

Vatican City, 15-16 November 2014

I am very pleased that I had an opportunity to be in the Vatican City 15-16 November 2014, in Casina Pio IV, in the Pontifical Academy of Science during the Symposium of Young People who fight against prostitution and human trafficking, the greatest violence against women. I am also thankful to the RENATE because they proposed and supported me to come in the Vatican.

On that Symposium I held a lecture about Victim rehabilitation from a spiritual point of view. I am very happy that I met so young people with great enthusiasm, passion and strength to help others and to sacrifice their time and life in this hard work in combating human trafficking. After that I felt much stronger than usually and now I feel that I can carry all the burden of misunderstanding, ignorance, lack of interest in our religious communities about the problem of human trafficking.

I am also thankful to everyone who organised a Symposium, especially to the Mons Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, Alicia Peressutti, Gabriella Marino and Antonia Stampalija for their hospitality and care. It was amazing to see how young people and victims were treated as a very special guest in the Vatican. They have deserved it because their work is a very hard work and this Symposium was as an award.

To be on this Symposium helped much to my Project because of the publicity. My project called Raising awareness of religious communities in Croatia of the issue of human trafficking (especially women). The Project is already took place in three Catholic parishes, and it would be implemented in another Catholic parish, then in two Orthodox communities, in the Islamic community, in the Lutheran community, and in the Baptist community. The main purpose of this Project is that participants consider situation in Croatia and together see where religious community can step in and help about this issue that goes beyond the borders, religions, cultures and people. The Project was supported by the leadership of the Croatian section of the European Society of Women in Theological Research (ESWTR-CS) and funded by the Ecumenical Women's Initiative from Omis in Croatia.

On the Symposium my dream came true because I met Pope Francis who encouraged and inspired me from the beginning in this work. I feel much more oblige to continue in realization of my personal mission living and working as Jesus told us to do: healing the broken hearted, proclaiming liberty to captives and setting the oppressed free (Luke 4,18).

Sr. Stanka Oršolić

