



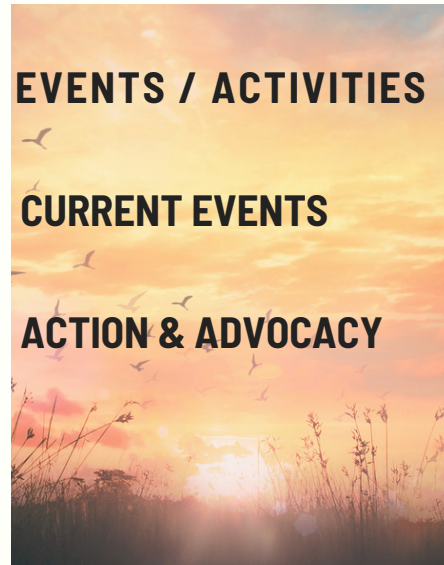
THE WEEKLY REVIEW



"We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!"

— Pope Francis

IN THIS ISSUE:



*This weekly news aggregate is created by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation for SCL Sisters & Associates along with any other interested audiences.
 Questions/Comments/Concerns?
 Email: JPIC@scls.org*



KS Legislative Session 2024



Kansas Rural Center
Legislative Policy Watch:
Issue No. 7, February 16, 2024

"Legislative Policy Watch is a weekly online publication of the Kansas Rural Center (KRC) during the State of Kansas legislative session. KRC is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the long term health of the land and its people, through education, research and advocacy that advance an ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just agriculture."

Kansas weighs legalizing death penalty
by hypoxia after Alabama execution

(KS Reflector, 2/16/2024)

"Alabama last month executed Kenneth Eugene Smith by hypoxia, affixing a mask to his face to administer pure nitrogen gas and displace the oxygen in his lungs, according to the Associated Press. Hypoxia can use other gasses as well.

The Associated Press reported Smith's execution, which took place after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to halt his execution, took just over 20 minutes. After the gas was administered, Smith "appeared to remain conscious for several minutes" and shook and writhed on the gurney, the AP reported."

Kansas Appleseed Legislative Updates:
February 16, 2024

Loud Light:
Kansas Week 5: Kobach controversy, rural hospital closures, and more (Video)

Care of Creation

'It's almost carbon-negative': how hemp became a surprise building material

(The Guardian, 2/15/2024)

"Using prefabricated hempcrete bricks and timber to reduce carbon impact, the two rental cottages, designed in keeping with upstate farmland architecture, are located on the Wally Farms experimental farming incubator and designed to demonstrate sustainable building techniques.

Kühl describes a fledgling network of advocates, designers and fabricators that regard bio-based building materials as a way to dramatically reduce the embodied or upfront carbon footprint of materials that, in some instances, account for 80% of its carbon lifecycle."



Reduce, reuse, redirect outrage: How plastic makers used recycling as a fig leaf

(NPR, 2/15/2024)

"But the industry appears to have championed recycling mainly for its public relations value, rather than as a tool for avoiding environmental damage, the documents suggest. "We are committed to the activities, but not committed to the results," a vice president at Exxon Chemical said during a meeting in 1994 with staff for the American Plastics Council, a trade group."

Fasting from carbon for Lent

(Earthbeat, 2/14/2024)

"Today during Lent, some Catholics still observe fasting and abstinence or try to live a simple lifestyle. For example, a household might try to live on \$600 a week, which is the U.S. poverty line today for a family of four. The money they save is then given to the poor. Such practices are certainly in the right spirit. Another approach would be to fast from carbon, to reduce one's carbon footprint.

Today, people in the First World burn much more carbon than those in poor countries. During Lent, we should try to reduce our carbon consumption to the level of poor people. If we do not cut our carbon consumption, we may not go to hell, but our grandchildren will live in a hell we have created."

Events

Human Trafficking

Stop Trafficking Newsletter

February Issue: Grooming and Trafficking of Children on Social Media

(Alliance to end Human Trafficking, 02/2024)

"Focus: This issue further explores the use of social media to groom, exploit, and traffic children and focuses on the role of legislation and social media platforms."

Protecting lives against trafficking through vigilance and action

(Global Sisters Report, 2/9/2024)

"Recognizing that migration is necessary for the economic development of society, and the need to accompany people in safely choosing their workplaces, sisters from different religious congregations in Odisha and Jharkhand formed a "Migrant Help Desk" for safe migration. Christian tribal populations from these two states constitute a massive number of unskilled laborers in different parts of the country. The Migrant Help Desk is broadly networking with another safe migration foundation, "Arise," nationwide. Religious nuns spearhead the activities, along with like-minded governmental and nongovernmental organizations. It was a noble and timely intervention from the church, considering the surging concerns about the safety of women due to increasing cases of duping, exploitation and flesh trade."





Biden protects Palestinian immigrants in the U.S. from deportation, citing Israel-Hamas war

(CBS News, 2/14/2024)

"Mr. Biden issued the directive using a little-known presidential program known as Deferred Enforced Departure, which also offers beneficiaries temporary work permits. It's a program derived from the president's power to conduct foreign policy that has been used by Republican and Democratic presidents alike.

The deportation relief for Palestinians, slated to last for 18 months, won't apply to those who are not already in the U.S., and certain individuals, such as those convicted of serious crimes or deemed to be public safety threats. Those who return to the Palestinian territories will also be ineligible for the program."

US to consider mass release of detained migrants over budget woes

(BBC, 2/14/2024)

"The bipartisan border bill that faltered due to Republican opposition last week would have earmarked \$7.6bn (£6bn) for ICE, including an additional \$3.2bn for detention capacity that would have boosted the agency's ability to house detainees by several thousand beds.

According to the Washington Post - which first reported the story - the bill's collapse prompted ICE officials to circulate an internal proposal to slash costs by cutting detentions from 38,000 to 22,000."

How Americans View the Situation at the U.S.-Mexico Border, Its Causes and Consequences

(Pew Research Center, 2/15/2024)

"Americans overwhelmingly fault the government for how it has handled the migrant situation. Beyond that, however, there are deep differences - over why the migrants are coming to the U.S., proposals for addressing the situation, and even whether it should be described as a "crisis.""

Seeking Racial Justice

Anti-DEI Efforts Are the Latest Attack on Racial Equity and Free Speech

(ACLU., 2/14/2024)

"DEI programs recruit and retain BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented faculty and students to repair decades of discriminatory policies and practices that excluded them from higher education. The far right, however, claims that DEI programs universally promote undeserving people who only advance because they check a box. Anti-DEI activists like Christopher Rufo consistently frame their attack as a strike against "identity politics," and have weaponized the term "DEI" to reference any ideas and policies they disagree with, especially those that address systemic racism or sexism."



End fossil-fuel era to address colonial injustices, urges prominent historian

(The Guardian, 2/15/2024)

"There is more to colonialism than historical colonialism," Van Reybrouck said. "Today's climate change is deeply colonial: it has been largely caused by the temperate zones from the northern hemisphere and it is most deeply felt in the tropics and the Arctic. You cannot decolonise without decarbonising and vice versa." The dominance of identity politics in US, British and Dutch societies, he said, meant that a vital conversation about enduring colonial structures risked being relegated to mainly marginal debates around symbolic gestures rather than radical solutions."

The Quest for Racial Equality Has Always Been Different for Rural Americans

(TIME, 12/17/2023)

"This drop off reflected how, for decades, wealthy white people utilized the power they held in their communities as government officials and business owners to push local Black people off land that their families had lived on for generations. Local white people also exploited new laws and subsidies to remove landowners or renters, deploying what an Emergency Land Fund report in 1974 described as, "a great deal of chicanery." New capital-intensive farming practices also favored the wealthy, while industrial development led to corporate interest in rural tracts, driving up prices."

Advocacy & Action



Sisters of the Good Shepherd National Advocacy Center:

Thanks to you, H.R. 5856 passed the House!

"Our emails and calls helped secure an overwhelming 414 to 11 victory in the House of Representatives. We are one step closer to making good change to better protect and support survivors - or potential victims - of human trafficking, among them those forced to migrate to the U.S. Read the joint NAC / AEHT press release [here](#).

Thank you so much for acting with us in the House - **now on to the Senate! We will call on you when the time comes again for action.**

In the meantime, learn more about the intersection of human trafficking and forced migration: [register](#) for the next NAC / AEHT webinar, scheduled for March 4 at 3:30 pm ET, focused on The Immigration Court Efficiency and Children's Court Act, [H.R. 6145 / S. 3178](#).

The bill would assist and protect unaccompanied migrant children, including those in need of protection from trafficking, as they navigate the complex U.S. immigration system. One of the most important aspects of the legislation is that it ensures consistent "eyes" on unaccompanied migrant children in the U.S. This assurance will lessen the chance that these children fall through the cracks and become prey to bad actors who might step in as sponsors or guardians only to exploit them for labor or sex. Click [here](#) to register today to help protect these children."