having a word with the store manager and pointing out that you are unhappy that Sainsbury's is diluting Fairtrade standards. There are rumours that this is the beginning of a trend for supermarkets to move away from Fairtrade. Let us stop the rot before it spreads!



Helping Iraqi refugees in Jordan

She was probably in her '70s and, sitting beside me on the old sofa, she was quietly weeping. We had been taking sacks of food, clothing, toys and other gifts to extended refugee families like hers, and as usual we asked them about their future. "If peace comes to Iraq, will you go back?" I had asked via the interpreter. The old woman's son was adamant. "No, we've seen too much war in Iraq for too long, we won't ever go back. We want to go to Australia" – and the sheer magnitude of these people's loss hit us afresh. They hadn't just left homes, jobs, savings, schools, friends, family; they were saying goodbye to all that was culturally familiar. The younger generations hoped for a better future away from conflict, but for the elderly it was different. In a society like theirs they had to follow their children and they had said goodbye to so much more. It isn't only children who are vulnerable.

We were part of a UK team visiting Jordan to help with the refugee relief effort in Amman. We went with Global Hope Network International (GHNI), an international aid agency, working amongst the vast number of refugees there. Over 90% of refugees, mainly from Iraq and Syria, were living in privately rented apartments, not in camps (TV images of refugee camps give a different impression). No-one knows how many there are in Jordan or elsewhere in the Middle-East, but numbers are very large. So it's hardly surprising that refugees are prohibited from having paid jobs, but as a result many are in dire need and GHNI's help is much appreciated.

Yet in spite of their great loss and needs, some refugees have found a lasting hope through the welcome of the churches in Amman. Most Iraqi refugees are at least nominally Christian, for it was they who were targeted by ISIS in 2014, but here in Jordan many were finding fresh reason for hope in a troubled world. One man who had left behind a prosperous



engineering business in Mosul told us how his life had been transformed from being work-dominated with little time for family or church. He said "it was all worth it for I've now found real hope in God through Jesus".

If you would like to know more about the work of Global Hope Network International or to support us financially, please visit www.ghni.org or contact Malcolm Gifford, malcolmgifford@btinternet.com, for more information.

The Diocesan Lent Appeal for Kagera

£50,000 and rising! What an incredible response from all our parishes to the Diocesan Lent Appeal! A big thank you to all who raised funds from all those of us involved in setting the appeal going. This will make a big difference to lives in our link diocese. Much of the money will go towards the ongoing work of the Church and Community Mobilisation Process which is helping farmers to improve their farming techniques in the light of climate change. About £15,000—£20,000 a year will be needed for that over the next three years. Other money will go to relief projects following on from the effects of drought as and when they are needed. At present we are consulting with Tearfund in the hope that they will oversee the work on the ground. Thomas Shavu the CCMP co-ordinator said "congratulations for such a big achievement of raising £50,000 within such a short period." He is keen to continue to receive Tearfund's support as they also provide him with training. In August they are taking him to Ethiopia to learn new techniques that have been successful there.



The fund raising goes on as there are many needs in this remote agricultural area. Dorothee Double and Judy Chisman are climbing Kilimanjaro this September to raise money. If you would like to sponsor them then go to their Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/KageraCCMP?utm_term=QRGdAD7vv