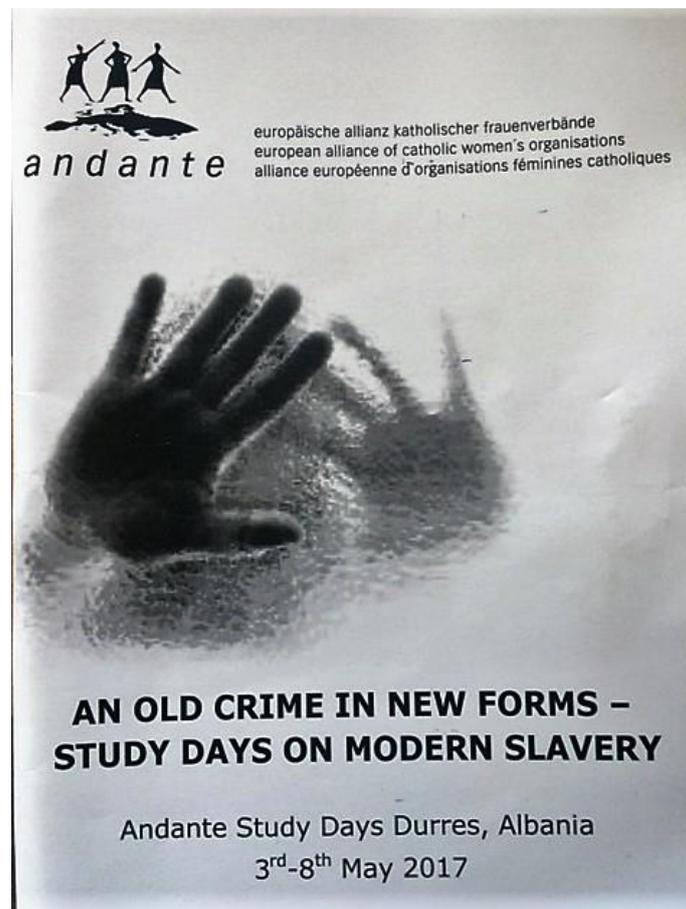


ANDANTE Study Days

3-8 May 2017



Theme: Modern Slavery- An Old Crime in New Forms

Venue: The Majestic Hotel, Durrës, Albania.



Wednesday, 3rd May saw the arrival of 52 delegates from thirteen countries, to attend the ANDANTE study days. Dr Mary McHugh (UK) and Vroni Peterhans-Suter (Switzerland), extended a warm welcome to all gathered and encouraged us to avail of the opportunities for interactions, dialogue and sharing over the coming days in order to prepare ourselves to better impact on the eradication of exploitation and trafficking, old crimes in new forms.

Prayerful reflection and joyful singing were the hallmarks of the days, which began with morning Liturgy and concluded with amicable table fellowship each night.

The parable of the nameless Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-26) was referenced at the outset of our first morning, challenging us to consider and to live, the lessons disclosed in it. This parable was selected because of its example of how the outcasts and marginalised people – including women and girls- were actually in the central sight-lines of Christ's ministry.

Acknowledging the centrality of women and their responsibility to actively engage in church and society, the Study days began.

Setting the scene – the situation in Europe.

Imelda Poole IBVM, President of RENATE-Europe and Patricia Mulhall CSB.

Imelda presented an overview of the work of RENATE and in doing so, reminded us of our collective responsibility to step up and play our parts in prevention, awareness -raising and ending demand. Citing statistical data re. displaced peoples, poverty and organ trafficking and showing a BBC news item on human trafficking, Imelda appealed to our common humanity and encouraged ANDANTE to join in the efforts to stop human trafficking.



Such efforts encompass awareness-raising, making presentations at parishes, schools and other local community venues, subscription to national and international events, fundraising, direct action and prayer.

Keeping abreast of developments is an important aspect of working against human trafficking and exploitation. The RENATE Mapping Exercise conducted by RENATE member Patricia Mulhall CSB, with 13 RENATE member countries across

Europe, found a common factor to all the participating countries in the vulnerability of children. Children comprise one-third of the more than 10 million displaced persons in our world today, a totally unacceptable reality which must end.

A unifying thread running through the research is the concept of **the Buyer, the Bought** and **the Business**.

The Buyer- who is actually demanding the sexual favours, the cheap goods, the organs, the services.

The Bought- the vulnerable, the broken families and countless others.

The Business- the challenge to make inroads into such a hugely profitable business which involves everyone and anyone in its profits except the "the bought."

Patricia was purposeful in posing the questions: what do we get when we "buy one get one free" What is free? The most vulnerable are paying the price for providing us with our bargains and what we think we are getting "for free," leading to the conclusion that in truth, we are all complicit.

The concept of demand was considered and all agreed on its role in fuelling trafficking, where, despite the sustained efforts of anti-trafficking groups, millions are still bound by the physical and mental torture perpetrated by one human being against another, most especially the vulnerable.

Arising from questions and responses to both Imelda's and Patricia's presentations, a common view amongst those present was that it is critical and strategic to study vulnerable populations in order to prevent Human Trafficking and while addressing the causes of exploitation and human trafficking is central to our work, of special importance is the work with survivors, who remain vulnerable people, damaged for life. There is no quick fix, but given the imperative and mandate from the Vatican, in the Report from The International Symposium on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Street People, held at the Vatican, 14 – 17 September 2015, there is no choice but to make our world aware and become proactive in the work to bring an end to what Pope Francis calls "a scourge amongst peoples."



Another positive direction has been the Council of Europe's increased focus on work against Human Trafficking. Ms Sybille Bader-Biland, the ANDANTE representative at the Council of Europe, shared with us the workings of the Council and the context in which Human Trafficking is placed, i.e. as a Human Rights issue with its ensuing broader concerns.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (SEV. NO. 197, 2008) was referenced, as was GRETA and its monitoring actions which help in the implementation of the convention and, indirectly, in awareness-raising. The importance of the cooperation between the Council of Europe and civil society was emphasised as Sybille spoke of the critical role NGOs play in giving voice to issues and concerns which can often be overlooked in less

democratic societies, saying the less a society functions democratically, the greater is the need for a Council of Europe and the role of NGOs in bringing issues to the table. The Council is particularly exercised in encouraging young people to engage with NGOs, with a view to raising consciousness during this time of unprecedented increases in migration flows, which has, in turn, contributed to increased exploitation of the vulnerable and increased Modern Slavery.

As a group, those in attendance agreed to reflect over the coming days upon the means by which we can contribute to and work with the Council of Europe, on the topic of human trafficking. As an ANDANTE member, RENATE is delighted that Marie H el ene Halligon, Good Shepherd sister, will represent the NGO at the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg.

To add to setting the scene, Professor Dr. Ursula M annle, former Bavarian Minister of State for Federal Affairs, current President of the Hanns-Seidel Foundation in Germany and member of numerous boards active in solidarity with women and work against human trafficking and the exploitation of the vulnerable, shared with us her experiences in the creation of multi-faith action groups in Bavaria, who collaborate in efforts against trafficking of women.

In speaking about the diverse range of 'push' and 'pull' factors, Professor M annle emphasised the fact that in countries where women are not held in high regard and viewed as persons of little or no consequence, then there is a far greater likelihood of their being trafficked as a mere commodity.

Poverty is a starting point and in the absence of a woman's capacity to gain employment, her value as a sex object comes into play. In acknowledging the rights of cultural mores of indigenous peoples such as the Roma, Professor M annle spoke of the importance of empowering minorities, believing that preventative measures in countries of origin will ultimately have a long-term and positive cascade effect.

Working from values-laden thinking, Professor Männle spoke of the importance of education and a consciousness of our use of language when speaking about women. A certain social dialogue needs to take place, where respect and regard underpin our words and actions when it comes to the female in society. Professor Männle advocated the promotion of respectful dialogue, necessary amongst all levels of professionals including the police and judiciary, who need to have a greater awareness of the harsh truths of Modern Slavery.

Protection and Rehabilitation Processes for Victims.

Modelling good practice is a direct way in which to create awareness and make a positive impact. In this regard, RENATE is modelling how collaborative working can bring about change. Throughout the Study Days, a number of speakers presented on such collaborations, commencing with RENATE's work with *Different and Equal*, an NGO based in Albania. Work undertaken by SOLWODI Romania was presented, as was the work underway by SOLWODI Germany and a new NGO - *Zusterwerk* in the Netherlands- was introduced.



Sr. Adina Balan CJ, SOLWODI Romania, spoke about the realities faced by women at the grassroots level and in particular the reality of how women are regarded in Romania.

Her work at the multidisciplinary centre for women and their children is aimed at those suffering from distress as a result of domestic violence. The focus is on helping women and children in need of healing and recovery through regular interventions and therapies including counselling, psychotherapy,

occupational therapy and art therapy.

Comprising a team of nine people, the staff members are a combination of professionals and specialists who are dedicated to supporting women and girls in recovering and transitioning to dignified and confident participants in society, despite their experiences and traumas.

SOLWODI Romania is actively engaged in frequent and regular inter-vision with other NGO's in the local fields in Bucharest, with an enlarged network of local Leaders who fight against human trafficking in their communities. The work includes both prevention and identification of victims, followed through by referrals and supports. Amongst the work priorities are Education and Awareness, Healing and Recovery programmes and Transitional Living programmes, all of which are designed to support and empower women and girls as they transition to meaningful living once again.

Care for staff is a priority, thus each person has an external supervisor with whom they meet once a month and share their worries, joys and general emotions about their ongoing work. Continuing Professional Development is obligatory, with personnel required to attend at least two training events annually.

Adina explained that her NGO is vulnerable to the changing landscapes of funding

internationally. Her work is funded entirely by donations from overseas since there is no funding in Romania for such work. It was sobering to hear the limited number of NGOs in Romania that are offering assistance to victims, this despite the ever-increasing numbers requiring ongoing support and assistance.

The situation in Germany, (Sabine Slawik, CoCoA, spoke on behalf of Soni Unterreithmeier, Head of SOLWODI in Augsburg, Germany, who could not attend due to an accident).



Speaking about the impact of legalisation of prostitution in Germany, Sabine presented the harsh realities that far from bringing an end to vulnerabilities for women exploited through modern slavery, legalisation of prostitution has led to an increase in the numbers of brothels and has allowed for effectively transferring all legal rights to brothel owners. In Germany, instead of the idealised situation where women would be empowered, in reality, brothel owners now dictate the number of hours the women have to work and for how much and the number of clients. Frighteningly, it seems that business around sex is almost uncontrollable now, as men travel from all over the world to different brothels in Germany.

Traffickers are also attracted by such legislation, and lure girls into prostitution in other countries, deceiving them with job offers and empty promises. Women are most vulnerable, even to the extent of their lives being at risk. International gangs of procurers buy and mercilessly exploit women from other countries, and deceive them into going to Germany on the pretext of gainful employment.



It now transpires that 95% of the prostitutes on the streets in Germany are foreigners, coming from the poorer regions in eastern Europe and Africa. Apparently, German women realise the depths of depravity to which the oldest profession known to man has been reduced and are now in much-reduced numbers in the prostitution industry in Germany.

Sabine outlined the variations of prostitution in Germany, which include:

Street prostitution.

Brothels, including mobile brothels.

Brothels.

Apartments.

Upper-class escort services.

Budget hotels where women endure prolonged and incessant abuse, without any rights.

As prostitution is recognised as a formal means of employment, there is no recourse for the victims. All the practices that are demanded must be delivered. Unwanted pregnancies & ill-health abound without recourse or interventions. This is a merciless reality for the young women who are totally dependent on the procurers, without the language or wherewithal to voice their fears and concerns. The girls eventually become compliant, in the face of life-threatening dangers, loss of dignity, violence and persistent psychological traumas.

Sometimes called “the brothel of Europe,” in Germany it now transpires that women are viewed as commodities for the purposes of sex, forced to pretend to be somebody else, which in turn leads to psychosomatic health problems, post-traumatic stress disorders, low self-esteem and even suicidal ideation.

Sabine concluded her presentation by asking us all to join in solidarity as women and call for an end to this inhumane treatment of fellow human beings.

The day concluded with the screening of the RENATE Film, *Called to Give Voice to the Voiceless*, which was the springboard for deep conversations about how such violence and exploitation could occur in Europe, in our own ‘backyard,’ without adequate policing and vigilance on all our parts.



Presentations on *Protection and Rehabilitation Processes for Victims*, in addition to *Prevention Work against Trafficking in Albania*, through grassroots projects supported by the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, in Albania were very well received by the delegates in attendance. These presentations were followed by site visits to view first-hand, the following projects:

- Different and Equal.
- Little Angels Project.
- MWL Advice Centre for Women.

All the presentations are available at www.renate-europe.net and while being specific to each organisation, there were recurring themes, namely:

- The impact of the lack of respect for women in some cultures, as instanced by a policeman’s question to a victim of domestic violence in Romania “What did you do to your husband that he had to hit you...?”
- The realities faced by women who live in poverty and must resort to selling their bodies.

- The breaches of trust – and lifetime impact- when women are sold for sex by their “Loverboys.”
- The challenges to include men and to outreach to men, in light of cultural mores, limited financial resources and limited legislation on standards for counselling centres, assistance to minors etc. especially in countries of origin.
- The impact of the legalisation of prostitution, with specific reference to Germany.
- The importance of ensuring the provision of ‘Care for the Carers,’ as staff working within our organisations are professionals and specialists who are touched and moved and changed by every experience working with children, women & men.
- The value of inter-vision amongst NGOs as a support mechanism, in addition to sharing best practices and strengthening networking.
- Hopes and dreams, such as greater cooperation between NGOs and less competition for scarce resources.

***Different and Equal* project- Mariana Meshi, Executive Director.**



Mariana gave an overview of the *Different and Equal* project, which offers assistance and support to trafficked women and victims of abuse and exploitation in Albania, with a view to protection and reintegration.

Different and Equal is a non-profit organisation which has as its mission to change the legal, institutional and social contexts as a means to counteract the aforementioned abuse and exploitation.

Mariana shared with us the extent of activities and support services offered by the team at *Different and Equal*, which range from advocacy, research, support for policy formation, prevention and awareness-raising activities in addition to the following:

- Residential services for victims of abuse, exploitation and trafficking.
- Education centre for victims of abuse, exploitation and trafficking.
- Community services for victims of abuse, exploitation and trafficking.
- Training within Albania for NGO service providers; State institutions; businesses; Religious institutions; media and students.
- Training outside of Albania for both students and service providers.

Services on offer vary from the provision of safe housing and shelters through to reintegration and planning for ongoing assimilation. A range of medical and health services are provided, including psychological counselling, art therapy, music therapy, family mediation and legal assistance. *Different and Equal* also offers assistance with returning to education, vocational training and supports for work placement and monitoring and follow-up on beneficiaries.

Believing that knowledge empowers, *Different and Equal* also provides information on services available to victims and survivors in communities and at the municipal and national level, in addition to necessary contacts and network connections.



We were welcomed at the *Different and Equal* offices in Tirana, as part of our site visits during the Study Days, where we met and spoke with Mariana's colleagues. It was enlightening to meet the staff and see first-hand the artworks on display completed in the art-therapy.

For more information, please see www.different&equal.org

Mary Ward Loreto Women - Aferdita Gjoni

In keeping with the intention to share best practice and offer examples of direct action and collaboration, Aferdita Gjoni spoke to us about the *Mary Ward Loreto Women Project*, which primarily focuses on prevention activities and involve internal networking plus cross-border collaboration. This group concentrate their work in the border areas and in the central areas of Albania, working with the local communities of women and youth. They prioritise working with women, who are key figures in the family but who often in rural Albania, lack education and confidence and therefore can be quite easily trapped into trafficking. Through educating the girls along relevant themes, the project tries to build leaders in the communities, who in turn can make a positive impact. In effect, the project tries to build good partnerships in efforts to fight against Human Trafficking. Themes covered in the project include stress management, human rights, family relations, leadership, safe migration, group dynamics, life skills, awareness about Human Trafficking and techniques for handling aggression.

Overall, the MWL *Women* project tries to strengthen the local community of women by supporting their capacities to contribute to their local economy. Poverty is a significant contributing factor to women being trafficked, therefore the project focuses on vocational activities such as handcrafts, bee-keeping, the culinary arts, tourism, marketing and promotion, to facilitate the establishment of small, home-grown businesses. These in turn call for training on labour rights and statutory services, together with intermediation for employment and self-employment.

Aferdita explained that while International networking is important, direct action at grass root level with women, youth and men at local community level, has the greatest and most perceptible impact. Working from the view that "Rome was not built in a day," Aferdita is convinced that with a holistic approach, she and her colleagues believe they will be successful. This approach sees the workers trying to work with systems, e.g. they work with the Albanian education System and have just completed a study on [Ethics in the Albanian Education system- a Study Report](#), (April 2017).



A visit to Mary Ward Loreto offices revealed the importance of the Direct assistance to victims of trafficking in online counselling provided to Albanian victims of human trafficking, having been referred by partners such as the Medaille Trust in the UK. The Medaille Trust often provides shelter and economic assistance to victims, who at the same time can avail of online counselling provided by Mary Ward Loreto and have eventually include referrals to mental health- services in the UK.

During this visit, Irena Kraja, the psychologist coordinator of a new MWL centre, talked of the latest development in the MWL Women's project in the establishment of ACT, Advice Centre Tirana, which since January has received and worked with 24 referrals of women suffering from abuse and exploitation.

For the past fifteen years, Mary Ward Loreto has conducted Anti-Trafficking Training and prevention workshops for youth, comprising training modules on self-awareness, self-evaluation, communication and conflict resolution.

Mary Ward Loreto Youth is one of the instruments by which Mary Ward Loreto works to achieve one of its main goals in working to fight against Human Trafficking. The Youth Project follows the recommendations arising from research conducted in 2014, which found that lack of employment opportunities creates poverty, which in turn increases the risk of being vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. The project aims to empower youth to contribute firstly to their local communities and eventually the national community.

It equips participating youth with a Tool Kit which empowers them to be ever-prepared for employment. A sample of some of the programmes available are as follows:

- Vocational Training.
- Human development training- community actions for problem-solving and economic empowerment.
- Internships and accompaniment during employment.
- Entertainment and voluntary based activities.
- Leadership Programmes aimed at empowering youth to become leaders of their own lives and that of their local communities. In effect, leadership for social action.

MWL Men (for Men). Was founded in January 2016 and now works with 1000 men across Albania in working with issues such as gender awareness. Addictive behaviour. Rights and the land, domestic violence and research. MWL Men (Work in prison)- tries to inform and convince men of the value and possibility to transform, by means of weekly visits to men and offering emotional support and legal advice. URAT- United Response Against Trafficking is another initiative of MWL working in a network with 7 other organisations.



Gazi concluded by emphasising that all of the initiatives are informed by front-line research, which guides every project that is undertaken by Mary Ward Loreto. A recent example of this research is Coryelle, Stephen (2016). "Challenges and Perspectives of Men in Albanian Society," MIRGEERALB public and Ethis in the Albanian Education System, 2017.

For more information, please see www.albaniahope.com

Little Angels Community Centre, SHKEJ- Erion Prendi- Project Manager.



Working primarily with Roma and Egyptian communities, the work of the centre is based on research information, the most recent being an Analysis of Children in Street Situations at National Level in Albania, (2014), supported by *UNICEF Albania* and the *Save the Children Foundation*.

Some of the findings are that parents were street children themselves, thereby lending an air of acceptability to the phenomenon. Peer pressure has a significant influence. The poor performance of the Albanian child care system plays a contributing role, as does abuse in all its forms- sexual, physical and emotional. A recurring and prevalent theme amongst the Roma and Egyptian communities, however, is the perpetually poor family economic situations which drive children out to work on the streets to generate income.

Erion referred to regional research conducted in 2016, on the prevalence of the street children phenomenon in the Balkans in general, including Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Herzegovina & Macedonia. He shared some sobering findings such as only 20% of the children attend school, mainly working and begging on the streets, collecting raw materials such as tin cans, plastic bags etc. for recycling & refunds.

Another finding was the children's lack of language capacities, as they mainly speak either Egyptian or Roma language and have very little Albanian. This, in turn, disempowers them from the fundamental rights of access, as they are incapable of explaining their situations if attacked or abused.

Of particular concern is the prevalence of children staying and/or sleeping on the streets overnight, with the ensuing risks of trafficking, physical abuse etc. 21% of the street children are just surviving, with no quality of life.



Challenges- In Tirana, there are 24 Municipalities. Each municipality has a Child Protection Unit with individual leaders. However, the municipalities lack the necessary resources, budgets and communication capacities to actually impact positively on the situation.

Ideally, there ought to be better inter-departmental cooperation between the four governmental Ministries (Interior, Health, Welfare and Education), but regrettably, they

appear not to be actually interacting effectively.

Hence, the urgency of the NGO's to step into the void and work to ensure the dignity and safety of the most vulnerable in the Roma and Egyptian communities. Due to time constraints, Erion suggested we refer to a recent publication by the MWL Foundation in conjunction with the Albanian Centre for Economic Research (ACER), entitled "Ethics in the Albanian Education System- Study Report," (April 2017).

Full information at www.albaniahope.com

Some Creative Approaches to Prevention Work.

Ivonne van de Kar, RENATE member and Director of the *ZUSTERWERK* initiative in the Netherlands shared about the importance and value gained through collaborative processes with police and both local and national authorities, when working in the areas of awareness-raising, prevention and rehabilitation. The principal activities of *ZUSTERWERK* encompass awareness raising; dissemination; lobbying; work on safe return projects.; sheltering and action with international networks.



Ivonne's presentation illustrated Human Trafficking in all its diversity, encompassing Recruitment, Transportation, Transfer, Harboring and receipt of persons by means of threat, force and/or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, abuse of position, all perpetrated on the vulnerable. Exploitation is at its core.

Ivonne presented statistical data on Human Trafficking in the Netherlands, which reveals the extent of the Loverboy phenomenon in the field of Human Trafficking and the role it plays in forced prostitution of so many Dutch women who are pimped by their lovers.

One of the surprising statistics presented by Ivonne was that which indicated that in a table

of ten EU countries with the most registered victims of people trafficking in 2014, the Netherlands was at the top (1,561 victims), ahead of the UK (1,358), which in turn was followed by Romania (757) and then France (710). It is acknowledged that these figures are conservative, mainly because so many cases are unreported and undocumented.



It was especially sad that despite State legislation governing work-hours under Health and Safety regulations, such regulations are not applicable to trafficked persons, as experienced by people trafficked for labour in industries such as poultry farming, the mushroom industry, fruit and vegetable farming; forced labour in construction; seafarers on commercial ships and many more.

Networking is particularly valuable and Ivonne referenced numerous joint campaigns in the Netherlands, involving the police & NGOs e.g. CORDAID; KNR; POLITIE; LA STRADA; World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations; COMENSHA; NVR; the MANNA Foundation; GRAIL and multi-faith organisations e.g. RENATE, CARITAS, COATNET, ANAHT (African Network against HT), Talitha Kum.

A repetitive theme throughout the study days was the importance of Awareness raising. In this regard, Ivonne spoke about the talks that she gives at the parish and congregational levels, workshops for one or several days duration and the value of leaflet campaigns, which are a powerful means of instant impact. Ivonne also spoke about the short film **Anna** (12 minutes long), made in collaboration with a number of other multi-faith organisations. This film is used by Dutch police to inform each other and new recruits. The film is also used by the Dutch Parliament when informing newly appointed Ministers.

For more information info@zusterwerk.nl

A sample of some of the input & insights from individuals about their organisations/work.

Patricia Stoaat (UK) Diocese of Nottingham, used a YouTube video entitled "Horse Trading," to tremendous effect, about the exploitation of workers by an agency & the role of the *GangMasters' Licensing Authority*. The video caused quite a stir amongst those present and is sure to be used by the members in awareness-raising, advocacy campaigns and other activities. Despite the sombre theme of the video, Patricia ended her presentation on a motivational note in saying "The dream & hope of what *might* be is greater than what *has* been and *is*." Patricia's presentation was the source of much conversation and reflection for the remainder of the Study Days.

Lynda Dearlove RSM presented on the **Women at the Well (WATW)** initiative, briefly outlining its drop-in service and outreach to women. The initiative is particularly successful due to the efforts it makes to involve native speakers in Hungarian, Russian, Latvian etc.

which really makes a difference to female victims who are so traumatised and frightened.



Challenging legislators & policy makers in terms of setting policy and implementation is a large part of the work. Lynda spoke about the difficulties surrounding UK Legislation and its weaknesses, as instanced when following police raids of apartments and brothels, many of the women are released and not arrested but they then end up seeking help from Women at The Well.

Lynda is firmly of the view that the best version of the Nordic model is currently manifest in France, where not only are the purchasers of sex criminalised but crucial support services are legislated for by way of follow-up with women.

Lynda emphasised the importance of collaboration amongst service providers, which in turn allows for best service provision. Such collaboration also allows for canvassing for better and improved services. Lynda spoke of the National Referral Mechanism posed to the women as the route through which those who are acknowledged as being trafficked and then move through the system into safe houses e.g. those provided by the Medaille Trust & others. In the UK, every woman found in prostitution and trafficking is seen as a victim. If we are to arrive at broad-based support and prevention, then we need to hear ALL the voices involved in the phenomenon of human trafficking, including men, be they perpetrators or victims. She also called for a thorough analysis of the impact which violence against women has on families.

WATW provide training opportunities e.g. most of the British female transport police, have come on a London placement with WATW; WATW also works directly with social workers and nurses, who complete the final part of their training with WATW. Religious organisations often send their sisters and postulants to gain insights and experiences at WATW. WATW works closely with CARITAS UK, the European Women's Lobby and the Holy See.

Informed by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, WATW is currently compiling international research on what models of intervention work on the ground, help in exiting prostitution. It is intended that future WATW development will see the provision of support to women trying to exit prostitution. Their lives have been chaotic in such work and they urgently need assistance and support to develop routines and possibilities.

Lynda concluded her presentation by referring to the importance of accountability, saying social return for investment is fundamental to NGO's relying on external funding. Measuring the impact of services must not be overlooked and is critically important, not only for investors but also, importantly, for the recipients of services and supports provided.

Association Catholique de France (ACF)-Rose-Marie Maillier.



While the ACF does not deal directly with women in trafficking, it is totally committed to the protection of women in French society and in the Church, enabling women to express their concerns & suffering.

Rose-Marie spoke of the changed social situation in France in recent years with increased numbers of women living on the streets, many of whom have lost contact with their family. The family unit has become more fragile and varied, contributing to greater risks for youth and increased incidences of

social instability and violence. As a result, vulnerability to Human Trafficking and exploitation is increased.

ACF works at the national level, trying to involve various associations, including the Church, by means of symposia on women's themes. Of great concern is the increasing prevalence of poverty and how it impacts women, children and family life, contributing to breakdown, illnesses, disabilities and violence.

ACF have published a book on women and poverty, with a view to heightening public awareness about the wider-reaching impacts of poverty on society. Currently, ACF is hosting a photographic exhibition nationally in France, on the theme of loneliness and isolation. These latter themes of loneliness and isolation cannot be overlooked as critical factors contributing to mental problems, poor decision making and vulnerabilities.

Rose-Marie concluded her presentation by referring to the value of inter-Religious dialogue to assist in the restoration of dignity and purpose to women recovering from Human Trafficking and prostitution

Marleen Peters-van der Heyden (UnieNKV, the Netherlands) spoke of study days held in the Netherlands in 2009, on the theme of **Loverboys**, in which both the SRTV and Dutch police participated. From a safety perspective, people were really touched by the way the police were concerned for the victim and the fact that the police do not see the woman as just a number, rather, as a human being, with all her sufferings and fears.

Marleen urged us not to forget to concern ourselves with the perpetrators, their reasons and purposes for what they do. How do they regard women? What role models have been in their lives that led them to regard women as inferior? Marleen emphasised the importance of all levels of society playing their part in educating for respect of the human person.

In her work with imprisoned offenders, Marleen encounters Loverboys and it was not surprising to hear their responses when she asks them to imagine how they would feel if their sister or daughter were treated by Loverboys...the men say: 'that's different!' Marleen remarked that in almost all instances, these men have an under-developed capacity for empathy.

In the Netherlands, students in their final year at high school are required to write about a social problem. One such student checked the internet and found Unie NKV. She attended one of the study days and met with various members of the organisation before finally writing on the work. Marleen shared the value of such an encounter which not only informed the student but also brought a fresh perspective to UnieNKV, which was invaluable to their work in lobbying both local and national government levels.

In response, Helga Sourek (KDFB) acknowledged the importance of education but shared her scepticism about referring to women as victims, suggesting instead that we refer to them as “Forces!!” This brought up the dialogue again on the importance of use of language in a strategic manner. Lynda Dearlove, RSM, explained the necessity and strategic action of using the term ‘victim’ as it is the legal word which helps open the doors to services and supports. While acknowledging that the term ‘victim’ is a label and a construct, its use is a mechanism which actually protects.

Patricia Mulhall,csb, shared information about **TRAC UK** and its work involving advocacy,



campaigning, awareness-raising. In 2005, Sr. Ann Teresa of the order of St. Joseph of Annecy, wrote to congregations in the UK who met with a view to discussing the possibilities of opening a safe house for women trafficked into the UK. Arising from that day, a number of women including Patricia, decided to research root causes and prevention. The Medaille Trust was formed that day and in 2006 the first safe house opened. Currently, the Medaille Trust has 9 ‘safe houses’ in the UK.

Patricia and her colleagues began an advocacy and campaigning wing of the Medaille Trust- to advocate, campaign, educate, lobby, give talks and offer guidance and training. Focused on ‘Demand,’ they speak nationally at schools and parishes, to raise awareness. They also train young people to give talks to their peers in their respective schools.

In recent years, TRAC UK has worked with the **Ten Ten Theatre** group, in giving presentations to 80 schools throughout the UK. **Ten Ten Theatre** have produced a video on Human Trafficking and have also focused on the life and story of St. Bakhita, which they incorporate into their presentations.

TRAC are currently in consultation with **Ten Ten Theatre**, preparing a new drama focused on the topic of ‘DEMAND.’ It is intended to showcase this new drama at 280 schools nationally, having regard for how relatively easy it is for a Catholic organisation to access Catholic schools.

Patricia spoke of other collaborations such as with PACE (Parents against Child Exploitation). STOP the Traffick, CARE and The Salvation Army. TRAC also collaborated with those working to realise the Modern Slavery Bill which is now enacted, which involved meeting with and lobbying Members of the UK Parliament (MPs) as well as Members of the European

Parliament (MEPs).

Patricia spoke of her involvement as a member of RENATE and of her support for the Nordic Model.



Sabine Slawik, (Germany and member of the CoCoA), shared that through listening to all that has been said over the past few days, she realises there is a lot being done in terms of lobbying and awareness raising, but more remains to be done. Sabine spoke of the work with different organisations internationally such as SOLWODI, to bring awareness about violence against women. A practical example of this is fund-raising for shelters and also the production of a brochure containing a statement against violence against women, in time for the

forthcoming Federal elections in Germany.

Sabine spoke of plans to include the topic of Human Trafficking, in an effort to raise awareness and to lobby at an Assembly in Augsburg next week and concluded by emphasising how critical it is to continue to talk about the topic of human trafficking at every opportunity and especially of the value of being able to give talks at schools, tapping into their openness to the information and to discussing the topic with their peers.

Reports back from discussion groups, in response to the following questions

1. What can ANDANTE do?
2. What can member organisations do?
3. What can individual women do?
4. What networks should we engage in?

German-speaking part of Switzerland;

Collaboration with other country organisations where possible.

Have focus days in major cities such as Zurich.

Hold public events to mark St. Bakhita Day (8th February annually) and/or on the 18th of October, the European Day against Trafficking in Persons.

Awareness raising about exploitation e.g. cheap goods; exploitation of care workers and also exploitation of nature and the climate.

Make more efforts to verify ethical practices used by care homes where carers are employed under conditions that contravene human rights and are so very often exploited.

Representing the 2 major Catholic Women's organisations in Germany- ANDANTE & KDF- establish contacts with women's working groups at the Council of Europe.

Make use of the various networks in ANDANTE & publish Press statement on our website to establish news which can be transmitted by the local press.



Write Newsletter following this conference, to help share best practice.

Share our email addresses to facilitate networking.

Report to our respective Assemblies and Boards and integrate Human Trafficking discussions into our various member organisations' meetings.

Encourage others to take up the subject of Human Trafficking.

Organise local events and activities as

part of awareness raising actions.

Collect funds and donate where necessary.

Contact politicians and lobby them.

Join forces and set up networks.

Actively look for networks.

Don't forget men, however reluctant they may be to be informed or to engage.

Contact journalists & photographers, who can offer materials for exhibitions.

Campaign about Human Trafficking and contact everyone we can find to make this problem known.

French-speaking areas of Switzerland.

Continue our lobbying of the Council of Europe and share information arising from the ANDANTE Study Days in Albania.

Do not be inhibited by lack of language capacity, use images, photos and film, bearing in mind pictures are often stronger than words.

In 2020, plan on organising a day dedicated to Human Trafficking and invite input from experts in organisations such as the Police, NGOs. RENATE etc.

Pray for and teach children about Human Trafficking.

Look for networks contact person in RENATE

The Netherlands- invited assistance from anyone to volunteer to help with the ANDANTE website.

Hold an information day on the value of **Safe Return** projects.

Keep informed and share the news about the ANDANTE Study Days in Albania.



All ANDANTE members report their activities on the website and keep a positive slant on such news.

Tap into the already existing networks we can use.

Develop your own stamp at the Post Offices. It is possible to do this in the Netherlands, a novel and interesting means of awareness-raising.

France- Similar suggestions to the above.

Not sure what can be done at the level of the Church in general as in France it's difficult for women to be heard by the Bishops but every effort will be made!

Education is important. Awareness-raising amongst youth and society, about Human Trafficking in all its forms. Early intervention is important.

Need political and ecclesial support.

Individually, it would be good for each of us to sensitise those around us, to the problem of Human Trafficking. We all know that we can be dismissed by others who say "ah well, that's a women's problem", but in fact, Human Trafficking is everyone's problem. We all can play our part in ending it.

Politically agitate for action.

Despite the difficulties in accessing Catholic print media, commit to writing articles about ANDANTE in Journals and media in France e.g. Catholic Press.

Post on the ANDANTE website the *Report from The International Symposium on the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Street People, held at the Vatican, 14 – 17 September 2015*. The language in the report is most helpful as the report is quite clear in stating the Church does not have an option to be inactive in the face of exploitation and human trafficking, which are crimes against humanity.

English speaking countries.

The strength of ANDANTE is its Pan-European connections.

National Board of Catholic Women in the UK produce a Toolkit & something similar could be produced on Human Trafficking.

Share expertise and Knowledge, whom to talk to, whom to refer questions to etc.

Sharing information & resources.

At the individual level, become a conscious consumer; know what's going on; monitor supply chains. Know what you're buying (goods & services).

Keep up-to-date with information available on Vatican website- dig deep & you'll find it.

Almost too many different networks e.g. TRANSPARENCY International has very good info.

Tap into the increasing number of Universities now developing research bases in the Law faculties, Social Sciences faculties etc.

Connect with National Justice & Peace networks, CARITAS etc. and share our information with them.

Understanding how to use the international instruments such as the CEDAW processes (Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against women). Understand how we can influence CEDAW, learn from each other and enable each other. It's been around for +50 years.

Latvia- Very small organisation in Latvia but will quietly continue to work in prevention by educating vulnerable youth such as those coming from orphanages & dysfunctional families. Good to also inform our adults about the extent of the Human Trafficking problem.

Conclusion.

The power of collaboration and the collaborative processes was acknowledged and appreciated throughout the study days. Old friendships were rekindled and new friendships and alliances forged.

Greater understandings have been realised and the power of possibilities looms large on the horizon. All of this was achieved through the warmth of welcome extended to participants from the outset. ANDANTE valued the openness with which RENATE shared its experiences and especially valued the generosity and hospitality of Mary Ward Loreto, in sharing the learning and information from many of their projects.



The visit to Berat on the Osum river in south-central Albania on Sunday, 7th May, gave marvellous insights into the history and culture of Albania. We learned about the co-existence of several Byzantine churches and the Red Mosque within the ancient city walls and enjoyed the beauty of the art composed by Onufri and exhibited at the National museum for Christian icons. An immensely enjoyable day was enriched by our bus-stop at a local market, to

purchase big bags of freshly picked cherries, fresh from the trees near Berat!

It is hoped that ANDANTE will become another critical voice and player in the work against human trafficking and RENATE will be ready to journey together with our friends and colleagues, in our common mission.

The tone of the Study Days confirms we are an Easter people, people of hope, who through our combined efforts and networks, can make a difference. We are very fortunate in the great leadership of Pope Francis, who from the outset of his papacy has made a conscious effort to challenge world complacency on exploitation and human trafficking. Through our collective capacities & through public recognition, we can take a stance in ensuring that buying, selling, abusing for coercing any person is totally unacceptable.

Anne Kelleher, RENATE Communications Person.

3- 8 May 2017.