

English bulletin May 1, 2020

. CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD .

In the month since we wrote in our bulletin that “the medical and economic crisis associated with the coronavirus can be seen as an opportunity as well as a calamity,” many analysts have taken this position and proposed how we can move forward. This includes proposals regarding all aspects of the culture of peace:

Disarmament and Security: Three former Royal Navy **Commanders** of the United Kingdom sent a letter to parliament saying that the 2 billion pounds a year spent on nuclear submarines cannot be justified and the money should be used for health care. The activist **David Swanson** in the United States proposes that the American Department of Defense should be converted from military operations and should work for universal financial and medical security. Reacting to the latest American threat of war, that against Venezuela, it is said that “**the US should fight COVID, not Venezuela**” and that “President Trump has no business deploying US military assets **threatening Venezuela**.”

Readers will recall that last month we published similar calls from the **International Peace Bureau** and the **Peace Pledge Union** to convert military budgets to money for health care, and the call by UN Secretary-General for **a global ceasefire**.

Solidarity: Around the world, people have responded to the crisis with actions of local solidarity to care for those who are vulnerable to the pandemic. A good example comes to us from the **youth of Gabon** who are providing water stations for the people living in poor areas. As expressed by the organization **Tamara**, in Portugal “the crisis represents a great opportunity, in addition to all its challenges: now, we have the opportunity to join forces worldwide to achieve a shared goal, develop social cohesion, set up decentralized structures, a solidarity economy – a genuine reboot”

Democratic participation: The Moroccan professor **Abdelmoughit Benmassoud Tredano** states that the economic crisis has only just begun. He repeats the call for solidarity: “at the individual, group and national level, individualism is outdated and solidarity is needed instead.” “This certainly implies rethinking the

“How **human rights** can help protect us from COVID-19” is the title of an article from **Amnesty International**, stressing the need to protect the human rights to health, access to information, employment, housing, water, sanitation and freedom from discrimination.

Free flow of information. According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**, the global crisis has pushed us further into a digital world. There has been a leap in teleworking and online conferencing, but only 20% of the population in the least developed countries use the internet, so the world needs a coordinated multilateral response to deal with the challenge of digitalization.

Of course, the eight aspects of the culture of peace are all inter-related and need to be addressed in coordination. This is seen in the following analyses.

Mazin Qumsiyeh sends us a global call from **Palestine Action for the Planet** which calls for democratization of the United Nations, reorganization of development priorities, drastic reduction in military spending, defense of democratic participation, global solidarity and restoration of ecological balance (“We humans must recognize ourselves as part of nature and live in harmony with it”).

William Astore, a retired lieutenant colonel (USAF) and professor of history, gives us **seven suggestions** “to change America” [and, we may add, “to change the world”]. The first is to reduce military spending and the next two are to reduce the 800 US military bases around the world and to abandon the plan for waging two major foreign wars at the same time. He calls for a Works Progress Administration to rebuild America’s infrastructure and reinvigorate our culture (like that of President Roosevelt during the depression). He calls for “an end to fear-mongering and warmongering, and to recognize as true heroes not warriors and sports stars, but rather those who are on the frontlines against the coronavirus. And “finally, we must extend our love to encompass nature, our planet.”

Nobel Peace Laureate **Mairead Maguire** reminds us that “If this virus has done anything, it has reminded us

organization of the world on all levels . . .the organization of the world by regional groups must be adopted because no single state can stand alone, unless it is an entire continent.” According to the Council of Europe, in many countries, the lead is being taken by cities rather than the state. They provide the example of [Raseborg in Finland](#).

Women’s equality: [Nazra Feminist Studies](#) of Egypt proposes that we adopt the feminist values “such as joining forces in times of fear, loss and build, collective responsibility and action towards our survival, international cooperation and collectiveness in order to understand and identify ways to overcome this crisis.”

In the short term **sustainable development** has been set back by the pandemic, but according to the [World Economic Forum](#), “now is the time to start redirecting the \$5.2 trillion spent on fossil-fuel subsidies every year toward green infrastructure, reforestation, and investments in a more circular, shared, regenerative, low-carbon economy.”

Education for peace: In a [recent webinar](#) by the International Institute on Peace Education and Global Campaign for Peace Education, educators from the USA, Austria, Puerto Rico, South Africa, China, Nigeria, Philippines, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina and South Korea shared how they are responding to the pandemic and associated systemic violence and injustices.

that we are only human and very vulnerable; we need each other to survive and thrive. If anything, this virus hopefully will cement the opinion that we are All One, brothers and sisters; what affects one affects all. . . . Government policies of sanctions, militarism, nuclear weapons and war must be radically replaced by government policies that put their citizen’s health – both physical and mental – on top of the political agenda. . . . Capitalism does not work, the system is broken, and we are all challenged to build a system of real democracy that works for everyone.

Another Nobel Peace Laureate, [Mikhail Gorbachev](#), calls for a “radical rethinking of international politics . . . Is it not clear by now that wars and the arms race cannot solve today’s global problems? War is a defeat, a failure of politics! . . . We need to demilitarize world affairs, international politics and political thinking and reallocate funds from military purposes to the purposes serving human security. We need to rethink the very concept of security. Above all else, security should mean providing food, water, which is already in short supply, a clean environment and, as top priority, caring for people’s health.”

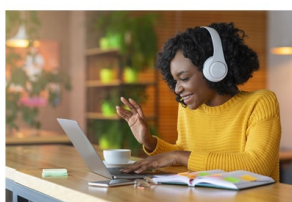
Finally, here at CPNN, we are providing additional tools and proposals in [our blog](#) to chart the way forward, to take advantage of the crisis to reform the world’s governance structure and make the transition from the culture of war to a culture of peace.

WOMEN’S EQUALITY



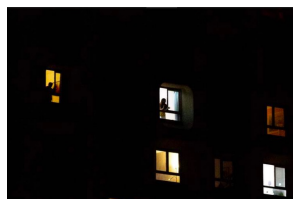
From [Nazra for Feminist Studies](#) (Egypt): A Letter of Solidarity; Together, We Stand in Solidarity..To Build

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



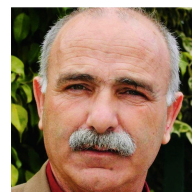
Coronavirus reveals need to bridge the digital divide

HUMAN RIGHTS



Amnesty International: How human rights can help protect us from COVID-19

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Covid-19: A new organization of the world is essential (Moroccan university professor)

EDUCATION FOR PEACE

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Peace Education and the Pandemic: Global Perspectives (video now available)



Could COVID-19 give rise to a greener global future?



PAYNCoP Gabon and Engineers Without Borders join forces to fight COVID 19



Threatening Military Intervention in Venezuela During a Pandemic?

© May 1, 2020

English bulletin April 1, 2020

. OVERCOMING THE CRISIS TOGETHER . .

Viewed from the perspective of the culture of peace, the medical and economic crisis associated with the coronavirus can be seen as an opportunity as well as a calamity.

As discussed in the blog [Has the crash arrived?](#), it may provide us with the opportunity to make the transition from the culture of war to a culture of peace? The scenario was foreseen in the novella [I have seen the promised land](#) written in 2008 which foresaw a global economic crash in the year 2020, opening the possibility for this radical transformation.

Recent articles in CPNN point out how we can overcome the crisis together by working in the various domains of the culture of peace.

DISARMAMENT. [The International Peace Bureau](#) has issued a statement demanding world leaders to put disarmament and peace back in the center of policy making. “Without it, we are handicapping our fight against future health pandemics, to eradicate poverty, hunger, to provide education and healthcare for all, as well as the realization of the SDG 2030 goals.”

Similarly the organization [Peace Pledge Union](#) says “In this crisis, everyone needs support from others, some especially so. This costs money. The government can still divert funds away from multi-million pound weapons and NATO training exercises. Let’s fund things that will really help to make us safe. You can’t nuke a virus.”

[UN General Antonio Guterres](#) has called for ceasefires in the wars that are raging around the world, saying “The fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war. . . . It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives.”

SOLIDARITY. In this time of suffering and fear, we can learn from the wisdom of indigenous peoples as described in the article coming from the [Mixe people of Mexico](#), a people who have known the ravages of epidemics ever since they were brought to the Americas from Europe. “The communal care that saved the life of [my grandmother Luisa] made it possible

EQUALITY OF WOMEN. [The women of Mexico](#) are giving us a good example of solidarity which can serve as a model for future mobilizations. Echoing the cry, ‘A day without us’, millions of Mexicans participated March 9 in a National Women’s strike sparked by the wave of outrage over femicides and expanded to a long list of demands of the feminist agenda. The strike was organized to follow by one day the annual mobilization for [International Women’s Day](#) which was celebrated around the world.

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION. As emphasized in the statement of the [International Peace Bureau](#), “We know from the history of our own organization and many of our member organizations that in such crises, democracy must be defended above all else, and it must be defended against increasingly authoritarian states.”. During the last great depression, in the 1930’s, democracy was replaced by dictatorships in Germany, Italy and Spain, leading to civil wars and the Second World War. How can this be avoided? [Robert J. Burrows](#), specialist in nonviolent action, provides us with a nonviolent strategy including a list of specific strategic goals “to defend humanity against a political/military coup conducted by the global elite.”

The [director of Pace e Bene](#), a peace organization familiar to CPNN readers because of their extensive mobilizations around the International Day of Peace, tells us that the COVID-19 is a messenger calling us resolutely to join a “planetary movement that is emerging.” The greatest social movement in human history is coming. Each of us is called to join it. It is a global movement, a movement of movements. It is learning from the history of movements that has been accelerating over the past century. It is rooted in the blood and tears of millions who have spent their lives throughout history clamoring for justice, working for peace, laboring for a world that works for everyone. This movement will not appear by magic. It requires hard work and “acting our way into thinking.” It will be deeply nonviolent—saying No to injustice and Yes to the humanity of all, including the humanity of our opponents.

Yes, it depends on our actions now to determine

that I can today share the dying words of my great-grandfather during a previous epidemic: the individual good is the collective good.

Cuba has shown us a good example of solidarity in the face of the global pandemic. “The same humanitarian and internationalist spirit that led Cuba to allow the [infected cruise ship] Braemar to dock has also led the tiny country to send doctors to assist Haiti after that nation’s devastating 2010 earthquake, fight Ebola in West Africa in 2014, and, most recently, help Italy’s overwhelmed health system amid the coronavirus pandemic.”

whether the crisis becomes an opportunity or a disaster. CPNN will continue to publish news of these actions as they develop. Readers are encouraged to please [send us reports](#).

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



IPB Statement: Call to the G20 to Invest in Healthcare Instead of Militarization

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Federico Mayor pays tribute to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

HUMAN RIGHTS



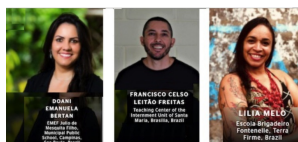
International Criminal Court Offers Hope to Afghanistan’s Victims

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Defending Humanity Against the Elite Coup

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



“Education Nobel”, Global Teachers’ Prize includes three Brazilian teachers.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The Most Successful Air Pollution Treaty You’ve Never Heard Of

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Love and Nonviolence in the Time of Coronavirus

WOMEN’S EQUALITY



International Women’s Day 2020

© April 1, 2020

English bulletin March 1, 2020

. CITIES TAKE THE LEAD . .

Nuclear disarmament. New York City is becoming the most recent city to plan for divestment of their funds from the nuclear weapons industry. **Public hearings** in the city on January 28 heard from a wide range of speakers in favor of this action. Speakers included the global campaign, Move the Nuclear Weapons Money, Mayors for Peace, **young people from Peace Boat** and a representative from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. Participants at the hearing expressed their love of the city and strong unwillingness to see New York, or any other place on the Earth, to be exposed to the threat of irreversible destruction that nuclear weapons poses.

Hundreds of cities have joined the **cities appeal of ICAN** calling for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. The appeal states: “Our city/town is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this Threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment. Therefore, we warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017, and we call on our national government to join it.”

The Appeal is also supported by Mayors for Peace with its network of 7675 cities in 163 countries around the world. The most recent city to support the appeal, on January 27, was **Oxford in the UK**.

Sustainable development. UN Habitat recently sponsored the **Tenth World Urban Forum** to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by world leaders in 2015. At the meeting, which took place in Abu Dhabi from 8-13 February, the 13,000 participants recognized that “an increasingly urbanized world is a ‘transformative force’ that can be harnessed and steered to boost sustainable development.” Among the organizations of cities taking part in the Forum was **ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)**, a network of cities in over 100 countries, with global experts in 22 offices.

At the World Urban Forum, the **Global Parliament of Mayors** presented a project called the Virtual Parliament, an online tool to connect with Mayors around the world, to debate and vote on political issues and to exchange experiences. For example, it has supported an action of the US congress of Mayors against gun violence.

Reducing international tensions. The organization of **International Cities of Peace** reports that the first City of Peace on the Korean peninsula was established February 5 near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Pocheon. A major celebration was held at City Hall where Mayor Park signed a Proclamation as a crowd of media, dignitaries, and over 100 citizens packed the hall. Pocheon has the potential to help make the dream of Reunification of South and North Korea come true in order to benefit citizens of both countries.

Urban violence. A new initiative, the **Strong Cities Network (SCN)**, is working with a **broad coalition** to reduce urban violence. According to the SCN, “Today, 83% of deadly violence occurs outside of conflict zones, with the majority of this violence concentrated in cities.” Their report highlights successful initiatives in Glasgow (Scotland), Oakland (California), and cities in Ecuador.

Tackling urban violence is also the priority of the **World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace**, which is a project of the United Cities and Local Governments. Previous forums were held in Madrid in 2017 and 2018. The next one will take place this coming October in Mexico City to construct “solutions that promote urban environments capable of eliminating expressions of violence.”

According to the **Strong Cities Network**, “Nation states have dominated the global political arena for centuries, but with more than half of the world’s population today residing in cities, it may be time to rethink who should be at the table when it comes to decisions on how we can reduce violence.” The same could be said with regard to nuclear disarmament, sustainable development and the reduction of international tensions.

HUMAN RIGHTS

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

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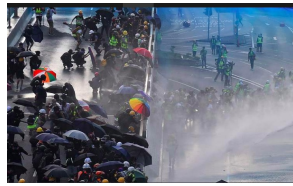
DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Strong Cities Network: Reducing violence is not impossible, and cities are proving this



Peace promotion in the Sahel: The best award-winning radio productions



Amnesty International: New generation of young activists lead fight against worsening repression in Asia



New York City hearings pave the way for nuclear weapons divestment

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For Bob Marley's 75th Birthday, Ziggy Marley Reflects On His Father's Legacy



The Wet'suwet'en Fight Against New Pipeline Spreads Across Canada with Blockades & Occupations



Switzerland: Lutheran World Federation marks World Interfaith Harmony Week



Devoted to discovery: seven women scientists who have shaped our world

© March 1, 2020

English bulletin February 1, 2020

MILITARY SWALLOWS UP THE AMERICAN BUDGET

Usually this bulletin puts the emphasis on positive actions that promote the culture of peace. But this month, it seems that the most important events were negative, and we need to look at them in detail.

In particular, the principal center of the American empire, the budget of the United States, is being almost completely swallowed up by military spending. Last month, the US congress, both Republicans and Democrats voted to adopt a **military budget of \$738 billion dollars**.

As shown by a recent analysis, the **military portion of the budget** is even higher than reported because much of it is hidden from the eyes of the public. According to the analysis, the US government has spent a staggering \$5.4 trillion on its post-9/11 war on terror, with an additional \$1 trillion due for veterans' care in the future. That's an average of \$23.7 billion monthly for the past 228 months.

Every indication says that this spending will continue.

Following the recent drone strike by the US military that killed Iran's most powerful general, the big US defense companies Lockheed Martin and Raytheon scored **huge military contracts** worth \$1.93 billion and \$758 million respectively.

As reported in the CPNN article, "Traditionally, defense stocks tend to outperform the market during periods of budget growth," "shares of defense companies outperform the broader market in the six months after a crisis event in the Middle East."

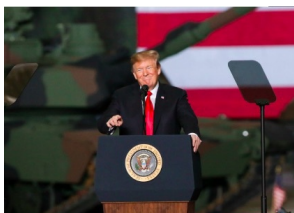
One can easily see that this is driven by a huge military-industrial-complex, which is perhaps better described as a "military-industrial-congressional complex."

There is no indication of a political solution in the United States. Senators and representatives in the US tend to receive big campaign contributions from the companies and individuals that profit from military contracts, and this is necessary because their election campaigns are very costly. The vote for the military budget was 377-48 with 188 Democrats joining with 189 Republicans.

And not a single **candidate for President** in this year's election campaign has proposed an alternative budget. It seems that the military budget is politically "untouchable."

Where does this lead? Rather than trying to analyze the historical significance of these events here, I refer the reader to my blog for this month: "**Why the bloated military budget threatens to bring down the American empire.**"

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



'Atrocious': 188 Democrats Join GOP to Hand Trump \$738 Billion Military Budget That Includes 'Space Force'

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



A Brutal Violation of Press Freedom': Glenn Greenwald Targeted With Investigation by Brazilian Government After Reporting on Corruption

HUMAN RIGHTS



Tens of thousands march in southern India to protest citizenship law

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



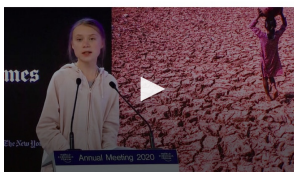
Peru: Electoral peace promoted in 4 native languages

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Lebanon: Interview with Ogarit Younan (prize for conflict prevention and peace)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Greta Thunberg Addresses Global Elite at Davos: Our House Is Still on Fire

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Burkina Faso: Struggle against radicalization: Imams and preachers strengthen their knowledge

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



UNWomen: In lead up to Generation Equality Forum, Action Coalition themes announced

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English bulletin January 1, 2020

. THE STRUGGLE AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING .

The world went to Madrid last month in the hope that the countries of the world would finally take serious action to stop global warming.

An example came to us from [Lok Raj Joshi in Nepal](#).

He writes that “a government team from Nepal led by the Minister for Forests and Environment, Shakti Bahadur Basnet, is taking part in COP-25. . . . Nepal is going to propose formulating a plan for coping with the adverse conditions resulting from global warming. Nepal is also lobbying for the Green Climate Fund. Highly affected countries like Nepal are entitled to receive it as compensation from the responsible countries that are releasing large quantity of carbon into the atmosphere.”

Lok explains that “climate change is an urgent matter for Nepalese people. First, its northern region is comprised of the snow-covered Himalaya mountains The region of the Terai which supplies food to the rest of the country depends on water from the north. This relationship makes the adverse effects of global warming even more complex, more intense and more widespread creating a vicious cycle of disasters in Nepal. Second, agriculture and tourism based on natural beauties including the Himalayas, rivers, glaciers, lakes, jungles and wild animals are the major sources of income for Nepal. Hydroelectricity is the most potential area that is expected to contribute to realization of the Nepalese dream of prosperity. Unfortunately, these all have been the first targets of global warming.”

Environmental activists came to Madrid from around the world to urge action, especially young people (See CPNN, [A Global Youth Movement ?](#)) The 500,000 people who marched in Madrid were addressed by [Greta Thunberg](#) who told them “We have been striking for over a year, and basically nothing has happened The climate crisis is still being ignored by those in power, and we cannot go on like this.”

Many of those coming to Madrid were [representatives of indigenous peoples](#) who are especially threatened by climate change. Tom Goldtooth, executive director

But those who came to Madrid, and the rest of the world, were to be disappointed by the results of the COP25 conference, as they were after [previous COP conferences](#). In 2009, the rich countries pledged to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020 for the United Nations Green Climate Fund. But only \$3.5 billion has been committed out of [\\$10.3 billion pledged](#). Now not only is Trump attempting to withdraw the United States from the Paris agreement, but last year, he straight-up canceled \$2 billion in promised climate aid to poor countries.

At the end of this year’s conference, [civil society groups](#) including the Center for Biological Diversity, Oil Change International, and Friends of the Earth said, the deal that had been hammered out by the parties included an agenda brought by big polluters “straight to the halls of the U.N.” with the help of countries “historically most responsible for the climate crisis.” The deal as it stands would “condemn those on the frontlines of the climate crisis, while hiding the crimes of polluters And it would lead to increased inequality with no increase in ambition, no real emissions reductions, and no pathway to 1.5 [degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.]”

“I’ve been attending these climate negotiations since they first started in 1991,” said [Alden Meyer](#), director of strategy for the Union of Concerned Scientists, told the BBC. “But never have I seen the almost total disconnect we’ve seen here at COP25 in Madrid between what the science requires and the people of the world demand, and what the climate negotiations are delivering in terms of meaningful action.”

The issue of military pollution does not even make it onto the agenda of the COP. According to the [study cited by the International Peace Bureau](#), “The US military is not only the most funded army in the world, it is also “one of the largest polluters in history, consuming more liquid fuels and emitting more climate-changing gases than most medium-sized countries”. The Department of Defence’s daily consumption alone is greater than the total national consumption of countries like Sweden, Switzerland or Chile.”

of the Indigenous Environmental Network, put it this way: “We’re here to stand in support of the people of Chile. We’re here to support the people of Colombia and Ecuador and Brazil who are fighting climate capitalism. We have to stand together with the people of the streets and of the forests and the land and the oceans, fighting neoliberalism, fighting imperialism. We’re fighting against the United States and its white supremacy, militarization. We have to look at these things and stand together in solidarity with the people.” CPNN readers might recall Tom Goldtooth from the [Peru Climate Summit of 2014](#).

However, the relation of militarism and pollution is increasingly on the agenda of the global movements for peace and the environment. As we wrote in the November bulletin: The Pope’s proposal “that the money spent for these works of death should be devoted to human development and the struggle for the climate corresponds to the slogan adopted by the 160 or so organizations of the Collective “[En marche pour la paix](#)” which called for September 21 (International Day of Peace) to march for peace, climate, social justice and nuclear disarmament.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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[In Final Hours, COP 25 Denounced as ‘Utter Failure’ as Deal Is Stripped of Ambition and US Refuses to Accept Liability for Climate Crisis](#)



[Groundswell of support for WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS



[PAYNCoP Gabon Pleads for Youth Involvement in the National Commission for Human Rights](#)

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



[International Cities of Peace in China](#)

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



[Xalapa, Mexico: International Film Festival for a Culture of Peace](#)

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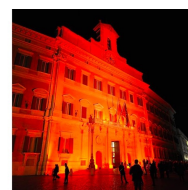
[Bolivia: Post-Coup Update](#)

TOLERANCE & SOLIDAIRTY



[UN commemorates International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#)

WOMEN’S EQUALITY



[The world went orange: Putting a spotlight on ending violence against women](#)

🕒 January 1, 2020