

## ARISE Foundation launch report on The Anti-Slavery Commitment of the Conference of Religious of England and Wales - 12 November, 2018.



The anti-slavery commitment of the Conference of Religious of England and Wales has been recorded in the Threads of Solidarity project, conducted by the ARISE Foundation and launched in Westminster, London on Monday, 12 November 2018.

RENATE members Mrs. Ana Stakaj, Patricia Mulhall, csb, Anne McNamara, pbvm, Marie Power, Ancy Mathews and Eileen Glancy were amongst invited guests at the launch of a report on the project.

Sr. Arpan Carvalho, bs, Sr. Cecilia Espenilla, op and Sr. Lynda Dearlove, rsm, each spoke about their respective ministries and the harsh realities of life which render people vulnerable to traffickers.

The report is available at [www.arise.foundation](http://www.arise.foundation)

“In May 2001, when over 800 leaders of women’s congregations gathered in Rome at the UISG Assembly, they committed over 1 million sisters to work in solidarity worldwide as the living presence of God’s tender mercy in a wounded world.

They made a particular commitment to denounce the sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children at every level, with a special focus on preventing the trafficking of women.

Over the years, it has become clear that collaborative networks led by sisters are particularly important in combatting trafficking, because sisters are trusted and are involved at every level with those who are most vulnerable and are often exploited and entrapped by traffickers.” Patricia Murray, IBVM, Executive Secretary- International Union of Superiors General/Talitha Kum.





“Contemporary slavery is destroying the lives of tens of millions worldwide. In the UK, a noble tradition of slavery abolition has given rise to a false impression of immunity. Yet as many as 13,000 people are estimated to be living under slave-like conditions within these shores. Some reckon this figure to be a gross underestimate.

For generations, member institutes of the Conference of Religious of England and Wales (CoREW) have served the most marginalised members of society. Sometimes their work has been anti-slavery in effect- addressing the reasons that slavery still exists today. More recently, some institutes have developed their mission statements to include an anti-slavery commitment.



The transformative power of their work is well understood by those who are close to it. But religious life is not known for broadcasting its impact. Perhaps for this reason, the worldwide anti-slavery efforts of religious – particularly women religious – are not well mapped, understood or appreciated.

Desire to address these and other concerns led to the Threads of Solidarity Project.”

Executive Summary, *Threads of Solidarity*, November 2018.

Prepared by Anne Kelleher, RENATE Communications.