



E-Bulletin 2, 2016.

- **France Adopts Historic Law to decriminalise prostituted individuals, penalise the buyers of sex and end the system of prostitution.**
6th April, 2016.

The French Government voted 64:12 to penalise the buyers of sex, equating the purchase of a sexual act with direct support of pimping, organised crime and sex trafficking, on the 6th of April, 2016. The vote was taken calling upon the country's abolitionist tradition and its fundamental principles of democracy, human rights and women's equality. France is now amongst an increasing number of countries around the world that are making formal, legislated efforts to end demand for paid sex.

RENA TE member, Marie Helene Halligon, RGS said that "This development sees France join an increasing number of countries around the world, who are showing leadership in the fight to combat human trafficking and exploitation. A lot has been done to get this far but there is a lot more to be done. This is just one small step, but a very significant one at that. Let us keep our expectations high, that this legislation becomes the standard throughout the world."

For more, please see www.renate-europe.net

- **Sister Imelda Poole, IBVM president of RENATE (*Religious in Europe Networking against Trafficking and Exploitation*) presents at the Vatican Sponsored Conference at the UN headquarters, New York, 7 April 2016.**

At the invitation of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations,



Sister Imelda Poole, IBVM, President of RENATE, was amongst a distinguished panel of speakers, invited to present at the Conference entitled *Ending Human Trafficking by 2030: The Role of Global Partnerships in Eradicating Modern Slavery*. The Conference co-organised by the *Santa Marta Group*, named after Pope Francis' Vatican residence and founded in 2014, aims to strengthen and coordinate the global response to combatting human trafficking and all forms of modern slavery and to galvanise the coordination necessary to implement Targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Imelda outlined the extent of the work of RENATE and

the many Woman Religious with their co-workers, working across 24 European countries to end the slavery of human trafficking.

Full Conference is available at <http://webtv.un.org/search/ending-human-trafficking-by-2030-the-role-of-global-partnerships-in-eradicating-modern-slavery/4837421498001?term=human%20trafficking>

- **Training on Advocacy and Campaigning, for RENATE Members, 7th-12th March, 2016, at the Mater Salvatoris Retreat and Conference Centre, Máriabesnyő, Hungary.**

Thirty four RENATE members and three staff from a total of seventeen countries across Europe, gathered together at the Mater Salvatoris Retreat and Conference Centre, to train on Advocacy and Campaigning, with a view to giving ‘*a voice to the voiceless.*’



It was a week of prayer, activities and capacity building, comprising presentations, discussions and active engagement. The week provided participants with an opportunity to share best practise, familiarise ourselves with the local context and get to know one another as a Network.

L to R: Ivonne van de Kar and Imelda Poole.

Following the annual meeting of the

Working Board, on Monday, 7th of March, Ivonne Van de Kar core group member of RENATE, delivered the two-day training programme on Advocacy and Campaigning.

Full information available on the RENATE website www.renate-europe.net