



RENA TE Training on Human Trafficking & the Law

Arlanda, Sweden 6-10 May 2019.



From 6-10 May 2019, twenty five RENATE members met in Sweden, to reflect upon the Nordic model and learn from the experiences encountered in Sweden. The adoption of the Nordic model by Sweden twenty years ago, lead the way for other countries worldwide to consider how to address helping women in prostitution from a Human Rights approach.

As with each RENATE gathering, spiritual Liturgy and reflection underpinned each day's work. Our days began with time to be aware of God's presence among us and with each of us as we sought to open our minds & hearts to God's will for us, for RENATE and for our world. Our opening liturgy on the first day commenced with "The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor" (John Foley, sj).

Setting the scene.

Imelda Poole, IBVM, RENATE President, welcomed all present and set the context for our work which is informed by the implementation of Pope Francis Vision to rid the world of HT by 2030.

Imelda referred to the RENATE website map of the distribution of all the RENATE members and presented an overview of RENATE which illustrated how it is a dynamic organisation working in a variety of ways through direct action against sexual exploitation. Imelda listed examples as follows: rescue and reintegration work; working either full time or part time involving at least 30% of membership; trafficking for sexual exploitation; organ trafficking; labour trafficking; child trafficking; orphan trafficking; advocacy against all forms of HT – involves 50% of the membership; awareness-raising against all forms of HT (50% involved); direct action against Child Trafficking (involves approx.10% of the membership); direct action against sexual exploitation (involves 30% of membership); direct action against all

forms of HT (involves 40% of the membership); campaigning against all forms of HT (100% of membership).

Integral to the grass-roots work are the RENATE staff, connecting the mission of the membership to the world.

The way forward- Arising from the Nov. 2018 Working Board, the Membership of the Working Board is now organised into four self-managing teams, focusing on the following areas-

1. Advocacy.
2. Awareness-raising.
3. Assembly 2021.
4. Capacity building.



In her opening address, Imelda spoke about the first Country group meeting held in Albania in early April this year. Areas identified during that country meeting were:

1. The importance of training, especially in the area of psychology to support women with psychiatric needs;
2. Communicating about the different projects to maximise collaboration and networking;
3. The need to raise awareness of Human Trafficking in local businesses due to their contact with victims;
4. Mental health of staff and members ;
5. A tool-kit for self -care.

It is believed that the UK are about to hold their own country meeting within the coming weeks.

Imelda spoke about the importance of networking with networks internationally, emphasising that we take each activity one step at a time, being mindful of care for those whom we serve and care for ourselves as well. She identified the common denominator in all the countries where RENATE members work, being the inadequacy and infrequency of convictions. Imelda called upon all law makers present this week to engage with and animate law enforcement as much as possible with a view to increasing the numbers of convictions. In doing so, this would send a clear signal to traffickers that they are liable for their actions and will pay the price.

With eyes firmly fixed on the work of the week ahead to arrive at recommendations regarding a position RENATE can have in relation to HT, Imelda invited us to be mindful of the following:

- the context of evolving societal and economic morés worldwide;
- the variety of manifestations of Human Trafficking world-wide;
- the variety of opportunities for advocacy and campaigning against Human Trafficking.

Key questions for us to consider throughout the week were:

1. Where does RENATE stand with the Nordic Model ? (mindful of its different iterations).
2. Where does RENATE stand with the French adaptation of the Nordic Model?
3. What is RENATE's stance in relation to the lack of implementation of international Labour law which contributes to the abuse of people, rendering them all the more vulnerable?

After a pause for reflection on the task ahead, Imelda invited Mariana Meshi, Director of the NGO *Different and Equal*, based in Albania, to share with us some insights into the work underway at *Different and Equal*. We learned that *Different and Equal* works directly to help and protect victims of crimes (Human Trafficking, sexual abuse, domestic violence) through a variety of means including offering direct assistance and free legal aid; increasing the capacity of law enforcement; increasing information for victim's rights and how to access justice; advocating for improving legislation; the establishment and running of a helpline for free legal counselling and assistance to victims of crime.

A particularly influential action on the part of *Different and Equal* are the trainings and direct assistance they provide for law enforcement agencies on the protection of HT victims and the application of legal framework including the amendments approved with the new law #36/30.03.2017. We were reminded that such actions open up a two-way communication with law-enforcement and policy makers. Through such collaborations, not only do law enforcement agents and policy makers gain knowledge and information from the training provided by *Different and Equal*, the NGO itself gains the trust and respect of the attendees. There is also potential for future collaborations in the work to combat human trafficking and exploitation.



We enjoyed an information session with **Brigitte Stevkovski**, representing Porticus, as she presented an overview of the private philanthropic organisation and its relation to RENATE's mission. It was heartening to hear Brigitte speak of their Porticus' commitment to supporting interventions such as research and development and supporting organisations in France, Netherlands, Spain, Central and eastern Europe. (Albania, Lithuania, Latvia).

Brigitte however emphasised the desire of Porticus to maintain a low profile, in accordance with the Porticus family wishes.

From the Swedish perspective, the first speaker was Fr. George Joseph, cj, (CARITAS Sweden; a Lawyer and psychologist by profession and also a migration expert). We are grateful to Fr. Joseph for sharing so candidly with us. We were greatly encouraged by his



speaking of the hope that seeing RENATE's work gives him, as he said "What gives me hope is meeting people like you, I then realise that the evil does not have the final say."

Fr. Joseph spoke of the migration context in Sweden and the work of CARITAS in regard to anti-trafficking, sexual and labour exploitation, against the backdrop of a country which resettled more than 167,000 people after World War 2. Undocumented migrants emerged as a category in the late 1980s in Sweden, which surprised both society and government, neither of whom could believe that such a category could exist in Sweden.

Similar to most contemporary European countries, Sweden is faced with concerns for asylum seekers, family reunification, labour migration (including international exchange students), the free movement of peoples and much more including irregular migrants, who are mostly exploited and unable to access their rights.

Fr. Joseph shared that in 2018, 132,000 non-nationals were given permission to stay in Sweden and with the onslaught of increasing numbers seeking asylum in Sweden, there has been consequent changes in the whole dynamic of Swedish society to the extent that recently, Sweden has introduced a new law- which will see massive reductions in asylum arrivals. That said, he acknowledged the increased commitment of Swedish faith-based populations who are positive about extending the hand of welcome, friendship and humanity, despite the political rhetoric. He also referred positively to the fairly decent mass-media culture in Sweden with a marked absence of the tabloid press in Sweden.

In conversation with colleagues at the UNHCR, Fr. Joseph shared that both the UNHCR and CARITAS Sweden finds that they are mostly encountering people who are exploited for labour purposes. A frequent occurrence is the increasing number of people who never apply for asylum, they just look for work but don't have any entitlements. In this regard, Fr. Joseph spoke about the vulnerability of the undocumented, whom the legal system simply cannot support/assist/rescue because they are undocumented.

Sadly these people may also be sexually exploited. Every woman CARITAS has encountered tell of their being raped along their journey, either by their fellow migrants or law enforcement or pimps.

He made us aware of the challenges faced when dealing with these people's traumas experienced along the journey, saying "We fail to ask the right questions of the migrants we encounter, although we do have developed culturally sensitive ways to handle asylum hearings, we don't usually hear about how they have been raped until several months later -having built trust."

It is a fact that the corruption of law enforcement in the countries of origin greatly undermines the asylum seeker's trust in any law enforcement in Sweden or any other country.



Despite it all, he spoke of the **resilience** of some of these victims, mainly due to the strength of their faith.

According to Fr. Joseph, “the Nordic model has impacted greatly on the psyche of the person living in Sweden, you cannot get away from the dignity of the body of the human person.”

In keeping with the intention to empower the migrants and help them to become self-

sustaining, Fr. Joseph stated “We can never take away their experiences but at least we can treat them as human beings, restore their dignity. We (CARITAS) do not place them in detention centres, we offer them apartments and empower them for independent living. While collective safe-houses have their value, sometimes we see that it becomes a crutch and doesn’t actually empower the victims in the first instance.”

For practical purposes from the beginning, CARITAS Sweden accommodated refugees in convents and monasteries where they could feel safe and were supported by the local monastery/convent community. The refugees are also given a stipend so they can try to live a normal life, shop, buy a coffee etc.

In conclusion, Fr. Joseph shared that CARITAS Sweden depend a lot on donations from faith communities and works with other CARITAS groups worldwide, Religious congregations, faith-based groups and civil society groups nationally in the common mission to extend the hand of welcome, support and hope to the most needy.



Madeleine Sundell: NCO of anti-Human Trafficking, Salvation Army, Sweden.

Madeleine is a Human Rights Lawyer who has also worked as a lawyer with the ILO at the UN. She is a member of the European Freedom Network as well as being a member of a European task-force of 23 European countries who are rapid responders to any crisis situation within 24 hours.

Madeleine presented a comprehensive overview of the Salvation Army and its

operations within the Swedish context, sharing many stories and perspectives from the Salvation Army’s experiences and encounters. She took us through the whole range of considerations that the Salvation Army must be aware of in their daily work, cultural morés and socio-economic contexts and the connections between all criminal acts running the gamut of drug-running, exploitation and trafficking.

We all identified with the truth that they encounter people who are scared, not only for their own lives but for their families threatened back home, especially applicable to cases in Nigeria.

Madeleine spoke of Human Trafficking as a humanitarian issue and a violation of human rights, stating “Every victim has a face; Every victim has a story. We need to look at how Sweden can have a more victim-centred approach.” And this especially in light of Swedish legislation under the Sexual Purchases Act whereby the victim is seen as a ‘witness’ and not as a plaintiff, legislation which needs to be changed in Madeleine’s view.

Madeleine spoke about the Salvation Army Safe Havens Trafficking Centre in Stockholm, which caters to undocumented migrants. The work of the centre is coordinated by two legal experts and fifteen volunteers, based on their commitment and interest in serving the most vulnerable. It was clear to us from the profile of volunteers (law students, trainee social workers, trainee police officers and translators), that the Salvation Army wants to secure the best possible people to work with their clients in addition to seeing their volunteers gain invaluable insights and understandings, both personally and professionally.



We also attended in Stockholm city, the launch of ‘*Safe Haven*,’ a documentary film commissioned by the Salvation Army, illustrating the work of the Salvation Army in anti-Human Trafficking work in seven countries. The screening was followed by a Q & A session with a panel comprising a Human Rights Lawyer; a journalist; the Swedish anti-Human Trafficking Ambassador; a Police man working directly in the area of Human Trafficking and a social

worker. Common to all five speakers were their references to the lack of awareness amongst the general public of the extent of Human Trafficking and exploitation in Sweden. They emphasised the importance of collaboration amongst all the actors in the anti-human trafficking field and ensuing strengthened approaches towards supporting victims. An underpinning and common philosophy throughout the various speakers comments was the importance of standing up for human rights and honouring their obligations to safeguard and protect. t to

The following are some of the supports which Madeleine highlighted as being on offer from the Salvation Army in Sweden, to victims of human trafficking and exploitation;

- Appropriate and secure accommodation.
- Psychological and material assistance.
- Access to emergency medical treatment.
- Translation and interpretation services.
- Information and guidance.
- Assistance to enable participation in criminal proceedings.

- Access to education for children.

Madeleine emphasised the value to be gained through collaboration, citing working with the GRETA team as they conduct their country visits and shared the following trends gleaned from the recent GRETA Report on Sweden:



- Many victims do actually contact NGOs.
- The Victims of Trafficking to Sweden come mainly from eastern Europe, the Balkans, Western Africa and the MENA region.
- Undocumented victims fear reporting to the police.
- Growth of labour exploitation in grey-zone cases.

- Domestic victims.
- Victims are vulnerable in a variety of ways.
- Victims are at high risk of being re-trafficked.
- Children are particularly vulnerable and need the greatest interventions and supports.

“All small steps we jointly set in legal support system, are big steps in the direction of a life of dignity for the human person.” (A volunteer).

In common with Fr. Joseph’s presentation earlier in the week, we saw the absolute importance of collaboration and networking in order to meet the complex needs of the migrants, victims and asylum seekers. At the end of the day, there is a common truth that in the areas of support and assistance to the trafficked and exploited, what is seen out in the open is just the tip of the iceberg, regardless of how liberal a society is.

Annica Svensson, Police representative from the Uppsala region.

Annica shared with us about her experiences in Uppsala since 2015, specifically domestic



violence; labour exploitation, Human Trafficking and sexual exploitation. She also shared about the work of the EU-Group with which she is associated as police authorities, NGOs and social services collaborating.

Through trust which the EU Group built up over the weeks and months of working with victims, the victims gradually opened up an avenue of communication where they gleaned pieces of

information as victims trusted them enough to tell their stories.

Annica emphasised the importance of international contacts in order for the EU group to be more effective in helping victims. Occasionally when a victim wants to return home, Annica

may not have a contact in the particular country and now Annica feels the RENATE network may very well be a means towards helping in the rare instances of voluntary-return because of the extent of the network.



A victim-centred approach is at the heart of the work in Upsala. They offer possibilities to get in touch with NGOs in different countries. Sometimes they can secure a room at a safe house for victims. Through it all, these victims gradually build up trust and feel confident to disclose about their experiences at the hands of their pimps and/or madams. Such safe houses and safe surroundings are especially necessary in order that police investigations and

trials might run their course and to help maintain the stability of the survivor.

However well-intentioned the police jurisdiction in Uppsala is, Annica explained that the reality is that in most jurisdictions, the police will still believe that the victim may very well be a criminal as she may be stealing scrap metal or robbing homes during the night times, whilst being prostituted for sex during the day. So Annica's role is to gradually broaden police authorities capacity to understand the vulnerability of those who have been trafficked. She acknowledged the challenge that there is a lot of knowledge out there but it does not filter up to senior police and decision makers who could impact on decision making.

Swedish legislation as it pertains to sexual exploitation is predicated upon the belief that if they punish the buyers of sex, the message eventually gets out that men could not only be fined but can be imprisoned for one year. It is hoped that eventually such exposure will end demand.

Annica also identified the importance of awareness-raising and sharing information amongst civil society and police, for example, articles in local newspapers cultivates local awareness, with locals in turn informing and reporting on anything they might witness.

Annica's presentation elicited a lot of questions and one in particular being the challenge of how to build relations with the media so they trust you and know you are going to give them interesting news items. All in all, she identified the exact same challenges we all encounter in our work, regardless of which jurisdiction we belong to – sexual exploitation; labour exploitation; begging; theft and crime prevail as a backdrop to the larger and heinous crime of human trafficking.

Day 2-

Day two began with a presentation from Rochelle Keyhan, CEO Collective Liberty, USA, who shared with us some perspectives on legislation in the United States of America and how it obtains to Human Trafficking and Exploitation in that country.



Imelda Poole, IBVM; Ana Stakaj & Rochelle Keyhan

It was a most interesting presentation as Rochelle drew upon her experiences as a former Prosecutor for six years in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA and also from her former work at POLARIS before starting her own NGO, Collective Liberty.

One of the greatest challenges in the United States must be the challenge to work across States with each having (or may not have) their own respective laws against Human Trafficking. Allied to which is the fact that over an above State laws, are the Federal laws, which may not necessarily synchronise with State laws, hence the reality in the United States is the fact that there are 50 individual States, each with their own independent State legislature.

Child marriage has only recently (2018) been included as an illegal act in *some* States as Child Marriage is permitted in some States in the US even in this modern age. Rochelle did not speak to us about Organ Trafficking as currently, there is very little public attention in the States on this crime.

The Peonage Act of 1867 obtained in the US until the introduction of the Federal law (2000), which created an office on Human Trafficking in the US. The ‘Trafficking Victims Protection Act’ was reviewed in 2003, with amendments which allowed for the victim to press charges against a trafficker. Further amendments occurred in 2008 to add prevention strategies. In 2013, Federal funding was provided to create Federal law legally requiring law enforcement and service providers to collaborate together, which although in its initial stages, will eventually be the best approach. Creating open-flows of information and collaboration strengthens work against traffickers.



Disruption strategies: Rochelle’s team engage with different agencies so as to interrupt the actions of traffickers by interrupting the source of their profits e.g. mapping all the illicit massage parlours across the States and then working with law enforcement to help them track each massage parlour. Through their actions, the NGO further helped law enforcement appreciate the importance of

connecting cases and understanding networks.

Throughout her presentation, Rochelle emphasised the need for a more joined-up approach and greater collaboration amongst anti-human trafficking networks, law enforcement, legislators and the general public. Rochelle emphasised that resourcing of law enforcement



has been a vital component of supporting the work to combat Human Trafficking, a point which resonated with all attending the RENATE training.

Suzanne Hoff, International coordinator, La Strada International, European NGO network against trafficking in human beings.

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Currently in the middle of a merger of the La Strada International network & NGO Platform. Suzanne referred to the La Strada website for an overview of its work as a European network against trafficking in human beings. It comprises eight member organisations in Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and the Ukraine. They have an international secretariat based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

La Strada International works from a human-rights based perspective in support of trafficked persons, to ensure a world without trafficking in human beings and where human beings are respected. Its primary goal is empowering trafficked persons, improving their positions through promoting their universal rights, including the right to choose to emigrate and work abroad and to be protected from violence and abuse. La Strada recognises trafficked persons as active actors in changing their own situation, rather than passive recipients of services or victims in need of rescue.

Suzanne outlined the various activities of La Strada, as follows:

- Public relations, lobbying and advocating for change.
- Data collection, research and building evidence.
- Capacity building and strategy planning- trainings supportive of access to justice and services.
- Building partnerships and movements.
- International project co-operation.

We learned more about La Strada International's human-rights based approach, to protect all persons and their individual rights. The rights, needs and interests of the trafficked person are central to all La Strada decisions and actions. Respect for individual's decisions is encouraged, as is empowerment and participation. Confidentiality, safety, non-victimisation and non-discrimination are cornerstones of La Strada underpinning philosophy. In such an approach, regardless of the consequences of one's actions, La Strada:

- Respects that an individual makes his/her own choices.
- The rights, interests and needs of sex workers are central.

- Respect their decision to undertake sex work.
- Focuses on empowering and engaging sex workers.
- Recognises prostitution as an economic activity- see that people pay for sexual services as an economic activity. Does not mean that everyone is paid or even well paid.
- Differentiate between voluntary/forced prostitution & between trafficking/prostitution.
- La Strada does not promote prostitution nor does it promote the abolition of prostitution.
- Opposes the criminalisation of sex work/sex workers and/or clients of sex workers.

There were a number of queries and comments posed to Suzanne, with the resulting observations recorded:

1. In relation to the prostitution sector in Europe, La Strada is of the view that there is an inadequate amount of accurate data on prostitution and indicated there is a similar dearth of accurate data on the Human Trafficking phenomenon.
2. Sex work now calls for capacity to cope with a changing and diverse industry and is made up of diverse groups of sex workers, comprising nationals and migrants. Sex- work is increasingly taking place indoors now as a result of policies to address street prostitution.
3. The majority of workers are female but there is an increasing number of men working in the sector in the Netherlands.
4. In relation to a query regarding consenting to sex work or not- La Strada believe people have different reasons for 'choosing' this occupation and firmly believe there are large numbers of people who choose sex work for economic reasons.

In her presentation, Suzanne acknowledged the vulnerability of sex workers; their risk to violence and questionable legal status; their exposure to discrimination and stigma; the impact of socio-cultural factors on decision to engage in sex-work; social exclusion; lack of access to justice, health and social care services, in addition to the issues of drugs and alcohol dependency.

Regarding the issue of Child Trafficking, Suzanne stated La Strada are not experts in the area of child trafficking but work with ECPAT and any other organisations to help in its prevention.

Spoke about **Justice at Last**, an initiative which compensates women victims of HT, details of which are available at : www.lastrada.org

All agreed that although it was a challenging presentation, overall it provided valuable information and insights which certainly helped focus our minds on understandings .

Day 4 Thursday 09 May 2019.



Rebecca Ahlstrand & Ruth Nordstrom, - Scandinavian Human Rights Lawyers. “Strategies to combat Human Trafficking and protect victim’s Rights in Sweden – A Human Rights Approach.”

Through discussions and analysis of hard facts, statistics and case studies, we learned more about the strategies in Sweden to combat Human Trafficking and also to protect victim’s rights in Sweden.

When it comes to prosecution, we were surprised to realise there are very few cases of prosecution, unfortunately, in Sweden, but then again, there are preventive measures to lower demand and protective measures such as shelters specifically designated for victims. Asylum procedures in Sweden are also another way to protect victims of human trafficking.

Rebecca and Ruth presented us with an overview of anti-trafficking work in Sweden by means of the combined efforts of the NGO (Gender Equality Authority); the NMT National Task Force against Prostitution & Human Trafficking; Ministry of justice/Ministry of Social Affairs/ Ministry of Labour/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish Ambassador against Trafficking in Human Beings.

The anti-trafficking work in Sweden includes the national rapporteur, whose work includes the collection of data on the crime of Human Trafficking; work on how to improve prevention; devising an annual progress report on the government’s action plan to combat HT; data on the extent of the work by the specialised units within the police force, NGOs and the Swedish Civil Society Platform.

Rebecca and Ruth spoke about the National Referral Mechanism and the following considerations:

1. Identification.
2. Initial support and protection.
3. Long-term support and social inclusion.
4. Voluntary Return- with the assistance of a number of organisations e.g. the IOM etc.
5. Criminal Proceedings.



In an honest assessment, they expressed exasperation at the very low number of convictions. A potentially positive development though is the fact that legislation in Sweden is under evaluation and will include consideration of the conclusions referenced in the most recent GRETA report, which reported that there were too few prosecutions in Sweden.

Rebecca and Ruth presented a table on Prosecuted crimes in Sweden (2015) and (2017) which included the following data:

In 2017, there were 5 convictions for all forms of Human Trafficking.

Purchase of sexual services (prostitution) were 222;

Purchase of sexual acts from children were 54 – a lot higher than 15 in the previous year.

- Under the crime of Human Trafficking for sexual purposes, the following numbers of prosecutions took place;

58 prosecutions in 2015.

81 prosecutions in 2016.

82 prosecutions in 2018.



It appears that all forms of sex work has in fact increased considerably since 2015, as per the stats above. And whilst quoting chapter 4.1 of the Penal Code (2010:371) of the Palermo Protocol " Anyone, who in cases other than those referred to in 1, by unlawful coercion, deception, exploitation of anyone's vulnerable location or with other such improper means recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a

person in order that he/she will be exploited through sexual exploitation, removal of organs, military service..." and chapter 6, paragraph 12 of the Penal Code (2004:406) on procurement. "A person who promotes or improperly financially exploits a person's engagement in casual sexual relations in return for payment shall be sentenced for procuring to imprisonment for at most, 4 years." It appears that challenges regarding prosecution of trafficking in general in Sweden seem to be applicable across the European jurisdictions and beyond, namely:

- The absence of reliable witnesses.
- Difficulty to ascertain and prove beyond reasonable doubt intentions and awareness.
- The victim's difficulties to describe their situation in a coherent ways.



- The Swedish courts requiring that the prosecutor must prove the suppression of the victims freewill.

Rebecca and Ruth gave us insights into the victim's rights and the prosecution phase in Sweden, whereby:

- The state pays for the legal counsel within the legal proceedings.
 - Compensation for victims of violent crimes is ensured under the Criminal Injury Compensation Act (Brottsskadelag 2014:322).
- Under the above Act, a deciding board, the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, has the task of attending to the needs of victims and overseeing and making decisions regarding compensation provision.
 - An asylum seeker has the right to a state-appointed legal counsel.
 - Reflection period- guaranteed in the anti-HT convention of the Council of Europe- in Sweden can only be applied for by the prosecutor in a criminal case.

As part of the week's training process, we had the opportunity to consider some Case Studies.

'Jannet & her twins' (a Nigerian woman) sent from Nigeria to work on a farm in France to generate income to pay for her father's surgery. But in reality she was trafficked to a brothel for 10 years.

Valuable discussions took place amongst the delegates who were divided into groups to consider the following questions;

1. What weight do you think was put into the fact that Jannett has PTSD and other health issues?
2. What weight do you think was put into the systematic deficiencies in the Italian asylum system at the time?
3. What weight do you think was put into the fact that the Italian authorities are responsible for the crime of trafficking & that Jannett never filed a police report concerning the crimes in Italy?



In total, a series of three case studies were considered and analysed before the Ruth and Rebecca's session with us concluded. They then introduced us to Elise, known lovingly as 'the Angel of Sweden,' who won our hearts and minds as an 83 year old sharing her story with us. Sexual abuse of Elise began from the age of five, being sexually abused by family and friends through to her life in prostitution, abuse and dependency which ultimately lead to her breakdown.

But she somehow found the reserves of strength through her faith and through securing gainful employment in a factory. Earning her own money enabled Elise to live an independent existence and rebuild her life.

She now volunteers at every opportunity to help improve the lives of victims, some of whom have actually died in her arms.

Concluding afternoon meeting.

Rochelle Keyhan facilitated feedback from the various working groups by way of suggestions and comments for the Core Group and Working Board, regarding ways forward for RENATE in its work to combat human trafficking and exploitation:

Group 1.

1. Need for attitudinal change in society at large.
2. A shift in the definition of Human Trafficking.

Group 2 - Demand.

1. Sensitivity to use of language.
2. Value of the "France model" – fining the buyers and the requirement they do community services.
3. Value of incorporating victim impact statements- speaks volumes more than what we can say.
4. Demand is a systemic problem and goes beyond the sex component. We are all complicit in demand and the supply chains e.g. cheap clothes, cheap electronic, mobile phone batteries etc. What is our understanding of ethical consumerism? We should prevail more upon our supplier regarding Supply chains.
5. Keeping ahead of the technology as it is an invaluable tool.
6. Efforts to focus on *traffickers* is almost absent.
7. Education is vital. MECPATHS as an example; CAFOD also , responsible to leverage education/in-service/mobilising volunteers etc.

8. Need for managing pornography and respect for the self - begin at young secondary school level, which should go a long way to making a difference in attitudinal and behavioural change.

9. Important that we teach young people to appreciate the word "NO."

10. What indicators do we have as customers that the goods we purchase are ethically sourced?

11. Low risk vs. High profit is another consideration e.g. minimal punishment in Sweden relative to the enormous profits made by the traffickers.



Group 3. Insufficient victim-centred laws.

1. We need to be conscious of the language we use, so important to standardise language. Suggest we place statement that RENATE is a victim-centred organisation working in a trauma-informed approach, informed by human-rights (understanding a person's behaviour and actions occurring as a result of being traumatised).

2. Propose a mapping of the implementation of the laws in 31 RENATE member countries, under the following paradigms: Protection, Prevention, Prosecution and Partnership.

3. Develop recommendations on the research above in time for RENATE Assembly 2021 and in turn, inform the Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027.

Group 4.

1. Need for uniform model of language and approach as there are different understandings when one talks about HT.

2. Lack of implementation of the laws.

3. Lobby more at Governmental level, in light of GRETA report and its recommendations.

4. What are the sanctions when law is not implemented? E.g. Poland and Austria not sanctioned for not taking in migrants.

5. How do we identify victims? What are the powers and services available to those identified?

Concluding remarks:

1. Agreed the TIP Reports provide a lot of valuable research data, as does every GRETA report and also the UNODC also presents research. Important that we as RENATE refer to and acknowledge the GRETA report as it involves reports on all our member countries eventually.

2. RENATE should undertake Research to find out what are the best practices in each member country. These might already be identified in the TIP and GRETA and UNODC

Reports, so it's a matter of analysing these reports and lifting the relevant data. What are the shared good practices we could adopt? What are the failures and why, so others learn from our mistakes.

3. Importance of having a multi-pronged approach because of the systemic nature of the crime.

4. How do you change mentalities, attitudes, consumer practices?

5. Importance of education is vital (If young children can inform their parents with conviction "mummy, you should not use that plastic," then surely we can educate our people to object to Human Trafficking and exploitation).

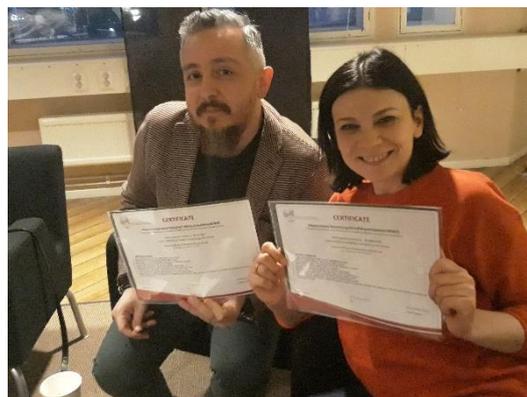
6. Accept that we must be patient, we are in this work for the long-haul.

7. Power of communication and investing in communication was emphasised, in order to continuously heighten people's awareness. An example being organisations such as [38 Degrees- Change.org](#); [thesumofus](#) and similar organisations which bombard you daily with issues we need to remember/focus upon.

All in all, the calibre of speakers coupled with our time together as members of the RENATE network, fuelled our commitment to learning more about the evolving nature of human trafficking. It also fuelled our conviction to work to bring about the demise of human trafficking and exploitation.

Delegates departed on 10 May, leaving behind the RENATE Core Group, to reflect upon and discern from all that had been discussed and analysed during the training in order to arrive at a policy statement for RENATE.

The overall evaluations indicated the value of being informed by high -calibre people, who subsequently helped RENATE move closer towards a definitive policy statement .



End.

AK. 15/05/19.

