

Public Issues Action Stations January 2024

Welcome to this information and action sheet produced by the Wirral Methodist Circuit Public Issues Team. Please do read it, photocopy it, forward it, but most of all take the actions suggested on it. Even better take ideas from here to your Leadership Team or Church Council to prompt them to act too. If you want ask anything or get more involved, do get in touch. Noel Sharp
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Christians for a fairer, greener world

It's not easy to talk about money, but we can't afford not to. What we do with money, how wealth is shared, including through our tax system, and how money is used by investors, banks and companies, determines the kind of world we live in. Just Money Movement aims to be the go-to organisation for Christians and churches who want to connect faith, money and justice.

The Just Money Movement educates, campaigns and advocates, resourcing a movement of Christians and churches to act differently with our own money and speak out about money. Such a movement can lead to changes in the way businesses and banks behave, in the policies set by government, and in people's attitudes, all of which can help shape a fairer, greener world.

Action Station: Find out more here <https://justmoney.org.uk/>

Renew Your Commitment to be a Fairtrade Church

When you go shopping, what are you looking for in the product? The quality? The price? The style? The brand? Best quality at cheapest price?

Do you ever ask yourself as well ...

Where was it made? Who made it? And under what conditions?

Do you think about the wages factory workers are paid?

companies that damage the environment?

companies that pay little attention to working conditions and human rights?



One of the best ways to help people on the margins in the world is to pay them properly. The Fairtrade movement has been doing this for decades.

Leviticus 25:14 *And if you make a sale to your neighbour or buy from your neighbour, you shall not wrong one another.*

Action Station: Please ask your Church Council to commit or recommit to being a Fairtrade Church. This site shows you what to do.

www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved-in-your-community/places-worship/

The **Methodist Church** Justice-Seeking Church

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8 The Methodist Conference report, **A Justice-seeking Church**, reaffirms the Methodist Church’s long-standing commitment to be a justice-seeking Church. It sets a framework to help Methodists’ and churches’ approach to justice over the next five years. Find out all about it here <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/social-justice/a-justice-seeking-church/> The 5 Methodist Priorities for Justice are:

1. **Tackling inequality and poverty:** seeking life in all its fullness
2. **Enabling a flourishing environment:** right relationship between people, planet and God
3. **Seeking justice for refugees:** one people, one world
4. **Opposing discrimination:** all are made in the image of God
5. **Pursuing peace:** seeking justice and reconciliation

Action Station: Choose 1 of these 5 to be a focus for your church over the coming year.



Find out how to green your church by embarking on the Eco Church journey. Start off by gathering 2 or 3 interested people in your church, registering with Eco Church, doing the in-depth survey. This will take 60-90 minutes, and will

immediately give you lots of ideas of simple steps you can take.

Action Station: Do the online survey here <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/how-eco-church-works/>

Gaza – Israel

The situation in Israel – Palestine has appalled us all. We feel so helpless but we are not wholly powerless. Here are some actions you can take as an individual.

1 Donate to the Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-005943>

2 Learn about the situation

Here is a 5 minute explainer video, not new, but still helpful, made by Jewish Voices for Peace.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y58njT2oXfE>

3 Choose your media wisely

Actively seek out articles written by Palestinians and Israelis. You could subscribe to the joint Israeli-Palestinian online news outlet 972+ magazine, www.972mag.com/ or watch Al Jazeera English www.aljazeera.com/ which has journalists in both Palestine and Israel or try B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights. www.btselem.org/

4 Show public solidarity

Historically the escalation of violence in Palestine and Israel has resulted in an upsurge of antisemitic and Islamophobic attacks in the UK. Please call out hateful and oppressive speech when you encounter it and, where you can, extend care and support for your Muslim and Jewish neighbours.