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Jonathan Webb



73 Victoria Road
Oxford OX2 7QG

Phone: 01865-510734
Fax: 01865-311950
Email: info@cleanslate.org
www.cleanslate.org

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Dear Friends,

Our July newsletter is a little different from the usual. In this personal letter to you, we give some of the last month's news, plus a few reflections on how the campaign is going at its halfway mark. Enclosed you will find an informal 'half year report' rounding up some of the highlights of the first six months of the campaign. This is written in such a way that it can be used with anyone who is interested in the campaign. Feel free to photocopy it, or to request further copies from us enclosing an SAE.

In the past month I have visited three areas of Britain. In **Nottingham** BBC Radio did an interview and the *Evening Post* carried a news report. A meeting chaired by the millennium co-ordinator of the Nottingham Council of Churches briefed representatives of the City Council, women's groups, and the city's ethnic minorities about the campaign; the part that the campaign could play in the city's millennium plans was on the agenda. It was encouraging to find that information about the CSC has been included in a 'millennium pack' sent to every school in Nottinghamshire.

In **Cardiff** my host was patron Annand Jasani who interviewed me for ten minutes on her weekly BBC Radio Wales programme, 'A Voice for All'. Earlier the same day, Radio Wales's 'Live Time' did an eight minute interview, one of the interviewers declaring on air that this was one of the best millennium ideas she had heard of. (That has been a common response from the media people I have met.) The *Western Mail* says that it plans to run a feature in the summer (to be confirmed). I met the head of Cardiff Central Library who wants to support the campaign in whatever way possible, including hosting a major display.

In **Scotland**, *The Herald* published a feature (extracts in the enclosed report) and invited its readers to write to the paper to share a personal clean slate experience. Scot FM, a commercial radio station covering Glasgow and Edinburgh, interviewed me. In Glasgow, Cllr Bashir Maan who has just been appointed Convenor of the Strathclyde Police Board, suggested circulating all city councillors in the Strathclyde region and will undertake this. He and other Scottish patrons will be writing to all members of the new Scottish Parliament.

In **Oxford**, the Lord Mayor has agreed to give her official support to a 'Clean Slate Week' towards the end of the year, and is putting it to the City Council to back it. This follows a letter from my MP to several city leaders supporting the idea.

Schools may provide one of the most fertile grounds for the clean slate message. Nearly 1,500 schools and youth groups have been circulated by their local education authorities, and some are requesting resource materials we have available for use in classrooms. You may like to consider approaching your local schools to see if they would like to use the clean slate theme during the autumn term.

Regarding **finance**, we are extremely grateful for nearly 200 individual gifts, totalling £18,000, which have enabled us to meet campaign expenditure to date, and which will just see us through until the end of August. However we estimate that a similar sum is going to be needed by the end of the year if we are to meet all our commitments – and possibly much more if the tempo increases in the autumn.

How can we assess the campaign's impact so far? Over 35,000 copies of the 'Guide' have been circulated, reaching all kinds of people via diverse networks. On my visits around Britain over the past six weeks, I have heard many stories of how 'cleaning the slate' has brought new life to people. As one person said, "it was only when I actually put something right in my life, that I really understood the significance of the Clean Slate Campaign". There are more stories in the enclosed report.

But we have only made a modest beginning, preparing the ground for a stepped-up campaign in the autumn. As the new millennium comes nearer, I believe that more and more people are going to be open for a message which goes deeper than parties and cultural celebrations.

We still have nearly 20,000 copies of the Guide unused. **Would you be ready to take delivery of a hundred** or perhaps several hundred, and place them strategically in public places in your area? My dentist, for example, has readily put piles in his waiting room, and reports many interested readers. Other places which might take supplies include doctor's waiting rooms, libraries, local information offices, churches.

It would be wonderful if we could use all remaining copies of the Guide by early September, when we plan to have a new, simplified version available for autumn campaigning.

But of course, numbers are not the main point. The campaign is about practical, positive action to bring hope in the lives of people. Let's continue to take steps ourselves, and then to share our experience with others.

Thank you for all you have done so far to help the campaign reach out. Please continue to send in your news and ideas. We look forward to an exciting autumn!

With my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Edward Peters
Campaign Chairman