

### **Add your voice to the call to end child detention this Christmas**

There is still time to send a Christmas card to Phil Woolas MP, asking him to stop detaining children and families of people seeking sanctuary in Britain.

Hundreds of individuals and congregations around the country have already sent the Immigration Minister a Christmas greeting. There is still time, as the last date for first class post before Christmas is Monday 21 December.

The UK is the only country in Europe to detain children in the asylum system.

Send your card to Phil Woolas MP, Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

Find out more about the issue at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/childrenindetention](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/childrenindetention)

### **Election Time**

Gordon Brown must call the next UK general election by 3 June 2010.

As candidates, political agents and party activists prepare for a crucial campaign, the Churches are already preparing resources and materials to help Christians contribute to election debates.

We are working with partner Churches and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) to produce guidelines on holding hustings meetings, information and Christian views on some of the key policy areas, advice on how to deal with extreme political parties and much more.

If you would like to register your interest in receiving these resources please e-mail us at [politicalaffairs@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:politicalaffairs@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### **Creating Sanctuary**

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church have all signed up to the 'Citizens for Sanctuary' campaign. This campaign builds on the work and recommendations of the Independent Asylum Commission, and is asking supporters to take action in the run-up to the General Election, to stop asylum seekers being used as a political football.

Help make this happen by downloading the best poster (PDF) to display in your church:

Baptist Union of Great Britain:

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=ifp5qedab.0.0.plffnscab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jointpublicissues.org.uk%2F6%2520Steps%2520Poster%2520BUGB.pdf&id=preview>

Methodist Church:

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=ifp5qedab.0.0.plffnscab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jointpublicissues.org.uk%2F6%2520Steps%2520Meth.pdf&id=preview>

United Reformed Church:

<http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=ifp5qedab.0.0.plffnscab.0&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jointpublicissues.org.uk%2F6%2520Steps%2520URC.pdf&id=preview>

For more information see Citizens of Sanctuary - [www.citizensforsanctuary.org.uk](http://www.citizensforsanctuary.org.uk)

## **Prepare the way for Peace in 2010**

We regret that the Peacemaking Conference which had been planned for 6 February 2010 has been postponed. This will now take place after the General Election in 2010 and we plan to make this a significant event with good keynote speakers.

A date will be announced in due course. Meanwhile if you would like register for further information please contact [enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk).

There are two key upcoming opportunities to act on issues of peace and justice. The General Election provides a chance to question candidates their outlook for global security. For information see [www.churcheselection.org.uk](http://www.churcheselection.org.uk). And throughout this coming spring, Churches will be acting together on a major ecumenical campaign to promote a world free of nuclear weapons. This will shape our contribution to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held in May 2010. If you would like further information about this project please e-mail [enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@jointpublicissues.org.uk) or contact us through the address below.

## **And finally . . .**

Thank you for your support over the past year.

Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas

The Joint Public Issues Team

## **Contact**

If you would like to receive the Joint Public Issues Team Newsletter, or would like to publicise an event or project, please contact Wendy Cooper, e-mail - [wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk](mailto:wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk)  
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