



Christians for an Ethical Society Canberra

A Working Group of the Social Justice Commission of the NSW Ecumenical Council & associate member of the ACT Council of Churches
President - Reverend Professor James Haire

www.ces.org.au
PO Box 5079, Hughes ACT 2605
Monday, 17 March 2014

CEDING SOVEREIGNTY **Transpacific Partnership Agreement**

"I fear that the Transpacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) will hand a wrecking ball to multilaterals to demolish basic Australian public interest regulation whenever they consider it undercuts their profits" said Professor Thomas Faunce. "Unless they are carved out, regulation of sectors like pharmaceuticals, energy, infrastructure, intellectual property and food are threatened." Professor Thomas Faunce of both the ANU College of Law and College of Medicine, Biology and Environment is speaking this evening at a Forum of Christians for an Ethical Society at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

"We know from earlier leaked drafts that these issues are on the table." continued Prof. Faunce. "It is critical that key components of our social fabric are excluded from foreign corporate challenge under this treaty."

"The treaty is a direct assault on the sovereignty of the Australian people and the rule of law in this country. It is therefore imperative that key components be excluded from corporate challenge under this treaty. This is a crisis of governance. The Government may well be ceding our sovereignty and we won't know this until the treaty is signed and sealed."

Prof Faunce went on to explain that fundamental ethical as well as constitutional principles are at play here. "Human beings come together in society not just for security, the capacity to raise children and earn money but, in the terms of Immanuel Kant or those of the Sermon on the Mount and Buddhist teaching, to use the humanity of ourselves or others as an end and never merely as a means. Society is not just about maximising shareholder profit."

Prof Faunce explains that the TPPA will create a strategy for corporate domination of the values of our society particularly when combined with an agenda of privatisation and deregulation that will facilitate corporate infiltration of governance and policy mechanisms previously thought to have been for the public good.

He has one comforting message. Whereas technology has typically been of such a scale and cost that corporations alone can manage them, Prof. Faunce sees the much smaller scale of nanotechnology and artificial photosynthesis in which he is a global leader as holding out the hope of far greater small scale democratic control.

Time of forum: 7:30pm, Monday 17 March 2014

Venue: Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, cnr Kings Ave & Blackall St, Barton

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