

Groundswell News Journal

A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice
We are a Global Family. News by and about Climate and Social Justice Activists.

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

Our Slogan: The way forward: cycle back to basics.

A Celebration of Youth. www.groundswellnews.org. Issue No. 66: September 6, 2020



Photo: Espen Gjelsten/Fuglefjellet, via Wikimedia Commons

REV Ocean's research vessel arrives in the Norwegian port of Ålesund.

Changing Oceans Reveal Clear Human Thumbprint

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: August 26, 2020

Climate heating must have already begun to result in changing oceans. The next step is to confirm and monitor this change.

LONDON, UK – Humankind has already begun to reshape the biggest available living space on the planet and to leave its mark in the changing oceans.

New research suggests that somewhere

between 20% and 55% of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans now have temperatures and salt levels that should be measurably different because of climate change driven by profligate human combustion of fossil fuels. And forecasts suggest that by mid-century the scale of human impact will only have increased – to between 40% and 60%. By 2080, human impact on the oceans will have begun to change between 55% and 80% of the blue planet.

Although the researchers – they report in the journal *Nature Climate Change* – have based their predictions on computer models, they are confident that the thumbprint of human-induced climate

change began to leave its mark on the seas of the Southern Hemisphere as long ago as the 1980s.

“We have been detecting ocean temperature change at the surface due to climate change for several decades now,” said Eric Guilyardi, of the University of Reading in the UK and the Laboratory of Oceanography and Climate in Paris, France. “But changes in vast areas of the ocean, particularly deeper parts, are much more challenging to detect.”

The problem of measurement is simple: the ocean is enormous. It covers 70% of the planet to an average depth of 3.7

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What is the Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice?

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Our Slogan
THE WAY FORWARD:
CYCLE BACK TO
BASICS.

Mission of Our Journal

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting journal which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources. We are a global family.

What is the Grassroots Coalition?

John and Iona Conner started this non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1990. The mission was and remains “dedicated to creating the critical mass of active participants needed to being ecological justice to this Earth by providing information and resources to individuals which encourage and assist them to make lifestyle changes beneficial to the environment and to effectively grapple with local and global environmental concerns.”

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to sign up for our newspaper. Please tell your family and friends about us.

What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

Our Values

This journal is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life – plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at groundswellnews@pa.net. If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Please email Iona at groundswellnews@pa.net for the full Guidelines. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

Fair Use Law: <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses – such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research – as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.

(2) Nature of the copyrighted work.

(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.

(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Fair Use Logo



Iona's Column:

News Flash: Can We Keep This Going?



Dearest Amazing Global Family,

I just got this email from Ssendendo in Uganda, who runs an orphanage for 45 children. I have featured his story many times.

Mother am so happy you have played a very big role in changing our lives. Thanks goes to you and Matt. Thanks goes to Jacquie.

As the August month started I explained to Jacquie that our major problem is land. As there was Mr. So-and-So who was selling his property about \$8,000. Jacquie replied she can't manage it – too much – and explained to the man who was selling land. He said he can reduce to the amount \$4,500. And land seller brought an idea that we can do a deposit and later we pay the balance in payments.

Am so excited and we are so blessed that today 1st September 2020, J. has donated to us some \$2,000 on land so we are remaining with balance of \$2,500 so am really happy the lord has blessed us and the kids. Thank you so much.

When the payment is down we shall start farming and poultry. And later we will start building a home for the kids and school home... God bless you!

With Love and hope for all the orphans in the world,

Iona

How to Drive Fossil Fuels Out of the U.S. Economy, Quickly

Submitted by Bill Boteler, Maryland USA

The U.S. has everything it needs to decarbonize by 2035.

By David Roberts, *excerpt*
VOX: August 6, 2020

In the run-up to World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) enlisted the entire U.S. economy in an effort to scale up production of war material. All of the country's resources were bent to the task. In 1939, the U.S. had 1,700 aircraft; in 1945, it had 300,000 military aircraft and 18,500 B-24 bombers.

By the time the war was won, the economy was up and humming with a massively expanded workforce (drawing in women and African Americans) and turbocharged productive capacity. Investments made during the war mobilization yielded a ro-

bust middle class and decades of sustained, broadly-shared prosperity.

A similar mobilization will be necessary for the U.S. to decarbonize its economy fast enough to avert the worst of climate change. To do its part in limiting global temperature rise to between 1.5° and 2° Celsius, the U.S. must reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. To achieve this, the full resources of the U.S. economy must be bent toward manufacturing the needed clean-energy technology and infrastructure.

FDR began with two questions. First, he asked not what was politically feasible but what was necessary to win the war. He also asked not how much funding was available in the federal budget but how much productive capacity was available in the economy – what was possible.

Saul Griffith is trying to answer those

same questions on climate change: what is necessary, given the trajectory of global warming, and what is possible, given the resources in the U.S. economy.

A physicist, engineer, researcher, inventor, serial entrepreneur, and MacArthur “genius” grant winner, Griffith's recent work spans two organizations. First, he is founder and chief scientist at Otherlab, an independent research and design lab that has mapped the energy economy.

And alongside Alex Laskey, co-founder of Opower, he recently started Rewiring America, which will develop and advocate for policies to rapidly decarbonize the U.S. through electrification. . . .

Source: <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/21349200/climate-change-fossil-fuels-rewiring-america-electrify>

Oceans *continued from page 1*

kms (2.3 miles). It defines the planet. It is almost certainly where life on Earth first emerged; it was life's only home for the first three billion years.

And it is in a state of constant change, constantly evaporating, and continually replenished with freshwater from rainfall, river flow, and melting polar ice. So temperature and salinity change naturally, and with the seasons, and with much longer cyclic swings driven by the atmosphere.

Scientists have been measuring surface conditions for many decades. The ocean at depth is a bit more of a challenge. The question the researchers put was a simple one: Could temperature and salinity levels in parts of the ocean have risen or fallen higher or lower than they would in normal peaks and troughs?

Beyond Natural Variability

It's not an easy question: oceanography is expensive, the ocean is huge, much of it has never been studied, and the ways in which the ocean layers mix is still a bit of a puzzle.

So the scientists started with two models, with and without the impact of human action. They then worked on an analysis of salt levels and temperatures to detect significant change, and then tried to predict the dates at which this change ought to declare itself. Their readings tell them that changes beyond natural variability in the northern hemisphere – all the seas from the Arctic Ocean to the equatorial waters – could have emerged between 2010 and 2030. That is, change is already happening.

Their simulations also predicted that whatever shifts occurred at depth in the

temperature and chemistry of the southern oceans, these could have been identified up to 40 years ago, had researchers had the technology, the funding, the people, and the ships and submersibles to do so.

“Our results highlight the importance of maintaining and augmenting an ocean observing system capable of detecting and monitoring persistent anthropogenic changes,” they report.

Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/changing-oceans-reveal-clear-human-thumbprint/>

**WHEN THE OCEAN CALLS TO YOU,
DON'T WALK TO THE RIVER.
LISTEN TO THE OCEAN,
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW.**

*Submitted by C.B., Pennsylvania USA with this note:
“A Rumi poem sung at Thich Nhat Hanh retreats.”*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4YnX4rv99Q>

Climate Emergency



Photo: HANDOUT/Lee White

Old-growth trees in Gabon's rainforest, December 2012.

Central African States Seek to Make Forests Work for People and Planet.

By Megan Rowling
Thomson Reuters Foundation: August 7, 2020

BARCELONA, Spain – Countries home to the Congo Basin rainforest, including Gabon and the Republic of Congo, are working on ways to harness their majestic trees to benefit their people while maintaining climate protection and other natural services the forests provide.

This week, the Republic of Congo – also known as Congo-Brazzaville – officially published a new law, approved by the president in July, to ensure more sustainable management of the country's vast forests.

Gabon, meanwhile, hopes to have a new forest law in place by next summer, marrying efforts to safeguard the climate and biodiversity with creating jobs in forestry, said Lee White, its minister for forests,

water, environment, and climate change.

Former conservationist White said he had been shocked, on taking up his ministerial role last year, at the “very low value we attribute to tropical timber.”

Foresters in Gabon do not make much money – a key reason why some are tempted to turn to illegal practices, he added. “Unless we can make timber into a precious resource, we’re not going to be able to maintain these Congo Basin forests,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from Libreville.

White’s ministry plans to expand the country’s special economic zones, in which the government holds a stake of about 40%, where sustainably-logged timber is processed into products ranging from furniture to parquet flooring and charcoal.

The aim is to add economic value and

jobs, boost profits, and reduce the amount of wood wasted.

White said Gabon’s ban on exporting raw logs, introduced a decade ago, had helped quadruple the size of its forest economy and double the number of employees in the sector – but far more could be done to make the most of the rich resource.

Gabon’s goal is to reach 300,000 forest-related jobs in the next decade, up from about 27,000 now.

If forestry’s contribution to national income can grow to 40%, up from about 4% today, it would offer hope for “a long-term viable economy,” given Gabon still depends heavily on oil, White noted. “Forest is a renewable resource and oil revenues are going to crash over the next 20 years as the world stops using oil,” he said. “The chal-

Forests *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency



Photo: HANDOUT/Gabon Ministry of Water & Forests

A worker processes timber at a special economic zone in Gabon, May 2020.

lenge is how do we make beautiful tropical timber into something that is a valuable commodity for the Gabonese people, such that it's better to keep the forests standing than turn them into oil palm plantations, soya bean, or sugar cane?"

Central African countries are moving towards a model that combines protected areas and sustainably-managed forestry, White said.

In Gabon, where just over a fifth of land is protected, companies with logging concessions are not permitted to fell trees with a diameter of more than 2 metres (6 ½ feet) and must leave at least 10% of a cut area standing so it can regenerate.

The aim is to maintain the natural services of the forest ecosystem, which include carbon absorption and storage, wildlife habitats, and rainfall production, White said.

A scientific study published in July found the density of carbon stored in Gabon's trees is among the world's highest, with 50% of the forest carbon locked up in just the largest 5% of its trees.

Globally, tropical forests remove 15% of carbon emissions produced by humans

from the atmosphere, meaning Africa – with the second largest block of rainforest – has a major role to play in slowing climate change, noted lead author John Poulsen, associate professor of tropical ecology at Duke University.

Payment for Protection

Simon Lewis, a British author and academic who specializes in the Congo Basin, said both Gabon and the Republic of Congo still have very high levels of forest cover and low rates of deforestation.

Forests cover 88% of Gabon's territory and 65% of Congo's, while the annual deforestation rate in both countries is below 0.1%, according to the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI).

Lewis said that – coupled with small populations – made them ideal locations to test approaches that preserve rainforests for the good of the planet. "There need to be financial mechanisms that keep forest systems intact in places like Republic of Congo," he added.

Through CAFI, which brings Central African forest countries together with donor governments, Gabon last year signed

a 10-year deal worth \$150 million that would let it earn cash by reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, as well as soaking up carbon dioxide in its natural forests.

Congo also signed a letter of intent that would give it \$65 million in return for committing to protect its peatlands and limiting annual conversion of forests to 20,000 hectares (49,421 acres).

Lewis said a range of financial tools would be needed to successfully protect forests, including compensating communities for sustainable use of their lands. The new Congo law is a step in that direction, he added.

The revised forest code bans the export of most logs and obliges companies with timber concessions to have an approved management plan for the land that includes conservation.

It also mandates the creation of community forests, and gives indigenous and local people a formal say in how forests are used.

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20200807061220-8wac2/>

Climate Emergency



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Albertus Vembrianto

Indigenous Papuan women harvest sago (tokok) in Muting, Merauke, Papua, Indonesia, July 26, 2019.

Papuan Tribes Fear Sacrifice of Sago Forests That Stave Off Hunger

By Febriana Firdaus

Thomson Reuters Foundation: August 20, 2020

BALI, Indonesia – Housewife Kristina ‘Katy’ Wambon rarely serves rice for breakfast. Her people, the Mandobo of Indonesia’s Papua province, still follow an ancient tradition of eating sago, harvested from local palm trees, once or twice a day. “Eating sago helps us survive hunger,” said Wambon, in her early 30s, from Muting village in Merauke district.

At six a.m., Wambon grabs a machete and cuts down a couple of bamboo stalks a short walk from her house. She uses the bamboo to wrap sago flour, which is layered with fish or pork, and then placed directly in the fireplace.

Sago is easier to get hold of in the village than rice, as every family in the tribe owns sago palm trees, Wambon said.

But in Papua and West Papua provinces, indigenous people told the Thomson

Reuters Foundation that deforestation to clear the way for commercial plantations to produce palm oil posed a threat to their diets and culture.

When a sago tree is mature, starch is extracted from the stem’s spongy centre and processed into an edible coarse flour.

“One harvest is enough for a family to survive for three months,” Wambon said.

Meanwhile, a kilo (2.2 pounds) of rice costs about 13,000 rupiah (\$0.88) and is unaffordable for many in the area.

Sago palms feature in the relief of the famous Borobudur Temple in Central Java, showing their historical importance as a staple food, according to Indonesian scientist Nadirman Haska.

But in the 1960s, the Suharto regime made a push to replace indigenous foods like sago by distributing rice across the archipelago as a way of imposing Javanese culture. Rice has continued to be supplied

under a state food security program.

A decade ago in Papua, the Indonesian government launched a project to turn 1.2 million hectares (nearly 3 million acres), a quarter of Merauke district, into agricultural land including rice fields.

Shrinking Forests

According to Bambang Hariyanto, an agro-industry researcher at the government’s Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia has more than 90% of the world’s sago forests, mostly in the provinces of Papua and West Papua.

Papua’s environmental resource management agency says sago forests cover nearly 3 million hectares (7.4 million acres) on the Indonesian half of the island, from its north to south coasts.

But data from international environmental group Greenpeace shows Papua province lost about 420,600 hectares (more

Palm Oil *continued on next page*

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Palm Oil *continued from previous page*



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Albertus Vembrianto

A palm oil plantation area that was previously forested in Merauke Regency, Papua, Indonesia, July 31, 2019.

than 1 million acres) of forest between 2001 and 2019.

Just over a quarter of the lost forest was in Merauke, with 83,400 hectares (206,000 acres) of that turned into oil palm plantations as of 2018, the green group said in a report.

A Greenpeace investigation that year pointed the finger at Singapore-based palm oil giant Wilmar International as the company behind deforestation in those areas.

Greenpeace said Wilmar, through Gama Plantation – a company that was run by Wilmar executives and their family members, and is now called KPN Plantation – operated two local firms that took over about 21,500 hectares (53,127 acres) of customary forest belonging to the Marind tribe.

In response to Greenpeace's report, Wilmar said it had stopped sourcing palm oil from the local suppliers associated with Gama but was still helping Gama's sustainability efforts.

Two Papuan firms began to clear parts of the customary forest for oil palm plantations in 2013 after gaining a permit from the regent of Merauke, endorsed by the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM), according to a report from local environmental NGO Yayasan Pusaka.

At a meeting with the companies in 2014, the Mahuze, a clan of the Marind tribe, said their forests were being cut down to make way for oil palm, and accused the companies of not being transparent about their plans.

"All this time, they have done it secretly," clan head Agustinus Dayo Mahuze told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

On top of the shrinking sago forest, the Bian River became polluted with fertilizer from the plantation and was no longer safe for drinking, locals said.

Wambon's husband, Agustinus Omben Mahuze, along with some of the villagers, refused to release his tribe's customary land to the companies and tried to block their access to it.

But others agreed to allow the land to be used to produce palm oil, arguing they could no longer sustain their traditional way of life.

Damage to Food

Franky Yafet Leonard Samperante, executive director of Yayasan Pusaka, said the communities were forced to sign agreements and approve licenses handed to the two companies.

Local tribes received compensation for

the use of the land, but at a price below its market value which did not make up for the economic and ecological damage caused by the plantations, he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "People not only lost their livelihoods (hunting, fishing, and gardening) but also their source of food," he said.

Sophie Chao, a research associate at the University of Sydney, who worked for a year in Muting, found vast areas of forest in Merauke had been destroyed, resulting in a scarcity of forest foods, including sago, cassowary, wild pigs, and fruit.

A year after first clearing the forests, both companies tried to expand their plantations in 2014, but the Marind forced them to drop the plan by holding a peaceful protest.

Samperante said the Mahuze clan was still fighting to obtain a letter of recognition from the government to guarantee that the companies would exclude tribal land from their activities.

Jamal, who goes by one name and is head of the state's one-stop integrated service (PTSP) for Papua province, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation the request would be reviewed.

Palm Oil *continued on next page*

Climate Emergency

Palm Oil *continued from previous page*



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Albertus Vembrianto

Stagnant water in the sago forest village is an alternative source of water for indigenous people during the dry season in Papua, Indonesia. In the past, they also took water from rivers, but they are now contaminated with chemicals from oil palm plantations, July 24, 2019.

The government never had a problem with the company permits, as they first obtained backing from the communities, he added. “We would never issue any permit if the communities didn’t give approval,” he said.

NGO Yayasan Pusaka, however, said villagers had accused the companies of copying their names without their consent and faking their signatures.

“We didn’t feel satisfied because all the signing was falsified,” said clan head Agustinus Dayo.

Palm Oil Jobs

Bia Ganefia, head of compliance and sustainable certification at KPN Plantation, refuted this claim, saying the company had obtained approval from customary leader Barnabas Mahuze.

KPN has now stopped the expansion of its plantations in the area and has been working with the community to map and

determine the conservation value of the land although the Covid-19 pandemic has delayed that effort, she added.

In general, Indonesia has made progress in slowing its rate of deforestation, but forest loss and land disputes linked to the palm oil industry continue, while the cheap, edible oil is one of Indonesia’s main export commodities.

Minister of Research and Technology Bambang Brodjonegoro, while head of the National Development Planning Agency, said oil palm plantations helped improve the welfare of local farmers. The industry provides jobs for more than 16 million people, a quarter of those in direct employment, he noted.

To control the expansion of plantations, Indonesia’s president signed a moratorium on new permits in 2018 and urged existing oil palm plantations to boost productivity.

Meanwhile, in Papua, a campaign to

protect sago forests has sprung up, backed by Papua Jungle Chef Community, a network that promotes environmental protection through local cuisine.

Its founder, Charles Toto, launched a petition in March 2019, which has been signed by about 298,300 people, urging the governors of West Papua and Papua to issue regulations to keep the sago forests intact.

Samperante, of NGO Yayasan Pusaka, said the Papua government had not addressed public complaints about the impacts of the loss of sago forests, traditional sites, and livelihoods. “Sago forests are a food source, which also have ecological benefits,” he said. “Corporations must obey the rules and respect the rights of local indigenous peoples, including the right to food.”

(\$1 = 14,720.0000 rupiah)

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20200820011132-yp4ds/>

Climate Emergency

In Arctic Heat, Greenland's Ice Loss Grows Faster Still

By Tim Radford
Climate News Network: August 24, 2020

Greenland's ice loss tipped a new record last year. This ominous milestone is just the latest in a run of alarming news.

LONDON, UK – Its icecap is now smaller than at any time since measurements began: Greenland's ice loss means it lost mass in 2019 at a record rate.

By the close of the year, thanks to high summer melt and low snowfall, the northern hemisphere's biggest reservoir of ice had shed 532 billion tons into the sea – raising global sea levels by around 1.5 millimeters (.06 inch) in a year.

The previous record loss for Greenland was in 2012. In that year, the island lost 464 billion tons, according to studies of satellite data published by European scientists in the journal *Communications Earth and Environment*.

Greenland's ice cap has been shrinking, if unsteadily, for many years. In 2017 and 2018, the losses continued, but only at around 100 billion tons a year.

"After a two-year breather, the mass loss increased steeply and exceeded all annual losses since 1948, and probably for more than 100 years," said Ingo Sasgen of the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven, Germany, who led the study.

"There are increasingly frequent, stable high-pressure areas over the ice sheet, which promote the influx of warm air from the middle latitudes. We saw a similar pattern in the previous record year, 2012."

He and colleagues made their calculations from data delivered by two Nasa satellites, GRACE and GRACE-FO, that measure changes in the surface gravity of the planet: a way of calculating the mass of water stored as ice, or in aquifers, and observing sea level change.

The finding is the latest in a succession of polar climate alarms. It follows closely on a warning from U.S. scientists that ice loss from Greenland may have reached the point of no return.

And it also follows a sober calculation of the alarming rate of planetary temperature rise in response to ever-higher use of fossil



Photo: Lt. Heather Moe, NOAA Corps

Summit Station, Greenland: the only high altitude, high latitude, inland, year-round, observing station in the Arctic.

fuels that trigger ever-higher measures of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

And that in turn followed a warning that the entire Arctic was now warming so swiftly that the Arctic sea ice might be all but gone in the summer of 2035.

And that was only days after another research team, looking at the big picture of climate change, warned that the scenario climate forecasters liked to use as an example of their "worst case" was now a simple description of what was already happening.

"It is devastating that 2019 was another record year of ice loss. In 2012, it had been about 150 years since the ice sheet had experienced similar melt extent, and then a further 600-plus years back to find another similar event," said Twila Moon, of the University of Colorado at Boulder, who was not involved in the research.

Damage Off the Scale

"We have now had record-breaking ice loss twice in less than 10 years, and the ice sheet has lost ice every year for the past 20. If everyone's alarm bells were not already ringing, they must be now."

The implications of continued loss of Greenland ice have been explored repeatedly: the run-off of fresh water from the ice cap to the sea is now so great that the North Atlantic is now "fresher" than at any time in the last 100 years.

And this change in water temperature and chemistry could – on the evidence of the distant past – possibly slow or switch off the circulation of the North Atlantic current, which for most of the history of human civilization has kept the United Kingdom and north-western Europe from five to 10°C warmer than similar latitudes elsewhere.

"This tipping point in the climate system is one of the potential climate disasters facing us," said Stuart Cunningham of the Scottish Association for Marine Science, commenting on the study.

"To transform the way we power, finance, and run the world in the way we know we should is proving entirely beyond us," said Chris Rapley, now a climate scientist at University College London, but once director of the British Antarctic Survey.

"Torpor, incompetence, and indifference at the top may kill people in a health crisis, and torpedo the careers of young students in an education crisis; but the damage they are generating in the pipeline from climate change is on another scale."

Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988.

Source: <https://climatenewsnetwork.net/in-arctic-heat-greenlands-ice-loss-grows-faster-still/>

Climate Emergency

Climate Briefs



Climate Activist Greta Thunberg Back to School

By Simon Johnson, *excerpt*
Reuters: August 25, 2020

STOCKHOLM, Sweden – Climate activist Greta Thunberg is back in school after a gap year in which she emerged as the voice of young people trying to save the planet from global warming and a thorn in the side of politicians she sees as dragging their heels over change.

Posting a picture of herself with a backpack and pushing a bicycle, the Swedish 17-year-old tweeted: “My gap year from school is over, and it feels so great to finally be back in school again!” . . .

Sources: <https://news.trust.org/item/20200825085907-ksrz4/>; photo from Greta’s Facebook page.

Deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon Retreats in July From 2019 Record

By Eduardo Simoes, Lisandra Paraguassu, and Anthony Boadle, *excerpt*
Reuters: August 7, 2020

Advocates warn that a reversion from

the worst July on record last year was no cause for celebration

SAO PAULO, Brazil – Deforestation in Brazil’s Amazon fell about 27% in July from a year earlier for the first time in 15 months, even as clearing increased 34.5% over that period, according to preliminary data from space research agency INPE (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais, National Institute for Space Research) on Friday.

Destruction reached 1,654 square kilometers (1,028 square miles), down from 2,255 square kilometers (1,401 square miles) in July 2019, the data showed.

Vice President Hamilton Mourao, who leads the government’s Amazon Council, hailed the data as a sign that military intervention in the region was curbing illegal logging. . . .

Source: <https://news.trust.org/item/20200807174337-bvx4i/>

‘Build Back Better’: U.S. Tree-Planting Push to Curb Warming, Boost Jobs

Cities, corporations pledge to plant, restore 855 million trees this decade.

By Carey L. Biron, *excerpt*
Thomson Reuters Foundation
August 27, 2020

WASHINGTON, DC – American cities and corporate giants on Thursday pledged to plant more than 800 million trees by 2030 as part of a global effort to tackle climate change, improve health and boost job creation in communities reeling from the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 20 cities, companies, and nonprofits announced the creation of the first regional chapter of the World Economic Forum’s 1t.org platform, unveiled in January to grow, restore, and conserve 1 trillion trees globally by the end of the decade.

“There was tremendous interest in the U.S. – among corporations, the federal government, cities, nonprofits, civil society organizations,” said Jad Daley, head of American Forests, a nonprofit that co-leads the chapter with the World Economic Forum.

Backers say trees offer a way to suck carbon out of the air, improve urban air quality and human health, bolster local economies, and more – views they say are becoming increasingly widespread among policymakers.

“Healthy and resilient forests are a critical nature-based solution to the unique challenges we face,” said Jim Hubbard, an under-secretary with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in a statement.

Initial pledges under the U.S. chapter, including from four cities and corporations such as Amazon, Mastercard, and Microsoft, will cover some 2.8 million acres, according to organizers.

The trillion trees initiative has sparked some concern since its launch, with researchers warning that wrong-headed tree planting can harm ecosystems and that global efforts could be better spent empowering local communities to defend their lands.

But the national chapter launches amid stronger interest in trees than seen in decades, said Daley – a bipartisan “convergence” he said is furthered this summer by extreme heat, destructive wildfires in California, and the coronavirus pandemic.

Forests in California and across the country have seen historic levels of tree mortality, he said, fuelling wildfires and highlighting the need for innovative human efforts in regeneration.

‘Living Infrastructure’

The U.S. initiative will seek to conserve as well as restore forests, including in previously agricultural areas, former mine land, and beyond, but also spearhead new technologies, carbon finance, job creation, and more.

According to initial details, food and beverage maker PepsiCo will restore 1 million acres in the Mississippi River basin, while payment processor Mastercard will help plant 100 million trees in the next five years.

The city of Boise in Idaho will plant one tree for every household this decade. . . .

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-environment-cities-trfn/build-back-better-u-s-tree-planting-push-to-curb-warming-boost-jobs-idUSKBN25N0CY>

Earth Regeneration



Permaculture Fights Hunger and Poverty

By Princito Kitumaini Kamundala
Democratic Republic of Congo

Permaculture Project

As part of the fight against hunger following the lack of food in Africa in general, in particular in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, since 2009 we have seen the start of permaculture projects to sensitize people to cultivate, distribute seeds, and educate people not to use the chemical feed they use in farming. We teach people to have good food and advise them how to eat a lot of the produce we grow.

After a long and painful experience following the lack of appropriate tools for

the work, the motivation of the agents and others link to the good functioning, we decided in 2017 to seek funds to help us play our role well.

To fight against poverty, we are creating jobs, especially for the marginalized: woman, girls, young people, etc.

It takes momentum to perpetuate the activities. To achieve our goals we think about these things:

- To do agro business,
- Agro food,
- Agro pastoral,
- Places for the distribution of seeds for the populations,
- Assets of working materials, and
- Distributr materials to cultivate fields.

We ask people for the goodwill to help us achieve our goals and help people who are suffering.

Thank you so much together for a better world and thank you for your help.

Please contact us.

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Telegram: Prince Kitumaini Kamundala

Earth Regeneration



Photos Courtesy ASE

(page 11, top left) freshly-harvested Cassava, (page 11, bottom left) baby trees ready to be planted, (page 11, right) Masoka Honorata Cito Joly working in the garden. **This page:** (top left) Prince evaluating a tree, (above top) Cranberries and below them are planters made from repurposed scrap tires.



GREAT DIFFICULTY WE HAVE

Our vehicle had an accident. It is our instrument which helps us in all our projects which helps us to collect waste, in agriculture, water supply, improved stoves ... but the truck is irreparable after the accident. The truck was donated by Swiss Miva and IHL Germany. Without the truck, we don't work, so we have a big problem. Help us please find help. Nobody hurt. Together for a better world.

Earth Regeneration



Photo: www.facebook.com/RuralWatchAfricaInitiative/

So many people in Africa working intensely to regenerate their communities and help their people thrive.

Rural Watch Africa Initiative

By Uche Isieke, Nigeria

By implementing the Integrated Ecosystem Restoration and Management program of the Rural Watch Africa Initiative (RUWAI), we are restoring and enhancing the productive and protective functions of the ecosystems in the vulnerable rural communities of Nigeria, and Africa at large.

It is at the core of our activities to improve the social and economic well-being of the rural communities and households using the local ecosystem resources to

meet their needs, while preserving its unique landscape and globally-significant biodiversity.

We believe that extreme weather events have necessitated a little further, extreme and holistic approach to curbing the perceived daily increasing impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the marginalized.

Going through the regular rhetorical lines will further exacerbate the lack of relevant capacities of the affected, to combat the apparent ecological breakdown,

especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

So, rolling up the sleeves and soiling the hands, can be some helpful ways to lead the underserved communities towards building resilient systems.

For more information about our work, send email to: info@ruralwatchafrica.org.

Uche Isieke
Executive Director
Rural Watch Africa Initiative (RUWAI),
Abuja, Nigeria.
Ucheisieke@ruralwatchafrica.org

THE WORLD IS CHANGED BY YOUR EXAMPLE, NOT YOUR OPINION.

- Paul Coelho -

<https://twitter.com/paulocoelho/status/209008454948495360>

Earth Regeneration



Photo: Upstream Alliance

Kayakers paddling in the Delaware River near Philadelphia in 2018.

New Era in Cleanup of Urban Rivers

Submitted by Jeannette Bartelt
Maryland USA

By Jon Hurdle
Yale Environment 360: August 20, 2020

Where the Delaware River flows past South Philadelphia, an unnamed island offers an expansive view of oil storage tanks and a commercial shipyard on the Pennsylvania side, while a procession of jets land at Philadelphia International Airport about two miles away.

But on a warm and sunny summer afternoon, the industrial landscape was of no concern to several families of boaters who had pulled up to the island to laze in the sunshine, wade on a small beach, and swim in a river that was once badly polluted and is still thought of that way by many in the region.

As Jet Skis sped past and other pleasure craft bobbed in the water, the boaters acknowledged the river's history as an "open sewer" for industrial effluent and human waste, but said they are now sufficiently comfortable with the water's improved condition to allow their families to swim and play in it.

"We come down on the weekends, anchor up, take a swim," said John Szumowski, 41, a contractor from Philadelphia, as

his daughter floated in a tube a few feet away from his boat. "I have my family out here all the time, and we never have any problems."

Like other urban rivers in cities such as Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Portland, Oregon, the Delaware is the focus of efforts by environmental groups and some government entities to build on a decades-long cleanup that is underpinned by the federal Clean Water Act of 1972 and to convince a skeptical public that it has a largely neglected recreational asset on its doorsteps.

"I see this river now at a tipping point," said Don Baugh, president of Upstream Alliance, a Maryland-based nonprofit that promotes the public use of natural assets, including the Delaware River. "We previously turned our backs on the river. Now, it can be a positive for our community. Instead of a river that took our waste away, it's a river that can revitalize us. We can play on it, we can wade in it, we can even swim in it."

The Delaware River's recent gains were recognized in April when American Rivers, a national advocacy group, named the Delaware its River of the Year because of improvements in water quality, increasing populations of fish and wildlife, and its status as the longest undammed river in

the eastern United States.

The cleanup efforts of nonprofit groups like Baugh's, as well as some government agencies, are focused on a 27-mile urban stretch of the Delaware that flows from south of Trenton, New Jersey; past Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey; to Chester, Pennsylvania. This section of the Delaware is the only part of the 330-mile-long river that is not designated by the Delaware River Basin Commission, an interstate water regulator, for "primary contact" – a federal standard that says the water is safe for users like swimmers and kayakers who come into substantial contact with it.

But the push to clean up the urban stretches of the Delaware is motivated by more than just a desire to make the river consistently usable for public recreation. Environmental groups want local governments, particularly the City of Philadelphia, to impose stricter pollution-control standards to improve water quality – changes that would require tighter controls on sewage overflows and industrial discharges.

Baugh's efforts include working with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit, and with Camden County to create three access points to the Cooper

Rivers *continued on next page*

Earth Regeneration

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Photo: Maggie McCann Johns

Conservationists examine fish and other aquatic life caught in a net in the Delaware River in Beverly, New Jersey.

River, which enters the Delaware River in New Jersey at Camden, just across from Philadelphia. The county's director of parks, Maggie McCann, said one of those points is Gateway Park, the former site of "seedy hotels and gas stations" that was designated as a park but has not been cleaned up to the extent that the public can gather on its banks and use the Cooper River. When the work is done, she hopes to attract users like UrbanPromise, a Camden-based nonprofit that provides social services for urban youth, who could swim and boat on the Cooper River.

One of the challenges, McCann said, is to overcome a longstanding public belief that the Cooper and Delaware rivers are always badly polluted and should be avoided. "We're at least a couple of generations removed from where people remember

being able to access the water," she said.

Still, the Delaware is a lot cleaner than it was in the mid-20th century, when decades of industrial pollution and sewage discharge left it so starved of oxygen that fish were unable to migrate farther upstream than central Philadelphia. Now, shad and other species swim through river towns like Lambertville, New Jersey, some 40 miles to the north, on their way to the upper reaches of the Delaware.

The Delaware River cleanup has been significantly advanced by Camden County, which has sharply reduced discharges from its combined sewer overflows (CSOs) – antiquated pipes designed to carry both stormwater and sewage but that often dump both into waterways during heavy rains. Under the 20-year leadership of recently retired executive director Andy

Kricun, the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) closed eight CSOs and installed netting across the outflows of another 30 to reduce the volume of solids getting into the river during storms.

Kricun, now a senior adviser at the University of Pennsylvania's Water Center, said he was driven by the knowledge that dumping raw sewage into the river is environmentally disastrous, and by an understanding that improvements could be made at a relatively low cost by building a sewage treatment plant with a low-interest loan from a state fund for public infrastructure. The CCMUA diverted the flow of sewage at 52 municipal plants to the new treatment plant, keeping 15 million gallons of sewage out of the river each day,

Rivers continued on next page

Earth Regeneration

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and reducing fecal coliform levels there by 95 percent, Kricun said. The CCMUA also built “green infrastructure” that controls stormwater by letting it soak into the ground rather than running into storm drains, and created more than 300 “green jobs” for local youth.

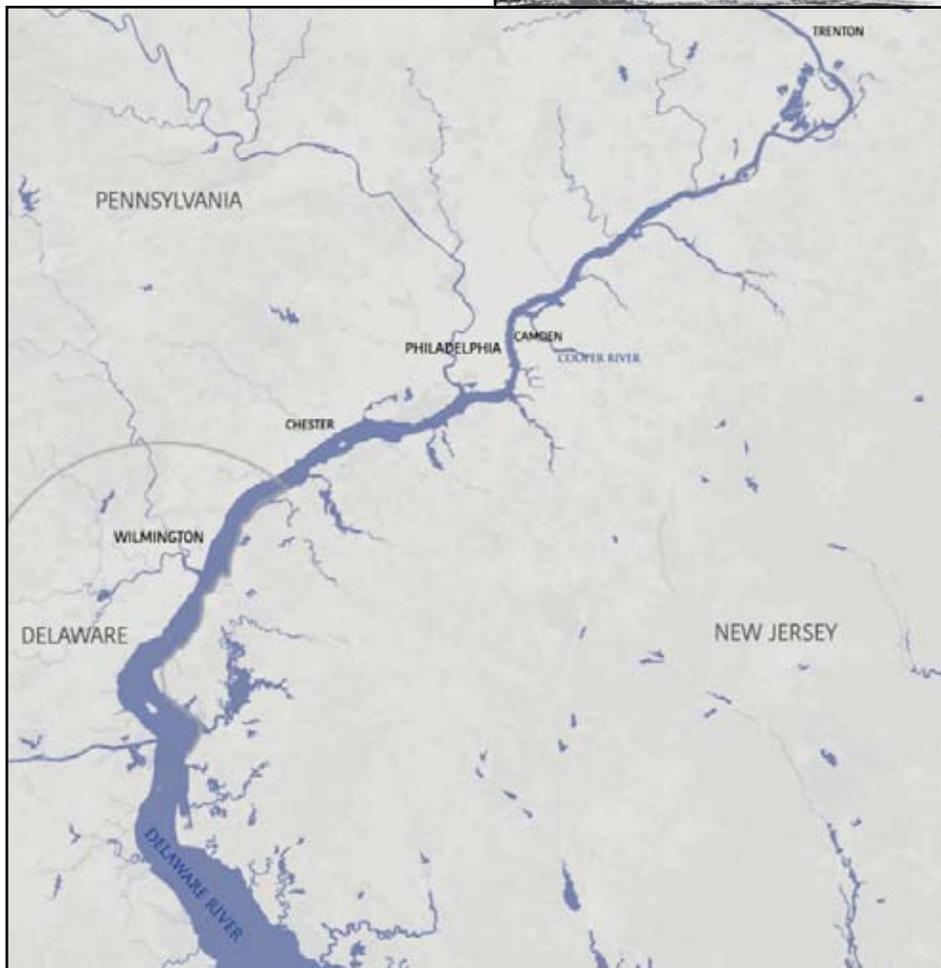
The CCMUA’S work has not completely eliminated the overflows, which are also present in Philadelphia and Chester, explaining why even advocates like Baugh avoid swimming in the river after heavy rains.

But the overall improvement in water quality is prompting advocates for more public use to urge that sections of the river bordering Philadelphia be upgraded to “primary contact” status. At present, the river in Philadelphia is designated for secondary contact, meaning it’s suitable for activities like boating and fishing, where people have limited contact with the water.

The efforts to achieve “primary contact” are not supported by the region’s biggest water supplier, the Philadelphia Water Department. Laura Copeland, a spokeswoman for the department, said it does not believe that primary contact recreation is appropriate for some parts of the Delaware River near Philadelphia because of water-quality concerns, as well as commercial shipping activity and strong currents.

Photo below: Temple Archives

Waste from a factory pours into the Delaware River in 1966, prior to passage of the Clean Water Act.



Map: e360.yale.edu

Cleanup efforts for the Delaware River are focused on a 27-mile stretch from Trenton, New Jersey to Chester, Pennsylvania.

Copeland noted that the utility is now in the ninth year of “Green City, Clean Waters,” a nationally recognized 25-year program to reduce combined sewer overflows by upgrading pipes and installing green infrastructure such as rain gardens to help stormwater soak naturally into the ground rather than flooding sewers.

With a green makeover, Philadelphia is tackling its stormwater problem.

Yet the city is concerned that attaining primary contact cleanliness in the Delaware would require additional investments that would lead to higher water rates in an aging system that already needs massive upgrades, said Nathan Boon, senior program officer for watershed protection at the William Penn Foundation, which supports clean water and other causes in the Philadelphia area. “Three hundred years of deferred infrastructure maintenance and the creation of hundreds of new chemical compounds and potential contaminants every year is no joke,” he said.

Regardless of what the Water Department thinks of water quality in the Delaware, many people are already using it for swimming, Jet-Skiing, and paddleboarding, says Maya K. van Rossum, head of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, an environmental nonprofit. “Primary contact is the existing use, as we all can witness on any nice day in the estuary,” she said. She urged the public to press state and federal governments to further cut pollution flowing into the Delaware and to upgrade the designation to primary contact.

Around the country, other cities are also seeing more public use of cleaner rivers. In Chicago, the Chicago River has been cleaned up by state and local agencies implementing discharge standards set by the Clean Water Act. Further improvements are sought by advocacy groups like Friends of the Chicago River, which are also trying to persuade people that the water is safe for primary-contact activities, said Margaret Frisbie, executive director of the nonprofit.

With an improvement in water quality, she said her group is trying to overcome a cultural aversion to swimming in a river that is widely believed to be just as dirty as it once was. To press their point, Frisbie and a group of elected officials stage an annual “Big Jump” into the river in the hope of persuading the public that it’s a usable recreational asset.

“Because it was designed as part of the sewer system, there’s a cultural barrier

Rivers *continued on next page*

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Rivers continued from previous page



Photo Courtesy The Human Access Project

The annual Big Float event has helped encourage recreational use of the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon.

in the leadership of the City of Chicago and the municipalities along it,” Frisbie said. “We’re trying to drive change so that people understand.”

In Washington, D.C., the Potomac River achieves primary contact status about half the time, also thanks to implementation of Clean Water Act standards, said Nancy Stoner, president of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, a nonprofit. The city banned swimming in the river starting in the 1980s because of severe pollution then, but the ban persists even though the river is a lot cleaner now, Stoner said. Still, like the Delaware and other urban rivers, the Potomac misses the mark after heavy rains cause combined sewer overflows to dump stormwater and sewage into the river.

The group is finding more people swimming, kayaking, paddle-boarding, wading, and tubing in the Potomac this summer because the coronavirus pandemic has closed community pools and beaches that would otherwise allow residents to cool off, she said.

“With Covid-19, people are not going places,” she said. “What are they doing? They are finding nature around them is wonderful. We’ve seen more people in the rivers now than ever before because of Covid-19.”

And in Portland, Oregon, the Human Access Project has been encouraging people to swim and boat in the Willamette River – which runs through the heart of the city – for the last 10 years as water quality has improved. That is largely thanks to the Big Pipe Project, an initiative that eliminated all but six of the city’s combined sewer overflows, according to Willie Levenson, leader of the nonprofit.

Over that time, some 25,000 people have used tubes, kayaks, or flotation devices to drift half a mile downriver through the center of Portland in The Big Float, an annual event that raises money and awareness, Levenson said. In July, his group installed eight ladders at a downtown dock, giving swimmers access to the water. “Every little thing you can do to chip away at the existing culture that says you can’t do it, makes the next thing easier,” he said.

Portland’s river cleanup is also supported by Willamette Riverkeeper, which holds annual trash cleanups that usually attract about 1,500 people, said Travis Williams, the group’s executive director. Although the near-elimination of combined sewer overflows has reduced much of the river’s sewage content, it remains tainted by toxics from local industry, he said.

Still, thousands of people have participated in kayaking, canoeing, and paddle-boarding events over the years, helping to promote the group’s goal of expanding public use of the river. “We believe getting all manner of human-powered craft on the river is important, as is access,” Williams said.

As sea levels rise, will drinking water supplies be at risk?

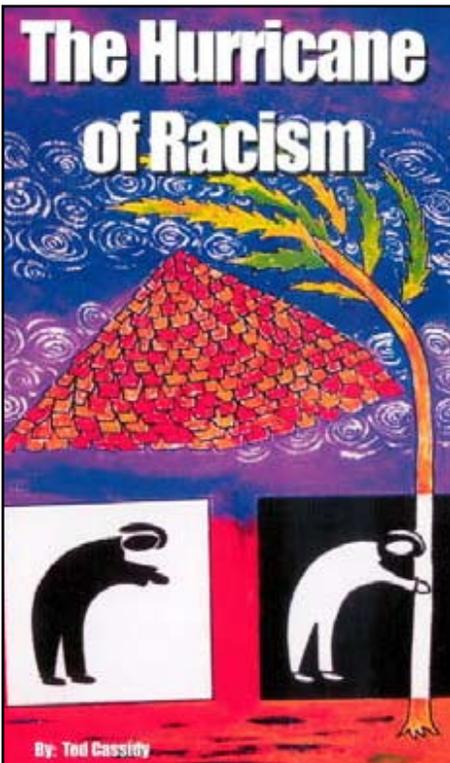
Back on the island in Delaware, Szumowski, while acknowledging that the river still has a bad reputation, said it is certainly clean enough these days to swim in it. “We don’t see much dirty stuff,” he said. “It’s really not bad here. You actually don’t feel like you’re in the Delaware River.”

Jon Hurdle is a freelance journalist and a regular contributor to The New York Times on a variety of topics. He also writes for news sites in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, focusing on environmental coverage. He previously worked at Reuters, for which he was the correspondent for the U.S. mid-Atlantic states, and at Bloomberg News in London. Reporting for this article was supported by a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

Source: <https://e360.yale.edu/features/on-the-delaware-a-promising-new-era-in-cleanup-of-an-urban-river>

Ending Racism

The Nature of Racism and How We Conquer It



By Fr. Ted Cassily, SM, Ohio USA
Written in 2006

Chapter 8 Leading a Group to Be Anti-Racist

Note: We published the Introduction to this book in our January 2020 issue; Chapter 1 in February 2020; Chapter 2 in March 2020, Chapter 3 in July 2020, Chapter 4 in July 13, 2020, Chapter 5 in July 22, 2020, Chapter 6 in August 4, 2020, and Chapter 7 in August 21, 2020.

I was a member of a council in which a leader told members that they were racist. This statement was out of context and turned her listeners off completely. Another time at an anti-racism workshop a black co-presenter, to draw attention to the evil of racism, asked, "Why do you white people hate us so?" He got attention and also the anger and the confusion that followed.

How does one go about helping a group to become anti-racist?

I first want to show what happens in a

dysfunctional group where leadership has been manipulated. In Chapter 5 we spoke about the emotional level of self-differentiation in society. I shared how Murray Bowen spoke of society in the 1960s as having developed a pattern like that of a dysfunctional family with a spoiled child. Society was giving in to emotional demands, somewhat hoping that the problem would go away. The society was in "an undifferentiated ego mass." Racism is such that we have this undifferentiated mass common in society. This is the insidious way that racism has affected American society and so many other countries in the world. It is such that any institution in America, whether it be a family, school, church, synagogue, mosque, or business is affected by being in this atmosphere. It is in the air we breathe. It is like alcoholism that can affect anyone despite his or her education or economic level in society. The power of a racial social system is similar.

A useless way to bring corrective action is to accuse a group of being racist. This is similar to getting angry with a group of people who are infected by a sickness. A means is needed to help the ego differentiation of a group rise to a level where people take responsibility for their behavior.

The purpose of the leader of a company, school, church, or any organization is to provide goals and structure and the means to achieve them. Parents and teachers provide this for their children and students. A country expects political leaders to provide organization to government in order that the peace and security of the people are secured.

In the presence of the emotional pulls of racism that are affecting America, leadership's role is to model and provide goals and means to break away from the racist manipulations. In our country after the Civil War the northern political leaders under President Grant tried to provide such leadership to prevent the South from becoming a segregated society, but the task proved impossible. It was not until the civil rights era and the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr., that we were able to move past much of the emotional control that racism had on us.

Since that time we can see the progress

that has been made in civil law, media, business, and social practice to accept people of all races. Deliberate steps of leadership – whether they are on the part of prophets like King, legislators, or business leaders – have brought this progress about.

The goal is to help members of society recognize how they can be active in not letting themselves be manipulated by the emotional pull of racism. When the leader sets the pattern by providing the standard and means for the members, the organization will follow.

I discovered when giving anti-racist workshops that I had to set up the standards for the workshop. If I gave in to a local authority that wanted to limit or determine the attendance or be an obstacle in what was presented and discussed, the workshop could not succeed. The attendees needed freedom to share their feelings without the emotional threat of a boss who was holding onto racist controls and manipulating constituents to follow his or her emotional patterns.

At one workshop we discussed how to integrate schools. I planned the workshop so that there were an equal number of blacks and whites present. We began by telling stories of our racial background. There is nothing like personal stories to have people understand each other and appreciate each other. A black teacher shared how it had been her experience that predominately white schools often allowed a percentage of blacks; when that number went above 50 percent, the white parents began to pull their children out of the schools. A white leader of a high school told of how he sought to hire more black teachers. The black teacher wanted a system of transportation to be provided for the school from black neighborhoods.

As we discussed these issues we all began to appreciate each other's point of view. We realized that the function of a school is to care for each student. When the attention is on this primary goal, the fears and threats of racism lose power. The function of a leader is to help a group achieve its primary goal. When a group is honestly sharing, the emotional pulls of racism begin to dissipate.

Racism continued on next page

Ending Racism

Racism *continued from previous page*

A leader of an institution can use the following method to guide constituents to become anti-racist. There are five steps to this method.

1. Provide a place for people of various races to come together and share personal stories of contact with people of other races.

2. Seek to find the heart of the matter. Together discover what is happening in the institution.

3. Look at the goals and honored traditions that the group considers essential.

4. Compare the heart of the matter with this tradition.

5. Plan for action that the group will take to work against racism.

Practically, this five-point method is accomplished through the following process:

1. When bringing people together, share stories of racial experience. Stories contain feelings that reveal what is honestly happening. Tell the stories by sharing: who, what, where, when, and how. Do not talk about the why. These descriptive narratives will help the group to know each other and what is significant without looking at motives. The group chooses an experience that it wants to discuss which typifies what is happening in the group.

2. Look for the heart of the matter. Name the central feeling the group is experiencing. Name an image that captures the central feeling. Describe the insight emerging. State the heart of the matter.

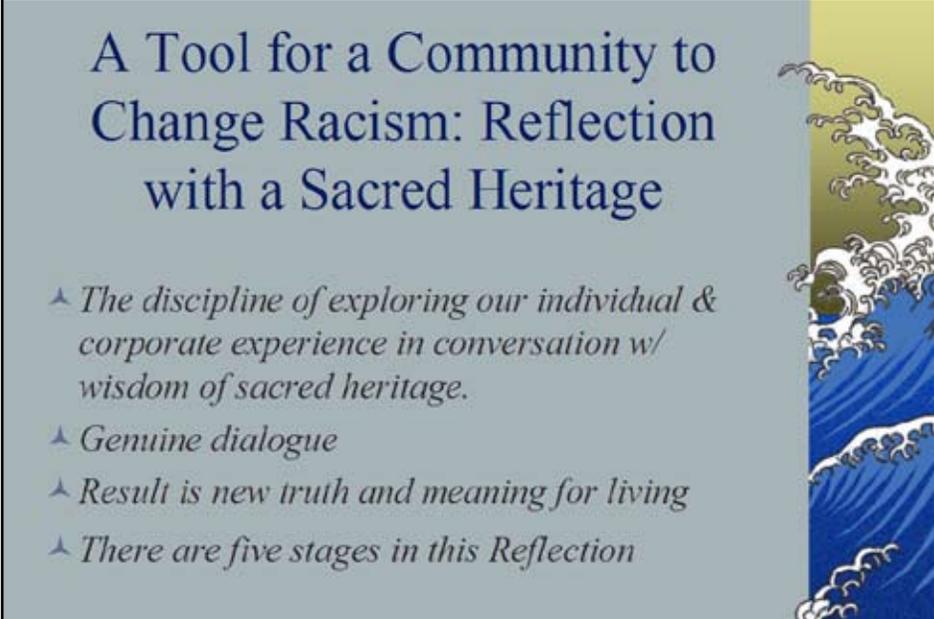
3. Now look at what is especially honored in the group that gives a direction to where the group wants to go. Share what this tradition is.

4. Compare the heart of the matter that the group has named with this tradition.

5. Determine what actions the group wants to continue the tradition.

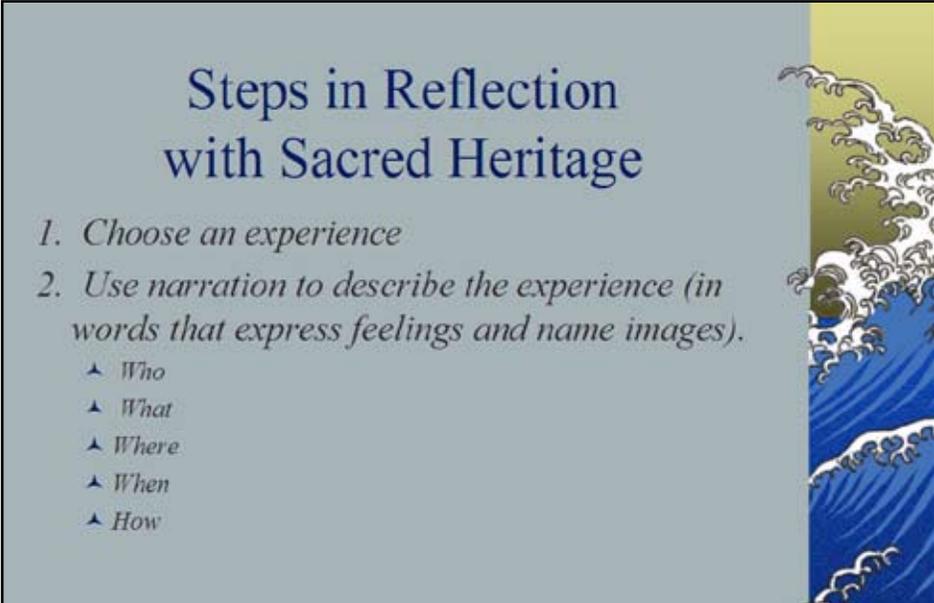
This is an outline of a method that any group can use to take a look at a racist dysfunction and discover how it can move to a solution.

Members in the religious society to which I belong have engaged in this process for five years. We began by gathering together for a weekend at which we first went through Step 1: we shared stories of our racial experiences. Then we went to Step 2 and looked at the heart of the matter – a subtle dysfunctional denial of racism. We realized in Step 3 that our honored tradition is the community life we live. For Step 4, we shared much about how we failed to match up. In Step 5, we adopted an action plan to hold workshops for our brothers and lay associates at which



A Tool for a Community to Change Racism: Reflection with a Sacred Heritage

- ▲ *The discipline of exploring our individual & corporate experience in conversation w/ wisdom of sacred heritage.*
- ▲ *Genuine dialogue*
- ▲ *Result is new truth and meaning for living*
- ▲ *There are five stages in this Reflection*



Steps in Reflection with Sacred Heritage

1. *Choose an experience*
2. *Use narration to describe the experience (in words that express feelings and name images).*
 - ▲ *Who*
 - ▲ *What*
 - ▲ *Where*
 - ▲ *When*
 - ▲ *How*

they could come together and do what we did. This process has guided us for four years through many workshops and many other actions. We are presently involved in helping our leadership to plan a corporate strategy to have the members pledge to be anti-racist.

Other groups have gone about this process in various ways. A diocese I am a part of had a workshop for the leadership. Then workshops were held for all the leaders of the diocese. A committee has been set up to continue the education of the members of the diocese. Presently a workshop is being planned for the priests.

It is the task of leadership to set the pace to overcome racism. The emotional system of racism will have its control unless the policy and energies of the group are used to help in the formation of the members to counteract the emotional control of racism.

To counteract the control it is not a matter of causing more anger but of providing means for the members to come together to share their feelings and to make plans to change based on what are their sacred values.

A pdf of *The Hurricane of Racism* is available for free at <https://www.nacms.org/epubs/special-articles/hurricane-racism>.

Ending Racism

New Jersey, USA Seeks to Legislate Against Health Racism

Planned Parenthood: August 20, 2020

As our nation confronts the Covid-19 pandemic, we must also address the public health crisis that racism presents. Public health by definition is built on the principle of saving lives. Covid-19 is disproportionately ravaging the health and economic stability of the Black community.

In order to begin to address the public health crisis that racism poses, the New Jersey Legislature introduced AR175. This resolution declares racism a public health crisis in NJ. For too long we as a country have underinvested and under-resourced Black and Latinx communities – leading to less access to health care and dramatic health care disparities. We see these results loud and clear in the ravages of Covid-19: Economic inequality, structural racism, and public health failures have translated to exponentially higher infection and death rates in the Black and Latinx communities.

Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ supports this resolution and we know the time is now to truly grapple with the violence racism inflicts on people throughout the state, the nation, and the world.

**ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 175
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE
INTRODUCED JULY 16, 2020**

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman ANGE-LA V. MCKNIGHT, District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Declares racism a public health crisis in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.

**AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
declaring racism a public health crisis
in the State of New Jersey.**

WHEREAS, The United States has historically and systemically disadvantaged racial, ethnic, and religious groups across the country, creating deep-seated problems that persist today, more than 150 years after slavery ended, and 50 years after the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, It is widely understood that structural racism manifests in differential access by race to opportunities, resources,

conditions, and power within the country's medical and public health systems; and

WHEREAS, Black people contend with disproportionately high death rates for chronic health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, Heart disease is the leading cause of death for black women and according to the American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, this is largely due to race-related stress, barriers to care, and racism from health care provider; and

WHEREAS, Black women die from pregnancy and childbirth at three to four times the rate of white women, and black children are more than twice as likely to have asthma as white children; and

WHEREAS, These systemic racial health disparities have myriad causes, such as lack of health insurance, failures of the medical system, and inadequate access to health care; and

WHEREAS, Black people are five times more likely than whites to be killed by police shootings while unarmed; and

WHEREAS, Excessive police force and verbal altercations between law enforcement officers and the public is a communal violence, particularly among black and brown communities where these incidents are more prevalent and pervasive, that significantly drives unnecessary and costly injury and death; and

WHEREAS, Systemic racism as a driver of health inequity is also particularly evident in findings from a 2018 study showing that law enforcement-involved deaths of unarmed black individuals were associated with adverse mental health among black American adults--a spillover effect on the population, regardless of whether the individual affected had a personal relationship with the victim or the incident was experienced vicariously; and

WHEREAS, The trauma of violence in a person's life course is associated with chronic stress, higher rates of comorbidities, and lower life expectancy, all of which bear extensive care and economic burden

Legislate *continued on next page*



Ending Racism

Legislate *continued from previous page*

on healthcare systems while sapping the strength of affected families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Sustained exposure to racism in all of its forms is a critical determinant of health because it increases stress hormones, such as cortisol, which impacts the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of those who experience racism each and every day; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that implicit biases and internalized racism has led to black and brown people having less access to health care, preventive care, and quality education, and suffering from higher incarceration rates and increased mortality rates; and

WHEREAS, In New Jersey, one of the wealthiest states in America, the median net worth for white families is \$352,000, the highest net wealth in America. The median net worth for New Jersey's black families is just \$6,100; and

WHEREAS, Black people in New Jersey are three times more likely to face the use of force by a police officer than white people; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the United States Department of Justice found that 75 percent of all police stops in the city of Newark were unconstitutional, and over 20 percent of police stops involved excessive use of force; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey maintains a public school system in which nearly half of the State's black, Latina, and Latino students attend schools that are at least 90 percent non-white; and

WHEREAS, In New Jersey, a black child is 21 times more likely than a white child to be sentenced to prison- the highest youth incarceration disparity in America,

even though black and white children commit most offenses at similar rates; and

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, and the American Public Health Association have all formally declared that, along with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), racism is a public health issue, and called upon the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other leading health organizations to study the public health effects of racism, physical and verbal violence between law enforcement officers and black and brown communities, and the health, economic, education, and legal disparities rooted in a history of unequal treatment in racially marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, The foregoing findings demonstrate the prevalence of systemic racism, racism's role as a driver of health inequity, and the detrimental effects that racism has on the citizens of the State of New Jersey and this county; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House declares racism as a public health crisis in the State of New Jersey.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Commissioner of Health and the Attorney General.

STATEMENT

This resolution declares racism a public health crisis in the State of New Jersey. It is widely understood that systemic racism is a driver of health inequity and is manifested in differential access by race

to opportunities, resources, conditions, and power within the medical and public health systems.

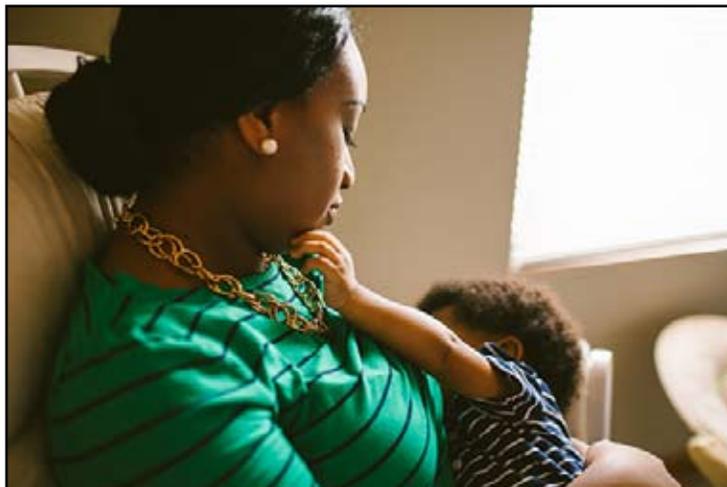
Black people contend with disproportionately high death rates for chronic health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, and cancer, and these racial health disparities have myriad causes such as lack of health insurance, failures of the medical system, and inadequate access to health care.

Physical or verbal violence between law enforcement officers and the public is a communal violence, particularly among black and brown communities where these incidents are more prevalent and pervasive, that significantly drives unnecessary and costly injury and death. The trauma of violence in a person's life course is also associated with chronic stress, higher rates of comorbidities and lower life expectancy, all of which bear extensive care and economic burden on healthcare systems while sapping the strength of affected families and communities.

Studies have shown that implicit biases and internalized racism has led to black and brown people having less access to health care, preventive care, and quality education, and suffering from higher incarceration and increased mortality rates throughout this country and State.

The foregoing findings demonstrate the prevalence of systemic racism, racism's role as a driver of health inequity, and the detrimental effects that racism has on the citizens of the State of New Jersey and this country.

Source: <https://legiscan.com/NJ/text/AR175/2020>



**Black Breastfeeding Week 2020
#BBW20**

Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey: August 25, 2020

This week starts Black Breastfeeding Week. The most recent Centers for Disease Control data shows that the breastfeeding initiation rates among Black infants is 74% lower compared to white infants, which is 87%. The disparities that result from racialized inequities deprive Black mothers, their children, families, and communities from achieving optimal health outcomes. When it comes to ending racial disparities in maternal and child health outcomes, Black women are leading and have been leading this movement. Planned Parenthood proudly advocates for Black mothers and maternal health, and the improved health outcomes for Black women and communities.

Ending Racism



Photo: Matthieu Lewis-Rolland

Portland, Oregon USA the night of August 18.

Portlanders Push Back Cops and Fascists

By Joshua Hanks
Workers World: August 24, 2020

For nearly three months, thousands of people in this city have joined nightly protests, marches, and demonstrations denouncing racist police brutality. While met with heavy police repression, the crowds have continued to gather undeterred, even in the face of federal officers sent by President Trump to “quell” protests in the city.

While Trump claimed an early victory, the reality on the ground showed that the federal police presence only inflamed the situation and drove even more residents to come out into the streets. After repeated use of clouds of tear gas and other violent weapons failed to stop the protests, federal officers withdrew from attempts to repress the crowds. Oregon state police came in to replace federal officers, yet those are also being pushed out of the city.

Now back in charge of “controlling”

protest is the Portland Police Bureau (PPB) – which drew widespread condemnation when it deployed tear gas in huge amounts in the early days of the demonstrations. Federal and state interventions having failed, the PPB is essentially back to square one.

The locations of the protests have also shifted over time. Originally concentrated downtown across from a federal courthouse and the headquarters of PPB – which also houses the county jail – protests have since fanned out across the city into residential neighborhoods. The PPB East Precinct and the police “union” headquarters in North Portland have become epicenters of protests, with large crowds facing off against cops who are now using tear gas in residential neighborhoods.

Residents have been rattled by the presence of police in their neighborhoods. The cops often do not wear identifying badges and can legally occupy private property,

such as yards surrounding people’s homes, in order to mount surprise attacks on protesters.

An August 14 article in *The Oregonian* describes the experience of one resident, Karen Roberts, who had up to 30 unidentified officers occupy her yard. “Roberts said when they were asked to identify themselves, instead they threatened her neighbor, saying, ‘Turn your flashlight off or we will come back and arrest you – we know where you live.’” (tinyurl.com/y45qu88v)

Police Collude with Fascists

As police repression continues and spreads beyond the downtown core, another familiar threat has emerged: alt-right, fascist street brawlers. A regular fixture in downtown Portland during the summer months over the past several years, these fascist goons – many of whom come from out of state – make it a point to

Portland *continued on next page*

Ending Racism

Black and Rural Students Left Behind as U.S. Schools Go Online

By Nellie Peyton

Thomson Reuters Foundation: August 26, 2020

With coronavirus sweeping through their rural district, the children of Francis Marion School in Perry County, Alabama, started school online this week. But for many, logging on for class was out of the question.

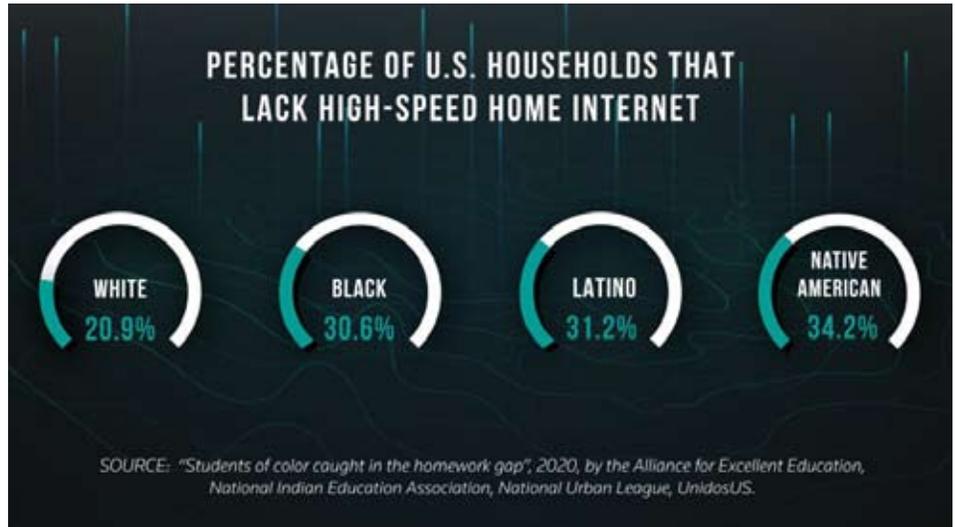
Only about half of the school's 600-odd students have reliable internet at home and one in five has no connection at all, said principal Cathy Trimble, who has been scrambling to supply pupils with tablets and mobile Wi-Fi hotspots.

"Our district cannot afford to get devices for our students. And then the biggest thing is connectivity. No broadband," said Trimble. "I don't mean because (they) can't purchase it. In such rural areas it doesn't even go out there," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Perry County is one of the poorest in the state, and Francis Marion School ranks near the bottom of Alabama schools on test scores. Ninety-nine percent of its students are Black.

As the pandemic forces schools across the country to switch to virtual learning, a technology gap that has existed for decades has suddenly become visible and of urgent concern.

Some 16 million children, or 30% of all U.S. public school students, lack either an



Graphic: "Students of color caught in the homework gap," 2020, by the Alliance for Excellent Education, National Indian Education Association, National Urban League UnidosUS.

internet connection or a device at home adequate for distance learning, according to a recent study by Boston Consulting Group.

One in three Black, Latino, and Native American students lacks a broadband connection, compared to one in five white students, according to an analysis by four educational advocacy groups in July.

While donors, states, and phone companies have stepped up with plans to connect more students for free or at discounted

rates during the pandemic, the programs are temporary and do not reach everyone, educators and analysts said.

"There's no big federal imperative or mandate to ensure that every school kid has access to technology," said Nicol Turner Lee, a senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think-tank. "I think what schools are doing in the interim... is a critical move. But it in no way addresses

Students continued on next page

Portland *continued from previous page*

hold violent rallies in what they view as a leftist-dominated city. On August 22, fascist groups held a "No to Marxism in America Rally" in the same area of downtown where the largest Black Lives Matter rallies have occurred.

The PPB has been shown to have a cozy relationship with fascists. Media reported last year on leaked text messages showing that Jeff Niiya, PPB's commanding officer for the rapid response team that patrols protests, had a warm relationship with Joey Gibson, leader of the Vancouver, Washington, far-right group Patriot Prayer that regularly organizes protests in Portland.

The Willamette Week revealed: "The texts also show that Niiya at times told Gibson where leftist protests were taking place, including unrelated protests as

well as anti-fascist marches with people in black bloc intent on protesting Patriot Prayer. At least once, Niiya told Gibson that Portland police were not monitoring a protest hosted by the Queer Liberation Front." (tinyurl.com/y462yvhv4)

The August 22 fascist rally, occurring during a tense summer when BLM protests have grabbed headlines around the world, showed yet again that PPB has a clear bias towards fascist protesters and their sympathizers.

PPB refused to declare a riot – though they often do so with BLM protesters – despite far-right protesters brandishing guns, spraying chemical irritants on anti-fascist counter-protesters and physically assaulting them. Witnesses reported that immediately after fascist protesters left, PPB

declared the scene an unlawful assembly and began making arrests of counter-protesters.

Over the past three months, protest in Portland has faced rapid changes. From the deployment of federal officers to the presence of fascist street brawlers, there is much concern in the city from those who oppose fascism and racist police brutality.

Yet crowds have continued to come out night after night, responding to new situations and adjusting their tactics accordingly. Whatever comes next in the city, it's a given that there will be people confronting injustice and repression in myriad ways.

The struggle started in this long summer has only just begun.

Source: <https://www.workers.org/2020/08/50814/>

Ending Racism

Students *continued from previous page*

the Herculean effort that is going to be needed to cover all of America,” she said.

Before the pandemic, most schools did not know how many of their students lacked home internet, said telecoms providers, school board members, and researchers.

Since coronavirus hit, schools have conducted surveys and distributed Wi-Fi hotspots and laptops – in many cases provided through their states using federal coronavirus relief funds.

But the devices are out of stock, some schools did not get enough while others said they were still struggling to figure out how many of their students needed one as families’ financial situations changed week to week.

On the Friday before classes were due to start, Trimble had fewer than 100 hotspots for an estimated 300 children who might need one, she said. Some parents had already returned them because they were not picking up a signal where they lived.

“For every one that I give out, someone else is saying, ‘I need some type of connectivity, how can you help me?’” Trimble said.

‘Broadband Desert’

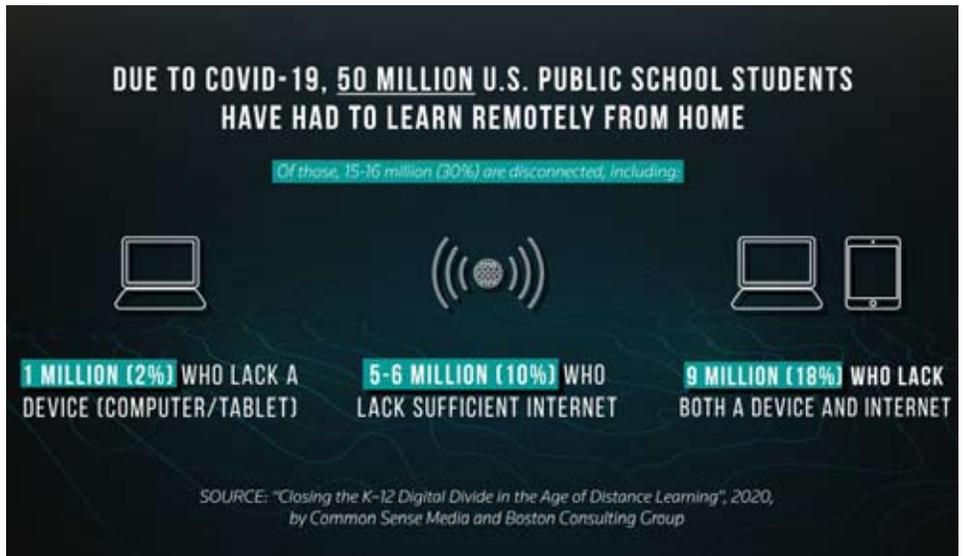
At least 18 million Americans, or 6% of the population, live in areas where fixed broadband service is not available, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Many more have access to the internet, but cannot afford to pay for it.

The United States has higher internet prices than Asia, Europe, and the rest of North America at an average of \$68 a month, a 2020 report by the New America think-tank showed.

In Marion County, South Carolina, both poverty and a lack of coverage keep more than half the population offline, said Miko Pickett, a former IT professional who runs a local foundation called Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

“We are a broadband desert,” said Pickett by phone from the town of Mullins, where she said it is common to see people parked outside the library to use its Wi-Fi connection.



Graphic: “Closing the K-12 Digital Divide in the Age of Distance Learning,” 2020, by Common Sense Media and Boston Consulting Group.

The majority of Marion County’s residents are Black, and a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, according to U.S. Census data.

It is one of 17 counties that are part of the “Corridor of Shame,” a rural stretch of South Carolina that earned the label for its decaying, under-funded schools, which featured in a 2005 documentary with the same name.

When students were first sent home in March, residents and local charities scrambled for solutions up and down the poverty-stricken area that straddles highway I-95.

“I was on LinkedIn and everything, begging people for laptops. It was horrible,” said Pickett, who shared her own Wi-Fi hotspot with neighbors so their children could do their homework.

Some families received free Internet for two months from a local provider as a coronavirus relief gesture, but then they started getting billed for it.

“After 60 days they cut mine off. I’m trying to find out now whether they will turn it back on before school starts,” said Bessie Davis, a Mullins resident whose teenage granddaughter lives with her and is due to start school on September 8.

South Carolina has earmarked \$50 million from its federal coronavirus relief funds to expand internet access, and Marion County schools are expecting laptops and hotspots to arrive next month.

But students will be playing catch-up to those who transitioned seamlessly to digital learning earlier this year, said Pickett, and the hotspots are only funded through December.

“We’re worried that for children who were already far behind, they will be farther behind,” said Phyllis Martin, CEO of the Tri-County Cradle to Career Collaborative (TCCC), which works to boost educational equity in South Carolina.

In the three counties where TCCC works, which are south of Marion but also partly in the “Corridor of Shame,” the racial gaps in educational attainment are already vast.

In 2018, just 20% of Black students attained the expected level of reading by 8th grade, compared to 60% of white students.

Lack of technology could widen that gap, Martin said.

Source: <https://longreads.trust.org/item/coronavirus-black-students-suffer-poor-internet-schools-online-teaching>

WE ALL HAVE THE EXTRAORDINARY CODED WITHIN US, WAITING TO BE RELEASED.

- Jean Houston -

<https://quotefancy.com/quote/1244601/Jean-Houston-We-all-have-the-extraordinary-coded-within-us-waiting-to-be-released>

Human Interest



Photo: Tinashe Muzama

Youth group organizes event with other organizations to discuss gender-based violence of women and girls, requesting that young men help.

Manica Youth Assembly Goes Rural for Women and Girls in Zimbabwe

By Jussa Nhari Kudherezera, Zimbabwe

Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) hosted a community dialogue on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in partnership with Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO), and the Ministry of Women Affairs in Ward 14, Mutasa Central. The community dialogue was mainly anchored on raising awareness of sexual gender-based violence amongst the youth in Mutasa constituency.

The plenary comprised of health workers, gate keepers, young people, and the Headman. This Headman is Mr. Chikum-

bu; he is in charge of a certain village area.

Young people must be the driving force in environmental and climate justice issues and at the same time must not be the driving force for propelling gender-based violence in the communities.

MAYA's Gender, Research, and Development Officer, Rutendo Nyanhanda, stated that, "During this period of Covid pandemic and indefinite lockdown, violence towards girls and young women is accepted as a social norm. This must be challenged as a matter of urgency and the blame, shame, and stigma faced by victims must be eliminated."

Moreover, there is need to embrace SDG5 (Sustainable Development Goal 5 is Empower Women and Girls and Ensure Their Equal Rights) so that every young man plays a pivotal role in climate action and makes more noise on the Environment.

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Source: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1055465221538323&id=599494193802097

Human Interest



Photos Courtesy REWINO
(left) Samuel comforting one of the children. (right) These well-cared-for children are holding the REWINO logo signs. They are all HIV orphans.



REVITALIZE THE WORLD IN NEED ORGANIZATION

By Samuel Mirindi, Burundi

REVITALIZE THE WORLD IN NEED ORGANIZATION is a private initiative of public utility in social characters, created by young volunteers living in Burundi Bujumbura to help abandoned orphan children and those living in the street and promote their integration into society under the aid and contributions of volunteers, organizations, and third parties but also grants from world governments. It also intervenes in the loans of widowed women and in the protection of the environment.

It was created in Burundi on 02/29/2020 by Samuel Mirindi as an initiative called REVITALIZE THE WORLD IN NEED ORGANIZATION, REWINO. Our activities contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the children mentioned above.

REWINO, militates for orphaned children, abandoned, and those of the street. To prepare their future in the good senses we ask them certain questions that the Visionary has always asked himself: "What are the children we will leave to the planet or which planet will we leave to the children?"

It should be emphasized that to shape children to be aware and capable of autonomy, creativity, intelligence, and collective love, having confidence in oneself, a sense of responsibility, in Awakening them to accept themselves and to preserve their environment and undoubtedly a better method than REWINO but implemented by educating the children and this there for the improvement of their future in the good senses, protecting the planet to leave to these children by doing certain actions such as reducing the carbon footprint by 80%, a Collective battle, a safe diet while

eating very well to preserve natural resources, dress in second-hand and recycled textiles, take good care of our bins (*bins means "let us take care of each other and we will stand"*). Only these actions can help us protect and leave a healthy planet.

After an investigation made in Bujumbura in the middle of an interview, wanting to know why the Visionary of REWINO wanted to name it thus, the latter affirmed: "I had named my organization REWINO everywhere where there are living beings. In all societies of the world, there are gaps and they can be social differences, religious or racial discrimination, social rank, sex, famine, global warming, pollution, of the air, seas, and soils, exhaustion of natural resources, the loss of animals. We must revitalize this world. That is why the name REWINO seems Universal. I can affirm by saying that everyone on this planet is a concern of this organization.

Before its creation, Samuel Mirindi, was committed to fight against atmospheric pollution and this through an initiative called "NATURE IS US!" which consisted of collecting bags and plastic bottles in neighborhoods a little back from Bujumbura. Unfortunately, this initiative had not come to anything for lack of consideration by local leaders, but also for lack of the necessary means to sensitize the population!

Daring, he decided to create leading REWINO which already takes care of the children of widowed women and also protects the environment by agriculture and breeding, but also the planting of plants in savannas! Knowing that agriculture is one of the most powerful pillars on which to feed the 9.5 billion people on the planet in 2050

which is why the Visionary of REWINO including all his team are working hard.

The founder of this organization further added that it was not easy for him but his spirit helped him push to materialize his dreams accompanied by two other young leaders.

Very busy looking for donors, partners, and volunteers to support them, quickly the health crisis due to Covid-19 paralyzed almost all the activities that were in progress. The struggle continues. Samuel Mirindi has just joined the base Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice, believes thus to realize some of these dreams and this through Mrs. Iona Conner.

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/samwilliam712/>



Human Interest

Sad Reality in Groundswell Family

Introduction to Part I by Iona: *In July, Lillian used the word "maid," which aroused my curiosity. I got this reply:*

(Lillian Kabahuma, Uganda) OK, about this girl. Her story is long; actually, she's not a maid. I got her on the street. She got pregnant and the stepmother sent her out of the house. By the time I got her, she had taken medicine to abort her baby. She told me all her story. I took her to the hospital. She got fine. She's now having a baby of one year and three months. She's my helper and I'm helping her, too. She is called Melisa; she's only 17 years old.

Introduction to Part II by Iona: *The rest of the edited story is about her friend dying and leaving orphans behind.*

(Lillian, July 23) My sister today I got a misery day. I had gone to visit my neighbor in the hospital; she gave birth. I found a young girl of 16 years; she also gave birth, but because the parents told the girl not to go back home because she was in school, the girl throw the baby in the latrine. I felt so bad, I called police to come and help, but the good thing the baby was still alive. Now the baby is in the hospital for treatment. I really felt bad.

(Lillian: July 24) Its OK dear, you can do whatever you want, but this sounds so bad. Here most of young girls are doing the same. It's common here. Girls get wanted pregnancies and they don't take of the children. It's terrible,

(Lillian: August 15) My sister, my heart is bleeding. I was in a meeting today, but I cried. 500 young girls under 18 years are pregnant in our District due to Covid-19 situation. I felt so bad; others are raped. Young girls will suffer a lot in coming months. It's too bad.

(Lillian: August 16) The problem why girls are getting pregnant is because of lockdown, they are not in schools since March here. Schools are closed; it's too sad.

(Lillian: August 26) Here rain is too much now days. We are worried of the floods again in some places. My women are greeting you once again, and one of our women is sick. She's in critical condition, the husband died of AIDS, and she didn't get enough care. We are worried she may die, and her children are very young; so sad, my sister.

(Lillian: August 27) I'm also fine, but my woman died today morning, and the burial is tomorrow, so sad.

(Iona: August 27) Oh dear, Lillian, I'm so sorry that your woman died. What a tragedy.

(Lillian: August 27) She really left very young children, and no father, they even in a rental house it's very sad for the children, it's so sad.

(Iona: August 27) Who will take care of the children?

(Lillian: August 27) I really don't know. They still have the grandmother who is in 80s, she cannot manage. I don't know, I really don't know. I'm also having very many questions in my heart. She left 4 children, the oldest is 12 years. I haven't know yet what other women are thinking, but we have a meeting tomorrow morning before the burial, I think maybe some will help. My heart is bleeding.

(Lillian: August 28) We are done with the meeting. One of the widows called Kamuli Janet decided to take one child, the youngest, the three remain in my hands, and we have thought of building for them a small house on their small land. The Late mother had bought a very small land. We are fundraising at least to build for them a small house because I can't also manage staying with them for a long period. I have very many children in my home. I feel so good sharing with you all my pain, thank you for being a good friend.

(Iona: August 28) I had a feeling you were going to take at least one of the children but now you're going to give three your love and care. How many children do you have in your home already?

(Lillian: August 28) We are finished with the burial. I left the children at the burial home. I will pick them to my home in three days, per now I have 12 children in my home and two mothers. Yes, dear I really need the extension of at least three rooms for them to be happy and safe. I will stay with them because everyone was not ready to stay with them. I was not ready too, but I can't let them just like birds in the desert, I feel my heart is bleeding, my sister. I can't stop crying, my sister.

(Lillian: August 29) I manage to give them all the love by giving them some time with them, but the two mothers help me to prepare food, wash for them. Mine is to struggle

and get them what to eat, school fees, and clothes. My sister, I really feel this is too much for me now. I really need some help, at least if I can start up my project again. I really feel doing things by the Grace, now I'm in gardens working, but I even fail to get seeds to plant. My sister, I'm trying but things are not easy.

(Lillian: August 30) With me today I got a terrible headache. I'm not feeling OK but hopefully I will be fine tomorrow. I'm going to pick my new family children to where we buried their mother. I will take them to my home. They also become part of my family.

(Lillian: September 1) I brought them home today, they are very happy with me, starting new life with new mother. The oldest son told me that when the mother died, he started thinking of how they are going to live without a mother, but surprisingly they got me. I'm humble for that. Now I'm in a very very hard time, they have nothing completely, I have to find them all new things – clothes, shoes, bags, every thing, and I tomorrow I'm taking them for blood test in the hospital, to see if they are negative of HIV/AIDS.

(Lillian: September 3) All the four children free from HIV. I thank God for that.

You can contact Lillian at kabahumalillian80@gmail.com.



Photo: Shikuran

(left to right) These are the children who came to my life this week: Purity Basemer (12), Lillian, Jacob (8), and Elish Baguma (6); the baby Ulita (3) was taken to Janet Kamuli as her new mother.

Human Interest

Vaccine Fundamentalism – War Metaphors in the Covid-19 Response, Vaccine Policy, and Public Health, Part 1

Submitted by Alanna Hartzok
Pennsylvania USA

By Nate Doromal, Guest Contributor
Children's Health Defense, Inc. ©: August 13, 2020

The metaphor of war has long been a part of public health. In responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, the world's public health agencies mobilized and shut down entire parts of society under the utilitarian goal of stopping the spread of Covid-19.

In America, entire states were locked-down, public schools were dismissed, government public services halted, and businesses closed, while grim pictures of death were painted, pictures of sick and dying on ventilators were broadcast, and vivid dialogue of "overwhelmed" hospital capacity were plastered on mainstream media. Journals and media outlets played along, streaming out content about the dangers of Covid-19 and the need for continued lock-down. Dissenting views on social media were censored by social media tech companies.

Ostensibly the public health response escalated over time while new real-life data emerged that contradicted the severity of the Covid-19 forecasts. What was supposed to be a short lockdown response dragged on for months; the American economy faltered and sank in the wake of the response, and American state governors extended their short-term emergency powers to extend the lockdown period.

Public health officials themselves disseminate the war mentality with the repeated message: *We are at war with an invisible enemy that must be eradicated.* War mentality emphasizes the need for self-sacrifice in order to stop Covid-19 spread. And the weapons of war are glorified; public health authorities glorify its chief weapon of *vaccination*.

Like any war, there is collateral damage. The collateral damage here are the bedrocks of medical ethics, informed consent, human rights, civil liberties, and even science itself. How can proper science be conducted when one goal, "deliver a vaccine at **warp-speed**," is emphasized over healthy scientific skepticism and public discourse? The ultimate collateral damage, of course,



is among those damaged or injured by decisions resting on faulty science.

A further examination of the public health response to Covid-19 reveals a deeper problem: the metaphor of war and the assumption of *vaccine fundamentalism* has long been part of the public health mindset.

Vaccine Fundamentalism – Does Nothing Else Matter?

The war metaphor leads to a reductionist thinking style that leads to two exclusive outcomes. We either 1) win by eradicating the disease in question, or 2) the pandemic continues and threatens all of humanity. Peaceful coexisting is seen as a kind of surrender.

Citizens are given sham choices: either participate in the war effort or side with "the enemy." Psychological shaming is used to coerce naysayers into participating; after all, who wants to be on the "pro-disease side?" Efforts to destroy the threat are prioritized as the most important consideration. Central to public health is the weapon of vaccines, and it has a sacred status in public health.

Vaccine fundamentalism is the belief that vaccination is the most important public health intervention, that it is above criticism, and that increasing the metric of vaccination uptake rate is the core purpose of public health agencies.

A public health official might defend the practice of vaccination through the often-repeated standard dogma of vaccine fundamentalism: *vaccines have saved millions of lives, represent cost-efficient public health intervention, and an abundance of scientific research has shown time and time again that vaccines are safe and effective. Due to their importance, vaccines are above reproach and neither questioning them nor criticizing them is permitted.*

While the practice of vaccination does have a place in the public health repertoire, the repercussions of such fundamentalist thinking cannot be ignored, and must be completely understood.

The chief consequence of vaccine fundamentalism is that public health policy over-emphasizes a single reductionistic metric: *increased vaccination uptake*. And consequently, single-minded pursuit of any goal can lead to other detrimental outcomes which have been almost entirely ignored.

Charles Eisenstein, in his book *Climate: A New Story* explained, "This pattern of thinking is called fundamentalism, and it closely parallels the dynamics of two defining institutions of our civilization: money and war. Fundamentalism reduces the complex to the simple and demands sacrifice of the immediate, the human, or the personal in service to an overarching ulterior goal that trumps all."

Warmaking in the Efforts to Drive Vaccine Uptake

When vaccine fundamentalism is combined with the war metaphor, public health takes on the mantra of *increasing vaccine uptake to fight disease at any cost*. However, the behavior of public health institutions to achieve that goal can lead to perverse consequences that are seemingly the opposite of policy goals.

Public health institutions have lamented the **rise of anti-vaccine sentiment**. In response, they have developed **elaborate strategies** to deal with vaccine hesitancy. But they are missing the crucial point that mistrust of public health institutions arises from their ulterior goals of increasing vaccine uptake at whatever the cost.

All of the strategies used by the public health institutions to increase vaccination uptake rely upon a key assumption: *the core of vaccine refusal lies with the refuser's ignorance of scientific knowledge and acceptance of misinformation delivered by vaccine deniers.*

The warmaking is evident here. There is a separation of the people into two separate groups: *those who comply and those who do not*. The latter are given a label of

Vaccines continued on next page

Human Interest

Vaccines *continued from previous page*

is a separation of the people into two separate groups: *those who comply and those who do not*. The latter are given a label of *vaccine hesitant or vaccine denier*. Public health implicitly sees these groups as a *form of deviance that must be corrected through the good efforts of public health*.

Public health authorities also embed an important assumption here: *those who question vaccines do not have valid concerns*. The war metaphors of public health permit a callous dismissal of any vaccination concerns and grievances that occur within the medical setting. This diminishment of concerns and grievances naturally leads to more distrust amongst the populace of public health institutions.

There are numerous problems with the war mentality that public health officials ignore. Charles Eisenstein summarized: “The war mentality represents an unfortunate confluence of ignorance, fear, prejudice, and profit... The ignorance exists in its own right and is further perpetuated by government propaganda. The fear is that of ordinary people scared by misinformation but also that of leaders who may know better but are intimidated by the political costs of speaking out on such a heavily moralized and charged issue.”

Vaccine Fundamentalism Erodes Public Health Trust

The war mentality dehumanizes the enemy as unworthy of engagement on an equal level. Similarly, public health officials have taken the policy of refusing to initiate two-way dialogue regarding vaccine concerns for fear of legitimizing vaccine concerns. However, these strategies backfire in that those same concerns grow in the public.

What public health officials also fail to realize about the refusal to engage in productive two-way dialogue with those who have concerns is that this action is a form of **epistemic violence**. Philosopher Kristie Dotson defined epistemic violence as a “refusal, intentional or unintentional, of an audience to communicatively reciprocate a linguistic exchange owing to pernicious ignorance. Pernicious ignorance should be understood to refer to any reliable ignorance that, in a given context, harms another person (or set of persons).”

The *pernicious ignorance* on part of public health authorities lies in the refusal to fully investigate any criticisms brought forth against the vaccine program. Instead, these criticisms are immediately labeled

as *vaccine misinformation* to reduce their legitimacy in the public eye. Public health authorities respond by extolling the virtues of vaccines.

Dissenting voices are drowned out by a strawman argument; the virtues of vaccines are used as a response to legitimate concerns without actually addressing the concern at hand. Thereby an insidious form of *confirmation bias* occurs; the presumptive rationale for vaccines comes from a one-side assessment from the past that is never revisited.

This strategy backfires because those people bringing the grievances feel unheard. In response to the deafness of public health institutions, these people must do the equivalent of *yelling louder*. They band together, form coalitions, begin grassroots campaigns, and advocate for change with legislators. As a result, well-organized organizations (**Children’s Health Defense** and **ICAN**) have arisen whose primary purpose is to advocate for those whose concerns are not heard and to push government for public health reform.

The war metaphor then encourages public health officials to double-down on forceful activities to stifle inroads made by vaccine critics. Public health agencies in partnership with social media tech companies began **ensorship campaigns** of vaccine misinformation, public relations agencies pushed out increased **negative press** on “anti-vaxxers,” and previously unrelated institutions started calling for increasingly **draconian policies** regarding vaccines.

Paternalism in public health has long been **criticized**, but war metaphors elevate this charge. Public health agencies have taken a **hard paternalism** stance. They have positioned themselves as a *necessary police figure* that defends society from the threat of pandemics, one that is willing to override citizen concerns, censor free speech, and engage in violence in pursuit of its goals.

Public health broadcasts a message that is essentially elitist in nature, asking the people to *have faith in the public health experts without question*. Public health sees itself as society’s primary epistemic authority on public health related matters, and any questioning of its authority is met with umbrage.

The public is aware of these problems, and **distrust of public health** has been increasing over the past few decades. Vaccine fundamentalism is dangerous because the very strategies used by public health officials to increase vaccination uptake also

ironically lay the groundwork for undermining the public good on which the entirety of the public health system is based.

Vaccine Fundamentalism as a Threat to Medical Ethics

According to the **American Medical Association Code of Ethics**, a core precept of medical ethics is, “A physician shall, while caring for a patient, regard *responsibility to the patient as paramount*.” How does the responsibility to the patient as paramount work when at odds with state public health goals? Ideally there is the assumption that *what is good for the state is in line with what is good for the patient* but this is not always the case.

Vaccine fundamentalism has the perverse consequence in which doctors may be inculcated to *deliberately ignore or undermine patient concerns* in service to the primary public health metric of *increasing vaccination rates*.

While public health agencies do actively collect and classify the types of concerns that parents have, these activities are done under the goal of *addressing vaccine hesitancy*; due to vaccine fundamentalism, there is an assumption that the proper decision for the individual is to take the vaccine, regardless of personal circumstances.

Rather than use data to facilitate open dialogue, they use this knowledge to create strategies against vaccine hesitancy. For example, the CDC has created **training materials** that teach healthcare providers how to achieve greater conversion of individuals from vaccine hesitant to vaccine compliant.

Medical ethics acknowledges the importance of informed consent in preserving both patient dignity and trust in the medical system. The healthcare providers’ use of *behavior modification techniques* to achieve increased vaccine uptake is questionable and deceptive.

Even doctors are not immune to the pressures of vaccine fundamentalism as the war burden ultimately falls upon them to ensure their patients are compliant with public health vaccine recommendations. According to **research** undertaken by Dr. Paul Offit, providing vaccine information in order to obtain compliance is time consuming. It was found that 53% of physicians spend 10 to 19 minutes discussing vaccines with concerned parents, and 8% of physicians spend 20 minutes or more with these parents. They also reported that

Vaccines *continued on next page*

Human Interest



Dear Iona,

Do you know the story of the sky blue scarves that are often worn on International Peace Day (September 21)? The “Border-free Blue Scarves” project was founded by the Afghan Peace Volunteers in Afghanistan, as a response to Professor Noam Chomsky’s challenge to build a world free of borders. According to the Afghan Peace Volunteers, the blue scarf “represents our collective wish as a human family to live without wars, to share our resources and to take care of our Earth under the same blue sky.”

The International Day of Peace on September 21 is less than one month away. Following the lead of the Afghan Peace Volunteers, World BEYOND War encourages everyone to wear sky blue scarves on the International Day of Peace to symbolize peace and support for war abolition.

Established in 1981 by the United Nations, Peace Day is celebrated by many nations and organizations with events all over the world. We’re working with volunteers,

chapters, and allied organizations worldwide to organize virtual and physically-distanced, in-person events to commemorate the day with education and awareness-building on issues of peace and war.

Here’s how you can celebrate the International Day of Peace:

- Get your sky blue scarf at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/blue/>
- Get tickets to our online screening of the film “We Are Many” at <https://watch.eventive.org/wearemany/play/5f3d491b3eb76900754dc2ba>
- Check our events listings for online and in-person events on or around September 21 at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/events/>
- Email greta@worldbeyondwar.org for organizing assistance with hosting a Peace Day event.
- Collect signatures for World BEYOND War’s Declaration of Peace at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/individual/>
- Check out our Resources page for books, articles, films, and more event

resources at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/resources/>

- Find fact sheets and handouts on our Flyers page at <https://worldbeyondwar.org/flyers/>

The International Day of Peace is an important day to reaffirm our collective call for peace. As a UN-designated day for nonviolence and ceasefire, this 24-hour pause on war begs the question of why we can’t have year-long or forever-long pauses in wars. This September 21, join us to demand war abolition.

For a world beyond war,

Greta Zarro

Organizing Director, World BEYOND War
greta@worldbeyondwar.org

Photo: WorldBeyondWar.org. World BEYOND War is a global network of volunteers, activists, and allied organizations advocating for the abolition of the very institution of war. Our success is driven by a people-powered movement – support our work for a culture of peace.

Vaccines *continued from previous page*

pediatricians experienced decreased job satisfaction because of time spent with parents who have significant vaccine concerns.

There can be no true informed consent if the patient cannot freely refuse the treatment nor is there true informed consent if the consequences of refusal include the potential repercussion of terminating the doctor-patient relationship. Certainly medical ethical guidelines can do better.

According to bioethicist **Nir Eyal**, “Co-

ercion, deception, manipulation and other violations of standard informed consent requirements seriously jeopardise that trust.” The value of informed consent does not show up in any epidemiological model but it has a powerful intangible value to all those involved. *Is vaccine fundamentalism so important that it warrants destroying trust in the medical system?*

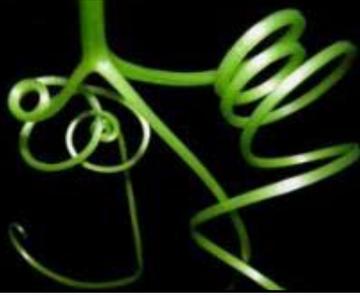
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Source: <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/news/vaccine-fundamentalism-war-metaphors-in-the-covid-19-response-vaccine-policy-and-public-health-part-1/>

Note: Everything in blue is a link to further information, which can be found at the website above.

Human Interest



Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming

Dear Iona,

These days we are at war with ourselves.

That's what happens as we drift ever away from the deep, rich, moist soils that give us life. We have overgrown our hunting and gathering ways after some hundreds of thousands of humble years, settling into lives of agricultural toil which fed civilizations and built the dens of inequities and conflict we've been living in since the last ice age. Now it's all quite possibly followed by the massive destruction of the biosphere, culminating in the end of our tenancy on Earth.

It doesn't have to be this way. Covid-19 brought us an urgent message: Slow down. Value what's truly important. Air. Water. Good food. Health. Honesty. Relationships with family, friends, strangers, and all our fellow inhabitants of Earth.

The microbial message says that if we listen carefully, respect, and appreciate all the creatures that share this planet with us, marvel at their beauty, their non-humanness, their lessons, their ways of being – what we somewhat awkwardly call “biodiversity” – if we take these simple yet daunting steps, we'll be OK. Maybe even better than OK.

Note that lots of money and fancy stuff don't make it onto this to-do list. At all. It's so easy these days to fall prey to living far beyond planetary means, inviting sudden collapse as we back ourselves, desperately flailing, into a psycho-socio-economic-emotional corner.

How do we gently escort one another through steps we don't understand or can't even imagine? Steps that undo so much of what we've assumed about our world, steps that are at once terrifying, foreboding – and full of promise? So human an animal are we.

Yes, possibilities for renewal are everywhere. Spirit of Resilience, a group of Indigenous and Women of Color, is our partner in our current crowd-funder, Saving Life on Earth is our Highest Calling!, modeling ways out of the woods of eco-confusion and into a clearing built on millennia of respectful relationships with the

world. Soil-Carbon-Sponge Man, Walter Jehne, continues to offer guidance in the quest to re-water the planet. And our book review opens the cover of a stunning new volume on a magical subject – fungi – by a magical mycologist (is it a coincidence that his first name is Merlin?), who spins a scientific thriller whatdunit in expansively poetic prose.

We have the solutions, we need only gather together as a multi-cultural, multi-tinted, multi-talented human species moving forward through these worst of times and best of times.

Adam Sacks, Executive Director and author of the following book review.

Book Review: Entangled Life

Rare are the scientists who can explain a complex subject to the uninitiated. Rarer still are those who weave engaging stories. Beyond rare is one whose stories are also poetry. Merlin Sheldrake, a young and highly qualified mycologist, is one of those scientific stars.

Entangled Life is one of the best books about science I have ever read. Sheldrake's enthusiasm for his subject is boundless, and he enticed me with page after page of fascinating glimpses into the lives of fungi.

Speaking of enticement, he spends an entire chapter in a paean to the truffle, the clunky-looking fruiting body of a mycelial network that spends its life underground. Yet it issues a powerful call to moving creatures who serve to spread its spores to benefit truffle-kind.

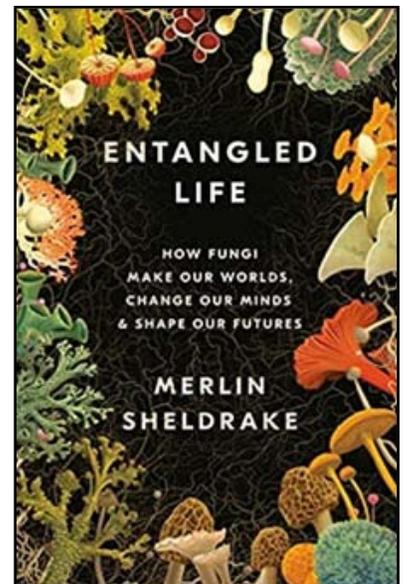
“When we smell a truffle's aroma, we receive a one-way transmission from truffle to world . . . Its signal billows out loud and clear, and once begun, is always on. A ripe truffle broadcasts an unambiguous summons in chemical lingua franca, a pop scent with mass appeal that could cause Daniele, Paride, two dogs, a mouse, and me to converge at a single point under a bramble bush on a muddy bank in Italy” (p. 35). That mass appeal also dangles a market price of \$3,000 a pound – and up.

Fungi send out hyphae into the wide

world, their delicate hairs merging into mycelium when so inclined. “According to some estimates, if one teased apart the mycelium found in one gram of soil – about a teaspoon – and laid it end to end – it could stretch anywhere from a hundred meters (328 feet) to ten kilometers (6.21 miles). In practice, it is impossible to measure the extent to which mycelium perfuses the Earth's structures, systems, and inhabitants – its weave is too tight. Mycelium is a way of life that challenges our animal imaginations.” (p. 46)

How fungi communicate among their disparate parts remains a mystery, and their memories even more so. Cultivated on a block of wood, a fungus will send out hyphae in all directions to discover another block of wood nearby. It then withdraws the other hyphae and thickens the connections to the second block of wood. The experimenter strips the connections to the second block, puts the first block in a fresh dish, whereupon the hyphae began to grow in the direction of the second block: it “remembered” where it was. (p. 47)

I confess that I haven't read the whole book yet, but I am excited to tell you about it. If you're curious about the magic of fungi, whom better to consult than a scientist named Merlin?



A PRACTICE OF GRATITUDE IS NOT ABOUT DISMISSING SADNESS, ANGER, FEAR, OR CONFUSION. RATHER, IT OFFERS US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THAT WE OFTEN EXPERIENCE MULTIPLE FEELINGS AT ONCE; TO WELCOME JOY INTO THE SAME PLACES WHERE WE HOLD GRIEF; TO TURN OUR ATTENTION TO WHAT IS QUIETLY GROWING AND BREATHING DAY BY DAY, WHICH, TO OUR POSSIBLE SURPRISE, INCLUDES OURSELVES.

- Kristin Lin -

<https://images.app.goo.gl/SEpBsW4YcUn3TD3m9>

Consumer Liberation

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

Our Slogan: The way forward: cycle back to basics.

Email Iona at groundswellnews@pa.net and she will put you on our email list to receive monthly issues of our climate activist journal. "Every new one makes us stronger," sings Pete Seeger.



Groundswell News

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful journal will inspire and encourage you. Learn more at www.groundswellnews.org. Email groundswellnews@pa.net to be put on our e-list.. It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

Groundswell News Now Accepting Ads

Please consider placing your ad with us. As we are an alternative source of news, we have an alternative ad policy. Send me your material and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful. Our distribution is small now but we hope to grow quickly and our readers are wonderfully supportive people!

Thank you.



Remember your dreams.



Messages from Our Friends

(For many, English is not their native language.)



Hello Iona, Ezekial, John, Jussa, Ssendendo, and everyone.

Well, I have just read the minutes of your two meetings and I have now read the various documents.

What can I say?

Ssendendo's Jinja Church Children's Home Project, John's SCOPE project, Ezekial's Iganga Women & Youth Resource Centre, and Jussa's MAYA bulletin reflect visionary and inspirational efforts by each of you as well as the teams of people with whom you work. Please pass on my sincere appreciation to all those involved.

As previously mentioned, I have been to Mutare so I am familiar with Jussa's location. I have also been to Kenya (but not all counties, obviously) so have some idea of the contexts in which John is working too.

This gives me some depth in understanding the challenges you face.

And despite glitches with communications involving so many people, the minutes of the two meetings tell a won-

derful story of grassroots commitment, engagement, and achievement in the face of enormous odds.

My thanks to all of you for your reports and involvement in the meetings.

Given the enormous challenges we all face I will be inspired by your efforts as I work my own way through the coming weeks.

It is a privilege to 'know' so many fine people through this team. It really gives me hope for the future in our troubled world.

Love to you all,

Robert Burrowes, Australia

Really I don't know what to say congratulations I'm very happy with your work. Please help me do this to other projects we have, please.

Prince Kitumaini Kamundala, founder of Action for Environment Care and Business and Ecosysteme Management, Democratic Republic of Congo (See pages 11 and 12)

Looking forward to the ecological

fellowship, let's push together ecological justice.

Ajibona Tolulope, Nigeria (Bio4Climate and Friends of Fireflies)

(first email) Dear Iona and Mellissa, Greetings from Kenya.

Thank you Iona for getting in touch, and for sharing the minutes plus other documents with us. As I was reading through, what came to my mind is that, you have a small but very powerful team, who have the Earth and people at heart.

We in Kenya are well, we are going on with our work though schools are closed till January 2021. This is as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, we are working with teachers, learners, and their parents, through a Community Based Learning Programme.

As an Organization, we believe in strengthening our capacity through collaboration and networking and therefore, we are happy to be part of this team. We

Messages continued on next page

Many thanks to our friends who share Groundswell with their friends.

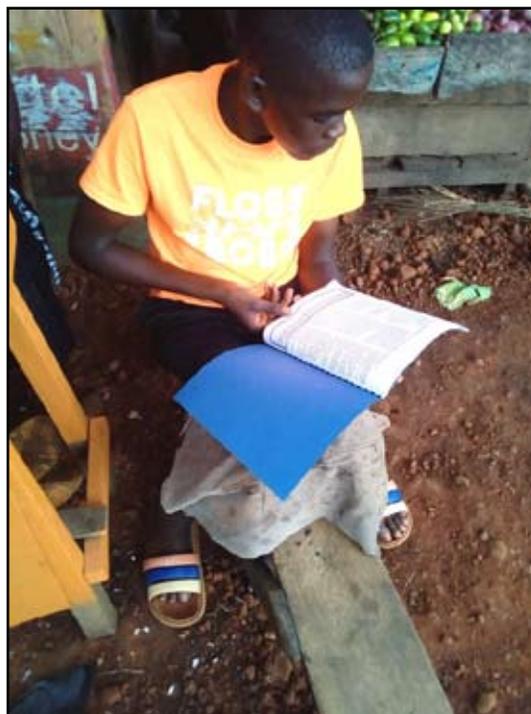
Ezekiel Kulaba in Uganda prints and binds each issue of *Groundswell News Journal* so that the people in his community can read it easily.

Prince Kitumaini Kamundala in DR Congo posted his page on Facebook.

I'm always grateful when people figure out ways to share our work with others. That's the whole idea!

Thank you, Ezekiel and Prince.

Love to you both,
Iona



Messages *continued from previous page*
are ready to continue sharing our stories to energize and inspire the world.

Once again, thank you Mellissa for making this connection and thank you Iona for your interest to walk with us.

(*second email*) Thank you for considering to include me in the group. This is a great opportunity for me to learn and share my knowledge and experience with other members. Together we will make a difference in people's livelihood and environment.

Looking forward to participate in the upcoming Zoom meeting.

John Macharia, Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE)

Thank you. Things have been paralyzed by the pandemic, even people sleeping hungry.
Duncan Nzangi, Kenya

Thank you so much mother for the publicity. Love you so much. Tried sharing on Facebook but failed to get a way of sharing, but all in all am so grateful.

Marium Shere Munezero, Uganda (Nurturing For Future Development Organization)

Thanks for the update Mom and I duly appreciate reading these amazing stories from around the world. I hope you're doing better and keep strong.

Your Son :)

Hanson G. Blayon, Liberia

I don't know how to show my big face of smile and hope for this great and amazing opportunity my beloved mommy Iona. For what you did to us and my struggles for the vulnerable Almajiri children and other

humanity service in Nigeria. On behalf of my team YAPD, I personally and honorably thank you so much for your support, effort, and encouragement always toward me, YAPD, and other African organizations. I am thankful once again, I hope that one day we will all meet together to smile and share our thoughts together. This publishing will help me a lot at least people in America can know the Almajiri status in Nigeria and also I hopefully that we will have more support by the God grace. Thank you so much, mommy, I appreciated it.

Secondly, please did you know any Islamic Americans foundation?

Your Son,

Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau, Nigeria

I am happy having interacted with different people though had a problem with my phone and being the first time to attend such a meeting!

Hoping to attend the next meeting at 5 p.m. your time!

Here I think it will be at midnight.

I thank you for your efforts for making the first succeed.

Covid-19 pandemic has affected us much, we can't meet as a group now. No gathering is allowed.

We can't get volunteers who used to help us with trees for planting at Schools and in the community.

We are happy to receive the *Groundswell News Journal* and thank you for publishing our photos in the Choose a Charity pages.

We shall continue loving this paper as long as it exists. We love to see our friends from other countries in the world.

We shall keep enjoying this beautiful paper.

May God bless you.

Ezekiel Kulaba, Uganda (Iganga Women and Youth Resource Centre)

Wonderful newsletter, still exploring. Thanks Iona. Be well.

Morgan Zo-Callahan, California USA

Oh sorry to hear that your computer has got a problem but hope it be fixed..... in love with your work dear.

Dorah Nakibuuka, Uganda

Hello my lovely sister. How are you? It has been so long without greeting. I'm so sorry at times I don't get Data on my phone, but I'm OK. How are you and all your people? The widows here loved you so much. I told them that you can ride a bicycle; they were so happy. Here is not easy to get someone of your age riding a bicycle, thank you my dear,

Lillian Kabahuma, Uganda (Rise and Shine Women Initiative for Environment Protection and Conservation, see page 27)

"Love Is All We Need," I believe John Lennon wrote this song.

I cry every night for the children. This small donation (for Sssengendo's orphans) hopefully will allow the group to at least rent land to grow food for the Orphans.

I think about the children in Yemen and the role the U.S.A. is playing in their death.

We should all be ashamed of this senseless destruction.

I send you My Love,

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland USA



Egyptian Artist in our Midst: Maher Antar

Ballerina on the left and Smiling Mona Lisa on the right. We will be publishing more of his artwork in the future.

