

Forced marriage going forward

It's a decade since the passing of the legislation, criminalising forced marriage in Australia. It was a significant achievement after many years of advocacy by ACRATH and others. The then Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Attorney General Mark Dreyfus announced the law on International Women's Day 2013.

A recent event at Parliament House marking the 10th anniversary of the legislation, which inserted forced marriage, forced labour and organ trafficking offences into the Criminal Code Act 1995, was a good time to reflect on what has been achieved and to target more reform in the next decade.

ACRATH's Executive Officer Christine Carolan, who is a member of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, was invited to speak at the commemorative gathering hosted by the Attorney General. ACRATH President Clare Condon and web manager Noelene Simmons attended the event.

"We knew a woman, Mae, who had been forced to marry so we took the story to the Office of Women back in 2008. It was our ACRATH contribution to the conversation that said we need a law to stop this happening," Christine reflected.

"Advocacy has always been ACRATH's strength because we can link MPs to the reality of what is happening and that can lead to structural change. We took Mae's terrible story of a forced marriage to the Department of Women; Tanya Plibersek was the Minister for Women at the time. Three Parliamentary inquiries followed, eventually leading to the legislation in 2013."

"At the time there was opposition to making this a law, but Attorney General Nicola Roxon rejected that opposition and pushed it through. She believed the law would act as a deterrent for those forcing a woman to marry; it would also provide strength to a young woman who needed to avoid or flee a forced marriage."

ACRATH has continued to carry the stories of young people facing a forced marriage to Parliament so that their voices are heard. This happens often through ACRATH's highly successful Companionship Program. Several girls and young women who faced a forced marriage have been supported by some of ACRATH's 16 trained and supervised volunteer companions. Some of the victim/survivors have been supported for years as they face the long journey of healing.

As well as providing support to trafficked people, ACRATH has spent much of the past decade talking to community groups and training front-line health workers about forced marriage and the referral pathways of support for those who are trafficked or at risk.

Christine said ACRATH's current advocacy focus was to ensure that forced marriage is recognised as a form of family violence. In late 2022 ACRATH worked successfully with 120 family violence workers and the Australian Federal Police in Gippsland to explore the links between family violence and forced marriage.



Sarah's still loving slavery-free chocolate

Sarah Coffey happily agreed to be the 'poster girl' for ACRATH's slavery-free Easter chocolate campaign in 2014. Today, she's still promoting slavery-free chocolate and eating it!

Sarah's image has been used over the years as a message to consumers that slavery-free chocolate, certified FAIR TRADE or Rainforest Alliance, is as delicious as other chocolate. And so much sweeter because slavery and child labour have not been part of the chocolate's supply chain.

Join Sarah and many other ACRATH supporters in this Easter's 'Be A Good Egg' Easter Campaign (link to page). The campaign asks you to:

- Download the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard to find out what's really going into your chocolate and how your favourite brands rate.
- Be an influencer and share your chocolate (online) by taking a selfie/or photo with your Easter chocolate (after checking its rating on the scorecard) then uploading the photo to your favourite social media platform with the following text: "I'm a good Egg! I've joined ACRATH's Good Egg Easter Campaign and have committed to buying only Easter chocolate from brands that commit to making slavery-free chocolate."
- Join Us, Share your message, and don't forget to tag us or email us at networks@acrath.org.au to be featured in our campaign on our social media. We will be publishing photos from schools, individuals and workplaces.

Sarah checked out the 2022 Be Slavery Free Scorecard before eating her Tony's Chocolonely chocolate and was delighted to discover that it rated very highly. In fact the scorecard noted, "Previous scorecard 'Good Eggs' Alter Eco, Tony's Chocolonely and Whittaker's continue to be best in class". Sarah dug a bit further and found that Tony's Chocolonely work with 6 cocoa cooperatives: 2 in Ghana and 4 in Ivory Coast. The buying practices ensure the growers are paid a just wage.

"Yeah to Tony Chocolonely. The chocolate is absolutely delicious and it's even better knowing that the chocolate is produced by people paid a fair wage," said Sarah, who is currently finishing her primary teaching degree at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne.

"My family has been hearing about slavery-free chocolate for years from ACRATH. Sometimes I forget and buy chocolate that isn't certified Rainforest Alliance or FAIR TRADE. But I do my best. I encourage others to join this year's campaign."

Find out more about ACRATH's 'Be A Good Egg' Easter chocolate campaign [here](#).



Minister urges MPs to go slavery- free



Victoria's Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas has urged all Members of Parliament to make their electorate offices slavery-free, starting with tea, coffee and chocolate.

"I am certain that no one in this place wants to drink beverages where there's slave labour in the supply chains that bring them to us. It's a simple and small action that can make a significant difference," Minister Thomas told the Victorian Parliament during her member's address on 23rd February 2023.

In her address, Minister Thomas introduced to the house, the ACRATH Victorian Advocacy Team's project around slavery-free staffrooms. Minister Thomas, the member for Macedon, said she and her staff had made the switch at her electorate office in Gisborne. ACRATH's Victorian Advocacy Team has worked closely with the Minister's electorate office for two years, raising awareness and seeking a slavery-free workplace.

"It was great to hear the project announced so clearly and enthusiastically," said advocacy team member Margaret Leahy. "As part of the project, in March, all Victorian MPs will receive an 'information pack' from ACRATH which includes a letter and a poster with an extensive price list for slavery-free tea, coffee and hot chocolate products."

In the letter to MPs ACRATH writes: "We are asking that you consciously choose coffee, tea and chocolate for your office that is slavery-free. We have included a poster for your kitchen with slavery-free brands, so it's easy for your staff to know what to buy the next time they are at the supermarket doing the milk run for the first morning coffee. This action will lead to an awareness of slavery-free practices with all the people you share a cuppa with, a great step to take in the fight to eradicate slavery. And we know: your cuppa will taste better".

Ms Leahy said the project was currently focusing on electorate offices but the next step would hopefully be the Victorian Parliament House.

Minister Thomas said, "We must, as a collective, contribute to and support grassroots campaigns such as this. By thinking globally but acting locally, we can change the world one cuppa at a time".

If you would like to assist this project by writing to your local MP, please contact Cindy Bohan, ACRATH's advocacy leader on 0429 584 943 or at cd@acrath.org.au

May 3 Gathering



www.acrath.org.au

People are NOT for sale

Hearts Stirred to Action

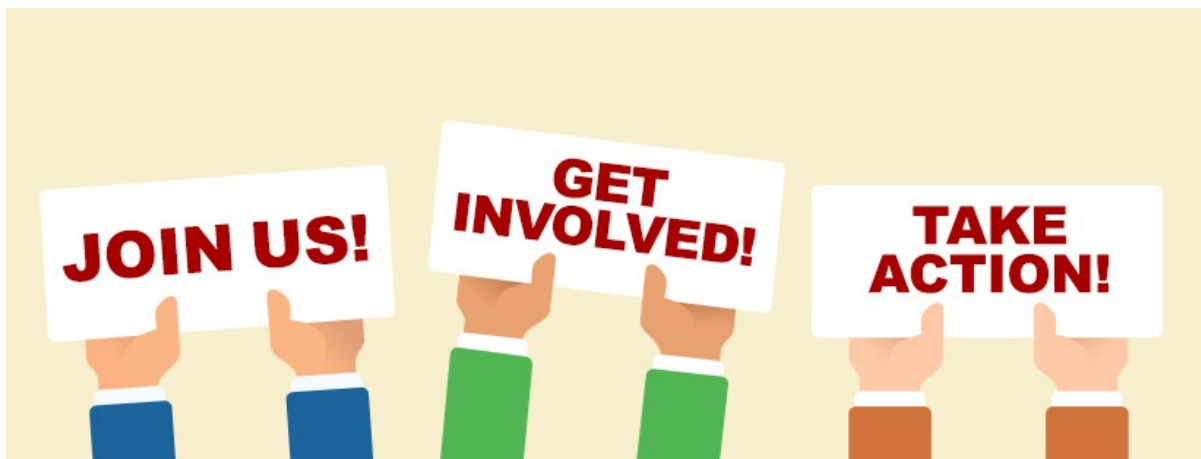
The Call of the Human Face of trafficking

ACRATH warmly invites you to join us as together we learn and explore causes and impact of human trafficking.

Wednesday 3 May 2023, online via Zoom

<p>Session 1</p> <p>11am-1pm (AEST)</p>	<p>Insights into how trafficking can occur</p> <p>Fr Khalid Marogi, National Director of Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, and Sr Taabeia Ibouri, a Good Samaritan Sister from Kiribati, explore with us the reality of the experiences of seasonal workers.</p>
<p>Session 2</p> <p>1.30-3.30pm (AEST)</p>	<p>How is the survivor voice stirring us to action?</p> <p>Engage with the learnings and wisdom of the Salvation Army's Lived Experience Engagement Program (LEEP) and ACRATH's Companionship Program.</p>

Please register to attend this event via TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CGYNM>



Hear the voices of ACRATH women

Did you hear the ACRATH voices on International Women's Day this year?

They were the voices speaking for trafficked women. ACRATH women leaders, Clare Condon, sgs ACRATH President, Melissa Halliday, Community Development Team Member and Elizabeth Young rsm, ACRATH member, shared their thoughts, reflections and advice this International Women's Day.

<https://acrath.org.au/share-your-voice-this-international-womens-day/>

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day

Q & A with



**Clare
Condon** sgs

President ACRATH



**Melissa
Halliday**

ACRATH Community
Development Team
Advocate against Human
Trafficking and Forced Marriage



**Elizabeth
Young** rsm

ACRATH Member



www.acrath.org.au
People are NOT for sale

Call to action March/April 2023

ACRATH supports the work of many like-minded organisations both in Australia and globally. Many produce resources that can be used in a variety of settings and some have campaigns underway. Our newsletter regularly includes this page, encouraging people to find out more and consider becoming involved in actions.

ABC TV, Foreign Correspondent

The scammers who are lured to Cambodia with the promise of a good job, find they have been sold to scam syndicates. They are then held against their will and forced to scam across the world.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/programs/foreign>

ABC TV, Foreign Correspondent: Saving the Children

The demand for live streaming child sexual abuse is so high in Australia that AFP officers are now based permanently in the Philippines working with an international task force investigating this distressing cyber-crime.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-02/saving-the-children/102046494>

ACRATH has been working in this space for about five years, supporting a young teenager, working with the Australian Federal Police and now advocating for compensation for victims of this shocking crime.

A Survivor of human trafficking finds her voice - interview with Jo Casamento, Mercy Works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxibLh7X3cM>

<https://www.mercyworks.org.au/cherilyn-finds-her-voice/>

Global Labor Justice: Fight the Heist

<https://globallaborjustice.org/>

Breaking the Silence, a proposal for whistleblower protections to enable migrant workers to address exploitation

<https://www.migrantjustice.org/highlights/highlights/2023/2/27/breaking-the-silence-whistleblower-protections-to-enable-migrant-workers-to-address-exploitation>

As migration returns to Australia, advocates call for more protections for exploited workers

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-01/wage-theft-migrant-exploitation-visa-immigration-policy/102025028>

Talitha Kum

<https://www.talithakum.info/en/news?lang=en>

Global Sisters Report: Trafficking

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/topics/trafficking>

Stop Trafficking Newsletter

<https://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/stop-trafficking-newsletter/>

Work Right Hub, Australian Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org.au/workrighthub/>

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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