

“I consider it important to stress that your continent has been blessed by our Lord Jesus Himself. At the dawn of His earthly life, sad circumstances led Him to set foot on African soil. God chose Africa to become the dwelling-place of His Son.

In Jesus, God drew near to all men and women, of course, but also, in a particular way, to the men and women of Africa. Africa is where the Son of God was weaned, where He was offered effective sanctuary.

As a result of the coming of Christ who blessed it with His physical presence, Africa has received a particular vocation to know Christ.

Let Africans be proud of this!”

Pope Benedict XVI  
19 March 2009

## TODAY'S MEETING

The Australian Human Rights Commission would like to know of the settlement experiences of the African community. Mainly this is in the areas of:

1. Education
2. Health
3. Employment
4. Housing
5. Justice

Today we would like to know a little about your experiences, good and bad, in these 5 areas.

Of course, if you have others areas that you would like to discuss, please feel free to do so.

This is a free, democratic country where your opinion is important and valued.

All discussions today will remain CONFIDENTIAL, unless you specifically ask otherwise.

Please be respectful of other peoples' opinions – you may not agree with everyone, but you must allow everyone to speak freely.

A small lunch will be provided after the meeting. Please feel free to stay and talk.

If after today you would like to add some more information please feel free to email or phone either of the offices (details on the back of this handout)

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

# WELCOME and THANK YOU for your participation today

After today's meeting, the information collected will be used to prepare a submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission. This Commission will then prepare a report to the Australian Government so that it develop policies to assist all new arrivals

Deadline for submissions is 30 June 2009.

The Office for Justice and Peace and the Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, in conjunction with the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation and Caritas Australia will continue to work in support of African Catholics and Christians to provide a welcoming environment and sense of community.

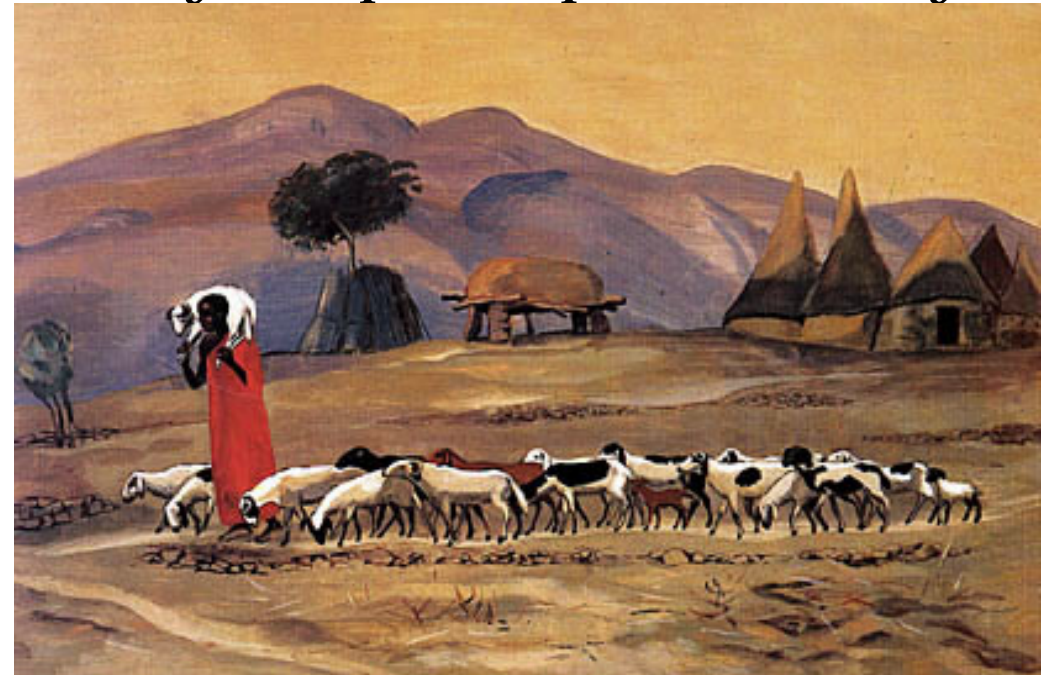
Please feel free to contact either of these agencies.



Office for  
**JUSTICE & PEACE**  
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



Melbourne Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office  
03 99265720 [mcmro@melbourne.catholic.org.au](mailto:mcmro@melbourne.catholic.org.au)  
Justice and Peace Office  
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I am the good Shepherd

Your voice is important