

## “FASHION AND/AS SLAVERY”

Report from Jana Urbanova

The **STOP Human Trafficking** team working at Caritas Slovakia, organised a unique Fashion Show which was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, in the gardens of Caritas Slovakia, with the intention of drawing attention to enslaved people working in the fashion industry worldwide.



The event combined people’s enjoyment of shopping together with discussions on themes such as ‘The background of the fashion industry,’ ‘Modern Slavery,’ and ‘Material Donations to Caritas’ - how these are linked to good purpose.

The fashion show introduced 14 original outfits which were created from clothes and accessories donated to Caritas’ *Warehouse of Solidarity.* Prior to the fashion show, not many people knew that these creations were designed not only for people in need but also for those who want to support the charity by purchasing any of the clothes and accessories donated there. The show was followed by an auction of the outfits which were modelled by Caritas’ employees and volunteers of all sizes. Even the Secretary General joined in the the event as one of the models!

Representatives from the Slovak Centre for Communication and Development, which is representative of an international initiative CCC (Clean Clothes Campaign) in Slovakia, lead considerations of the challenges arising from the problem of so-called *Fast Fashion.*



The garden at Caritas was literally covered by nice pieces of clothes and accessories that were offered at very reasonable prices. People were encouraged to help give the clothes a second chance, and thus contribute to sustainable and equitable/ fair fashion.

On the event there were also presented and offered handmade handbags that originate in a workshop within an occupational therapy of victims of Human Trafficking.

Refreshments and a children's playground were available throughout the event, which was attended by approximately 90 -100 people. In addition to enjoyment and having fun, it was a very successful awareness-raising and fund-raising event, with the plan to use the proceeds (ca. 950 EUR) to purchase equipment and sewing materials for a second shelter where victims of Human Trafficking can start their own workshop.

Pictures of the event are available at: [https://www.facebook.com/Stop-obchodovaniu-s-%C4%BEu%C4%8Fmi-ako-sa-nesta%C5%A5-novodob%C3%BDm-otrokom-133852410102881/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=658150701006380](https://www.facebook.com/Stop-obchodovaniu-s-%C4%BEu%C4%8Fmi-ako-sa-nesta%C5%A5-novodob%C3%BDm-otrokom-133852410102881/photos/?tab=album&album_id=658150701006380)

Adapted by Anne Kelleher, RENATE Communications Person.

