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Faith Can Move Mountains . . . and Remove Hatred

CAIRO - One does not need to think back half a century ago, to remember how much harmony and peaceful coexistence reigned in Arab countries between Muslims, Christians and Jewish. Nor does one need to recall how hundreds of Muslims gathered to protect Christians praying in their churches in Egypt during and after the 2011 popular uprising. Or how organised groups of Copts acted as a human shield to save Muslims praying in Cairo's Tahrir Square from extremists' attacks during the successive waves of popular protests. [P]

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Faith Based Organizations Keen To Influence UN Development Agenda

BANGKOK - 2015 is expected to become a watershed year for shaping the global development agenda with the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development models and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) frameworks, all coming up for review at major UN conferences during the year. [P]

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When Faith Meets Disaster Management

BANGKOK - A consortium of faith-based organisations (FBOs) made a declaration at a side event Wednesday at the 6th Asian Ministerial Conference On Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), to let the United Nations know that they stand ready to commit themselves to building resilient communities across Asia in the aftermath of natural disasters. [P] READ IN [ARABIC](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

Women Herders Bring Change

KUTCH, India - When Sangan Bhai, a humble man in the Kutch region of India's western state of Gujarat, was offered a position as an executive member of the local camel breeder's association, he made a decision that surprised his community: instead of accepting the prestigious post he offered his wife's name instead. His reason, he told IPS, was a simple one; unlike him, his wife can read and write, and has as much experience rearing camels as anyone in the community.

Overcoming the Twin Hurdles of Inequality and Climate Change

NEW YORK - Two major injustices – inequality and climate change – are threatening to undermine the efforts of millions of people to escape poverty and hunger. By concentrating wealth and power in the hands of a few, inequality robs the poorest people of the support they need to improve their lives. And as climate change devastates crops and livelihoods, it undoes poor people's efforts to feed their families.

[From Religious Conflict to an Interfaith Community](#)

UNITED NATIONS - Holy men and their holy books have etched a trail of tears and blood in the annals of human history. From the depths of peaceful temples, mobs have been dispatched with flaming torches; from steeples and minarets messages of hatred have floated down upon pious heads bent in prayer. For too long religion has incited violence and fueled conflict. [P]

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[Pacific Disability Theatre Group Inspires and Educates](#)

PORT VILA - In the Pacific Island state of Vanuatu, 23 actors with disabilities, from youth to senior citizens, who have battled physical and social barriers all their lives, are now empowering themselves and others through socially engaged theatre.



Post-2015 Development Agenda – Will the Voices of the Hungry be Heard?

ROME - The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will expire in 2015 and be replaced with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are intended to strengthen the international community's engagement with eradicating poverty and hunger. In the run-up to the drafting of the SDGs, the importance of food and nutrition security remains crucial. [P] READ IN [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)



In Developing World, Pollution Kills More Than Disease

UXBRIDGE, Canada - Pollution, not disease, is the biggest killer in the developing world, taking the lives of more than 8.4 million people each year, a new analysis shows. That's almost three times the deaths caused by malaria and fourteen times those caused by HIV/AIDs. However, pollution receives a fraction of the interest from the global community. [P]

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Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture It!

UNITED NATIONS - Nearly 20 years ago, the world came together in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women. There, 189 governments adopted a visionary roadmap for gender equality: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

More than 17,000 delegates and 30,000 activists pictured a world where women and girls had equal rights, freedom and opportunity in every sphere of life. [P]

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Nigeria Abductions Grab the Spotlight

WASHINGTON - The fate of more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by the violent Islamist Boko Haram group from the northern Nigeria town of Chibok in mid-April has become something of a public sensation in the United States since the beginning of the month.

Politicians and activists are calling for strong action by the U.S. to help the Nigerian government locate and rescue the girls, while the main television network have been leading their periodic news summaries and nightly newscasts with the latest information on the kidnappings for the past week.

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[On the Street That's Home](#)

UNITED NATIONS - Leila*, 19, has a soft, rasping voice and sad eyes. Her face is striped with long scars but nothing in her neat appearance hints that for the last nine years, her 'home' has been the streets just north of downtown Cairo.

Using her words sparingly, Leila tells IPS she was just a child when she was raped by her father. Called a liar by her mother and rejected by the rest of her family, she only escaped the beatings that followed by joining the growing ranks of young women who live on Cairo's dangerous streets.

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[U.S. Religious Progressivism 'Way of the Future'](#)

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - The future of religion in U.S. politics lies not with conservatives but rather with religious progressives, social scientists here are suggesting, with a faith-based movement potentially able to provide momentum to a new movement for social justice.

According to a new report from the Brookings Institute, a think tank here, the current religious social justice movement can be compared to the period of civil rights activism in the mid-20th century. [P]

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[Conflict Fuels Child Labour in India](#)

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - Early in the morning, 14-year-old Sumari Varda puts on her blue school uniform but heads for the village pond to fetch water. “I miss school. I wish I could go back,” she whispers, scared of being heard by her employer.

Sumari is from Dhurbeda village, but now lives in another, Bhainsasur, both located in central India’s Chhattisgarh state. She puts on her school uniform to fetch water because it is one of the few pieces of clothing she has. READ IN [JAPANESE](#)

[Global Citizenship Starts with Education](#)

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - For peace to be embedded in culture and society, it starts with childhood education which leads to the creation of global citizens, according to a panel of experts.

Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the U.N. Anwarul Chowdhury said fostering global citizens is important in achieving peace. READ IN [JAPANESE](#)

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