

Welcome from Imelda Poole, President RENA TE Europe.

It is raining! It has been raining for months. The snow is falling. It has been freezing for months. The season of Lent has been filled with hardship, the winter sickness has left many weaker and the growing gap between rich and poor has left millions more vulnerable and hungry. No wonder the traffickers are succeeding in such a climate. Millions are on the move in the world trying to escape from such hardship and sickness. The rich go to warmer climes, the poor stay and suffer or try to ameliorate their plight. This year the theme for St. Bakhita day focused on the suffering of the refugee and the migrant. RENA TE was in Greece to meet many refugees escaping from their nightmares at home. They arrive with few clothes, few personal belongings and a glimmer of hope which sustains them on their journey. A Syrian's first words in the refugee camp here in Tirana was, 'Have you a spare sweater, I am cold'. Are we living as 'We are? Or 'I need'?



"Human trafficking" means "human exploitation". It means "human slavery". It means that someone is exerting power and control over a vulnerable person. It means a girl or boy or man or woman is forced to do the unthinkable. It means **Not Free**. (Free the Girls Campaign 2018)

This time last year, at Easter Time, Pope Francis said: "This throwaway culture," where we use something and then throw it away, "where what is not needed is rejected, the stone – Jesus – is discarded" but then becomes the source of eternal life. The world has many misfortunes, such as disease, human trafficking, wars, destruction, revenge and hatred. We may be tempted to ask, "But where is the Lord? Today, the Church continues to say: 'Stop, Jesus is risen.'"

We continue to work against this human evil knowing that it is Good Friday work. However, in the end, the hope that the elimination of human trafficking will come one day and that new life and Resurrection is a reality for all, is the belief that sustains us day by day.

Imelda.



IVAN - Best International Film on Modern Slavery

RENAME members working at CARITAS Slovakia, share news of film about one of their former clients, winning *Best International Film on Modern Slavery* award, 15 March 2018.



Directed by Jan Husar, this documentary records the testimony of Ivan, a client of Caritas Slovakia as a result of being a victim of human trafficking. Despite the maltreatment and brutality experienced by Ivan, he still found strength to speak about his experiences at the hands of traffickers, in order that others might be spared such similar treatment.

Sadly, Ivan passed away on the eve of the feast of St. Bakhita, two years ago.

You can view the film at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrOXHn-gj84&feature=youtu.be>

Unchosen is a UK charity that uses film to inform others about Modern Slavery in the UK. Their methodologies include campaigns, events, training and film packages.

Migrants: trouver une réponse commune. Migrants: trouver une réponse commune.

In anticipation of the International day of Awareness and Prayer against Human Trafficking, 8 February 2018, RENAME member [Begoña Iñarra](#) published the following blog on RENAME France website www.renatefrance.wordpress.com



“Le Pape François a fait de la question migratoire un marqueur fort de son pontificat. Il a développé une approche nouvelle articulée autour des verbes : **accueillir, protéger, promouvoir, intégrer** ». A l’occasion de la journée mondiale du migrant et du réfugié, les évêques de France, nous indiquent les actions qui, dans le contexte français et pour chacun des quatre verbes, les paraissent être

prioritaires. Parmi elles, certaines pourront nourrir un plaidoyer préalable aux négociations des



Commission on the Status of Women, 2018- CSW62.



Congratulations to RENATE member Lynda Dearlove rsm MBE (GB Institute) and Angela Reed rsm, members of a multi-disciplinary panel of speakers at a side event ***Preventing Human Trafficking among Rural Women and Girls: Integrating Inherent Dignity into a Human Rights Model.***

The speakers addressed key aspects relating to the trafficking of rural women, human rights, human agency and also the denial of human dignity. The discussions included personal experience of human trafficking survival; Rights-based advocacy; Optimal Life-Course Conditions as one model of prevention; Rural Slavery Supply Chains; The work of women Religious in preventing trafficking among rural women and supporting survivors; sharing best practice. The side event was televised on UN Web TV on 13 March last and is available at: <http://webtv.un.org/watch/player/5752837968001>

RENA TE member awarded Courageous Woman Award, for dedication to the subject of Missing Children in Lithuania.



Ms. Natalja Kurcinskaja, Director Missing Person’s Families Support Centre was awarded the [Courageous woman award for dedication to the subject of missing children](#) , pictured above receiving her award from Ms. Anne Hall, U.S Ambassador to Lithuania.

RENAME Core Group meet in Greece, February 2018.



In light of the increasing numbers of migrants trafficked through new migratory corridors along the Aegean sea, RENAME Core Group members visited Greece in early February 2018, to meet with local NGOs. The meeting in Thessaloniki, was an opportunity to look at the way forward in the work against human trafficking in this region. Up until now, although there is an awareness of the Human Trafficking difficulties, there is really no work being done to address this issue in the area.

More at the February archives section of www.rename-europe.net

RENAME Members amongst those attending the meeting of the SANTA MARTA Group, Rome, 2018.

RENAME members, Patricia Mulhall, csb, and Mabel Mariotti, cms, represented RENAME at the fifth international Conference of the Santa Marta group, 8-9 February, when they met at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the Vatican, on the eve of the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita.

Patricia and Mabel were amongst the few representatives from international agencies and more than 30 countries, comprising leaders in law enforcement and the Church from around the world. All are collaborating to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking at a local level.

For more: www.santamartagroup.com



Agents in the Church against Human Trafficking.



On the occasion of the annual Justice and Peace Day for Religious Institutes, Thursday 11 January, 2018, *Justice & Peace* and the *National Service Family* and the *Society of the Conference of Bishops of France*, jointly organised a conference around the theme “Agents in the Church against Trafficking.”

On a day dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking in France, participants, including RENATE members, shared experiences of working at grassroots level as they gathered in round-table discussions and at workshops, in order to learn from each other and build further capacity.

There were screenings of short films such as *Invisibles* and *Becoming*, created by the Collective “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings,” showing different aspects of the trafficking of minors in France.

More at: <https://renatefrance.wordpress.com/2018/01/16/acteurs-en-eglise-contre-la-traite/>

Sad news of the passing of Estrella Castalone, fma.



On February 2nd 2018, we received the news of the death of Sr. Estrella Castalone, FMA, in the Philippines, her homeland. Sr. Estrella was the first coordinator of Talitha Kum. From 2010 to 2014 she worked with great enthusiasm and commitment to develop Talitha Kum. During these years Sr. Estrella promoted and strengthened existing local networks and organized training for the creation of new networks in Central America, Asia and Africa.

The International Union of Superiors General and in particular the members of the Talitha Kum Network express their deepest sympathy to her Congregation, the Daughters of Mary Help of



Christians, also known as the Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco. We are deeply grateful for the gift of the life of Sr. Estrella and for her commitment to combatting human

trafficking.

Human Trafficking Awareness-raising march in Tirana, to mark International Women’s Day 2018.



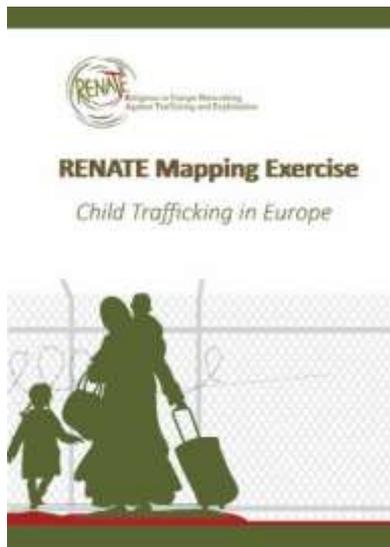
Hear Imelda Poole, IBVM, RENATE President, interviewed on ABC Albania today as she joined in solidarity with Civil Society groups and NGO MWL (Mary Ward Loreto) in a peaceful march in Tirana to raise awareness about the plight of women, girls, boys and men who have fallen victim to human trafficking and exploitation.

The interview is conducted in Albanian but you can access Imelda’s clip at 02.17 on the link below. Although unexpected and undeterred by heavy rainfall, the interview was a wonderful opportunity to speak out against injustice.

Please see link: <http://abcnews.al/8-marsi-marshim-i-grave-ne-bulevard-mesazhe-kunder-dhunes/>

RENAME Project Updates.

RENAME Mapping Exercise: Child Trafficking in Europe.



With the increased incidences of child trafficking worldwide, RENAME has commenced research which seeks to map the extent of child trafficking in Europe and the efforts underway to both combat and prevent its occurrence.

The research extends to seven European countries, all of which have representative members in the RENAME network. The participating countries are Albania, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Slovakia, The Netherlands and Ukraine.

Dr. Carrie Pemberton Ford, of the CCAHRT (Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking) is currently finalising the research. In the first instance, the research is informed by individual RENAME members working at grassroots level in the participating countries.

Additional factual data available from reliable sources such as the IOM, GRETA, TIP reports, UNICEF and UNODC reports enrich the research.

More at : <http://www.rename-europe.net/renates-child-trafficking-mapping-research-update/>

RENAME House of Prayer: In response to the increasing number of people who seek ways to engage with the Mission and Vision of RENAME and yet are short on time to be actively engaged in



anti-trafficking advocacy, campaigning and associated activities, RENATE is finalising its preparations to incorporate an on-line House of Prayer into the newly revised RENATE

website.

When the work on drafting the House of Prayer is completed, it is intended that people can log on to www.renate-europe.net and access Prayers and Reflections for their personal use. Thus, across the network, it will be possible for us to be in solidarity in prayer, as together we pray for both the victims and the traffickers and the eradication of human trafficking and exploitation. Prayers and Reflections will be updated on a weekly basis.

New build for RENATE website.

The RENATE website is currently undergoing a complete overhaul, to reflect the progress and development of the RENATE network. It is envisaged that the renewed website will be more interactive and engaging. Visitors to the site will not only learn more about Human Trafficking but will be encouraged to share their own stories. The revised website will be a means to influence the hearts and minds of the public who may respond by playing their part in eradicating human trafficking and exploitation.

RENA TE's upcoming Training Programme: Trafficking and Trauma: Care for the Victims and Preventive Care for the Carers, 30 April-4 May 2018.

30 RENATE members have registered to attend training on the above theme, which will take place at the Pallotti House Conference Centre, Freising, Germany. The training is tailored specifically for RENATE members who in their work, have to address trauma and trauma-related issues.

Amongst the themes to be covered are: Psychotraumatology-short theoretical background, features and symptomatology; Working with victims of sexual abuse- a spiritual, practical approach; Burnout-signs and features, prevention, psycho-hygiene; Trauma Therapy with victims of sexual exploitation in Germany; Spiritual counselling with Victims of Trafficking in Nigeria.

There will also be input from Sr. Dr. Lea Ackerman, Foundress of SOLWODI; Sr. M. Regina Pröls of the German Conference of Religious; representation from the German Federal Criminal Police Human Trafficking Unit and members of the German Bishop's Conference's Working Group on Human Trafficking and Bishop Dr. Stefan Heße, of the Santa Marta Group.

A visit to SOLWODI Augsburg is included, with the opportunity to meet with the members and share best practices. Watch this space for a full report later in May.



Missing Persons Families Support Centre, Lithuania, launches Amber Alert Facebook March 2018.

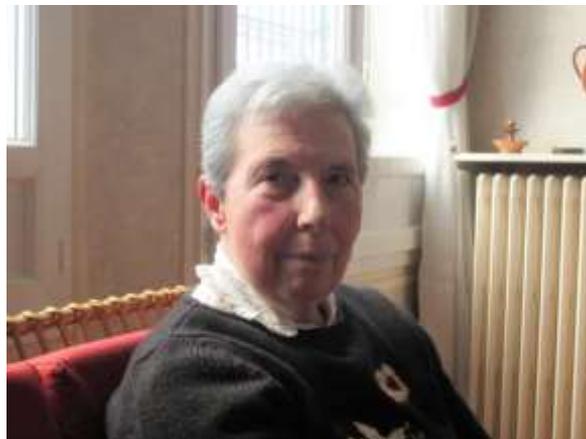
On 14 March, 2018, RENATE members at the Missing Persons' Families' Support Centre in Vilnius, Lithuania, launched *Amber Alert- Facebook* in Lithuania as part of a joint campaign entitled "For a Safe Lithuania." The President of Lithuania, Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, participated in the launch which took place at the Presidential Palace's Centre for Civil Education. Ms. Anne Hall, U.S ambassador to Lithuania attended, as did representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Police Department.



AMBER Alert is a Facebook-related system that enables law enforcement to send a message containing a recent photo and information about a missing child to all users located within a radius of 200 km from the location where the child was last seen. Lithuania is the first country in the Nordic region to have such a system. For further information about the event:

- Pictures from the event: <https://we.tl/yruwiUS2iM> and [spaudioje](#)
- Social video produced for Missing Children: ČIA, [nuoroda](#) (for download) with English subtitles
- More info on FB: [HERE](#)

Global Sister's Report (GSR) publish interview with RENATE member, Begoña Iñarra, msola, seeking anti-human trafficking cooperation between Europe and Africa.



After three years in Congo, Begoña decided to stay and joined the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa, also known as the White Sisters. "I wanted to stay on and share what I had received," says Begoña Iñarra, who joined the MSOLA having previously graduated with a degree in chemistry. With life experiences gleaned from living in community in the Congo, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mozambique, Kenya, Canada and latterly in Europe, Begoña is well placed to share the benefits of her experiences as she urges greater cooperation between Europe and Africa of the scourge of Human Trafficking is to be conquered. Full article from Global Sisters Report at: http://globalsistersreport.org/blog/q/ministry-trafficking/q-sr-begoña-iñarra-seeking-anti-trafficking-cooperation-between-africa?utm_source=GSR%20digest%203-20-18&utm_campaign=cc&utm_medium=email



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Against Trafficking and Exploitation

The Way of the Cross- interlinked with the lived experiences of victims of Human Trafficking.



APT Ireland (Act to Prevent Trafficking) share with us a reflection based on the Stations of the Cross, devised by Mary O'Malley, MMM, who raises awareness about Human Trafficking and assists victims in Nairobi, Kenya.

For each of the fourteen Stations, Mary has composed a brief reflection, based on the personal story of fourteen people, nine of whom have been trafficked for labour exploitation and the remaining five have been trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The reflections are available below, in both page-by-page or booklet format. Page by page:

<http://mmmworldwide.org/images/PDF/The%20Way%20of%20The%20Cross%20Online.pdf>

As booklet:

<http://mmmworldwide.org/images/PDF/xThe%20Way%20of%20The%20Cross%20-%20FINAL%202016%20A5-website.pdf>

A selection of events from the RENATE network's Annual Campaign to mark the 2018 International day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking: feast of St. Bakhita.

St. Bakhita in the spotlight at TV2000, Rome.

RENA TE member, Sr. Tina Ventimiglia, participated in an interview panel hosted by TV2000, Rome, discussing Human Trafficking and contemporary society. Tune in to the full programme at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic0_TuEgEA



Event to mark the feast of St. Bakhita, 2018, in Bratislava, Slovakia.

This year's campaign was special for several reasons, including the fact that parishes from all over Slovakia joined in the campaign. Whether accompanied by Taizé songs, within the Holy mass or Adoration, Caritas Slovakia commemorated and prayed for victims of trafficking- Caritas Slovakia's clients and people enslaved all over the world.



Amongst the events was the screening of a short film, "IVAN," featuring a former client of Caritas Slovakia whose testimony was recorded two months before he died, on the eve of the feast of St. Bakhita, 2016. More at www.charita.sk

NGOs Mary Ward Loreto, Different and Equal , plus Project URAT marked St. Bakhita's day with a number of events , culminating in a Liturgy at St. Paul's Cathedral, Tirana, Albania.



This year the theme for Bakhita Day, was *"Say YES to Freedom and No to slavery: Migration without Trafficking."* Many people subscribed to the theme which led to many being present at St Paul's Cathedral in the heart of Tirana, Albania, in a shared commitment.

Both the Archbishop of Tirana, George Frenco OP and the Government Minister against Human Trafficking, Rovena Voda, spoke movingly and with passion during this service, highlighting the many issues related to Human Trafficking and reflecting the stories which lead to such trauma. The evening worship consisted of a shortened form of the special service compiled by Talitha Kum in Rome. It included the wearing of wrist bands distributed during the evening declaring "Yes to Freedom and No to slavery;" a film made locally on Safe Migration by MWL and two Power Points. One of these PP's expressed the horror of the plight of refugees all over the world and the other, which was addressed by students from the Company of Mary School called "Ylber", illustrated the many pieces of art work produced by the students as an anti-trafficking awareness-raising campaign in the school. All the prayers and readings illustrated the plight of the trafficked and the need for all people to take action against such a crime.



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From Vienna, Austria:

RENAME member, Sr. Magdalena Eichinger, SSPS, sent us news of SOLWODI Austria's plans in Vienna, in honour of the occasion.

Sr. Anna from SOLWODI, prepared a special prayer service which was held in St. Michael's Church, Vienna City Centre. The prayer service was followed by a special screening of the RENAME Film *Called to Give Voice to the Voiceless*.



Before the service, Sr. Anna, Sr. Magdalena and their colleagues distributed information flyers in the streets and invited people to join the service and/or access more information available in the foyer of the church.

After the service, there was an opportunity for members from the different organisations involved in the Human Trafficking ministry, to meet, network and share experiences, whilst enjoying some refreshments.



APT Ireland (Act to Prevent Trafficking) held an Inter-Church service at St. Paul's Church, Arran Quay in Dublin, on the evening of the 8 February. The theme was "Set my People Free," with imagery of paper chains and a brief drama playing a central part of the evening.

The interactive service comprised reflections on Readings, Prayers and personal sharing. A guest speaker from RUHAMA addressed those present. Altogether, it was an opportunity not only for prayer and reflection, but also awareness-raising and capacity building amongst the APT network itself. More at: www.ap-ireland.org



In Croatia, RENAME member presents a series of talks at local Parishes in Croatia.



Commencing the last Thursday in January and continuing each Thursday in February, RENAME member Viktorija Šimić, SCSC, visited a different parish each week, to give a talk about Human Trafficking. It was an opportunity to join with the parish priests and the assembly in prayer for the victims of Human Trafficking and to pray for an end to this crime against humanity. A particular source of hope to Viktorija is that the parish priests are receptive to the topic.



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An additional action has been the translation of the RENATE Information and Awareness-raising Flier, which Viktorija translated into Croatian and has circulated to all the Religious communities (male and female) in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

From The Bakhita Network, Poland.



The members of the Bakhita Network, their collaborators and friends prepared a special Novena of prayer for the victims of human trafficking and for the cessation of all forms of slavery. The Novena ran from 30 January to 7 February. With the collaboration of the Conference of Major Religious Superiors in Poland, the Novena was shared with all Congregations throughout Poland. The novena was also published on many Catholic websites in Poland.

There were screenings of the film Nefarious Merchant of Souls, in several cities and the screenings were followed by discussions on how to counteract human trafficking. A source of great hope for the Bakhita network is the marked increase in awareness and engagement by the general public, with the topic of Human Trafficking and in support of efforts to bring about its demise.

All materials are available at: <http://www.siecbakhita.com/index.php/nowenna-do-sw-bakhity> ; <http://www.siecbakhita.com/index.php/wiadomosci/157-zapraszamy-do-modlitwy-nowenna-do-sw-bakhity>

[8 Feb 18 Poland Novena Nowenna do św. Bakhity PDF](#)



A Light Shining in a Dark Place of Human Trafficking

In partnership with the Clewer Initiative, the Medaille Trust (which comprises several RENATE members), held an evening of reflection, thought-provoking presentations, music and prayer, to commemorate St. Bakhita's feast-day, 8 February. The event took place in the beautiful Liverpool Cathedral, St. James Mount, L1 7AZ, Liverpool.

Guest speakers included Mr. Garry Smith, newly appointed Chief Executive of the Medaille Trust, following the recently retired former Chief Executive, Mr. Mike Emberson and Reverend Christel Erving, Anti-Trafficking project coordinator for the Diocese of Liverpool.

To enhance awareness-raising and garner additional support, there were exhibition stands and literature from the Medaille Trust and the Clewer Initiative plus a craft stall of items for sale from the Mama Margaret anti-trafficking project, Kenya.

More information at: www.medaille-trust.org.uk

Event in Hungary, 8 February, 2018- In honour of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking, feast of St. Bakhita.

2018. február 8.
Imanap az emberkereskedelem
áldozataiért



közös imádságra és Szentmisére hívünk
17:30-tól a pesti Jézus Szíve Templomba
(1085 Budapest, Mária utca 25.)
19:00 órától információk és beszélgetés a
témához kapcsolódóan

A szervezők szeretetnővérek, a
SOLWODI Hungary Egyesület alapítói



RENATE member Gabriella Légrádi, SCSC, shared a copy of the Flier announcing the Prayer Service organised by SOLWODI Hungary, which was held in Budapest, 8 February 2018.

Beginning with thirty minutes of silent prayer and reflection, the local Jesuit community lead the congregation in the celebration of Mass.

After Mass, there was a talk about Human Trafficking, with input from a policewoman, a priest and also from a woman who works at a local shelter.

A large number attended and availed of the opportunity to learn more about Human Trafficking and to pray together for the victims and the end of trafficking.

More at: <https://szerzetesek.hu>



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News from Spain re. Vigil in honour of the feast of St. Bakhita, February 2018.



RENA TE member, Sr. Pilar González Cano, shared with us a PowerPoint presentation she prepared for the Vigil in honour of St. Bakhita’s Day, 2018, which was held at her local Parish church. There are accompanying photographs of the event, which took place on 10 February. More at February archives section at: www.renate-europe.net

The URAT (United Response Against Trafficking) Network in Albania prepared a Prayer and Liturgy



Service which was held at St. Paul’s cathedral, Tirana on the 8th of February. Archbishop George Frenco presented the homely.

Attendance included the Deputy Minister of Interns/ National Co-ordinator against Trafficking in Persons, who presented a speech.

A number of materials were prepared for the Service, including a designated poster; a Prayer Card and the Liturgy itself.

This year, the network chose to concentrate on the theme *Migration without Trafficking*. As part of its ongoing commitment to Migration without Trafficking, URAT supports the National Asylum and Migration Centre in Babrru, Tirana by means of food, materials and goods for the refugees currently living there. www.albaniahope.com





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Human Trafficking awareness-raising concert held in Tirana, Albania- attended by President Meta and a colleague Parliamentarian.



Different & Equal (D&E) held a wonderful concert on Tuesday night, 30 January 2018, at the Orthodox Cathedral conference centre, Tirana, Albania. The evening was entirely dedicated to the issue of Human Trafficking, with approximately 400 people present.

Six of the country's most famous 'pop' singers headlined the event. In between all the songs, the singers read stories concerning trafficked victims. It was very moving.

President Meta spoke at the end, as did his colleague Parliamentarian. They both committed themselves to work tirelessly to rid Albania of human trafficking.

RENA TE members Mariana Meshi, Director of *Different & Equal* (D & E) and Syri Pepa, social worker at D & E, spoke enthusiastically about the success of the event and its capacity to have a wider outreach to youth, who are especially vulnerable to Human Trafficking and Exploitation. D&E work in partnership with Mary Ward Loreto in Albania. They are members of URAT, the Albanian network against human trafficking in Albania, involved in many grassroots actions concerning the rescue and rehabilitation of the Albanian victims of trafficking.

More at www.albaniahope.com





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Anne Kelleher, Editor.
