

## RENATE Annual Working Board Meeting – Lviv, UKRAINE, 4-9 November, 2018.



Working Board members gathered at the Pilgrim House of Blesses Jakub Strepa, 79491 Lviv-Brzuchowice (approximately 10 Kms from Lviv) as they convened their annual meeting.

29 people from 20 European countries were present during the week which saw a review of the work of the member countries since last year's Working Board meeting; opportunities for reflection and the sharing of best practice; the departure of the Core Group members whose term of office had come to an end and their replacement by new, enthusiastic Working Board members!



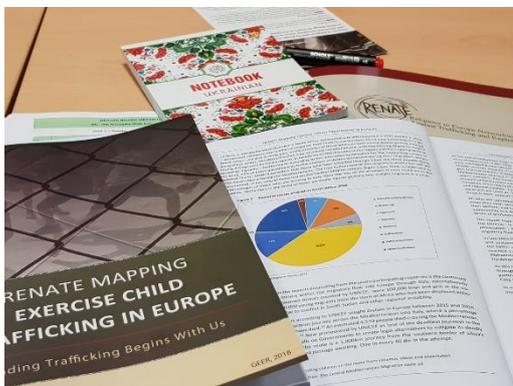
Bishop Edward Kawa, Auxiliary Bishop of the Lviv Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church (RCC), Fr. Stepan Sus, Head of the Centre for the Military Chaplaincy of the Lviv Archdiocese of the UGCC, Sr. Natalia Melnyk, Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, Association of Religious of Roman Catholics and Greek Catholics in UKRAINE, and Mr. Andriy Moskalenko, Deputy Lord Mayor of Lviv City extended warmth of welcome to us on the first

day, each informing us about their respective work and specific actions to combat human trafficking.

Of particular interest was the presentation by Ms. Vera Martynuk (expert on Human Trafficking in the UKRAINE) on the current situation in the UKRAINE regarding Human Trafficking.

Highlights of the week were:

- Sharing the mission since the RENATE Assembly in Rome (2016)- which centred on country reports where members shared on the work underway in their specific country;
- Familiarisation with the RENATE Strategic Plan and devising Implementation Processes- which centred on strategic group-work each day, focusing on specific actions to be addressed during the timeline of the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and covering the following areas- Anti-Slavery Film Festival; RENATE Communications + Networking; 3<sup>rd</sup> RENATE Assembly – Geneva, 2021; Advocacy, Lobbying & Campaigning; Human Trafficking awareness-raising; Capacity Building.



- Introduction of the re-designed RENATE website, by both Annie Bannister (Web-designer) and Manu Shaqe Cypi, RENATE Website Manager;
- Presentation by Anne Kelleher of the RENATE Child Trafficking Mapping Exercise, conducted by Rev Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford, Director CCARHT, Cambridge University, with research-contributions from RENATE members and coordinated by Anne;

- Presentation by Marie H el ene Halligon, olcgs, on RENATE’s newly-gained position at the Council of Europe;
- Presentations by both Aneta Grabowska and Mr. Gazi Memaj on attendance at meetings of the EU Civil society Platform on behalf of POMOC and MWL/RENATE respectively;
- Farewell to the outgoing members of the RENATE Core Group (Ivonne van de Kar, Gabriela Korn, sscj, Dagmar Plum, mms and Monica Chickwe, som);
- Welcome to new Core Group members (Patricia Mulhall, csb; Maria-Luisa Puglisi, aasc; Clotilde Wanki, sscj and Ms. Halyna Onyshko.





Our field-trip on Wednesday 7 November, began with solemn Mass celebrated in the Byzantine rite at St. Peter and Paul's Church in Lviv. For most of us, it was our first experience of the Byzantine rite and set a beautiful tone for the remainder of the day. This was followed through in the meeting we had with Bishop Volodymyr Hrut'sa, at St. George Cathedral, where he shared with us the importance of the collaboration of people of all faiths in order to combat human trafficking.

A visit to the Family House for young boys, run by the Salesian fathers gave us insights into the work by religious at grassroots level locally. There we witnessed first-hand the positive impact of care and structured life, essential to keeping these vulnerable boys from sleeping rough on the streets and certain lives of crime and trafficking.

We are very grateful to our gracious hosts Ms. Halyna Onyshko, Miss Vera Martynuk and Fr. Roman Lahish, CSsR for their hospitality. They went to great lengths to ensure every detail was considered in order that the Working Board meeting would be a success and gave most generously of their



time to accompany us each day. As part of the mid-week field trip, it was especially interesting to enjoy brunch at their Karmel Caffeteria, the first joint collaborative initiative undertaken by the Religious of UGCC and the RCC.

We are also grateful to Dr. Mary McHugh, President ANDANTE, who kindly facilitated the week's work.

With prayer and reflection central to each Board meeting, we were very fortunate that Fr. Lahish and /or his colleague celebrated daily Mass. Each Liturgy was enriched by the music and Readings prepared by both Marie Hélène Halligon, olcgs, and Gabriela Korn, sscj and the accompaniment of Working Board member, Mr. Gazi Memaj.



Prepared by Anne Kelleher. RENATE Communications.