

# CSAN

## Review of the Year 2015



**The church in the “Jungle” Camp, Calais**

**“The Church, guided by the Gospel of mercy and by love for mankind, hears the cry for justice and intends to respond to it with all her might.”**

***Evangelii Gaudium p188***

## Message from our Chair Bishop Terence Drainey



This has been my first full year as Chair of CSAN. It has been a momentous one for the organisation, with three new permanent members of the team. I commend this Annual Review which demonstrates the scope and quality of the work of the CSAN office team and our member charities.

I must express my thanks to Helen O'Brien for her fantastic work in developing CSAN. She has done an enormous amount to develop Catholic social action in England and Wales. She will be much missed by the trustees, staff, member charities and our partners. We all wish her well in her retirement. I welcome Dr Phil McCarthy as the new CEO. He has experience and expertise in leadership and management within the NHS and the Third Sector. He also has skills in ethics and Catholic Social Teaching.

In response to the Motu Proprio of Pope Benedict XVI, *In the Service of Charity*, CSAN serves the Church in England and Wales. I am confident that CSAN will deliver the tasks which the Bishops' Conference has set it: to develop the Caritas network, to support its witness and to provide advocacy and 'voice' at national level for vulnerable and marginalised people.

## Message from our CEO Dr Phil McCarthy

I took up my role as CEO at the start of December 2015, so I am conscious that the achievements of 2015 are due to the hard work and expertise of my predecessor, Helen O'Brien. I am grateful to her for the handover and support. She has built an excellent team at CSAN.



CSAN exists to put Catholic Social Teaching into action. We support a network including national and regional charities, others taking on the Caritas name for all or part of their services. They share a Catholic ethos and a commitment to fighting poverty and to enabling people to regain control of their lives and flourish. CSAN has developed its advocacy and public affairs work and has become an authentic voice of the Church in domestic social policy. Our aim is to influence policy makers and to make the voice of those who live in poverty and exclusion heard in the public arena. The credibility of this voice is based on the vast expertise and experience of our members.

Looking forward, the quotation from *Evangelii Gaudium* at the start of this review, strikes me as the essence of what CSAN is trying to do. Pope Francis comments that this means not only doing small daily acts to meet the needs we encounter, but also in the work we do to eliminate the structural causes of poverty. I hope that during the current Year of Mercy, CSAN will do all it can to respond to the cry for justice.

## Public Affairs

**“CSAN has been leading the way in helping those who find themselves needing extra support or guidance”**

***Baroness Williams of Trafford, at CSAN  
Parliamentary Reception November 2015***

### **A strong Catholic voice on migration - Refugee Crisis**

CSAN has worked extensively on the refugee crisis since August 2015. A key pillar of our work has been coordinating a response to the crisis in the refugee camp in Calais known as the “Jungle”. CSAN has offered support and solidarity both to *Seeking Sanctuary*, the local Kent based charity run by Ben Bano and to *Secours Catholique* (Caritas France). CSAN has acted as a conduit for financial donations for the camp. For example we sent £7,000 to *Secours Catholique* for a new van to move people to medical appointments and equipment to where it is needed.

A CSAN led delegation visited the camp in Calais in September, to gather intelligence and develop an advocacy plan with *Secours Catholique*. We spoke to many people in the camp and visited *Secours Catholique*'s day centre in the town. A joint-statement, calling on urgent action from both the French and British government, received coverage in almost all of the Catholic press. The three advocacy asks were for the:

- Convention of talks between the UK and French governments to develop a solution to the crisis in Calais.
- Expansion of safe and legal pathways to the UK, so that refugees are not forced to undertake dangerous journeys in order to seek the sanctuary they require.
- Creation of a just asylum system, which ensures the maintenance of human dignity at every stage of the process.

## Detention

***“The negative and punitive perception of migrants that seems to have gained currency and acceptability is just not worthy of a civilised society, and this attitude seems to be reflected in current provisions and legislation.”***

Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark, Kevin McDonald speaking at the Harmondsworth interfaith event on immigration detention

CSAN stakeholder engagement and policy work on immigration detention has been an important part of our work in the field of asylum. As part of this work, CSAN has joined the Detention Forum, a collection of charities and organisations with an interest and focus on immigration detention. CSAN has also helped *René Cassin*, a Jewish charity, with an event held near Harmondsworth Immigration Detention Centre, in arranging for the Most Rev Kevin McDonald (the Emeritus Archbishop for Southwark) to provide a reflection on detention in light of Catholic Social Teaching.

CSAN, with support from the Jesuit Refugee Service UK, provided a briefing to parliamentarians for the 10 September debate on immigration detention. The briefing focussed on:

- The impact that indefinite detention has on detainees, especially relating to their long-term mental health
- The inappropriateness of detention for vulnerable detainees

## Immigration Bill

CSAN has engaged with parliamentary legislation affecting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. The Immigration Bill 2015 will introduce a number of measures with which CSAN and its member

charities have concerns, especially relating to the rollout of Right to Rent and support for certain categories of migrants.

CSAN produced a briefing to the House of Commons and the House of Lords outlining our concerns with the Immigration Bill. We also urged Members to support amendments proposed in the bill which would grant asylum seekers the right to work and remove barriers to family reunification in the UK and supported a Peer on an amendment concerning the Immigration Health Surcharge.

## **A Strong Catholic Voice Welfare**

A fundamental part of CSAN's parliamentary work in 2015 focussed on welfare reform and the impact of poverty and inequality in England and Wales.

### **Benefits system**

CSAN has advocated on Welfare to Work programmes, raising the issues faced by our member charities. Responding to the Work and Pensions Select Committee inquiry into Welfare to Work, we provided evidence that the current contracting model of the Work Programme fails to help people with multiple barriers into sustained employment. Providing the example of our charities' work, CSAN called on the DWP to roll out programmes to ease the transition out of poverty, such as the peer-led in-work job club at the Cardinal Hume Centre.

#### **Policy work in numbers**

- Engaged with two Bills
- 5 parliamentary and European Union inquiries
- 18 written and oral briefings to parliamentarians
- Over 30 events and meetings with external stakeholders

The benefit system itself was a key focus of our work with a particular focus on the efficiency of payments and the fairness of the benefit sanctions policy. Responding to two parliamentary inquiries, CSAN shared members' experiences of the benefits system. They reported that there had been improvements in the processing of straightforward claims, but there remain problems with more complex claims. On benefit sanctions, CSAN made the case that the sanction policy had created a climate of resentment leading to an 'us and them' situation between advisors and claimants. We called for the exemption of vulnerable groups from benefit sanctions, culminating in our document *Caritas Cares: the impact of welfare changes*.

### **Welfare Reform and Work Bill**

CSAN engaged with the Welfare Reform and Work Bill, providing briefings to the House of Lords, one of which received coverage in *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*. The Welfare Reform and Work Bill will introduce significant changes to the Child Poverty Act and implement the so-called "two-child limit" for Child Tax Credits and their equivalent under Universal Credit. CSAN raised concerns regarding the impact of these measures on low-income and working families. We reaffirmed our position that any measure of child poverty should fundamentally refer to income and any additions to measuring child poverty should supplement, not replace, income related measures. In an oral briefing roundtable in the House of Lords, CSAN made the point that the two-child limit was anti-family and failed the Government's family test.

### **Hunger and Food Poverty**

CSAN engaged with the 2015 All Party Parliamentary Group on the Hunger and Food Poverty Inquiry. In 2015, CSAN charities responded to the needs of their clients providing food parcels, cash and material support. Working with Nugent Care on Merseyside, CSAN submitted new evidence to the Hunger and Food Poverty Inquiry and highlighted

the impact that the decline of support services, especially those traditionally funded by statutory bodies, has had on the support being provided. Our submission was warmly received by the Inquiry. Our recommendations included: that an intermediary telephone line should be available for advisors of charities to call on behalf of clients and that regular translation services should be provided by the Jobcentre and the DWP to prevent unnecessary delays, errors and benefit sanctions.

### **Supporting our member Charities**

A central part of our work is the provision of political information, analysis and support to member charities working on the front-line. Throughout the year we have regularly given briefings to chief executives, staff, trustees and funders of the charities in our network. In this way we help to ensure that organisations involved in Catholic social action are both aware of legislative changes that will affect the people they serve and are actively involved in formulating CSAN's responses. We have given our members opportunities to share their experiences and views directly with decisions makers. For example this year's Parliamentary Reception provided the opportunity for our members to meet with over thirty parliamentarians.

### **Summary**

As circumstances have become harder for vulnerable people we have endeavoured to tell their stories to decision makers and to provide influential responses to government policies, informed by the Church's Social Teaching and the experience of our member charities.



## Communications & Media



**“CSAN set out a series of recommendations to make the social security system more person centred and able to respond to the real needs of the individual”**

**Patrick Butler, Social Policy Editor, *The Guardian***

Throughout 2015, CSAN has worked to enhance the voice, profile and the reputation of the network through communications and media work. This has been achieved through greater engagement with national and faith-based publications, running media training for the CSAN team and trustees, launching a Communications Forum and forging stronger links with member and diocesan communication officers.

**Communications  
Overview  
January – November 2015**

Press Releases: 24

Press Articles: 75  
(newspaper), 9 online (blog  
or article) and 1 (radio  
feature)

Total Coverage: 109

National Coverage: 5

Staff media trained: 8

CSAN has secured high profile coverage in national, local and Catholic press, to support of our network and policy work. We appeared in *The Guardian* for our response to Welfare Reform. Through press releases, articles, letters and stronger contact with journalists, CSAN raises the profile of the work of Catholic charities, highlights structural injustice and poverty issues and gives a voice to people who are vulnerable and marginalised in England and Wales.

**Supporting Policy & Advocacy**

Building on the experience and concerns of our members, CSAN issued press releases on benefit sanctions, the Prison Inquiry and the refugee crisis. Through invitations to radio interviews on *BBC Radio 4* about the state of prisons and on *Christian Premier Radio* about Calais, as well as extensive coverage in Catholic and Christian Press, CSAN has raised awareness of the impact of these changes on the lives of the people our charities work with.

## Press



**Our Caritas report on The Impact of Welfare Changes was covered in *The Guardian* by Social Policy Editor Patrick Butler**

CSAN has been asked to comment on a wide range of issues, including rising levels of in-work poverty, benefit sanctions and the refugee crisis in Calais. CSAN is positioning itself as the go-to Catholic voice on matters of domestic importance. We have appeared in the national press a number of times on some of these issues, most notably *The Guardian's* Religion Correspondent, Harriet

Sherwood, covered Cardinal Vincent Nichols' stance on the refugee crisis at CSAN's Parliamentary Reception. CSAN has also facilitated media training for five of its staff and three trustees, run by a BBC-trained journalist.

## Supporting the Network

A key objective of CSAN's strategy in 2015 was to develop the work of the Communications Forum. The last Communications Forum of 2015 was well received, with useful training from Bob Walters on iPhone filming and editing. A roundtable discussion established the priority challenges for the members and formed plans for short, medium and long-term joint working.

The *Catholic Times* weekly column *Charity Begins at Home* profiles the work of CSAN member organisations and the voices of those they exist to serve. Through this column CSAN has raised awareness of the work undertaken by Catholic charities and provided a weekly media platform for our members.

CSAN has also led on a number of press initiatives with our member charities, jointly issuing press releases to comment on housing, rising numbers of refugees, child poverty indicators and food poverty. We have diversified our press output, and staff and members have written blogs for *The Tablet* and *The Catholic Universe*.

## Online

CSAN is developing a new website that better represents the network, improves signposting and usability and serves as a useful resource for a number of different audiences.

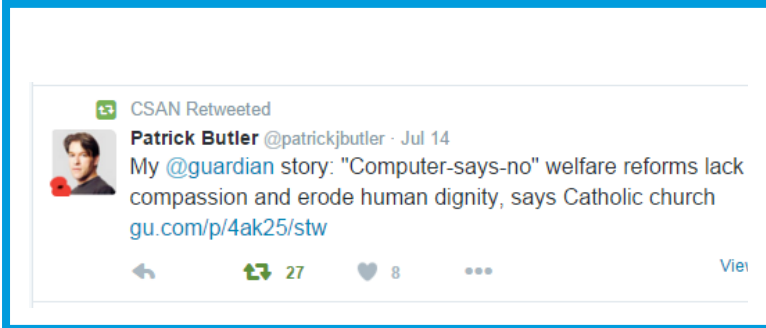
Website (Jan – Nov 2015)

Increase from 2014: 13%

Importantly, it will serve as an easy-to-use resource for those seeking help. We expect the new site to launch in the summer of 2016.

CSAN has developed our presence on social networking sites, Twitter and Facebook, as well as encouraging network members to develop a greater online presence. During 2015 we witnessed an increase in supporters of our Facebook page and followers on Twitter and we have made a concerted effort to increase conversations. Rather than using social media platforms to simply broadcast, we are using them to interact and engage with followers. For example, we asked people who attended this year's Parliamentary Reception to share their thoughts of the day with us.

The use of social media has been particularly effective in developing dialogue with national journalists and ensuring coverage of network stories and policy work. We are growing a dedicated following that champions our messages in other networks.



There have been retweets by MPs, journalists, academic institutions, partner agencies and campaigns.

Over the past year there has been a 66% increase in the number of CSAN's Twitter followers and CSAN has made extensive use of the platform to highlight the work of our network through hashtags such as #CSANReception and #WorldHomelessDay – the former to showcase highlights from our Parliamentary Reception and the latter, used by Caritas Anchor House to support their parliamentary reception and events on that day.

## Network Development



***“Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also “macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones.” That is why the Church set before the world the ideal of a “civilization of love”. ”***

**Pope Francis, Laudato Si, May 2015**

### **Bringing Catholic social action together**

During 2015, CSAN has used Caritas Diocesan Roadshows to develop and facilitate Catholic social action at a local and diocesan level. The Shrewsbury Caritas Roadshow was held on 26 September 2015 and was attended by over one hundred-sixty people. The event was organised jointly by CSAN and the Diocese of Shrewsbury in response to invitation of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to strengthen support and develop cohesive action based in faith and social justice. The programme touched on a number of

critical issues facing England and Wales, including alcohol and drug addiction, gender inequality, the migrant crisis and rising poverty levels.

CSAN is working in partnership with CAFOD to develop an award for schools to recognise their contribution to living out Catholic Social Teaching. In February 2015, we met with CAFOD and a group of schools from the Portsmouth Diocese which are developing an award scheme for Catholic schools, celebrating their work in social action and social justice. CSAN has agreed to support this 'Romero Award' pilot in the Portsmouth Diocese, which has potential to become a national award for schools.

### The CSAN Forums: fostering solidarity and collaboration

#### **CSAN Forums in Numbers: January 2015 – December 2015**

**Directors:** 3 meetings, 54 attendees

**Fundraising & Marketing and Communications:** 2 meetings, 20 attendees

**Older People's Services:** 3 meetings, 24 attendees

**Schools' Services:** 3 meetings, 26 attendees

**Criminal Justice:** 3 meetings, 39 attendees

Throughout 2015, CSAN has run, supported and developed our five special interest forums. The forums have provided a space for our members to share best practice and also to develop and maintain partnerships aimed at furthering their objectives. We were delighted to welcome three new CSAN members; *Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth*, *Seeking Sanctuary* and *The National Board of Catholic Women*.

The refugee crisis urgently required the collaboration and coordination of CSAN's

members. CSAN member *Seeking Sanctuary* has been working closely with CSAN, the *Justice and Peace Network* and *Secours Catholique* concerning formulating and delivering a response to the refugee crisis.

There has been some fantastic work completed by the School Services Forum. A presentation on the *Social Impact Tracker*, which is an online data application for frontline organisations to report on their outputs, outcomes and impact, was delivered in May. Members shared their own data collection methods. This allowed them to share best practice and brainstorm new policies and procedures to implement.

We worked closely with CAFOD on the Fundraising & Marketing and Communications forum in October. Key personnel from Digital Marketing, Legacies, Major Gifts and Regular Giving gave presentations on their areas of expertise.

The Criminal Justice Forum, has supported the Catholic Bishops' Conferences campaign concerning time out of cells for prisoners which called for the government to:

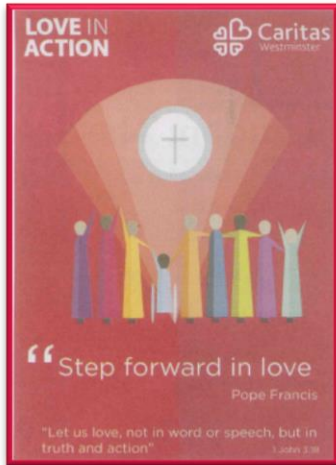
- Alter the current prison staffing benchmarks upwards as recommended by the Justice Select Committee, in order to meet Prison Service Instructions concerning purposeful activity, association and worship
- Commission a thematic report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons regarding access to worship and chaplaincy services
- Protect spending on prisons for the duration of this parliament

The questions for the CSAN Membership Audit have been finalised. The audit of the members will allow CSAN to better understand the services our members are offering, where they are working, and why they are providing these services. The results of the Membership



Audit are expected to be presented at the Directors' Forum in September 2016.

### Promoting the Caritas Spirit of the Network



In 2015, CSAN has been involved in work to support the Caritas spirit and ethos of the network and promote a deeper awareness of Catholic Social Teaching in the wider Catholic community.

**Love in Action** is a programme of CST training and social action toolkits for parish groups. The programme aims to provide a way to address the needs of vulnerable people, using CST to engage in creative social action in parishes. CSAN assisted with the development of the resources

and Caritas Westminster has piloted this programme.

**Caritas in Action** is a CST programme for schools, developed by Caritas Diocese of Salford.

### Work with the Catholic Bishops Conference, CAFOD, and the wider Church

CSAN has supported the work of the Catholic Bishops' Conference, its agencies and advisory bodies and the wider Church.

In February 2015, CSAN hosted Anja Nikles from Caritas Aachen, as part of Caritas Europa's CAPSO Project (CARITAS in Europe – Promoting Together Solidarity). The project is designed to enhance

solidarity and communication between different European Caritas organisations.



In collaboration with CAFOD, CSAN produced General Election resources which combined domestic and international issues. The resources proved a success, with over 19,000 postcards and 11,000 leaflets distributed to supporters. The resources were used at a number of high profile hustings events. CSAN

produced a fact-sheet which included a range of statistics on areas of interest to help aid supporters in their engagement with parliamentarians. This resource proved to be the most downloaded item on the CSAN website for over two years.

The Big Mile walk was jointly organised by CSAN and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). It involved supporters of Catholic charities walking one mile to show their solidarity with those living in poverty. 12 walks in the Cardiff and Shrewsbury dioceses were organised with 800 walkers taking part. The event raised £3,317 and the funds were divided between SVP projects, CSAN, PACT and Catholic Children's Society of Shrewsbury. We plan to replicate this success in other dioceses in England & Wales.

It has been a fantastic year for CSAN in which we have grown our relationships with members, CBCEW, the wider Church and organisations from other faiths and none dedicated to positive social change.

## Financial Summary

<b>2015 Total Income</b>	<b>239,124</b>
<i>Grants and Donations</i>	173,568
<i>Members Subscription</i>	63,095
<i>Conference and Other</i>	2,461

<b>2015 Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 255,027</b>
<i>Fundraising</i>	£ 6,739
<i>Co-ordination of Forums and Advocacy</i>	£ 80,833
<i>Network</i>	£ 45,421
<i>Quality and Character</i>	£ 10,436
<i>Theology/Research. CST</i>	£ 8,501
<i>Profile and Voice</i>	£ 44,340
<i>Support &amp; Governance Costs</i>	£ 58,757

## The CSAN Members

*With thanks for the support and opportunity to work with the following CSAN Members throughout 2015:*

1. **Apostleship of the Sea**
2. **Brentwood Catholic Children's Society**
3. ***British Province of the Society of Jesus***
4. **Cardinal Hume Centre**
5. **Caritas Anchor House**
6. **Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham**
7. **Caritas Care**
8. **Caritas Diocese of Middlesbrough**
9. **Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth**
10. **Caritas Diocese of Salford**
11. **Caritas Westminster**
12. **Catholic Agency for Racial Justice (CARJ)**
13. **Catholic Care Leeds**
14. **Catholic Children's Society, Shrewsbury**

15. **Catholic Children's Society, Westminster**
16. **Catholics for Aids Prevention & Support**
17. **Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Services (CSAS)**
18. **CCS Adoption**
19. **Depaul UK**
20. **Faith in Families**
21. **Families for Children**
22. **Father Hudson's Society**
23. **Hallam Diocesan Caring Services**
24. **Housing Justice**
25. **Hurtado Centre**
26. ***Institute of Our Lady of Mercy***
27. **Irish Chaplaincy**
28. **Jesuit Refugee Service (UK)**
29. **Marriage Care**
30. **Nugent Care**
31. **The National Board of Catholic Women**
32. **The Passage**
33. **Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT)**
34. **Saint John of God Care Services**
35. **Seeking Sanctuary**
36. ***Society of the Holy Child Jesus***
37. **St Antony's Centre for Church and Industry**
38. **St Cuthbert's Care**
39. **St David's Children's Society**
40. **St Francis' Children's Society**
41. **St Vincent de Paul Society**
42. ***Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary***
43. **Vincentians in Partnership**
44. **Welcome me as I am**
45. **Women @ The Well**

41 members, 4 Religious Congregations