

AOTEAROA



From its beginnings, Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand has been committed to **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** as foundational to peace in the country. Before Christmas, they submitted a submission opposing the Treaty Principles Bill to the National Parliament. The submissions presented **overwhelmed the parliamentary website**. Read Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand's submission [at this link](#).

AUSTRALIA



Late last year **Pax Christi Victoria**, launched a "**Call to all Christians in Australia**" to put pressure on leaders to make their voices heard in favour of a complete ceasefire in Gaza. The call suggests five key principles towards a just, peaceful and durable outcome. [The petition and its accompanying statement](#) can be accessed on Change.org, where it gained **900 signatures**.

KOREA



At the [annual seminar on the message of Pope Francis](#) for the **World Day of Peace 2025**, on 18 January, the Pope's [three proposals](#) were discussed in the recent geopolitical context of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. A concrete suggestion was to join the **Global Days of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS)** in Korea as a way to de-escalate military tensions in the region.

JAPAN



The principle of a **de facto ban on arms exports**, as set out in the Three Principles on Arms Exports, etc., has long formed the basis of government policy under the thorough and **permanent pacifism of the Japanese Constitution**. However, in the intervening period, there has been a [gradual erosion of the principle of a ban on arms exports](#). The **Interfaith Peace Network** continues its public action against militarization.

PHILIPPINES



On January 28th, [Pax Christi Pilipinas' webinar "Stories of Nonviolence from Young People"](#) highlighted the impactful voices of youth in peacebuilding. **Speakers from different regions of the Philippines**, Sophia, Kath, and Raida, shared their **personal experiences and initiatives**. The discussion emphasized the importance of nonviolence, managing emotions, and intergenerational dialogue.

SRI LANKA



January 6th marked the **40th anniversary of the killing of Fr. Mary Bastian**, a Catholic priest from the Catholic Diocese of Mannar, in the Northern province in Sri Lanka. Ruki Fernando, Human Rights activist and member of Pax Christi International's Asia-Pacific group, [wrote an article calling for justice](#) for Fr. Bastian, as well as hundreds of thousands of people, including **11 Catholic priests and one religious sister**.