



ENDING TRAFFICKING BEGINS WITH YOU

GREETINGS!

PRESIDENT OF RENATE
SR. IMELDA POOLE
IBVM (LORETO)

Welcome to all our members and friends reading this first newsletter, compiled by Anne Kelleher, RENATE's Communications Person.

We are delighted to present RENATE's news and events. We hope that this form of communication will bring many more partners into our Network.

We feel that by sharing our news and ways of working against this phenomenon of modern-day slavery, there will be a growing response from others working in the same field. Together, we can reach greater awareness of how to work in an ever-changing reality against the machinations of those perpetrating this crime. In this real context, we can protect the victim and support the survivor towards freedom. Thanks to all our partners for your constant support and encouragement. Imelda

CONTENTS: Work of RENATE

Launch of RENATE Network and Activities	2
Gift Box— Katholikentag, Germany	3
Reports - Poland, Albania	4
Olivia in Albania. Netherlands news	5
CST—News items. Web & Email	6

WHO WE ARE

RENA TE was established in 2009 by a group of Religious in Europe representing several different Congregations working against Human Trafficking. Currently, comprising eighteen countries from East, West & Central Europe, RENATE is at the coalface of human trafficking, working across Europe, supporting victims in 'shelters' taking direct preventative action, doing training, awareness-raising, advocacy, networking, research and cross-cultural exploration.

OUR VISION

All people are created in the image of God. We, the Religious of Europe, believe in a world where everyone has a right to human dignity.

Human dignity cannot be compromised.

Therefore we labour to free the world from trafficking and exploitation.

OUR GOAL

To respond to the issue of trafficking of women, children and men, in light of Gospel Values.

OUR OBJECTIVES

To develop awareness-raising activities against human trafficking and the growing demand within all levels of society in Europe, using all forms of modern technology in our

“Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved?” (Gen 4:9)

Honourable recognition and blessings were bestowed on RENATE by Pope Francis, when the President, Sr Imelda Poole met him at the Human Trafficking conference in Rome, November, 2013 (photo) and when Monsignor Peter B. Wells, of the Vatican



Secretariat, responded to RENATE's letter expressing gratitude that in his inaugural address, Pope Francis explicitly called for an end to human trafficking. (photo: RENATE Members, meet Pope Francis L to R, Sr. Patricia Mulhall, Sr. Imelda Poole & Sr. Marie-Hélène Halligon)



ACTIVITIES TO DATE

A EUROPEAN NETWORK

RENA TE Network was established at a special Conference in Trzebinia, Poland, 4-9 September 2011, to work across Europe against Human Trafficking. The theme of the conference was entitled “*When we hear the cry...*”

Representatives from eighteen different countries attended. Arising from the Conference, a Working Board was established. It meets annually to plan the strategy for effective networking, to support members and to evaluate work being done throughout the Network.

A Core Group was formed from the Working Board to manage the various ministries of RENATE. It convenes monthly via a Skype conference call.

Other activities include:

- ⇒ Training programmes in Catholic Social teaching
- ⇒ Creation of the RENATE website
- ⇒ Cross-cultural experiences
- ⇒ Direct assistance to those running ‘shelters’ for victims
- ⇒ Funding for the improvement of English language for RENATE members and for victims of human trafficking



TOGETHERNESS + INTER-CONNECTIVITY + INTERDEPENDENCE



“A network of salvation that will keep fighting to stop trafficking.”

Sr. Estrella Castellone

Co-ordinator of Talitha Kum.

With the curtain closed on the 2014 tournament in Brazil, the eyes of the world will fall on Russia as it prepares to host the World Cup in 2018.

The message from FIFA of ‘*togetherness, inter-connectivity and interdependence*’ strikes a note with RENATE, as it works to stop trafficking and exploitation. Together with Talitha Kum, Caritas and other networks worldwide, RENATE helps victims of Human Trafficking, and engages in education and action to prevent it.

RENA TE is all too aware of its calling to work collaboratively, in the service of others, to prevent trafficking and eradicate the sale and commodification of human persons.

Throughout the thirty days of World Cup 2014, countless religious and lay people kept the public informed of the importance of respecting the dignity of the human person, made in the image and likeness of God.

All those involved in Talitha Kum, adopt a ‘hands-on’ approach with sisters themselves forming the best resource. As a network, the sisters rely on each other and each congregation has specific resources to contribute, including hospitals, social centres, schools and convents. Talitha Kum emphasises the critical importance of the values of respect, love, care, dignity and where these are taught and practiced in homes and workplaces they provide the paramount means of prevention.

GIFT BOX—SUMMER TOUR 2014

SLOVAKIA May—Lucenec / June—Roznava, Rimavska Sobota July—Pohoda Festival, Trencin airfield.



GIFT Box—an initiative offered by Caritas Slovakia, Under the direction of Sister Bohdana, RENATE, the Gift Box initiative aims to give a sensory experience of the effects of human trafficking on a person.

This summer, the GIFT Box Slovakia, a campaign entitled *“People are not for Sale,”* toured in Slovakian towns—Lucenec, Trnava, Roznava and Rimavska Sobota in May and June 2014. People of every age were present at the various venues, eager to learn and to experience the awful effects of human trafficking and to know how to work towards preventing it.

At the July festival in Trencin, which attracts more than 30,000 visitors from all over Europe, the GIFT Box provided a space for victims of human trafficking to tell their story, and also gave many more, who suspect trafficking activity, a platform to speak.

KATHOLIKENTAG REGENSBURG, GERMANY.

28TH MAY – 1ST JUNE, 2014.



At Katholikentag, RENATE walked, worked and prayed in a place in which faith was enabled, encouraged, modelled, facilitated and taught. Thousands of colourful stalls and bright white tents were decked out, welcoming and inviting attendees to engage, discuss, share and learn, affording first-hand and memorable experiences of the diversity of life in contemporary Catholic Church in Germany.

At Katholikentag, we shared the work of RENATE and involved many people in the work to prevent trafficking. RENATE engaged with hundreds of people from all sections of the church, shared meals with strangers—who soon became friends—and talked with those equally passionate about Catholic Social Teaching and the journey of faith. Young and old were present, walking the journey of building bridges between God and humankind. The intensity of such dialogue took us to interesting places and presented us with challenges. Inevitably it demanded that we give without limit as Christ himself gave for us.

RENATE members presented a workshop on Trafficking and shared their story of work done locally by each network. The workshop challenged and invited those present to think about how the presentation 'spoke' to them. The audience was invited to discuss and give consideration to the effect of the agency in working as a network, and to its potential and its power of possibility!

For more, see RENATE Website: www.renate-europe.net

Photo: RENATE members at Katholikentag

“More than 1,000 individual events combine to make the German Katholikentag a place of bridge-building; on behalf of society, faith and community.

Being a Christian means dedicating oneself out of faith in God and Church and Society. Every Katholikentag is a platform for political, social and Church dialogue...”

(Bridges of Encounter and Change; Katholikentag 2014)



SAFE SUMMER WORK – CAMPAIGN IN POLAND

Summer time is a period of intensive ‘people-movement’ on the borders of all countries. People move about for their holiday destinations and also for summer work. It is good to be aware that this is also the time of higher risk of being trafficked. The research shows that 20% of Poles don’t know what to do to make their departure abroad safe.

Safe Summer Work Campaign aims to change this!

It focuses on the present-day phenomenon of human trafficking.

This Campaign was launched in June, 2014, by three partners:

PoMOC Association from Katowice, **Aterima Med** from Cracow and **Work Mobility Initiative**.

All partners were invited to the Polish Radio to speak about the campaign and to inform the audience about what precautions to take when planning summer work abroad.



PoMOC - Mary Immaculate Association for Women and Children, established in Katowice, Poland in 2001, provides help for abused women and their children who live in crisis situations, experience violence, are forced into prostitution and may be victims of human trafficking.

24-hour shelters, counselling centres, prevention and training are key points of PoMOC activities.

Two central figures who live out the central mission of PoMOC are Members of RENATE. They are Sisters of Mary Immaculate; Sr Anna Balchan and Sr Barbara Zawila.

The live broadcast was Thursday, 3rd July 2014. PoMOC Association, was represented by Aneta Grabowska (*photo*), volunteer and RENATE Secretary.

NEW MARY WARD LORETO CENTRE, SHENDELLI ALBANIA PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDAILLE TRUST UK. JUNE 2014



Imelda Poole, IBVM
Zana Guri,
*Social Psychologist and new
worker*
Ana Stakaj,
manager MWW.

In June, 2014, Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) Albania opened another of the prevention against trafficking centres, led by the project Mary Ward Women (MWW) Shendelli, in the south of Albania. This is a village near the famous tourist heritage centre in Butrint. The centre of the Mary Ward Women’s project is being funded in partnership with the Medaille Trust in the UK. The Medaille Trust runs shelters for trafficked victims into the UK and Mike Emberson is its manager as well as a member of RENATE. We are happy to be working together in this venture. The central meeting point was the old centre which is run by a community of sisters in Saranda, near Shendelli, and which has been used by the women prior to this time.

The Sisters are handing over the project to the new worker Zana Guri, (*photo*). MWW has been working with the women for three years but this is a new step in their empowerment towards employment. After a short hand-over speech, the sisters were presented with a bouquet of flowers by Ana Stakaj, manager of the project. Everyone proceeded to the new centre where Ana and Zana welcomed them. The work has been in full swing with about 40 women attending the programme from the local area. It is a happy time for everybody.

We congratulate Ana Stakaj on this great work in her management style and her creative approach to the development of this project, which now has four ‘outreach’ centres in Albania in the most marginalised rural and informal regions of the country.

OLIVIA CONROY – A VISIT TO ALBANIA

Olivia Conroy (*photo*), undergraduate student at Oxford University, spent a week in Albania in June in order to get an overview of Human Trafficking for the RENATE Mapping exercise that is being undertaken by members of the Core Group.

Olivia, full of passion and conviction for our work, met with both Elona Gjebrea, Deputy Minister at the home office and head of the unit for Anti-trafficking in Albania, with her deputy, an experienced police woman, who had worked face-to-face with victims of trafficking in her previous job. The meetings were extremely useful for Olivia's research. Olivia also spent two days with Mariana Meshi, also a member of RENATE and director of *Different and Equal* (D&E), a shelter and rehabilitation programme for victims and survivors of trafficking. Both Mariana and her staff, very generous with their time and expertise, introduced Olivia into the world of the victim, the processes of rehabilitation and the opportunities given for work and for social businesses.



Olivia also spent time with the staff of **Mary Ward Women**, a project of Mary ward Loreto, managed by Ana Stakaj (*member of RENATE*) and Irena Kraja the coordinator in the North of Albania. Here she was introduced to the work of prevention with women from rural and isolated villages near to Shkodra and Lezhe by Irena to Aferdita Gjoni, the social/psychologist for Kalmet (Lezhe). She met women who were setting up their own businesses in card making, agriculture and jewellery making. She also conversed with the staff and understood their process for human development, health care and strategies for enabling the women to set up their own businesses. *Human and Economic*

empowerment through freedom, justice and sincerity is the branding slogan for Mary Ward Loreto and this project is fulfilling this aim with great results.

Olivia also focused on child trafficking and spent time with the project manager MWW, initiated by MWL in partnership with the NGO *Education for Life* (SHKEJ), called **Little Angels**. This project focuses on the families of the ethnic minorities, Roma and Egyptian, running a centre for education and social development for fifty children. The project also outreaches to three Roma camps where the families of the children live. The manager of the Centre, Erion Prendi and his staff helped Olivia to understand the whole phenomenon of child trafficking and gave her the relevant documents produced in Albania to combat this crime. Olivia's report will express much of this and comment on its effectiveness and the issues still arising for combating such a terrible form of modern slavery.

Olivia expressed this training as being inspirational, meeting with 30 Roma children, their parents and grandparents in a tiny room in 38 degrees! Back in England, Olivia now has the task of writing up all her findings to be included in the Mapping Research of RENATE. Thank you Olivia!

This visit to Albania, collating information for the Mapping exercise is an excellent model for how young people can be engaged in RENATE's work against trafficking.



**"BOUGHT
FOR A
HANDFUL OF
SILVER...**

**SOLD
FOR A PAIR
OF
SANDALS."**
(Amos, 8:6)

The Prophet Amos paints a stark image of the treatment of human beings as commodities! **"Created in the image of God - Created like a Slave"** is a series of information-gatherings, in collaboration with the Dutch Police, Social Services and the **SRTV** (*Dutch Foundation of Religious against Trafficking in Women*) *Stichting Religieuzen tegen vrouwenhandel*. The main aim is to inform volunteers from various churches, women's groups, visitors to prisoners and those who may meet trafficked persons but do not have the information about whom to contact, what signs to look out for and how best to approach the situation. **SRTV** Netherlands, has spent more than two decades working to prevent human trafficking, providing shelter for victims and assisting in their re-integration.

SRTV has developed a significant resource-bank of educational materials, aimed at creating awareness amongst the wider public and particularly educating young people. Its work is such that it has featured in popular TV programmes in Holland, in thrillers and even novels. By infiltrating into the everyday life of the citizens, SRTV ensure that no Dutch national can say that they did not know about Human Trafficking. *For more information: www.srtv.info*

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING – SLOVAKIA

RENATE members gathered in the picturesque village of Cicmany, Slovakia, for an in-depth understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. The facilitator, Fr. Donal Dorr, an Irish missionary priest, is widely published in the area of Catholic Social Teaching. A proponent of religious presence (“*simple presence*”) of the church in society, he shared a clear and coherent understanding of the social face of the Church.

Donal proposed that the Church’s Social Teaching arises from an elaboration of occurrences and events which take place in society and then are expanded upon by religious and laity in social actions. He believes we are all ‘prophets’ within the church, who see contemporary requirements and act as necessary.

He left us with a cautionary note that **“Prophets are often not very popular in their own age and time, because they are the ones who lay the finger on sore spots or in open wounds...”**

It can be uncomfortable being a ‘Prophet,’ but if we are to answer our baptismal calling, let us be mindful of the Lenten message of Pope Francis:

“I hope that Christian and persons of good faith, may make efforts to ensure that men, women, young people and children may never more be victims of human trafficking. Jesus wishes to sow life in abundance everywhere.” (5 March, 2014)

MAKING THE LEAP FROM 17TH CENTURY THINKING TO 21ST CENTURY ACTION !

Marie-Hélène Halligon, Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (OLCGS) and RENATE member, volunteers with a ‘shelter’ in Paris, reaching out to women and girls, survivors of trafficking, offering assistance to refugees from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe, seeking asylum. With her lay colleagues, the work aims to rehabilitate those who ask for help to exit from a life free of drugs, sexual exploitation and other dangers. All will have suffered terrible abuse in their homelands, and in France, they remain vulnerable and insecure. Marie-Hélène works with great care to secure legal papers, money and work for them.



Her statement of belief, **“we must answer the Divine call to be active at all times,”** is an encouragement to all, especially to those whom she supports. The *raison d’être* of her work is inspired by the spirituality and *charism* at the heart of the Congregation where, together with her colleagues, she seeks out the ‘lost’ and works tirelessly to restore them. Marie-Hélène challenges us with questions: **“What am I doing? How can we make a difference?”**

Believing that ‘*it takes a village*’ to achieve success, Marie-Hélène networks busily in her call to action on behalf of those in need.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Free On-line programmes from **COURSEA**, focus on Human Trafficking and the dignity of the human person. *For more details*, log on to www.coursera.org

2. **MEDAILLE Trust** regular information meetings at Friends House Euston Road, London. Information on issues of Trafficking and the work of the Trust. See Medaille Web for details.

3. RENATE Training on **Labour Trafficking, 2-7 November in Romania**, facilitated by Mr. Florinel Steliean Ionescu, expert in the work of combating trafficking in south-eastern Europe.

Katholikentag 2016

The town of Leipzig will play host to the 100th German Catholic Congress, 4-8 May, 2016. **RENATE** will be there!

VATICAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

A FIRST!
15-16 NOV 2014.

Pope Francis invites 18-25 year olds, active in the fight **against human trafficking** to a Vatican Symposium in November, 2014. Participants will actively engage with each other, share ideas and best practices, to help eradicate this crime against humanity!

Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report, 2014

The US Department of State, published its Annual Report on the fight against Human Trafficking. See: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/>

EMAIL: communications@renate-europe.net

Be part of RENATE network! Follow us on **Twitter**.

Become a fan on **Facebook**. Sign up for **Website** Membership.

What events do you have in mind for:

European day against Trafficking—18 October, 2014

Why not share them! Anne Kelleher – Editor