



# ENDING TRAFFICKING BEGINS WITH YOU

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Since our last newsletter the migrant crisis in Europe has exploded beyond imagination. How could we have believed that Europe would build walls of barbed wire and become a fortress against fleeing victims of terror

and war? We find ourselves, as members of RENATE, involved at the coal face with the victims as they flee through the corridor of the Balkans, to places such as Germany, Austria and Sweden. We ask many questions relating to justice and human rights. At the recent symposium at The Vatican on Street Women and Children, this issue became central to many conversations. At the audience with Pope Francis, on the last day of this symposium, he said: *'The often sad realities which you encounter are the result of indifference, poverty, family and social violence, and human trafficking. Street children and street women are not numbers, or "packets" to be traded; they are human beings, each with his or her own name and face, each with a God-given identity.'* (18 Sep 2015)

We are all asking ourselves how could this be, in a part of our world called civilised? How can we agree to such a protectionist policy in Europe? At the International Conference of St Egidio held in Albania just the week before, many inputs spoke of the question of the crisis in the Mediterranean. The question is: are we all sisters and brothers or are we part of the great divide being built between the riches of the north and the poverty and war torn southern Mediterranean? Are we indeed one world?

CONTENTS	
President—Imelda Poole, IBVM Operation "Sophia" launches.	p 1
UN Sustainable Development Goals, 2015. RENATE Campaign for 18th October. Malta / Ireland/ Rome/ Slavakia	p 2 & 3
2nd Vatican Youth Symposium, 2015. NJPN Prayer card; Talitha Kum Bakhita Network, Poland ANDANTE Summer School, Austria.	P 4 & 5

**OPERATION 'SOPHIA'** The EU commenced the active phase of the naval operations against smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015. The naval operation, named *Sophia* after the Somali baby born on a German frigate, and rescued on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August off the coast of Libya.

In accordance with international law, Operation *Sophia* enables naval officers to board vessels in the Mediterranean and to search, seize and divert vessels suspected of being used for human smuggling or trafficking. While the main purpose of the operation is to target the criminal networks of people smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean, additional aims include protection and prevention of further loss of life at sea.

The EU hopes to escalate operations within Libya's territorial waters. The UN Security Council will spend time on diplomacy and negotiations before any such manoeuvres can commence. RENATE hopes operation *Sophia* is successful in breaking the cycle of terrified people fleeing war and poverty falling victim to traffickers. More information :

- <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press-releases/2015/09/28-eunavfor>
- [http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp/missions-and-operations/eunavfor-med/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp/missions-and-operations/eunavfor-med/index_en.htm)
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34461503>

## 'HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR' (LUKE 4:18)

The International Symposium on Pastoral Care of Migrants and Street People, 14 – 17 September, 2015. This symposium was held at The Vatican and led by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Mi-



grants and Itinerant People. The message from Pope Francis and the teachings of the Church has always been strong and clear in relation to those in need. We need to stand by the refugees and migrants, protect their rights, protest against evil, give shelter, love and compassion and a chance for them to live a life of dignity. The planet and all that is in it is the common heritage of all. The bounty of the earth is not just for the powerful few to the exclusion of the rest of humanity, but for all. Full report at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)



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Consensus has been reached on the **U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, to be adopted by world leaders at the U.N. Summit in New York, 25th-27th September, 2015. These goals will replace the anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals that were adopted in 2000 and expire in December 2015.

Of the 17 new SDGs, ranging from commitments to end poverty; ensure healthy living and well being for all; promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, Goal 5 "To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," specifically makes a new commitment to the elimination of trafficking, sexual and other forms of exploitation of women.



U.N. General Secretary, Ban Ki-moon welcomed the adopted agenda as "a major step forward in building a world of prosperity and dignity for all." Among those attending the meeting will be Pope Francis, in a highly anticipated appearance. See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit> for more information.



#### CHILD RIGHTS

The Alternative Report to the Fifth Periodic Report of France on the Application of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Collective "Together against Trafficking in Human Beings" prepared an alternative report to the fifth periodic report of France on the application of the International Convention on the Rights of the child, and its additional protocols titled 'Trafficking of children in the French context. For a common law for all children.' This report was presented to the Human Rights Committee of the UN on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 and an English version is available at [www.renate-](http://www.renate-)

#### RENATE CAMPAIGN TO MARK THE EUROPEAN UNION DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING. 18TH OCTOBER, 2015.

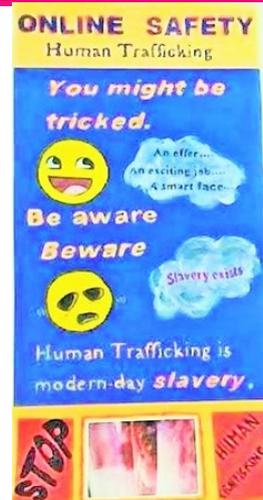
RENATE members are *invited to share their events and activities* planned for the 9th E.U Anti Trafficking Day. All the activities will be collated and will feature on the RENATE website as an example of the coordinated efforts we make to stop human trafficking and exploitation. Last year, the Campaign used Liturgical services, Prayer cards, workshops, film studies and created information resources for schools as a means to heighten awareness and empower others. Let's see what we can do to make our campaign even better this year!

**MALTA**—While studying a module on Evangelization in the Digital Age, Good Shepherd sister and RENATE member, Margaret Gonzi from Malta, created this featured poster. How to use the media for positive purposes, was a central focus for Margaret as she works to find innovative ways to inform young people about the risks of human trafficking which they can be exposed to online.

**Are we aware?** The media person admired this poster but did not agree with having the smileys with the screws. He said it is not human, rather a robot!

I felt tongue-tied! What about a person, bought, sold, bought once more, a commodity, used, threatened, not able to think, to breathe even, an empty look...the face of a robot!

**Are we aware?** A Prayer. Lord, what can I do ?



## IRELAND: 'THINKING FAITH' APT IRELAND & RENATE MEMBER— FR. DONAL DORR—REFLECTS ON *LAUDATO SI'* BY POPE FRANCIS

From consumer culture and globalized technology to public transportation, Pope Francis leaves no stone unturned in his call to cultural transformation. In his reflections on *Laudato Si'*, Fr. Dorr encourages us to “see the relevance and the urgency of the call of Pope Francis for radical conversion in all the different spheres of our lives.” Fr. Dorr focuses on the central theme of the 40,000 word Encyclical, i.e. the theme of ecological conversion and the relationship between human beings and the environment.

Pope Francis challenges us to accept both personal responsibility for our relationship with the world around us and collective, community responsibility through actively engaging the economic, political, social and cultural institutions of our world. Full article: <https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/ecological-conversion-and-cultural->



**UNITED KINGDOM**—The **Medaille Trust** is a UK based Charity founded by Catholic religious congregations to work for the eradication of human trafficking and to offer support to those who have been trafficked. The Trust is a member of RENATE and in the Summer 2015 edition of their magazine, share with us some insights into what they are doing to raise awareness of Human Trafficking, their work to restore freedom & personal dignity to those who have been trafficked and their achievement of a seventh Safe House, which helps victims of trafficking to reclaim their lives.

Further information at: [www.medaille.co.uk](http://www.medaille.co.uk)

## ROME

### MODERN SLAVERY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: THE COMMITMENT OF THE CITIES. (CASINA PIO IV, VATICAN 21-22 JULY, 2015).

The Pontifical Academy of Sciences called upon Mayors of major international cities, local administrators and various representatives of the United Nations to commit to ending human trafficking, exploitation, abuse and all forms of modern slavery within their respective communities.

Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy, also invited the Mayors to

*“...commit to developing re-settlement and social integration programmes for the victims, at both national and local levels in order to avoid their involuntary repatriation.”*

This is an opportunity for RENATE members to connect with their local Civic Councils and to collaborate with meaningful impact on those most in need.



## SLOVAKIA TRENČIN—POHODA FESTIVAL, GIFT BOX CAMPAIGN

Sr Bohdana Bezáková and her team attended the 19th multi-genre festival in Slovakia, held from the 8th-12th July, 2015. Thousands of visitors make their way to the festival which continues to increase every year. Bohdana and Caritas Slovakia see this as a helpful opportunity to raise awareness about human trafficking and to share information about preventative measures. More about the campaign on <http://www.obchodsludmi.sk/giftbox/index.php>

This Summer 2015, an additional activity got under way, as more than two hundred young people participated in photo-opportunities with the message “STOP Human Trafficking”.

A mosaic of the photos will feature on the website [www.obchodsludmi.sk](http://www.obchodsludmi.sk) as well as Facebook.



Full article is available at [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)



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## 2<sup>ND</sup> VATICAN YOUTH SYMPOSIUM, 7<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015.

Theme: *"Real Love Chases Away Fear, Greed and Slavery: Young Leaders Must Pave the Way."*

The Symposium will gather together young people between the ages of 18 - 30 from around the world, who are working, volunteering, or studying in the areas of human trafficking, slavery and prostitution. The participation of young survivors of these crimes are also encouraged to participate.

The main goals of the Symposium: are

1. Produce a handbook to be distributed among young people throughout the world, explaining the different forms of modern slavery and how youth can play a significant role in the global efforts to end it.
2. Determine a clear strategy for the development of a global network of young people 'on the ground', in order to get the word out and to become a point of reference for agencies and institutions fighting this cause throughout the world.



The July 2015 edition of the Croatian Magazine *New Presence – Magazine for Social and Intellectual Questions*, published an article by RENATE member Sr. Stanka Oršolić in which she reflects on her attendance at the first Youth Symposium on Human Trafficking, held in the Vatican in November, 2014. For original article: [http://hrcak.srce.hr/index.php?show=clanak&id\\_clanak\\_jezik=209852](http://hrcak.srce.hr/index.php?show=clanak&id_clanak_jezik=209852). through the publication, she is extending the knowledge-base to a wider audience, thereby creating an informed public so as not to turn a blind eye to human trafficking and exploitation.

See [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net) for article.

### LITHUANIA Challenges faced when fighting Human Trafficking

The Missing Persons' families Support Centre in Vilnius shares good news of building a shelter for victims of human trafficking, and a charity shop—Emmaus. There was no shortage of volunteers helping to complete the work during the Summer months. The team at the Centre participated in a conference entitled *"Challenges in the fight against Human Trafficking."* See [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

**MIGRANT CRISIS** In the absence of a shared and united response to the migrant crisis in Europe, tens of thousands of migrants continue to face horrific and inhumane conditions as they try to find welcome, safety and a pace to call home.

**READING MATERIALS:** August and September issues of **Stop Trafficking Newsletter** are available at <http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

The September issue highlights how demand for services can subtly promote sexual and labour exploitation and subsequent human trafficking.

### PRAYER FROM NJPN (National Justice and Peace Network. UK)

*"Lord, you call us to discipleship and loving service. In prayerful response may we be beacons of light where there is darkness; may we bring hope where there is despair, fostering love and compassion where there is hatred and division; May we strive at all times to live simply, finding joy in small things, content to have less so others may have more. Mindful of our responsibility as stewards of creation may we tread lightly on the earth, respectful of all living things. Rooted in faith, may we work together to make your kingdom of peace and justice a reality for all people."*

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## POLAND BAKHITA NETWORK



In anticipation of the Year of Mercy and filled with a renewed commitment, the **Bakhita Network for the Prevention and Aid for the Victims of Contemporary Slavery**, at the Council of Major Superiors of the Women Religious in Poland, organised a training session for its members, from the 4th-5th September, 2015.

Sr Anna Balchan presented a series of lectures and workshops on Human Trafficking, with a practical approach so that people can help in a meaningful manner.

Sr. Joanna Lipowska, FMM was assisted with Mrs. Justyna Chlodna and Paulina Spratek, from the Covenant of Mercy Community, Warsaw, as they presented suggestions and commenced Campaign preparations for the EU Day Against Human Trafficking, 18th October, 2015. See RENATE website, [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net).

## ANDANTE SUMMER SCHOOL, 12 – 16 AUGUST, 2015

### “WHY BIOETHICS? – BIOETHICAL ISSUES FACING PEOPLE TODAY.”

As an Alliance of Catholic Women, fifty four people with diverse backgrounds from different European countries, gathered in Vienna, Austria, to consider the bioethical issues and moral dilemmas one faces when having to make ethical decisions with a Christian consideration.

Informed by *Laudato Si'* the delegates reflected upon issues such as medical end-of-life practices, physician-assisted suicide, euthanasia, abortion, reproductive technology and much more. The relationship between Ethics, Culture and Faith/Spirituality and the decreasing influence of the Church or religions in general, made for stimulating dialogue and debate! RENATE Member, Sr. Adina Balan compiled a report: see [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)

## 3RD WORLD CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS.

The 3rd Conference takes place 3rd-6th November, 2015 in The Netherlands.

Participants from over 90 countries have registered already at [www.worldshelterconference.org](http://www.worldshelterconference.org)

Hina Jilani, the internationally recognised expert and advocate of human rights will share her experiences with the conference participants.



**REFLECTION**—Inspired by a conversation with Sr. Stanka Oršolić, Adina Kero, a Muslim artist from Bosnia, was so moved that she created this painting to depict the traumatic situations victims of human trafficking find themselves in. A woman, man and child are associated with suffering but they are surrounded by God's light which eases their plight. The open and extended hands at the bottom of the painting, represent us, as believers who can offer help, support and understanding. Despite the suffering, there is consolation in the fact that Christ's presence is everywhere.

**TALITHA KUM** - Sr. Gabriella Bottani, Director, informs RENATE of the following developments: Creation of the Talitha Kum website.

Ongoing consultation process to revise the Talitha Kum logo.

Arrangements for a co-ordination meeting in Rome, 24th-31st January, 2016.

Visits to various countries as part of the Talitha Kum world-wide network, to establish personal connections, collect information, photos and films. In Gabriella's words, "The visits are also a wonderful opportunity for me to gain a better understanding of the varied potentialities and challenges we face in different locations in the fight against exploitation." Good wishes to Sr Adina Balan and Sr Mabel Mariotti for the meeting in January, 2016