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People are NOT for sale

ACRATH News

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans

June 2017

Human Trafficking!!! In Australia!!!

Many Australians find it hard to believe but human trafficking does exist in Australia. Knowing what to do to prevent this is the next hurdle.

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly designated July 30 as the **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**. It was deemed that such a day was necessary to "raise enduring awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights."

Since 2005 ACRATH has been committed to working towards the elimination of human trafficking in Australia, the Asia Pacific region, and globally. This has involved raising awareness of human trafficking, working to ensure **that the rights and complex needs of people trafficked into Australia are met, and collaborating with other like-minded organisations locally and internationally to address human trafficking. But ACRATH needs your help.**

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons become an ACRATH partner by making a donation to support the work of ACRATH, or ask a friend or family member to donate. Your donation will help to make a difference in the lives of people who are impacted by this crime.

Sr Noelene Simmons sm ACRATH National President

ACRATH Launches Fundraising Appeal

ACRATH has launched a fundraising appeal this month to keep the organisation going, after our current Government grant finishes on June 30. Appeals to Justice Minister Michael Keenan have so far failed to gain a funding commitment, but we remain hopeful. So we have to try and raise funds ourselves.

And even if we do receive the same funding we have had for the past three years (\$120,000 annually), it is not enough to do our work. We need at least \$250,000 a year to function at our current levels. This figure doesn't take into account the \$430,000 worth of volunteer time you all give to ACRATH's work annually.

Many of you, or your congregations, parishes or communities, already donate to ACRATH. That is a remarkable contribution that has helped ACRATH do what it does. But we also need to look further and that's what we are doing now.

So in June and July, leading up to the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, we are focused on fundraising and we will be asking you to support the appeal and be a part of it where possible. Can you ask three people to donate in the month ahead? And don't forget all donations are tax deductible. Donation details:

Cheques can be made payable to ACRATH and posted to:

National Treasurer, ACRATH, c/- 126 The Avenue, Parkville, VIC 3025

Direct Deposit into ACRATH's account

ACRATH Public Fund

Commonwealth Bank of Australia BSB 063 111 Account number 10802141

(Please send an email to treasurer@acrath.org.au if you make a donation by direct deposit giving name and contact details so that a receipt can be sent)

For more appeal information contact
Rosie Hoban on 0431 471046

Thanks, *Christine Carolan* ACRATH Executive Officer

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Right:
Logos for 3 forms of certification of ethical sourcing of raw materials (chocolate, coffee, tea etc)



Past Events

ACRATH National Conference

The ACRATH National Conference held in February 2017 was once again a very informative and energising experience for those who attended. Sr Anne Tormey rsm, the then President of ACRATH, opened the conference by delivering her report. Following Anne's report Sr Ruth Durick osu, President of Catholic Religious Australia, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta and President of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, launched the Australian Catholic Social Justice paper *Human Trafficking and Slavery: A Response From Australian Catholics* written by ACRATH members Christine Carolan and Noelene Simmons sm. The theme of the 2017 ACRATH Conference, Act Now to End the Scourge of Human Trafficking, invited participants to reflect on what can be done individually and collectively to work against the evil of human trafficking and slavery.



It was in this context that a session of the conference was devoted to developing ACRATH's strategic plan for the three years 2017-2020. The National Conference also provided an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of ACRATH during the last twelve months.

Catholic Mission: One Heart, Many Voices Conference (Sydney)



ACRATH members Christine Carolan and Noelene Simmons sm presented a workshop at the recent Catholic Mission: One Heart, Many Voices Conference. Also presenting at the Conference was Marietta Latonio, a long time colleague of ACRATH. Marietta shared insights gained from the "I Have a Voice" Research project. In this project trafficked women in Cebu were able to provide recollections of their childhood

trafficking experiences and to share their plans for the future. The women wanted their stories told in the hope of helping others. A pdf version of "I have a Voice" can be found at <https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/ihaveavoice>

World Day of Prayer in Parramatta Diocese

On the World Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking, 8 February, an interactive awareness raising event was held at the Institute for Mission in the Parramatta Diocese. Members of ACRATH provided the welcome and the information about human trafficking. The World Day of Prayer falls on the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese women who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy.

The Sudanese community led the opening prayer and sang a hymn to Josephine Bakhita at the conclusion of the evening. During this event Bishop Vincent Long, Bishop of Parramatta launched the booklet *Human Trafficking and Slavery: A Response from Australian Catholics* written by ACRATH members Christine Carolan and Noelene Simmons sm.



Slavery-free Chocolate—where do we go in 2018?

Schools, parishes and community groups picked up and promoted ACRATH's slavery-free chocolate campaign again this year. How well it was picked up is always hard to evaluate. But we know, from your feedback, the 'reach' is wider than it was last year. This year a few highlights include:

- Thanks to Mark Clarke, Executive Officer, at the Melbourne Archdiocese's Office for Justice and Peace, the chocolate campaign material was sent to all parishes and schools in the archdiocese and to the Justice and Peace workers in every diocese in Australia.
- Mass bulletins sent to us from all over Australia showed that the slavery-free chocolate material was well used, including St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne which promoted the campaign in its Mass bulletin a couple of weeks before Easter.
- Lots of great feedback from WA that the crew over there pushed the campaign heavily.
- Also good cover from Catholic media in the Parramatta Diocese in NSW.

The material used was similar to that of previous years, though this year we moved away from promoting just Fairtrade chocolate and pushed the idea of slavery-free chocolate carrying one of three certification labels – Fairtrade, UTZ and Rainforest Alliance (see page 1 of this newsletter).

But we do have a challenge on our hands. How do we keep the slavery-free chocolate campaign 'fresh' and push it even further – beyond our schools and parishes? I don't have those answers, but I am hoping feedback from you, the ACRATH supporters, will help inform what we do in 2018.

So could I ask you to respond to the following questions:

- Did you use, or pass on, any of the slavery-free chocolate campaign material at Easter?
- If you didn't, could you tell me what was the barrier?
- What can we do better? This is so important if we want to keep the campaign relevant.

I would be so grateful if you could email me your responses to rap@acrath.org.au

Rosie Hoban ACRATH's chocolate campaign worker

Susan Newland, ACRATH SA

Susan Newland was a member of ACRATH SA since 2013. In her capacity as Director of the Archdiocesan Resource and Information Centre she actively promoted the work of ACRATH with the Archbishop and through the Catholic Education Office, the Archdiocesan Office, and Catholic Media.

A high point of her ACRATH membership was her 3 months internship with UNANIMA in New York in 2016, which enabled her to utilize knowledge and insights gained in a recently completed Masters Degree in International Law.

Susan had a long battle with cancer and amazed us all by her courage and resilience. She died on the 28th May. Archbishop Wilson was the celebrant at her funeral.

She will be deeply missed by members of ACRATH SA. We valued her integrity, vitality, intelligence, generosity, sensitivity and sense of fun. She was deeply committed to addressing the evil of human trafficking in our world.

Compassionate God, we give thanks for Susan's life and for all she was for each of us. We ask you to comfort her daughter Sarah, her family and friends for their loss. Help us to know Susan's presence in beauty and kindness and in our vulnerability and strength.



Date Claimer...

The ACRATH Canberra visit will take place from 3-7 September 2017. It may be a smaller team this year due to funding. Further information will be provided later.

Modern Slavery Act for Australia like the one in the UK?

ACRATH has been energetically involved in this discussion across Australia; the discussion has been prompted by the calling of a Parliamentary Inquiry into the need for a Modern Slavery Act for Australia. Fingers crossed on this one as it could be a game changer. For more look at our website acrath.org.au

Christine Carolan

Hugely Successful Forced Marriage Workshop in Perth, Western Australia.

ACRATH and Red Cross in Perth recently held a dynamic and highly informative Workshop for 85 participants from 41 frontline responder and education organisations, dealing with the contemporary Australian issue of forced marriage.

The Workshop was planned over many months, and responded to the fact that early and forced marriage in Australia is an emerging concern affecting children, young people and adults living in Australia.

Kathy Fagan, WA ACRATH Coordinator, together with Vanesa Ghigi, Red Cross Case Manager on The Support For Trafficked People Program, worked in partnership with WA Department of Health, DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in Canberra, and the AFP (Australian Federal Police) in Perth, to organise and deliver the Workshop.

This partnership resulted in a highly successful opportunity to provide insight into some of the key issues surrounding forced marriage, an overview of current laws and referral pathways, and the opportunity to discuss how to best support those in, or at risk of, forced marriage in WA.

Workshop presenters included Dr Carol Kaplanian of WA Department of Health, Maxine Hewitt of DFAT in Canberra, Vanesa Ghigi of Red Cross, AFP Officer Carly Smith, and myself. Kathy Fagan, who is an exceptional ambassador for ACRATH, capably facilitated the Workshop.

Through high quality presentations and group discussions, practitioners were assisted to be better equipped with skills and information required to be able to recognise the indicators of forced marriage. They were guided to an enhanced understanding of Australia's response to early and forced marriage, and they also had opportunities to share how to respond to disclosures by making appropriate referrals.

The response to the Workshop by participants was overwhelmingly positive. There was a palpable energy in the room, and the networking that took place was extensive. People left stating that they understood more about early and forced marriage than they had when they arrived. They expressed their appreciation to Kathy and Vanesa, and there was a great sense of connection and camaraderie evident.

I was so proud to be a member of the ACRATH Team during the Workshop, and was so impressed by the professionalism and competence of WA's Coordinator, Kathy Fagan. Kathy has obviously nurtured strong relationships with colleague organisations, and she is held in high regard within the network of these organisations.

Being part of the Workshop was a real privilege, and my own understandings significantly grew as a result. I thank and congratulate Kathy and her WA ACRATH Team on such a fabulous achievement!

Liz Payne ACRATH Community Development Worker



We acknowledge the funds received under a grant from the Australian Government. ACRATH also needs core business funding and additional funding for special projects.

Please consider a regular donation to ACRATH so that we can plan ahead.

Contact Christine at the National Office
eo@acrath.org.au

NATIONAL OFFICE

54 Beaconsfield Pde
 Albert Park, VIC 3206

Ph: 03 9645 5986

www.acrath.org.au

info@acrath.org.au