

## Report on a Work Trip from Bratislava to Uzhgorod and Lviv in the Ukraine

22nd-26th September, 2015



Sr Bohdana Bezáková travelled to Lviv, for a meeting with Sr Valentyna Ryabushko, secretary to the Conference of Female Religious Superiors of the Greek Catholic Church in the Ukraine, 22 September, 2015. In total, her journey took 8 hours!

In Lviv, Bohdana gave a presentation on human trafficking to the members of the male and female religious institutes of the Greek Catholic Church. She also provided information on the RENATE network and the

various initiatives undertaken in the areas of prevention and supports to victims of human trafficking.

Of particular importance was the time spent in conversation regarding the possibilities of a delegate becoming a member of RENATE from the Conference of Female Religious Superiors (KVPŽR) and Conference of Religious Superiors (KVRP) of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, Bohdana also had the opportunity to meet with a psychologist, Oleksandra Yakymets, who provides courses aimed at trauma therapy in Ukraine, particularly provided to victims of trafficking who have returned to Ukraine and join the reintegration programme.



For her it was particularly valuable to spend time in meetings and negotiations with the Secretary of KVRP of the Greek Catholic Church which involved planning specific steps to implement prevention and awareness-raising activities in collaboration with RENATE and Caritas Slovakia. Bohdana also enjoyed meeting with activists in the parish and volunteers working in the children's home who are implementing prevention programmes at school dormitories and children's homes in Ukraine.

Sr Valentyna Ryabushko, RSM and Sr Bohdana Bezáková, CJ

**Outcome following the visit and meeting:**

1. Sr. Valentyna Ryabushko will be delegated to the network RENATE as a representative for Ukraine.
2. Sr. Valentyna Ryabushko and psychologist Oleksandra Yakymets will attend the RENATE training due to take place in Budapest, March 2016.
3. The Conference of Female Religious Superiors (KVPŽR) and Conference of Religious Superiors (KVRP) of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, have agreed to engage in joint campaigns with RENATE.
4. The Conference of Female Religious Superiors (KVPŽR) and Conference of Religious Superiors (KVRP) of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine have agreed to start prevention projects in partnership with Caritas Slovakia.



Despite the warmth and hospitality extended to Bohdana during her meetings in the Ukraine, there are stark reminders of unrest and violence in the country, as evidenced in this photo.

Compiled by Bohdana Bezáková, CJ

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