



# Join 24-hour pilgrimage

Join thousands of people around the world on 8<sup>th</sup> February to mark the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking, which is celebrated on the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman who was trafficked as a child and became a Canossian Sister.

Talitha Kum is coordinating the online pilgrimage, *Journeying with Dignity*. While the pilgrimage is global, the early part of the event will feature a video about a group of young social justice advocates from Nathalia, in country Victoria.

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# Shirley's passion written on every page



Thanks to Shirley Eldridge for donating proceeds of her recently published book to ACRATH.

Shirley's moving account of a young woman who was trafficked, was highlighted at the Australian Catholic Press Association Conference in Perth late last year. ACRATH Community

Development Worker Melissa Halliday, who

attended the conference, described the book as 'a story of great heart'.

Photo credit: Fiona Basile Read more

## It's chocolate, so Indulge Responsibly.



Join with the one billion responsible 'indulgers' this Easter and watch what chocolate you eat.

Join ACRATH's *Indulge Responsibly* Easter chocolate campaign starting on Ash Wednesday, 14th February 2024. Much of the world's

chocolate, including some of what is sold in Australian shops and supermarkets, is produced using cocoa beans harvested by child labourers, many of whom endure enslavement and poor, sometimes dangerous, working conditions.

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## **Research applauds Companionship Program**



Judy Lamb started researching the work of ACRATH Companions almost two years ago. The resulting 10-page publication, ACRATH Companionship Project Research Paper, has been published and is now available on the ACRATH website.Walk Free's Global Slavery Index estimates that up to 41,000 people now live in modern slavery in Australia. ACRATH's Companionship Program supports a small number of these people, but this program also has an impact on ACRATH's broader advocacy and awareness-raising work.

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# **ACRATH joins Pope Francis in tops for 2023**

ACRATH joined illustrious company when it was declared a person/organisation of the year (2023) by Jesuit



Publications' *Eureka Street* magazine. Laura Kings, Assistant editor of Australian Catholics, chose ACRATH and Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians and Member for Barton.

Other senior Jesuit Publication staff and writers, including Fr Andy Hamilton sj and *Eureka Street* editor David Halliday, chose people including Pope Francis and Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus.

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## **Calls to Action in February**



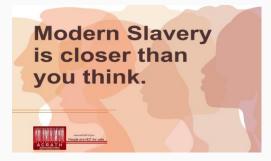
ACRATH supports the work of many like-minded organisations both in Australia and globally.

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 and advocacy.

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### **REGISTER NOW**



The Annual ACRATH Members Gathering and General Meeting will be held in March 2024 in Sydney. It will be the first face-to-face gathering since COVID, so members are looking forward to meeting each other and considering the important theme: *Modern Slavery is closer than you think....* 

On the evening of Wednesday, 20 March, 2024 at 7.15-8.15pm (AEDT) the Keynote Speaker session will be open to interested partners via a Zoom Webinar.

The Keynote Speaker will be: Ms Cary Duffy, A/g Assistant Secretary, Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Transition Branch

**Registration** is required by Monday 11 March. Please email your name and organisation (if relevant) to secretary@acrath.org.au

The link details will be forwarded to registered people close to the event.

By donating to ACRATH you can help in the fight against human trafficking and slavery in Australia and beyond.















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