



# ENDING TRAFFICKING BEGINS WITH YOU

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all the friends of RENATE around many countries of the world. The RENATE Christmas greetings this year is focused on the candles of hope lighting up continents and bringing people together in rays of hope. This newsletter has gathered together the work and action against trafficking in persons from many countries of Europe where we work. The actions are signs of the passion which the members have to combat this human misery which is destroying so many lives. Recently a young girl phoned in the early hours of a Saturday morning having been beaten up by her father after crossing the Albanian border following months of cruel treatment as a slave to a trafficker. She had been rescued in West Europe by one of our members but then deported. It was this RENATE member who gave her the phone number. What would be the plight of this girl without this huge work of networking to protect the victims of such a crime? This girl is in a refuge now, with good counselling support and on-going rehabilitation possibilities. There is always good news and rays of hope in the midst of human suffering and when freedom is denied. This Christmas season we come together to be grateful in this year of MERCY, for so much possibility of new life, forgiveness and compassion. May this keep alive the flame of hope in our lives.



## HOLY YEAR OF MERCY.

"Which of these three, do you think, proved a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers? He said: *"The one who showed mercy on him."* Jesus said: *"Go and do likewise"* (Luke 10:36).

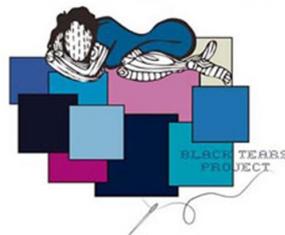
On the 13th of March this year, Pope Francis announced the Extraordinary Year of Mercy which commenced on the 8th of December. This is the first Holy Year to celebrate not any particular anniversary but a distinctive quality of the Lord Himself which is highlighted so much in both the Old and New Testaments: His Mercy.

The logo for the Holy Year is in itself a summary of the theme of mercy. The logo shows Jesus, like the Good Samaritan, taking upon His shoulders the lost and the strayed. The colours of the background go from darkness to light, as they extend towards the outer edge, suggesting the way by which Christ carries humanity out of a life of sin and death.

The motto of the Holy Year *"Merciful like the Father,"* serves as an invitation to follow the example of the Father and not judge or condemn but to forgive and to show mercy and love. In our ministry at RENATE, may we be faithful followers.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015.



On the occasion of the International day against Violence against Women, the Amaranta Foundation and Project Hope, which fight against trafficking of women in Spanish territory collaborated with the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and with the Faculty of CC. Social, Legal and Communication UVA, Camus María Zambrano, Segovia, Spain to present an exhibition entitled "Black Tears," which featured at the Tobacco studios in Madrid from the 25<sup>th</sup> of November to the 8th of December, 2015. More information at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### CONTENTS

President—Imelda Poole, IBVM Vatican launches Jubilee Year. Fundacion Amaranta Exhibition.	Page 1
RENA TE Mapping Exercise; Integration of Migrants, Report from the COMECE Debate, Brussels; Youth Symposium at the Vatican; Pastoral care of Migrants and Street People.	Pages 2 & 3
Review of 2015 and some sample items which feature on the RENATE website <a href="http://www.renate-europe.net">www.renate-europe.net</a>	Pages 4 & 5

## RENATE MAPPING ACROSS EUROPE REPORT PUBLISHED.

The RENATE Mapping across Europe Report provides rich insights into the contribution being made by women religious, their congregations and Associates in the world-wide efforts to bring an end to Human Trafficking.

Set within the wider context of the most recent US Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report published in July 2015, the RENATE Mapping across Europe Report illustrates the diverse actions undertaken by RENATE members in 13 countries from East, Central and Western Europe. These actions range from victim protection through shelters, to education-awareness, informing policy, recovery and integration, advocacy as well as campaigning.

In addition to assessing existing systems of victim identification and support within the 13 participating countries, attention is drawn to possible loop-holes within such systems, as well as risks of abuse and exploitation.

Attentive to the pain of the victims of human trafficking, the Report proposes conclusions and recommendations which when implemented, have the power to transform the lives of those who are the victims of this crime against humanity. Full Report is available at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)



### RENATE MAKES ITS VIEWS ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S DECISION TO SUPPORT THE DECRIMINALISATION OF PROSTITUTION.

Imelda Poole, IBVM and Eilis Coe, RSC, spoke with *The Tablet* as RENATE Board members met in Dublin in late October for training. Imelda shared that Amnesty's decision contradicted the human rights organisation's founding beliefs and called on Amnesty to reconsider its decision, stating "they think they are (on the side of the victims of trafficking) because they are giving rights to prostitution, but they are not criminalising the punter."

Eilis shared that RENATE is seeking a meeting on the matter, with representatives of Amnesty.

### INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS: A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE. REPORT FROM ANDREA TILLMANS, RGS, WHO ATTENDED THE COMECE EVENING DEBATE IN BRUSSELS, 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2015.



People migrate for a variety of reasons. Today an increasing number of people are driven from their homeland by poverty or by despair concerning the economic or social prospects for themselves or their families. In 2015, welcoming migrants, asylum seekers and refugees became an urgent challenge, especially for Member

States with external borders in the EU.

The greater challenge however, is the long-term integration of migrants and refugees into their new home societies and respective labor markets.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2015, in an evening debate, COMECE brought together a variety of people from Catholic communities across Europe with a view to deepening the understanding of the complex challenges involved in integrating migrants into the host societies. The aim was to discuss models of integration, best practices, and the fundamental values that guide integration within the European Union. See [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) for full report.

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## YOUTH SYMPOSIUM AT THE VATICAN “REAL LOVE CHASES AWAY FEAR, GREED, AND SLAVERY: YOUNG LEADERS MUST PAVE THE WAY”

Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) attended the Symposium named “Real Love Chases Away Fear, Greed, and Slavery: Young Leaders Must Pave the Way”, held in the Vatican and led by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015. The MWL Women Assistant Manager, Irena Kraja, attended this symposium as an observer. More than 70 participants from all over the world shared their experiences on the work achieved in the prevention of all kinds of human trafficking, the rehabilitation of victims who have survived human trafficking, and the sad realities of vulnerability related to modern slavery. Full report [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)



### PROACTIVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS RAISING IN CROATIA!

Following approval from her Holy Cross Congregation’s Mother Provincial, Sr. Victoria Simić invited the Archbishop of her Diocese, Duro Hranic, to write a letter to all the parish priests in the Diocese, informing them of her work in prevention and awareness-raising about Human Trafficking.

The Archbishop positively responded to her offer of being available to visit each of their parishes where she could give a presentation on human trafficking and lead the adoration afterwards, in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

In his communication to all the parish priests, the Archbishop referred to Sr. Victoria’s congregation and her membership of RENATE. He wrote of her excellent work in having already visited 10 parishes in the Diocese, where she informed the congregations about trafficking in human beings and led the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which followed.

The Archbishop has also spoken about the subject when interviewed by the Croatian Catholic Radio.

Full Report available at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### RENATE ATTENDANCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN THE VATICAN, ON PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS AND STREET PEOPLE.

RENATE was represented at the symposium, where the message from Pope Francis and the teachings of the Church were as strong and clear as always, in relation to those in need. The Pope’s message to the participants is that we need to stand by the refugees and migrants, protect their rights, protest against evil, give shelter, love and compassion and a chance for them to live a life of dignity. The planet and all that is in it is the common heritage of all. The bounty of the earth is not just for the powerful few to the exclusion of the rest of humanity, but for all. For more, please see [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### A REFUGEE.

Lying on my bed,  
In my little room,  
Looking up at the ceiling,  
My thoughts begin to roam.  
Deep in my heart,  
There are sadness and sorrow  
For my family and country.  
Lord what next will follow?  
I like to be alone.  
How can I be at home  
In a country to me unknown,  
Far away from my own?  
Darkness at times surround me  
High waves rise around me  
Passing the days in loneliness  
Thinking of lost happiness  
How great is this emptiness!  
I hope for better times  
When rays of sunshine penetrate  
Through the dark clouds of  
wickedness.  
Then shall reign prosperity and  
happiness.  
My country and land of beauty  
Land of joy, love and light.  
I love you immensely  
You are deeply rooted in my  
heart.  
I pray O God to bless my country  
May peace will reign again  
That its scattered children will  
return there one day  
And live peacefully in its embrace,  
Amen.  
Sr. Agnes, Good Shepherd Sister,  
Malta.

## A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR, 2015.

### MIGRANT CRISIS

In the absence of a shared and united response to the migrant crisis in Europe, hundreds of thousands of migrants continue to face horrific and inhumane conditions as they try to find welcome, safety and a place to call home. It is accepted that there are strong associations between human trafficking and migrant smuggling, creating additional risks for those who are fleeing armed conflict, political instability, natural disasters and poverty in search of better qualities of life.

Assessing efforts and fostering cooperation at both the international and European level, to prevent and fight migrant smuggling is becoming central to forward planning as collaborative efforts continue to grow, according to Ms. Myria Vassilidou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, who addressed delegates - including a RENATE representative-attending the 9th EU Anti Trafficking Day Conference and the EU Civil Society Platform meetings, 20th & 21st October last. See [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) for full report.

### FIRST INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



In honour of the occasion, the RENATE President presented at the Vatican. To enjoy the photo gallery & additional news on St. Bakhita Day, see [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### LAUNCH OF NEW UN WOMEN'S CAMPAIGN, "HEFORSHE."

Dedicated to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, the UN Women's campaign *HeforShe* is a solidarity movement which brings together one half of humanity in support of the other half of humanity, for the benefit of all. It seeks to provide a platform for men to be part of a renewed movement to complete the work begun at the 1995 Conference in Beijing. [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### MEMORIAS DE ALBANIA, 2015.

#### REDES DE HUMANIZACION CONTRA REDES DE ESCLAVITUD.

RENAME members Justa del Sol and Pilar Casas have written extensively in the Social Confer Newsletter No. 55, about their experiences with RENAME in Albania in March, 2015. A copy is available on the RENAME website, which might give you an opportunity to practice your Spanish! [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY (KAI) IN POLAND & THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE, 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2015.

The Catholic News Agency (KAI) in Poland, held a press conference on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014, to highlight Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace.

Amongst those present who welcomed and shared the Pope's sentiments were Bishop Artur Mizinski, General Secretary of the Polish Episcopal Conference (KEP), Professor Adam Glapinski, representative of the Monetary Policy Council (RPP) and Mr. Piotr Mierecki, Director of the Unit against Trafficking in Human Beings at the Polish Ministry of the Interior. Sr. Anna Balchan (pictured right) from the PoMOC Association and Member of RENAME, was one of the key speakers invited to the Conference.

The full text is available on the RENAME website at: [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)



## NEW FOUNDATION FORMS IN HUNGARY IN RESPONSE TO POPE FRANCIS' CALL TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AND BRING AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

In Hungary, SARA, a new NGO is in its infancy, derived from both RENATE and SOLWODI. The Jesuit Centre in Budapest hosted the inaugural meeting on the 8th of February, the International day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Eighteen people gathered together and celebrated Mass in honour of the occasion. Already there is active demand for the members of SARA to assist in local parishes and communities, with particular need to support members of the Roma community who are most vulnerable to traffickers.

## ANDANTE SUMMER SCHOOL, 12-16 AUGUST, 2015

### "WHY BIOETHICS? – BIOETHICAL ISSUES FACING PEOPLE TODAY."

RENATE member Adina Balan, CJ, attended the Andante Summer School in August at the Don Bosco house in Vienna, Austria.

**Andante** (The European Alliance of Catholic women's organisations) proposed the topic for the Summer School at the request of several members from different countries in Europe who face Bioethical issues related to their work or to their personal life. 54 people attended, coming from different European countries, with diverse backgrounds and different ways of answering or dealing with difficult questions and decisions regarding Bioethics. Full report at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

## RENATE CAMPAIGN TO MARK THE EUROPEAN UNION DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING. 18TH OCTOBER, 2015.

RENATE members shared their events and activities to mark the 9th E.U Anti Trafficking Day. The activities feature on the RENATE website as an example of the coordinated efforts we make to stop human trafficking and exploitation. Please see [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) for more information.

## UCESM IN ALBANIA.

The General Assembly of UCESM takes place every two years, alternately in a country of Western Europe and a country of Eastern Europe. After the painful decision to cancel the 16th GA, which was to take place in KIEV (UKRAINE) in February 2015, the Assembly convened in TIRANA, 23-28 March, 2015. Reflection on the political, social and religious situations in Europe dominated. [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) for more

## CONGRATULATIONS TO APT (ACT TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING), DUBLIN, IRELAND WHO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF WORK IN 2015!

APT Ireland held a number of awareness-raising and celebratory events in honour of their decade. A highlight was the con-celebrated Mass in Ireland's Pro-Cathedral in Dublin, at which Rev. Dr. Diarmaid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin was the chief celebrant. In October, Ms. Celine Byrne, one of Ireland's foremost sopranos, gave a concert in The Pavilion, Dunlaoghaire, Co. Dublin, to raise awareness of human trafficking and bring people's attention to the groups working to combat it. Currently, Catherine Dunne, RSHM, is working with members of APT to produce an educational resource, for use by schools and other institutions, in an effort to educate as many as possible and therefore empower others to find their voice and help combat human trafficking. RENATE extends its heartiest congratulations to all at APT!



## CHILDRENS' RIGHTS.

The French Collective "*Together against Trafficking in Human Beings*" prepared an alternative report to the fifth periodic report of France on the application of the International Convention on the Rights of the child, and its additional protocols titled: '*Trafficking of children in the French context. For a common law for all children.*'

This report was presented to the Human Rights Committee of the UN on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 and an English version is available at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)