



## 1. "Urbi et Orbi" - Easter 2015

*Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter!*

Jesus Christ is risen!



Love has triumphed over hatred, life has conquered death, light has dispelled the darkness!

Out of love for us, Jesus Christ stripped himself of his divine glory, emptied himself, took on the form of a slave and humbled himself even to death, death on a cross. For this reason God exalted him and made him Lord of the universe. Jesus is Lord!

By his death and resurrection, Jesus shows everyone *the way* to life and happiness: this way is *humility*, which involves *humiliation*. This is the path which leads to glory. *Only those who humble themselves can go towards the "things that are above", towards God* (cf. Col 3:1-4). The proud look "down from above"; the humble look "up from below".

On Easter morning, alerted by the women, Peter and John ran to the tomb. They found it open and empty. Then they drew near and "*bent down*" in order to enter it. To enter into the mystery, we need to "bend down", to abase ourselves. Only those who abase themselves understand the glorification of Jesus and are able to follow him on his way.

For remainder of address, [http://w2.vatican.va/content/Francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150405\\_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/Francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20150405_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html)

## 2. Historic law to end Modern Slavery passed.



New Bill to help eradicate modern slavery received Royal Assent (Thursday 26th March, 2015).

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is the first of its kind in Europe, and one of the first in the world, to specifically address slavery and

trafficking in the 21st century.

The new legislation significantly enhances support and protection for victims, gives law-enforcement the tools they need to target today's slave drivers, ensures perpetrators can be severely punished, and includes a world leading provision to encourage business to take action to ensure their end-to-end supply chains are slavery free.

Having undergone extensive Parliamentary and public scrutiny, the Modern Slavery Act is one of the final pieces of legislation to be put on the statute books by this government.

Home Secretary Theresa May said:

"The presence of modern slavery in today's society is an affront to the dignity and humanity of every one of us. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is an historic milestone.

This landmark legislation sends the strongest possible signal to criminals that if you are involved in this vile trade you will be arrested, you will be prosecuted and you will be locked up. And it says to victims, you are not alone - we are here to help you.”

Details of the Act can be read here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-law-to-end-modern-slavery-passed>

### 3. UNANIMA International Flash Point.



“Camelamos naquerar!” (We want to speak!) The **Religious of Jesus and Mary** operate a nursery school in a barrio in Pinos Puente (close to Granada, Spain) which is part of a project of inclusion with the Gypsy and Paya community in Pinos Puente. Here they also offer a weekly workshop for women, especially the Gypsy and Paya women who

have children in the school, to give them a place where they can speak freely, be heard, hear other voices, and discover other aspects of reality. It is open to every woman who seeks a place to feel comfortable and at ease.

[www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org)



### 4. Fear, Fatigue and Separation; a journey with migrants willing to risk everything.

Smugglers are taking more illegal migrants through the western Balkans, but the route holds great hardship for a group of West Africans heading for Macedonia.

For more on this article, please see [www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/apr/06/fear-fatigue-separation-migrants-western-balkans-west-africans-eu-back-door](http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/apr/06/fear-fatigue-separation-migrants-western-balkans-west-africans-eu-back-door)

## 5. RUHAMA Ireland Launches new outreach van.

RUHAMA recently launched its new Outreach van. This is a specially equipped vehicle purchased by RUHAMA in order to continue providing a street outreach service to women, in Dublin's "Red Light" district.

The van is on the streets an average of four nights per week and its purpose is to initiate contact with this marginalised group of women.

For more information, please see [www.ruhama.ie](http://www.ruhama.ie)

## 6. Netherlands and Philippines sign partnership pact vs. human trafficking.

The Philippines and the Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a more thorough partnership in battling cross-border human trafficking.

The signing of the MOU was participated in by Philippine representatives from the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) led by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and Dutch delegates led by Marion Derckx, Human Rights Ambassador Kees van Baar, deputy head of Mission Ruth Emerink and Police Liaison Arjan Verhagen.

De Lima who is IACAT chairperson, said the MOU seeks to enhance conversation and communication in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases. The Department of Justice supervises the IACAT.

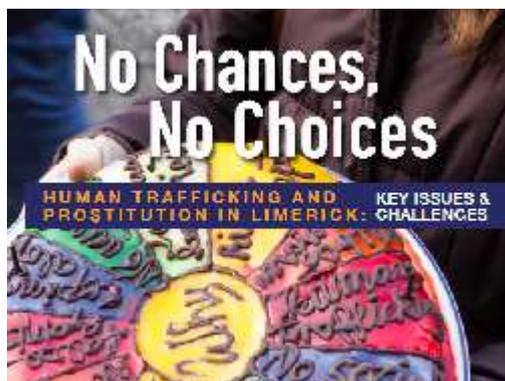
"The ratification of the MOU between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Philippines signifies the commitment of the government in addressing the human trafficking problem and its vow to work closely with like-minded partners to end exploitation of the vulnerable," said the Justice secretary.

De Lima described the development as a "milestone in the government's drive in eliminating modern-day slavery."

Among the areas of co-operation covered by the agreement are the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in human beings, sexual abuse of minors, production, import, export, distribution and selling of child abuse images, possession of child abuse images for sexual exploitation and travelling child sex offenders.

More from <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/463498/pinoyabroad/news/phl-netherlands-sign-partnership-pact-vs-human-trafficking>

## 7. Launch of 'No Choices, No Chances' research report, in Limerick, Ireland.



*Doras Luimní* launched a new report on their human trafficking and migrant prostitution case work, which outlines the cases presenting to Doras Luimní over an 18 month period.

It provides evidence of the complexity of human trafficking, the difficulties facing migrants who navigate the Irish immigration system, the barriers when accessing statutory services, and the overlap between human trafficking and migrant prostitution. The report is available to view online

at [www.dorasluimni.org](http://www.dorasluimni.org)

## **8. 'RACE IN EUROPE' PROJECT – ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL.**

### **EUROPEAN INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE RESPONSE AGAINST TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION.**

The 'RACE in Europe' project is a two-year initiative by Anti-Slavery International and its partners to improve knowledge about the nature and scale of trafficking of children and adults for forced criminal exploitation and forced begging across Europe.

Children and adults are trafficked across Europe and forced to beg in towns and cities and made to commit crimes such as pickpocketing, ATM theft, metal theft and cannabis cultivation by their traffickers. Trafficking for forced criminal activities and forced begging are increasingly significant phenomena, but have only recently been formally recognised in the [EU Directive 2011/36](#).

Although both national and international legislation provides for the non-punishment and non-prosecution of victims, those trafficked are often treated as criminals. Many end up being prosecuted, convicted and imprisoned for crimes they have been forced to commit, while their traffickers enjoy impunity. For more details, please see [www.anti-slaveryinternational.org](http://www.anti-slaveryinternational.org)

- **If you have any items you would like to share with the network, please email the address below, we would love to hear from you!**

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