



ENDING TRAFFICKING BEGINS WITH YOU

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

Caritas Internationalis and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), held a 'side event' In conjunction with the 29th session of the Human Rights Council, on Tuesday, 16th June, 2015, at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Mrs. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking emphasised the plight of women and children in her keynote address. Particular emphasis was placed on the concerns for unaccompanied minors and juvenile justice issues. Both Caritas and IOM presented their respective research findings on *Human Trafficking in Conflict and Post-Conflict situations in the Euro-Mediterranean region* and on *Trafficking of Persons in Crisis Settings*.

First-hand evidence from conflict and post-conflict settings was presented, with considerable disquiet expressed amongst attendees with regard to the challenges faced when trying to protect vulnerable and mobile populations during times of crisis.

Reports were given on human trafficking in 'mobile' populations as a result of conflict situations in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Haiti, Nigeria, Philippines and most recently, Nepal and the Euro-Mediterranean region. Final report

www.phap.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT.

During this time a Global Business coalition has been created to work together against human trafficking. The mission of gBCAT is to mobilize the power, resources and thought leadership of the business community to end human trafficking, including all forms of forced labour and sex trafficking. The faith communities have also formed a coalition and have promised to work together with the same aim.

Catholic, Anglican, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, and Orthodox leaders have come together at the Vatican for the first time in history in 2014 and have signed a joint declaration against modern slavery and human trafficking declaring their commitment towards the eradication of this worldwide scourge by 2020. If you go to the internet you will see similarly hundreds of networks with the sole aim of combating human trafficking around the world. All are gathering momentum to fight this modern day slavery.

Where does RENATE fit into the global surge of protest and how effective can we be? Is there any possibility for a more joined-up approach in which there can be heard the strong beat of unity as these thousands of people, in their pockets of the world, raise their hands in protest? During this period and since the last newsletter, RENATE has been asking many questions. Is the website linked with these numerous networks working for this common cause.? Is it time to make some clear out-spoken statements regarding the abuse of women in prostitution, the use of the internet for forced labour recruitment? We see the traffickers jumping in to ply their trade where ever the vulnerable become visible in places of war, poverty, natural disasters, at borders and in the darkest of the deep internet and hidden corners of our world. We have to stay as close and remain faithful to the work with those most abused by this trade and pray that we can all make a difference and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Imelda

CHURCH WITHOUT FRONTIERS, 'MOTHER' TO ALL.

'Solidarity with migrants and refugees must be accompanied by the courage and creativity necessary to develop , on a worldwide level, a more just and equitable financial and economic order as well as an increasing commitment to peace, the indispensable condition for all authentic progress.' Pope Francis, 19-01-2015.

Message for the 101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20140903_world-migrants-day-2015.html

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ALBANIA—MARY WARD LORETO & URAT ANTI-TRAFFICKING AWARENESS-RAISING PROJECT



The **New Project URAT** in Albania, has led more than forty awareness-raising training seminars on human trafficking since 2014. Managed and funded by the NGO Mary Ward Loreto in Albania, the project is a collaboration with several other organisations present in Albania, e.g. the Peace Corps, the NGO Different and Equal, the IRCA (Institute of Romani Culture in Albania) and De Nobis Te Gruas Shqiptare.

The project focused primarily on those who are socially and economically marginalised, the most vulnerable in Albania, who need protection against different forms of exploitation, including human trafficking.

On the 21st of April, URAT held an event in Tirana, to inform the stakeholders and supporters of the outcomes and findings of the awareness raising project.. The complete Mary Ward Loreto Project URAT Report is accessible on www.albaniahope.com

SPAIN—INTERVENTION AND INTEGRATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

“Solidarity is not an option, it is an obligation.” These were the opening remarks of Rev. Fr. José Luis Piñilla, Director of the Episcopal Commission for Migration, Spain, when he addressed thirty two participants who met at the Congregation of the Adorers Sisters, Madrid to attend the RENATE training on **‘Intervention and Integration of Victims of Human Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation,’** 31st May-5th June, 2015.

The week’s training was set within a biblical framework which brought participants face-to-face with the challenges presented to victims of human trafficking as they fight against all odds, in order to reach ‘the promised land.’ As guests of the Amaranta Foundation Adorers, participants listened to workers share their experiences from grass-roots level in implementing recovery programmes. Much was learned of the complexity of cultural morés associated with human trafficking, realising that inexplicably, in some north African countries, human trafficking is seen as a socio-economic benefit to the local community . Amaranta generously shared learnings gained from more than 15 years identifying and working with victims of trafficking all over Spain. Full report www.renate-europe.net

ROME :VATICAN ENVOY URGES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO WORK BETTER ON MIGRATION.

“The push factors for such gigantic migration and refugee flows are well known to the international community: the organised business of human trafficking that exploits people in desperate situations; no end to poverty; lack of jobs; unstable political situations, discrimination, health crises,...”

Full report www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27706

MALTA— “NOW OR NEVER ACT OF LOVE,” SR. MARGARET GONZI.

Report on Code Red International Conference in Malta, on Human Trafficking Awareness, 12th June 2015 , entitled ‘Now or Never Act of Love’

This Conference was the initiative of Mr Alec Douglas Bvumburah, the founder of the Cross Culture International Foundation Malta (CCIF).

There is not much talk in Malta about Human Trafficking. So I was pleased that this conference took place. The fact that the Acting President of Malta, Ms Dolores Cristina, opened the conference showed the importance of tackling this issue.

I am glad that I was invited to contribute by giving a presentation on, “What the Church is doing to stop the evil done by Human Trafficking.” I focused on Pope Francis’ plea to work together to end this evil and following on from this, I talked about RENATE and how this Foundation operates to bring people together, as well as its mission based on Gospel values. I included the work done by my Congregation, The Good Shepherd Sisters, in addition to various other organizations in Malta such as the Jesuit Refugee Services Malta, Caritas and the Diocesan Emigrants’ Commission. Full text at www.renate-europe.net

SLOVAKIA—SOCIAL PATHOLOGY AMONG YOUTH. SPAY 2015 CONFERENCE, 23RD APRIL, .

'*Stop Human Trafficking*,' Caritas Slovakia and member of RENATE, participated in the organization of and actively contributed to the first interdisciplinary conference on socio-pathological phenomena among children, youth and young adults. The conference theme was "Social Pathology among Youth" / SPAY 2015 / organized by the College of Health and Social Work Vol. Elizabeth and Pan European University, with the participation of representatives from the academic and scientific institutions from Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

The programme comprised seven specialized sections dedicated to the largest circle of socio-pathological phenomena in our society among children and young people: addiction, bullying and cyberbullying, harassment and abuse of refugees and migrants, prostitution and human trafficking, children's problem behaviour, truancy, delinquency, crime, violence and aggression. RENATE member Sr. Bohdana Bezáková, CJ, presented a workshop entitled "Prevention of trafficking in Slovakia." The film "Two Little Girls" was screened, followed by a discussion on the film.

For those who did not succeed securing a place at the workshop, Miss Jana Urbanová and Miss Miroslava Víglášká, workers from Caritas Slovakia and members of RENATE, presented subsequent information materials and on-screen film subtitles during the Conference.

Sr. Bohdana Bezáková, CJ.

"Things have a price and can be for sale.

But people have a Dignity that is priceless and worth far more than things."

Pope Francis.



LITHUANIA—ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Missing Persons' Families support centre in Lithuania, organised a round table discussion on



best practices in the prevention of human trafficking. The event took place in the British Embassy, Lithuania on the 26th February. In addition to sharing best practice, participants learned about the United Kingdom's organisations which are helping victims of trafficking. Twenty two delegates attended, representing key organisations such as the Lithuanian Prosecutor's office, the Lithuanian police, the Vilnius City Municipality, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Vilnius city Social Support . (Natalja Kurcinskaja, Lithuania.)

AUSTRIA

Andante Summer School 12th-16th August, 2015 Don Bosco House, Vienna

The European Alliance of Catholic women's organisations has held a series of summer schools during the past years, on topical interests to church and society.

Previous year's themes have included: women's spirituality; caring for the Creation; women and the media; living with people from other cultures, to name but a few.

The theme of this year's Summer School is '**Why Bio-ethics? Bioethical issues facing people today.**'

A number of Christian scientists, theologians and ethicists have engaged themselves in difficult questions and decisions regarding Bioethics.

As an Alliance of Catholic Women, Andante will have as a focus the Christian aspects of the discussions, underpinned all the while by consideration for the dignity for the human person.

Full information is available at

www.andante-europa.net

ARMENIA— SALE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT LAUNCHES OFFICIAL VISIT

GENEVA (7 May 2015) – United Nations Special Rapporteur Maud de Boer-Buquicchio conducted an official visit to

Armenia from 12th to 18th May 2015 to assess the situation of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in the country. During her seven-day mission, the human rights expert met with representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial branches at the national and local level. She also met with members of civil society and NGOs working on child protection issues, and visited child care centres and shelters in Yerevan, Vanadzor and Gyumri.

On Monday 18 May 2015, Ms. de Boer-Buquicchio shared with the media her preliminary observations and recommendations at a press conference held at the Conference Hall of the United Nations Office in Armenia.

RENATE welcomes the UN's active engagement with local communities, believing collaboration is critical in the prevention of child trafficking and exploitation. The Special Rapporteur will present a comprehensive report on her visit to the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2016. More details: www.renate-europe.net



BRUSSELS– FIFTH EUROPEAN UNION CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

The European Community launched a new Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings, in May 2013, comprising more than one hundred European Civil Society organisations. While numerous organisations- both governmental and non-governmental- work to combat human trafficking from various approaches, the Civil Society Platform offers a coherent, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach amongst EU member states, as well as a minority of non-EU countries. The fifth meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings took place in Brussels, 21-22 May, 2015. Priority countries (Albania, Morocco, Turkey and the Ukraine) as well as EU member countries shared their experiences and progress in combatting human trafficking while participating in the following workshops: Children as a trafficking high risk group. Emerging concerns included sham marriages, forced criminality, trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal vs. organ trafficking.

For a full report: www.renate-europe.net Latest News

SLOVAKIA...FROM JAROVNICE

In the largest Roma settlement in Central Europe in the village named Jarovnice, where three sisters of Congregation Jesu live, "human trafficking" is an unknown term. Since 2011 these sisters work closely with Sr. Bohdana Bezáková, CJ and Caritas Slovakia, in providing basic social counselling and lectures organised annually by the Civic Association Jarovnice. One of the sisters also attended a training on human trafficking organized by the Ministry of Interior.



Together, they inform young people and adults regularly through preventive lectures in primary schools and Pastoral Centres about the possible threats they might encounter when seeking employment. Low skills and high unemployment in this Roma settlement cause problems in finding work. Because of this, Roma often turn to organisations without any verification or even to family members who already work abroad. There is a high risk involved and in Jarovnice, some people have experienced human trafficking and exploitation firsthand.

On June 4, 2015, the Church of the Roma in Jarovnice held an hour's adoration and prayer for victims of trafficking. Young and old prayed not only for men, women and children who experience this painful situation, but also for all those who are looking for work. The congregation of Roma prayed also for politicians, employers and all affected by the criminal activities.

Of particular impact were the stories of trafficked people, which were read during adoration. These true-life stories left a deep impression on those present and have a preventive impact on all who heard of the heartbreak and sorrow of those who have been trafficked. We believe that through these steps - prayer and providing information – young people in Jarovnice, especially those unskilled and unemployed, will not be deceived and abused in the future, and they will become more cautious. (Sister Silvia Zábavová, CJ, Jarovnice. Slovakia)

Important Notice: RENATE publishes its newsletter every quarter. We welcome input from members. Examples: news items that promote awareness of human trafficking issues; current news and campaigns in your organisation and/or your country; social justice awareness events; Projects planned or taking place. Also poetry, reflections, resources that can be shared in combating human trafficking—the crime against humanity.

Anne Kelleher, Editor

ALBANIA - GRETA'S second evaluation visit

A delegation of the Council of Europe's **Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings** (GRETA) carried out an evaluation visit to Albania from 1st to 5th June 2015. The visit provided an opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings since the first evaluation by GRETA in 2011.

NGOs, Mary Ward Loreto (MWL) and *Different and Equal*, with members in RENATE, were invited to contribute to the dialogue during this assessment of Albania's action against trafficking.

It was an invaluable opportunity to effect change. Gazmir Memaj, member of RENATE and a staff member of MWL, represented it at the round table and was able to contribute with direct information from another MWL staff member who counsels Albanian victims on line in conjunction with its partner, *The Medaille Trust* (UK). He gave an account of the difficulties faced in the UK where many Albanians are registered as victims of trafficking and who are rescued after painful and complex experiences .

PSALM 69- A TRANSLATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A WOMAN TRAFFICKED INTO FORCED PROSTITUTION. Eva-Sibylle Vogel-Mfato.

Save me, o God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

My feet can no longer touch bottom in the deep mire where I am sinking.

I have screamed my heart out, my throat is so hoarse,

I have waited so long for my God that I hardly dare hope any longer.

More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without any cause.

Those who are unjustly against me, and want to ruin me completely have me totally in their power.

I am supposed to pay back money I do not even owe.

God, you know how innocent and naive I was; that I am partly to blame for my situation no secret from you.

Do not let those who wait and hope for your help be troubled because of me.

Let those who seek you, o God of my people, not face scandal and shame because of me.

For your sake I bear my disgrace and my face betrays my shame.

I have become a stranger to my own sisters and brothers.

If they knew how I earn my living here, they would refuse to know me any longer.

It was, it is, longing for the life in all its fullness which you have promised to all the world, which has brought me low.

The insults of those who scorn your name have fallen on my head.

Weeping bitterly, I fast while they make fun of me.

If I were to seek justice in a court they would pull me to pieces, and my tormentors would sing drunken songs about me.

My prayer rises up to you, O Lord. Let the time come for me to receive mercy.

In your great love, answer me, with your faithful help, rescue me.

Reach down, pull me out of the mire before it closes over my head.

Snatch me away from those who are destroying me, save me from the floods rushing over me,

do not let the deep waters drown me or the Pit swallow me up.

Answer me, God, for it is so comforting to be embraced by your kindness and motherly love.

*Do not hide your face from your daughter. **I am so afraid!***

Answer me quickly, come into my life with your help, redeem my life, buy me back, because of my enemies.

You know how I am insulted and shamed, you know who they are, my tormentors.

Shame has broken my heart and brought me to despair.

I long for someone who sees me and cares about my pain but no one is there.

I long for someone to take me in her arms and comfort me but I cannot find anyone.



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Full text is available at www.renate-europe.net