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People are NOT for sale

ACRATH News

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans

July 2022

Please donate today

HELP US ADVOCATE
HELP US EDUCATE
HELP US CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGE
HELP US TO SUPPORT THE VICTIM/SURVIVORS

TAKE ACTION IN JULY!

Modern slavery exists in Australia today in forced marriage, forced labour and slavery-tainted supply chains.

ACRATH is working with the community, government, health, education and civic leaders to bring about systemic change and prevent human trafficking and slavery. We rely on your generosity to do this.

We asked you to help us raise \$200,000 in this campaign and you have given us \$130,000. Help us reach our \$200,000 goal by July 30 the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

We ask YOU to help us to continue our important work spreading the message that 'PEOPLE ARE NOT FOR SALE!' by donating today.



HELP US ADVOCATE, HELP UP EDUCATE,
HELP US CONTRIBUTE TO CHANGE,
HELP US TO SUPPORT THE VICTIM/SURVIVORS

DONATE TODAY

Breakfast celebrating women leaders

Join us in an online ACRATH breakfast on Tuesday 16 August to celebrate women leaders going forward from the recent Plenary Council. During the breakfast we will discuss women and leadership. While women in leadership are nothing new to ACRATH, it has been a point of much discussion in the recent Plenary Council.

JOIN ACRATH ZOOM

Breakfast Celebrating Women Leaders



Clare Condon sgs
ACRATH President



Elizabeth Young rsm
ACRATH member

When: Tuesday 16 August at 8am (Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney time) via zoom



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Come to our zoom breakfast and hear ACRATH President Clare Condon sgs and ACRATH member Elizabeth Young rsm share their thoughts and views about the Plenary Council and how they see the role of women in leadership in the Catholic Church.

After hearing the two speakers, participants will be invited into small breakout groups to share their perspectives and hopes for the future.

The online breakfast event, Breakfast Celebrating Women Leaders, will be held on **Tuesday 16 August at 8am** (Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney time).

Please join our breakfast [here](#)

Showing Mercy

ACRATH Companions can now respond more effectively to the needs of victim/survivors of human trafficking because of a \$20,000 grant from the Mercy Foundation. The \$20,000 Mercy Practical Assistance Program will provide victim/survivors of human trafficking with money to help them in their recovery, to combat poverty and address disadvantage.

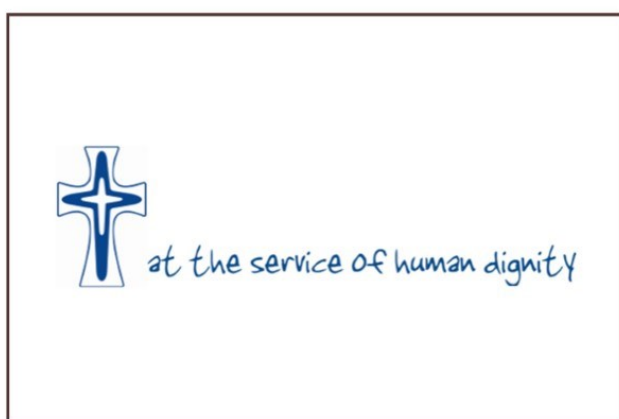
The Mercy Practical Assistance Program means that ACRATH's 13 trained and supervised volunteer Companions can better support the 34 trafficked women and their 45 children who are part of the Companionship Program.

ACRATH's Cindy Bohan said the grant meant that a dedicated amount of money is now available to assist the victim/survivors:

- Recover from trauma
- Find employment
- Advance their education
- Obtain accommodation
- Improve language skills
- Gain a driver's license
- Obtain medical treatment and medications that aren't funded by other resources
- Obtain family support - material aid, childcare, access to holiday program, extra school expenses

"This grant from Mercy Foundations is a fantastic boost to the support we can now offer through our Companions. As soon as we received the grant we were able to assist one woman with fees for the final subjects of a nursing course. Last year, during our fundraising campaign we sought money for one young woman to have vital eye surgery. These are the sorts of needs that come along and now we can respond with surety, thanks to the Mercy Foundation," Cindy said.

"We know that our Companions are very conscious of the needs of the women they support. But really it is the women victim/survivors who will tell us what they need to move ahead in their lives. There are so many things we take for granted to live a full life and to look to the future. That's not the case for so many of these women and their children. We hope that can change now."



Another way of giving

The Toorak Op Shop, in one of Melbourne's richest suburbs, is known for its great quality clothes and famous high-end brands at bargain prices. For ACRATH, the shop is known for its extraordinary generosity. For several years the Toorak Op Shop has made an annual donation to ACRATH. In the past four years alone the Toorak Op Shop has donated more than \$11,000 to ACRATH, continuing their support through the pandemic.

The Toorak Op Shop's generosity to ACRATH and the victim/survivors of human trafficking goes back a long way. ACRATH is one of the many recipients of the Op Shop profits. Since it began in 1980 the Op Shop has distributed more than \$3.5 million to various community organisations.

Back in 1980 the Toorak Uniting Church, St John's Anglican Church Toorak and St Peter's Catholic Church Toorak joined forces and set up an op shop hoping to attract donations that they could sell and use the money to support community organisations. Forty-two years later the Op Shop is going strong.

Treasurer Phillip Thomas said Chairman Ted Mouritz was a driving force behind the continuing success of the shop, which is run completely by volunteers, mostly from the three church communities. The volunteers not only run the shop, they sort and wash the clothes to ensure they are in excellent condition before going on the racks.

The Op Shop distributes profits twice a year based on recommendations from each of the three church communities and the volunteers. How much ACRATH gets each year depends on how much profit has been made.

Phillip, a member of the St Peter's parish community, said he knew very little about human trafficking before Parish Priest Fr Brendan Hayes asked him to take over as treasurer a couple of years ago. He has since developed an understanding of some of the issues.

"Since I began in this role I have also come to see how many wonderful organisations there are out in the community that are doing great work for others," Phillip said. "Some organisations receive money regularly, but sometimes there are one off donations such as during the bush fires. In our most recent allocations we donated money to 18 organisations."

Buyers and donors are most welcome the Toorak Op Shop which is small in size due to costly rent in the area.

The Toorak Op Shop at 1A Carters Ave, Toorak, is open six days a week – not Sundays - between noon and 4pm

Your purchase will help community organisations including ACRATH who supports victim/survivors of human trafficking.



Justice work in schools

Keep Wednesday **August 31** free to join a very special ACRATH Conversation.

Two inspirational teachers and social justice leaders from schools in Victoria and Western Australia will join ACRATH's Cindy Bohan in Conversation.

Please note that this Conversation, *Human Trafficking – are schools having an impact?* will be held at **3.30pm (Melbourne Sydney time and 1.30pm in WA)** to accommodate those friends in WA who want to join the event.

The Conversation will look at how schools are integrating social justice, and human trafficking in particular, into their curriculum and broader school culture.

Gemma Thomson, Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity at Iona Presentation College in Mosman Park WA and Ruth Bakogianis a teacher and social justice leader at St Mary of the Angels Secondary College in Nathalia, Victoria, will talk about what is happening in their schools and the role of students in leading justice works at school and in life.

Both schools are known for their support of ACRATH as well as long histories in social justice works. Gemma and Ruth are engaged with different aspects of ACRATH's work including attending the Conversation series.

"We know from many of our supporters that engaging young people can be a challenge. So it is wonderful to be able to have these two remarkable teachers with us to hear how they are doing just that in their schools," Cindy said.

"Of course this Conversation will be particularly relevant to teachers, but we believe that it will offer so much to any community wanting to develop social justice initiatives in their network."

Click [here](#) to join the zoom Conversation.

ACRATH's June conversation looked at the need for a National Compensation Scheme for Victim/Survivors of Modern Slavery. Professor Jennifer Burn, director of Anti-Slavery Australia was our guest for this June Conversation. Modern slavery is a violation of human rights. In Australia it is a federal crime and yet there is no federal Victims of Crime Compensation mechanism. Jennifer Burn is leading a campaign calling on the federal government to remedy this lack. ACRATH strongly endorses this campaign.

If you missed the ACRATH June Conversation Series a recording of the event can be viewed [here](#).

IT and trafficking video released

ACRATH has released a new resource to mark July 30 – the UN declared World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The 70-second video clip is another collaboration between ACRATH Companion Liz Payne, her brother Matt James and ACRATH supporter Marilyn Ross. The video, now available for download is a wonderful resource with accurate up-to-date information and statistics. The theme of this UN-declared day is **Use and Abuse of Technology**. Criminals are using online platforms to recruit, exploit and control their victims. However technology also provides a tool to aid law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting criminals. The video offers important information and referral points.



We invite you to watch this free video and share what you learn. Or consider using it as a resource in your community. Teachers could also use the video to start a conversation about human trafficking.

Download the resource [here](#).



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IN CONVERSATION HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Are schools having an impact?



Gemma Thomson



Ruth Bakogianis

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**For inquiries please email us at
office@acrath.org.au**

**NOTE
SPECIAL
TIME**

**Wednesday, August 31,
Cuppa at 3.15 pm
(Melbourne Sydney time)
Conversation: 3:30 - 4pm**



Link to zoom event

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88314457711?pwd=dllLUFpCcDRhNkowTHhnaFF>

Show your face

Show your face and be part of the United Nations Blue Heart Campaign on Saturday 30 July, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The campaign encourages people to raise awareness of human trafficking and inspire action to combat human trafficking.

The faces of ACRATH staff, volunteers and supporters will be showing up on ACRATH social media on Saturday as part of the campaign. Join in to show your solidarity.

The Blue Heart is increasingly recognised as the international symbol against human trafficking, representing the sadness of those trafficked while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings.

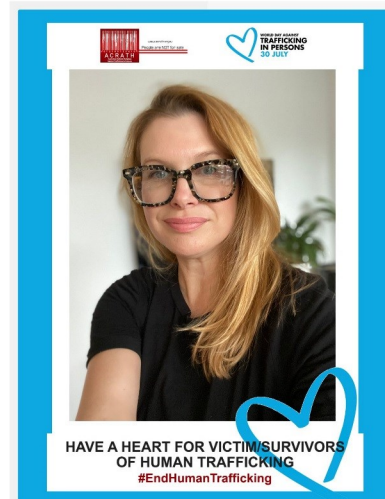
The campaign allows people to show their solidarity with the victims of human trafficking and increase their visibility by sharing the Blue Heart.

There's still time for you to join us in this campaign by showing us your face.

We encourage everyone to join ACRATH in this year's Blue Heart Campaign by sending a photo to Ange, ACRATH's Communications Leader (pictured), via email: networks@acrath.org.au by Thursday 28 July. So please find a photo on your phone or computer and send it to Ange. She will add it to a virtual border, with logos and the hashtag #EndHumanTrafficking.

Your photo will appear on ACRATH's social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) as part of a virtual wall to demonstrate our support and solidarity in numbers. No names will be used.

For more information about the UN Blue Heart Campaign go to: <https://www.unodc.org/blueheart/index.html>



Call to action

Talitha Kum's annual report is an important document that highlights the enormous combined global reach and impact of the anti-trafficking networks. The 2021 report illustrates what can be achieved when we join together in spirit and action to eliminate human trafficking, and provide for care, healing, empowerment and restoration for those women, children and men who have been trafficked and exploited.



Talitha Kum promotes collaboration among networks organised at national, regional and continental level, actively supporting victims, survivors and people at risk. ACRATH member Colleen Jackson rsc is the Talitha Kum representative for Oceania.

Talitha Kum addresses the systemic causes that leave people at risk of falling into the hands of trafficking networks.

The annual report calls us all to action. Read the report and find out what you can do [link here](#)

ACRATH needs core business funding and additional funding for special projects.

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

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/acrath>
or <https://acrath.org.au/donate>

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

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