

NEWSLETTER FOR PROMOTING A VISION TO CONFRONT THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES CALLING FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
WITH JULY-AUGUST 2014 ARTICLES



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This newsletter is part of Inter Press Service (IPS) and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) project. It includes independent news and analyses as well as columns by experts, news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Newspaper articles reproduced in this newsletter are for personal use and aim at giving information to readers. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is forbidden.



Credit: Pew Forum

[Interfaith Harmony Can Generate Development](#)

ROME (IDN) - Worldwide, there is increasing recognition that faith and religion play a vital role in promoting peaceful and harmonious relationships within and between nations. [P]

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[Indigenous Communities Say Education, Funding Key to Fighting HIV/AIDS](#)

SYDNEY (IPS) - Marama Pala, hailing from Waikanae on the west coast of the North Island of New Zealand, was diagnosed with HIV at 22. The news of her diagnosis spread like wildfire in her tight-knit Maori community. That was in 1993 but even today, she says, there is a “shame and blame” attitude surrounding HIV, which disproportionately impacts the region’s indigenous population.

[P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

[If You Cut One, Plant Two](#)

KAMPALA (IPS) - Olga Mugisa, 11-years-old, takes to the microphone in front of her peers, the Ugandan flag proudly draped behind her and green plants framing the stage. She has an important message to share with her fellow students: “If you cut one, plant two.”

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[A Buddhist Nun Becomes A Role Model for Women Empowerment](#)

SINGAPORE (IDN) - By ordaining women into the Sangha (order of Buddha’s disciples), Gautama Buddha 2500 years ago has placed women on an equal footing with men in India. But today in most Asian Buddhist countries nuns are fighting an uphill battle to be recognized as credible teachers of the Dhamma (Buddha’s teachings). One Nepali woman may be unwittingly changing this perception by virtually singing the Dhamma. [P] READ IN [HINDI](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)



[Berlin Launches A Visionary Project for Interfaith Dialogue](#)

BERLIN (IDN) - A leap of faith is on the agenda in Berlin where a visionary project for interfaith dialogue, launched as the House of One, hopes to bring Christians, Jews and Muslims to worship under one roof from 2018. [P]

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[SDGs Make Room for Education for Global Citizenship](#)

KAMPALA (IPS) - Olga Mugisa, 11-years-old, takes to the microphone in front of her peers, the Ugandan flag proudly draped behind her and green plants framing the stage. She has an important message to share with her fellow students: "If you cut one, plant two." READ IN [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)



Jänschwalde open cast lignite mine, close to Atterwasch, Germany. Credit: Christian Huschga

[Churches at the Frontline of Climate Action](#)

LUSATIA, Germany (IPS) - Johannes Kapelle has been playing the organ in the Protestant church of Proschim since he was 14. The 78-year-old is actively involved in his community, produces his own solar power and has raised three children with his wife on their farm in Proschim, a small village of 360 inhabitants in Lusatia, Germany.



Protestant pastor Mathias Berndt.
Credit: Christian Huschga



Photo credit: University of Warwick

[OPINION: “An Invaluable Media Project”](#)

COVENTRY, England - The online resources provided by the Education for Global Citizenship media project will be invaluable for both teachers and students of citizenship education. The remits of the two collaborating organisations, the Inter Press Service and the lay Buddhist network, Soka Gakkai International, are well attuned to the needs of good citizenship education, concerned as they are with ‘giving a voice to the voiceless’ – linking North and South, lifting communities out of poverty and marginalisation, and promoting the rights of women, as well as ways of achieving sustainable development, and affirming the value of inter-faith dialogue, and much, much more.

[Freedom Of Religion Or Belief Crucial To EU’s External Policy](#)

ROME (IDN) - Fundamental freedoms and human rights are at the heart of the founding treaties of the European Union (EU) and these are protected under member states’ national legislation. The Charter on Fundamental Rights also sets out the civil, political, economic and social rights of European citizens and all persons resident in the EU.



EU flag | Credit: Wikimedia Commons



Courtesy of UN Women

OPINION: For Nigerian Girls, Education Is the Key That Opens Doors to Progress

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - I grew up in Nigeria, in a culture where bearing a son validates a woman and her family, and a male innately holds the superior position in society over a female. At 11 years of age, I escorted my mother to deliver her fifth baby girl, my youngest sister, and watched our mom die in the hands of an unfit doctor. [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION](#)

Politics Complicates Education in Lebanon’s Refugee Camps

BEIRUT (IPS) - The Shatila Palestinian camp has no library, nor does adjacent Sabra or Ain El-Hilweh in the south. And, after recent statements by Lebanon’s foreign minister, some fear that the thousands of Syrian refugee children within them will soon have even slimmer chances of learning to read and write. [P] [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION](#) [PDF](#)

Israeli Peace Activists Grapple with Dilemma

JERUSALEM (IPS) - “Strong together, we love Israel and trust the army” – while a tentative truce takes root, banners adorned with the national colours still dominate cities and highways across the country. Calling for unquestioned patriotism and solidarity, the embrace is a bear hug in the minds of those who question the merits and morality of Israel’s latest onslaught on Gaza. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION](#) [PDF](#) | [SPANISH](#)

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