



# ENDING TRAFFICKING BEGINS WITH YOU

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the midst of the RENATE training on advocacy, lobbying and campaigning, it has been highlighted in Hungary that the trafficking and the vulnerability of minors to being trafficked are on the increase throughout Europe. The breakdown of marriage and poverty is creating the seedbed for this phenomenon of abandoned children and not just the newly created chaos of the refugee issue in Europe. Once again, at this sacred time before Easter, we have been made particularly aware of the need for transformation and change in ourselves and as advocates for change. We are being called to open our hearts to the recognition of the suffering and abuse on the faces of children and minors whom we all meet on our streets around Europe. Who is to act? Why is the law so weak in confronting forced begging, criminal acts, illegal adoption and labour exploitation of thousands of children sold and used - even in our time? One child saved from such abuse, often initiated by their own families, leads to further complicated situations of investigation, reintegration and rehabilitation work of one already broken and bruised. We cannot lose our Easter hope, this is the time when we can be stirred and awakened to our corporate role in bringing about this hope for those who stay suffering on the cross.

RENA TE wishes all of you who read this a very happy Easter and invite you to come with us on this road with the hopeless as they look in our eyes for a real link with hope.

*Sister Imelda Poole, IBVM*



## PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING, WERE CENTRAL TO DISCUSSIONS TO HONOUR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY , BY THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY (FEMM) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

The EU Parliament in Brussels heard of the added traumas suffered by women refugees in recent months, in particular the practice of 'survival sex,' where women are forced to have sex with the smugglers and mafia members transporting them to Europe from Turkey and Libya.



INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING  
WOMEN REFUGEES AND  
ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE EU  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2016

Thursday 3 March, 9:00-12:30  
European Parliament, room IMB 2023, Brussels  
Chaired by Iratxe García-Pérez, Chair of the Committee on  
Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Survival sex among women and children is well-known, according to UN Women Regional Director for Turkey, Ingibjorg Gisladottir, but the incidence is hard to quantify as women rarely wish to recount this on the record for fear of recrimination and 'dishonour' among their families and communities.

It was pointed out that women face far greater risks of "violence, exploitation and trafficking" and are more vulnerable on route to Europe. For more, see <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/femm/home.html>

"Let us remember Peter: three times he denied Jesus,



precisely when he should have been closest to him: and when he hits rock bottom, he meets the gaze of Jesus who patiently, wordlessly, says to him: "Peter, do not be afraid of your weakness, trust in me." Peter understands, he feels the loving gaze of Jesus and he weeps. How beautiful is this gaze of Jesus – how much tenderness is there! Brothers and sisters, let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God!" Homily on Divine Mercy Sunday, 7 April 2013 .

## HUNGARY—RENATE TRAINING IN ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING.

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Thirty three RENATE members , from sixteen countries gathered at the Mater Salvatoris Retreat House and Conference centre at Máriabesnyő, near Budapest, Hungary attend a week-long training programme, focused on Lobbying, Advocacy and Campaigning. RENATE member, Mrs. Ivonne van de Kar, of the *SISTERWORK and Dutch Religious Network on Human Trafficking, Exploitation and Migration* in The Netherlands, provided the training.

As is customary during RENATE training, the participants visited with local communities working in the area of human trafficking , to hear about the challenges being faced in Hungary , to learn about the various actions being taken and to offer the support and benefit of experience from amongst the RENATE network.

Sr. Gabriella Légrádi & Erika Moser, shared with us their experiences of creating a new organisation named SARA, whose purpose it is to raise awareness and prevention of human trafficking. Report on [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) in the coming weeks.

### WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, 2016. "A JUST TRANSITION- ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES."

A new film [The Divide](http://www.thedividedocumentary.com), ( [www.thedividedocumentary.com](http://www.thedividedocumentary.com) ) which will premier in the UK in April, explores why and how the gap between the richest 1% in the world, continues to widen and what might possibly be done in order to end this trend. The film tells the story of seven individuals searching for a better life in modern day US and UK.

For more information, please see the "Social Justice in the EU Index Report 2015." <http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/fileadmin/files/BSt/Publikationen/GrauePublikationen/>



### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING 8TH FEBRUARY, 2016.

St. Bakhita's Day was celebrated in a myriad of ways throughout the RENATE network. Prayer Services and Liturgies were held in churches and congregational houses as both Religious and lay people gathered in prayer across the network. Prayer Cards and Posters were circulated widely . A Film screening of the *Nefarious Merchant of Souls* took place in the Kościół NMP Matki Miłosierdzia w Warszawie na Stegnach, ul. Św. Bonifacego 9 church in Warsaw.

Sr. Stanka Oršolić participated in an interview with the Jesuit Refugee Service Radio (text available on RENATE website) in Croatia. In France, Sr. Marie Hélène Halligon translated the entire Inter-Faith Toolkit on Human Trafficking, from English into French before circulating widely.

In Albania, in addition to week-long activities amongst the MWL Women and URAT Albania, Bishop George Frenolead a Liturgy at the cathedral in Tirana, where in a symbolic gesture of solidarity and unity, the congregation joined hands to make a "chain" around the Church.

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## CONFERENCE; THE RELIGIOUS AND MIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY: PERSPECTIVES, RESPONSE AND CHALLENGES.



The phenomenon of the 21st Century is the movement of peoples, whether by choice or otherwise. It is an extraordinary humanitarian emergency, where we are confronted with extraordinary challenges in trying to look for an adequate response. If we accept that migration is the 'new normal,' then as Religious, we must ask ourselves " what is the Spirit asking us to do?" People are at the heart of this movement. Issues of migration, immigration, human trafficking, refugees, asylum seekers, are not new. These have been part of humankind down through the ages. Abraham left his country in search of new lands; Joseph was sold

into slavery by his own people; Moses was sent to live in a foreign land, Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Joseph were migrants. Thus, we have all come from a background of migration,. Full report at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)



### A PARISH RESOURCE TO BRING ABOUT GOD'S INTENT FOR OUR WORLD THROUGH AWARENESS RAISING AND ACTION.

APT Ireland (Act to Prevent Trafficking) shared a Resource pack for Parishes, devised by the Sisters of the Divine Saviour (Salvatorian Sisters) in the United States of America, and is available on the RENATE website.

The Resource comprises Liturgies, prayers, sample quotations and information for Pastoral staff. It also recommends educational DVDs and actions which can be undertaken to address human trafficking.

We extend our gratitude to the Salvatorian Sisters for their generosity in sharing such a comprehensive and helpful resource.



### HUNGARY—RENATE WORKING BOARD—MEET IN BUDAPEST, MON. 6TH MARCH, 2016.

RENATE President's statement **"Thinking out to mission—working far and wide together on a daily basis."** was the mantra for the Working Board meeting, as twenty participants gathered to reflect on the past year and plan for the future (16 Board members, 2 staff and 2 guests).

Amongst the topics considered, were the following;

- Membership of the RENATE Core Group.
- Presence at World Youth Day, 2016, Krakow, Poland.
- RENATE Symposium, November 2016, at the Vatican in Rome.
- Official launch of RENATE Mapping Report on HT
- Official launch of RENATE documentary "Called to give voice to the voiceless."
- RENATE Campaign 18th October, 2016. 24-hour Prayer Vigil amongst the entire Network of 24 countries.

### BRUSSELS—RENATE ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC POLICY EXCHANGE (PPE) 16TH FEBRUARY, 2016.

RENATE member Andrea Tillmans, RGS, shares her report from attending the meeting, where it was agreed that by addressing poverty and social exclusion, countries may help reduce the numbers of those who are vulnerable to falling victim to human trafficking.

Discussions centred on those who are at particular risk to poverty, with women generally more at risk to poverty than men.

The meeting offered a vital platform to discuss the need to reform the current social protection systems in the EU and explored how all stakeholders must coordinate and co-operate in order to build a more inclusive society. See [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) for full report.

### THE WAY OF THE CROSS- AN EASTER PREPARATION.



Marie Halligon, has prepared a beautiful Lenten Reflection on the Stations of the Cross. It is a creative and sensitive alignment of human trafficking images with images depicting Holy Week and the Crucifixion.

A PowerPoint version of the reflection is available at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### TALITHA KUM PRODUCE A TRAINING MANUAL FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS , ACTIVE IN THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ASSISTING ITS VICTIMS.

This manual builds upon the 2004 edition, edited by Stefano Volpicelli and published by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Since 2004, the Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking of People has grown and has become a great movement of religious and lay people committed to the freedom and dignity of each human being. You will find contributions from women religious members and collaborators of Talitha Kum as well as experiences shared in 30 training courses. There is wisdom gained through local, regional and international meetings, where women religious working in the field, share their experiences of strategies and outcomes and suggest possible preventative actions in support of trafficked persons.

Pdf. Version of the manual is available at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

### SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT AWARDS 2016 ACTIVATE, EDUCATE & INSPIRE!

Amongst the winning films at the recently held Social Media Impact Awards (SIMA Awards), a number of films which cover the themes of exploitation of workers, prostitution, the migrant crisis in Europe and the "Jungle" at Calais, France were amongst the winners.

The films range in length from short (8 minutes) to full length (104 minutes), with the following being particularly relevant to our own work:

1. "Dream Catcher," (104 minutes), about Human Trafficking, Prostitution and exploitation. Awarded Best Director (Kim Longinotto).
2. "The True Cost," (92 mins), about the human and environmental cost of the clothing industry. Jury Prize Winner & Special Mention Award.
3. "Transit Zone, " (32 mins), about refugees in Calais, France. Best Sound editing Award and also received Special Mention.
4. "Men Buy Sex" (8 mins), directed by Alice Russell. Best Creative Activism Award.

Video clips of the above are available at [www.simaawards.org](http://www.simaawards.org) and also at [info@truecostmovie.com](mailto:info@truecostmovie.com)

**THE BEATITUDES- A CONTEMPORARY VERSION AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

The Gospel of St. Matthew includes an account of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, a list of eight blessings for those who are poor in spirit, meek, in mourning, hungering for justice, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers and suffering persecution for justice’s sake (5:3-10). We know these blessings as the Beatitudes. What if Jesus gave his sermon today?

Eradicating human trafficking is a top priority for the Sisters of Mercy in the 40+ countries where they live and serve. Recently the members of the Sisters of Mercy International Working Group on Human Trafficking reimagined the Beatitudes with a focus on one of the most debasing and horrific scourges of our time: human trafficking. Please see [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) for this creative and soulful version of The Beatitudes, where congregational members share their personal insights. Our thanks to the Sisters of Mercy for sharing .



*Blessed are those with open eyes and open hearts. Women of the Flower Hmong hill tribe in Cau Cau, Vietnam. Vietnamese women are particularly susceptible to being trafficked due to unequal gender relations. cc license photo from the United Nations*

**PHOTO GALLERY OF SOME OF THE EVENTS AMONGST THE RENATE NETWORK FOR THE 8TH OF FEBRUARY 2016.**



Youth at Prayer Service, Lezhe, Albania

L to R: Congregation and Laity gather at the Notre Dame Convent, Croatia. Caritas Slovakia hold a prayer Service at Bratislava.

**ROMANIA**

In Romania, this Prayer card was circulated amongst the faithful throughout the country..

Bishop Msgr. Ioan Robu wrote to all parishes, remind-

*Sfânta Iosefina Bakhita*  
1869 - 1947

**ZIUA INTERNAȚIONALĂ DE RUGĂCIUNE ÎMPOTRIVA TRAFICULUI DE PERSOANE 8 FEBRUARIE**

Lumea noastră trebuie să fie eliberată de aceste rețele teribile și crime împotriva umanității. Orice mamă și orice mamă trebuie să se unească pentru a garanta această libertate tuturor celor care sunt lăcași și suferă. Papa Francisc

Dumnezeule Bun, când auzim de copii și adulți înșelați și dați în locuri înconfortabile pentru a fi exploatați sexual, obligați să muncească sau să își doneze organele, inimile noastre sunt pline de tristețe și suferință. Nostru se revoltă pentru că demnitatea și drepturile lor sunt distruse prin amenințări, minciuni și violență. Ne îndrăgim dintr-o inimă împotriva acestei practici inumane, a acestei forme de sclavie și ne rugăm împreună cu Sf. Bakhita ca să înțelegem. Doamne înțelepciunea și curajul de a-ți găsi și ajuta pe cei ale căror trupuri, inimi și suflete au fost atât de grav rănite, pentru ca împreună să împărtășim dorința ta de a fi frați și surori. Fă ca exploatații să rămână cu mâinile goale și să-ți aducă la proclamații tuturor liberatei, care este dorul Tău făcut tuturor. Amin!

CRISAN - Comisia Pro Demnitate Femeii

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Congregation join hands together to form a human chain encircling the cathedral in Tirana, Albania.

