



Everyone talks about the Australian 'fair go'. But what does this actually mean? The National Council of Churches in Australia (Christian World Service), the Justice & International Mission Unit of the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania and FairWear Victoria are organising a series of events throughout Anti-Poverty Week 2007 called "What's Fair in Anti-Poverty Week 2007". This will bring people together from a range of perspectives – from faith communities, educational institutions, trade unions and community organisations to tackle various issues relating to poverty and social justice. There are also a range of challenges set for all participants (see over).

All media enquiries or to arrange an interview with a relevant spokesperson, please contact: Ruth Snelleman-Smith, Uniting Church in Australia, 0418 330 483

Details of our program:

- **What's Fair morning tea – a Christian Perspective**

Monday 15th of October – 10-12am

Kilbride Centre, 52 Beaconsfield Parade on the corner of Foote St., Albert Park.

Join us as we begin the What's Fair in Anti-Poverty Week campaign. This will be an opportunity for all Christians and people of good will to learn about the issues involving Fairtrade and how we can respond in ways of fairness and justice through what we purchase. Try out Fair Trade tea, coffee, herbal tea and chocolate and discover what you and your church, or community group, can do to support this growing and important movement. This forum features material by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance as part of the Trade Week of Action and provides a good lead up to "What's fair in the ragtrade?" about buying ethical clothing and supporting justice for clothing workers here and overseas.

Contact RSVP: Kilbride Centre (03) 03 9690 1076 / contact@kilbridecentre.com.au

- **An Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving (with prayers for people in living in poverty)**

Wed. 17th October – 12.45-2.15pm

Gryphon Gallery (1888 Building), University of Melbourne, Carlton

Contact: Wes Campbell (Revd Dr), Chaplain, University of Melbourne, Uniting Church in Australia, (03) 8344 6034 / 0431 847 278 / wesleyc@unimelb.edu

- **What's fair in education? – getting there, staying there and beyond**

Wednesday, October 17th between 4.30-6.30pm

The forum will commence at 4.30 in RMIT Building 20, Level 1 Courtroom 2 (corner of Russell and La Trobe Street). Catering will be provided by RMIT University co-operative, Organarchy, and will include Fairtrade tea and coffee (and morsels).



MC – The wonderful Father Bob Maguire (Priest and JJJ and SBS media personality)

How can we make tertiary education more accessible and supportive? Panel speakers Dr Helen Kimberley, Executive Director of the Equity Research Centre, Professor Richard James, Director of the Centre for the Study of Higher Education, University of Melbourne and Mr Nick McEwen-Hall, Training Manager at the Brotherhood of St Laurence (not-for-profit Registered Training Organisation), will stimulate discussion.

The forum aims to influence public debate through building a community network for this area.

RSVP: Fax VISTA on (03) 9329 8999 or email admin_vista@vic.chariot.net.au by Wednesday 10 October (with name, contact details, marked "What's Fair in Education").

- **What's fair in the ragtrade?**

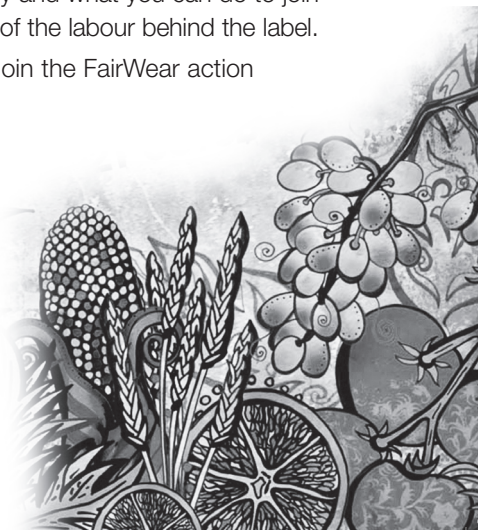
Thurs 18th October – 6:15 – 8:30pm

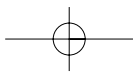
University of Melbourne, Melbourne Law School, University Square, 185 Pelham Street, Carlton 3053

Film screening of "China Blue" and discussion on sweatshop labour and workers rights in Australia and Asia: with FairWear Victoria campaign co-ordinator, Liz Thompson, and Michele O'Neil, Victorian Secretary of the Textile Clothing and Footwear Union.

With more than 50% of clothes sold in Australia being made in China, and a large proportion of Australian-made clothing produced using under-paid and highly exploited outworkers, this film screening and discussion will explore workers rights in the global garment industry and what you can do to join the fight against exploitation of the labour behind the label.

For more information, or to join the FairWear action group, send an email to fairwear@fairwear.org.au and check out the website: www.fairwear.org.au





“The Challenges” for What’s Fair in Anti-Poverty Week 2007

● Support community action for fair trade and no sweatshops

Challenge your council, university, church, school, workplace, sporting group, community group to become a Fair Trade Community
<http://www.fta.org.au/FTAANZ/fairtradecommunities> and to use No SweatShop label accredited clothing
<http://www.nosweatshoplabel.com/>

● Buy Fairtrade tea and coffee

Drink only Fairtrade Tea and Coffee for the Week, for more information go to Oxfam
<http://www.oxfam.org.au/campaigns/mtf/coffee/index.html> and People for Fair Trade
<http://www.fairtrade.asn.au/pfft/products.htm>

● Buy ethically made clothing

When purchasing clothing in the week, look for brands that have been accredited to the No Sweat Shop label
http://www.justact.org.au/?page_id=16
If you find a retailer that doesn't make their garments ethically, send a FairWear postcard, or write a letter, asking why – email fairwear@fairwear.org.au or phone (03) 9251 5270 for postcards or join the action group.

● Support access to tertiary education for all

Contact relevant State and Federal politicians asking for a fairer go in relation to access to tertiary education after attending “What’s fair in education?” (Guides and fact sheets to come – www.whatsfair.org.au).

● Reflect

Take some time during the week to reflect on ethical living in an age of consumerism.

● Make Australia fairer

Join the Australia Fair campaign
<http://www.australiafair.org.au/>

● Join with others for justice

Join the FairWear action group, send an email to fairwear@fairwear.org.au

Join the Justice & International Mission Unit network – to be informed about social justice events and actions, send an email to jim@victas.uca.org.au

Join the National Council of Churches in Australia Partners for Peace which offers opportunities for action on poverty and peacemaking, email: partners4peace@ncca.org.au

Get the National Council of Churches in Australia publication three times a year, email: christianworldservice@ncca.org.au

● Links

Anti-Poverty Week 2007:

<http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/index.html>

What’s Fair in Anti-Poverty Week 2007:

www.whatsfair.org.au

What’s Fair in Anti-Poverty Week 2007 also links to www.tradeweek.org by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

<http://www.e-alliance.ch/>

National Council of Churches in Australia

<http://www.ncca.org.au/>

Justice & International Mission Unit

<http://victas.uca.org.au/main.php?id=960>

JustAct <http://www.justact.org.au>

FairWear www.fairwear.org.au

Growing a Nation of Hope: your faith, your vote your voice, Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly’s Federal Election 2007 Resource

http://matrix.nsw.uca.org.au/assembly/resources/election_resources_2007/

Fair Trade Association <http://www.fta.org.au/>

Australia Fair

<http://www.australiafair.org.au/public/Default.aspx>

No SweatShop label <http://www.nosweatshoplabel.com/>

Partners for Peace

<http://www.ncca.org.au/cws/partners4peace>

People for Fair Trade <http://www.fairtrade.asn.au/>

www.whatsfair.org.au

