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People are NOT for sale

Reflecting on ACRATH's past and being part of its future

I first became aware of ACRATH about 17 years ago when I was working as a teacher and social justice co-ordinator in a congregational school in Sydney. Modern slavery was an abstract idea, something belonging to a distant time or place. Alongside my students, I learned how we are often unwittingly supporting the systems and structures that perpetuate the exploitation of millions of people, and about the practical steps we could take to combat modern slavery. Later, I had the privilege to be part of the partnership between ACRATH and St. Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA), as a member of the working group charged with implementing the SVHA Anti-Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Project.

So, it was with great excitement and hope that I attended the 2024 ACRATH Members Gathering at Baulkham Hills, my first such event since becoming a member last year. And I was not disappointed!

It is no exaggeration to say that I was blown away by the impact and influence that ACRATH continues to have in eliminating human trafficking. I had the privilege to listen to long-serving members share their insights about how to achieve genuine engagement in educational settings, wisdom that has come through sustained effort and a willingness to learn from experience. I witnessed first-hand the deep respect held for the authenticity and impact of ACRATH's work by people in government, parliament and across the networks of organisations working towards ending modern slavery. I witnessed both implicitly and explicitly the power and value of collaboration, networking, accompaniment and genuine stakeholder engagement, to make real change in the world. I saw an agile organisation, ready with open hearts and minds to go where it is called.



I left the gathering much richer than I arrived, and two things have stayed with me. The first is the breadth of achievement ACRATH has had over the years (the phrase "punches way above its weight" came to mind often). The other is the need to capture the wisdom and experience of ACRATH members to ensure our impact endures. Over the course of the gathering, more than one member mentioned that they were looking forward being able to take a step back soon. Perhaps it is time to focus on developing the next generation of ACRATH members – consolidating ways of working in partnership with young people to form the next generation of modern slavery companions, advocates and educators, fine tuning education programs and extending their reach. I am looking forward to being part of whatever comes next!

Check out the National Gathering video highlights [here](#).

Calendar questions for you

ACRATH's calendar has been published for many years and is popular with our supporters.

To help us provide more of what you want in the calendar we invite you to be part of a survey we

[Here's the survey](#)

50 million
people worldwide
in modern slavery

Modern slavery is closer than you think

Estimated number living in modern slavery in Australia:
41,000

ACRATH
2024
Calendar

ACRATH Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking In Humans

Julia leaves her mark

Julia Trimboli (pictured below) discovered the injustices of human trafficking a long time ago. She was working at Catholic Health Australia and heard about a group of ACRATH people visiting Parliament House in Canberra advocating for policy change for people who had been trafficked into Australia. Ever since finding out that people around the globe, including Australia, are living and working in slave-like conditions she's tried to bring the issues into her workplace. Now, as a newly elected National Committee member, Julia says she will help ACRATH continue its work and ensure sustainability.

Julia was elected to ACRATH's National Committee at its recent Annual General Meeting. Much of Julia's career has focussed on nurturing an organisation's mission with staff in the workplace and boardroom. She most recently spent two years with the Mater Hospital in Queensland as the mission project lead for the merger of the newly created One Mater QLD.

"My work as a mission leader at various catholic hospitals and health settings, is about nourishing the leader's role in leading the mission in their area and exploring what 'the healing ministry of Jesus' means to them in their work. Part of this exploration aims to share that the Gospel message should be a very liberating thing. It's about understanding that Jesus accompanies people, he never abandons them." It's the ACRATH way.

During COVID Julia, in her work as mission leader at St John of God Healthcare, used the 'online environment' to work with ACRATH. In partnership with St John of God Health Care (SJGHC), ACRATH ran a formation program for leaders from SJGHC facilities in Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Australia. The sessions raised awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery and what can be done within SJGHC to identify and support trafficked people and to identify slavery in supply chains.

Since Julia put this training in place, ACRATH has delivered 22 two-hour training sessions to middle managers in SJGHC; this ACRATH online training has been affirmed over and over.

"Through most of my career I've been drawn to working to make a difference to the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Working with ACRATH at St John of God was a very real way of doing this. The program helped staff develop an understanding of human trafficking and raised awareness of how to respond if a trafficked person presented to a St John of God Hospital," she said.

While the community's understanding of human trafficking has developed in recent years, Julia believes the challenge is to help that knowledge affect change.

"I have faith in our ability to make change. I have seen it happen many times, especially in large organisations, where supply chains have been examined and work is being done to try and reduce the risk of human trafficking in the production of goods through systematic change via good policies and procedures".

The ACRATH National Committee members are:

Clare Condon sgs – President
Carmel Heagerty rsm - National Secretary
Shane Wood cfc – Treasurer
Annette Arnold rsj
Michael Mooney
Lisa McDonald
Meredith Evans rsm
Julia Trimboli



Tony's chocolate a fave all round

Some of ACRATH's favourite chocolate makers have topped the charts again in this year's *Be Slavery Free 5th Chocolate Scorecard*. The scorecard, which includes 63 companies, has given Tony's Choclonely a very high rating and many of the people who participated in ACRATH's Easter chocolate *Indulge Responsibly* campaign, echoed that score.



The Be Slavery Free scorecard [here](#) rates the chocolate companies in six areas, including: living income, child labour, traceability and transparency and pesticides. There were some encouraging changes since last year's 4th annual scorecard, but there's a long way to go. In summary: When it comes to paying a living wage, most believe it is a human right, but only six companies are paying a living wage to cocoa bean farmers; child labour is still being used, too much pesticide is still being used, but there is increased traceability across companies.

Each year the scorecard names select companies that are leading in different areas and this year the winners are:

1. Tony's Choclonely – the Achievement Award for being a leader and attaining
2. green (industry leader) 5 years in a row!
3. Ritter – for overall best practices for a large chocolate company.
4. Original Beans and Beyond Good tied for best overall practices for a small
5. chocolate company.
6. Chocolate Makers for the Innovation Award.
7. Lidl and Pladis joint winners for the Gender Award for innovation in supporting
8. females in cocoa growing.

ACRATH's Ange Duthie said supporters sent in photos of themselves with their slavery-free chocolate and many featured Tony's Choclonely products, and Australia's own Haigh's Chocolates and Chocolatier Australia.

"We know that people are spreading the word and sharing with others through our social media, which saw a massive increase in the days leading up to Easter Sunday. More than ever, the free poster and resources proved popular—we had so many printed and distributed very widely," Ange said.

"A lot of organisations look to ACRATH to produce resources which they then distribute, and we are excited with these collaborations which are across the community, such as Xavier College in Victoria, parishes in South Australia, CathNews, and Catholic agencies including Catholic Social Services Victoria and Catholic Religious Australia."

According to Be Slavery Free, "The chocolate industry is undergoing significant change, but certain aspects, such as farmer poverty, remain unchanged despite being a longstanding issue. It is essential that the chocolate industry continues to prioritize sustainability, fair labour practices, and environmental conservation. This includes ensuring fair compensation for farmers, promoting responsible sourcing practices, reducing pesticide use, and safeguarding against child labour, any forced labour and deforestation."

"Moreover, the chocolate industry has the resources to address these challenges. It is powerful and lucrative. Consumption is around 1 kg for each person on the planet – that is 7.7 billion people! Forecasted revenue growth stands at 5.6%, surpassing global economic growth estimates of 2.6%. In 2024, it is expected to generate around US\$254 billion."

Ange said many of the issues around chocolate production, particularly child labour and the failure to pay farmers a living wage, seemed overwhelming, but the willingness of consumers around the world to buy ethically sourced chocolate, gave hope.

To read [here](#) to find out how your favourite chocolate scored. Please note that not all chocolate companies are included in the scorecard.

Revealing Q&A with Mercy Links 'New Yorker'

Isabel (Izzy) Salter is an ACRATH SA Member. She's an amazing young woman currently in New York undertaking a 10-month internship with Mercy Global Action (MGA), the justice arm and United Nations office of Mercy International Association (MIA). MIA is the international body which represents the Sisters of Mercy, their Associates, and their partners in ministry around the world.

Izzy, 22, joined ACRATH in 2022 and is participating in a Q&A, sharing her insights into the views and actions of her contemporaries. It's an important reflection from a young woman who is likely to have an impact on justice issues in the future.

1. Izzy, how did you first hear about ACRATH and what inspired you to become involved?

For over four years, I have been a volunteer at Young Mercy Links (YML) SA, a youth social justice group supported by ISMAPNG (Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea). Among a range of other initiatives, YML has a particular focus on accompanying members of South Australia's refugee and asylum seeker community as they settle into Australian society. The connections I made through YML sparked my interest in migration and motivated me to get involved in advocacy efforts for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia.

When I stepped up as a Program Support Coordinator at YML, I was invited to join ACRATH SA and lead the collaboration between the two groups. Eager to deepen my understanding of the connections between migration, human trafficking, and labour exploitation, and already passionate about ethical fashion, I readily accepted the opportunity. I'm very glad I did!

I have felt embraced by ACRATH SA from my very first meeting, and have received constant encouragement – particularly from Angela Hart and Sr Meredith Evans rsm – to continue growing within the group.

2. Many young people are familiar with modern day slavery through fast fashion. How did you first learn about modern slavery?

I first learnt about modern slavery through the Justice and Mercy group at my school (St Aloysius College Adelaide), which is fondly known as 'JAM'. Each year on Fairtrade Day, we would run a coffee stall out the front of the school using Fairtrade certified beans. Some years we also put on a clothing swap or a thrifted fashion parade. These initiatives sparked my awareness of the ethical implications of consumerism from a young age. When grocery shopping with Mum, there would always be a new product I'd plead with her to boycott... From palm oil, to chocolate, to cotton pads. Here, a quote by Pope Francis stands out to me: *"Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act."*

3. Is it an issue that is on the radar of your friends and networks, or is it still to gain traction as a justice issue?

Yes, human trafficking and forced labour are on my friends' radars, predominantly in relation to the fashion industry. I've noticed a lot of my friends and people my age being more conscious of where they buy their clothes and rejecting notorious fast-fashion brands. It's now considered really cool to purchase from thrift stores, and to reinvent, repair, and re-wear old items. I think social media has played a huge role in this, especially organisations like 'Fashion Revolution' which have a big presence on Instagram.

However, exploitation isn't really something my friends discuss in the context of other industries, such as technology, coffee, or chocolate. For technology at least, it's kind of impossible to shop ethically when certain brands have such a monopoly on the industry. Food products can be difficult for a few reasons... It can be tricky to identify the ethical option with so many businesses greenwashing and creating their own certifications, and even when the ethical option is clear, it's often the more expensive one, which is difficult for young people to afford.



4. You are currently in New York, can you talk a little about your work there?

Yes! I'm currently undertaking a 10-month internship with Mercy Global Action (MGA).

MGA has held special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) since 1998. This allows MGA to place items on the ECOSOC agenda, attend UN conferences, and submit oral and written statements. The role of the office is to maintain a reciprocal relationship with the Mercy World, on one hand bringing the best practices and grassroots expertise of the Mercy World to the UN, and on the other, bringing the goals of the UN back to the Mercy World for consultation and implementation.

My role has involved identifying opportunities to engage with the UN on MGA's priority justice issues – 'degradation of earth' and 'displacement of people', participating in issue-based NGO working groups at the UN, assisting with research and drafting processes for MGA publications and position statements, representing MGA at UN conferences, and writing about MGA's work in our monthly newsletter.

Highlights so far have included representing MGA at the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, organising and attending an advocacy 'mission visit' to the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, hosting the 9 women from Cohort 3 of the MGA Emerging Leaders Fellowship during their New York City immersion, and hearing the extraordinary Malala Yousafzai speak at an event about women's rights in Afghanistan. It's been such an extraordinary experience, and it feels very aligned with what I want to be doing.

5. What are you learning in this internship that is likely to influence your work/life in Australia?

This experience has solidified my passion for developing and advocating for policies which address the real needs of people. I've also learnt a lot about the invaluable role of civil society – especially faith-based organisations – within governance structures such as the UN. They tend to bring a lens of human dignity and compassion that is easily lost in the bureaucracy of UN processes and the political manoeuvring of ambassadors. They also make room for the voices of people with lived experience, which is key to developing effective policy solutions.

6. When you finish the internship, what work will you be involved in in Australia?

I came to New York with the hope of narrowing down my professional interests, and instead they've just about multiplied by ten! I'm not quite sure which path I'll take next, but what I do know is that I'd like to continue working in a space where I'm advocating for the rights of people and the planet – perhaps through policy design at the national level.

7. You are attending the Talitha Kum gathering - what a year of big events for you! What do you hope will come from this gathering?

Yes, I feel very blessed thinking about the opportunities that have unfolded for me this year. It still feels surreal to be working across from the United Nations, a place I admired from afar throughout my International Relations degree. And now, as I prepare to journey to Rome for the 2024 Talitha Kum General Assembly, I am filled with hope and anticipation.

On a personal level, I hope to deepen my understanding of the diverse regional experiences of human trafficking, and to learn from seasoned advocates who have many years of experience in advocating for victim-survivors. I'm excited to bring these insights back to ACRATH SA.

For Talitha Kum as a collective, I hope the conference serves as a moment to reflect on and celebrate the organisation's profound impact over the past 15 years. I also hope it will ignite a renewed sense of purpose and determination, reaffirming our commitment to ending human trafficking despite the challenges which lay ahead.

8. How do you see yourself making a difference to those who are trafficked?

I see myself making a difference by sticking with ACRATH and continuing to educate myself, raise awareness, and advocate for policies which not only improve the lives and wellbeing of victim-survivors, but which prevent human trafficking and exploitation in the first place.

Coming from ACRATH SA, which isn't involved in the direct accompaniment of victim-survivors, it can be easy to feel disconnected from the issues of human trafficking and modern slavery at times. So, doing this work requires a degree of faith. My true work will be maintaining that faith and understanding that even when the suffering is not visible, and when the outcomes of our advocacy aren't immediately apparent, we are still contributing to a future free of exploitation.

ACRATH goes to uni

ACRATH has embarked on an education program across Australian universities to equip students and staff with the skills to identify human trafficking and ways to respond to reports or concerns.

Educating for Change has already begun in collaboration with the University of South Australia and Flinders University and aims to reach 21 universities. It's an ambitious program spearheaded by ACRATH's Melissa Halliday with support from an advisory group made up of educators and policy makers, including St Vincent's Health Australia, Australian Federal Police and the NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner. Some universities, participating in the advisory group, are hoping to integrate the program into their institution as a pilot in 2024.

The program, funded by the Federal Government for two years, is made up of six 30-minute micro-credentialled modules, each targeting a different group, including a module for:

- Staff and students introducing them to basic information to raise their awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking.
- University staff, including counsellors, student services and international student bodies to help them recognise and respond to risks within the student population.
- Pre-service education, healthcare, law and social work students who will be moving into critical professions to help them identify the signs and indicators of modern slavery.

The online modules can be integrated into the course at a point determined by the lecturer.

Dr Nerida Chazal, an Online Course Facilitator for the Bachelor of Criminal Justice and the Bachelor of Psychological Science and Sociology at the University of South Australia is currently trialling integrating the modules into the criminology course. Dr Chazal has done extensive research examining human trafficking, modern slavery and gender violence.

"We will be very interested in the outcome of this trial. This is what is happening at the University of South Australia, but another university could choose to roll it out during Orientation Week, for example. Ideally each target group will see the introductory module and then the specialised module," Melissa said.

Melissa was joined by Flinders University A/Prof Marinella Marmo and ACRATH NEO Christine Carolan, to present the project to the recent ACRATH Members Gathering. The three spoke about the **Educating for Change** initiative and encouraged people to help ACRATH develop links with universities. At the end of the presentation three members of ACRATH in WA spoke of their links with universities in WA.

"We know that international students are particularly vulnerable to being exploited so we are making connections with those student and community bodies, but we would like help from people who have connections in universities," Melissa said.



EDUCATING FOR CHANGE
A MODERN SLAVERY AWARENESS INITIATIVE

"These modules are not all that people need to know to identify human trafficking, but it is teaching something that may mean a student, who enters a teaching or health profession in a few years, knows how to respond if they are concerned a person might be facing a forced marriage or being trafficked. They will know a pathway for support."

If you would like more information, or would like to get involved, please contact Melissa Halliday:

awareness@acrath.org.au

Call to action April 2024

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.

Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Speech to NSW Catholic Schools International Women's Day Breakfast

<https://www.tanyaplibersek.com/media/speeches/nsw-catholic-schools-iwd-breakfast-2024/>

It's been my great pleasure to work with ACRATH over many years - particularly in my time as Minister for Women...

Cambodian woman who feared falling victim to trafficking now studying law thanks to Auscam charity

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-03/cambodian-woman-avoids-trafficking-studies-law-auscam-charity/103484064>

Sr. [Colleen Jackson](#) RSC, Outgoing Regional Representative of Talitha Kum for Oceania

<https://www.talithakum.info/en/news/sr-colleen-jackson-rsc-outgoing-regional-representative-of-talitha-kum-for-oceania>

Sr. Annette Arnold RSJ, new Regional Representative of Talitha Kum for Oceania

<https://www.talithakum.info/en/news/annette-arnold-rsj-talitha-kum-oceania-regional-representative>

Sisters in Argentina Working to End Human Trafficking

<https://www.mercyworld.org/f/45074/x/fd839d2ec4/sisters-in-argentina-working-to-end-human-trafficking.pdf?cv=1707461750047>

Melbourne man on trial for exit trafficking after allegedly leaving wife stranded overseas without passport

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-21/man-leaves-wife-stranded-overseas-withdraws-partner-visa/103616534>

India's former high commissioner to Australia must pay penalty to domestic worker who earned less than \$10 a day for a year's work

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-20/india-former-high-commissioner-to-pay-penalty-to-domestic-worker/103609796>

Before Arnold Dix saved dozens from an underground tomb, he was a hero for Qatar's World Cup 'slaves'

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-04-15/arnold-dix-helped-migrant-workers-of-2022-fifa-world-cup/103610048>

Deal on EU ban on products made with forced labour

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240301IPR18592/deal-on-eu-ban-on-products-made-with-forced-labour>

Church of England fund 'not enough' to right slavery wrongs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjrjv9r1jyko>

Domestic workers in Hong Kong scared to speak up as rights dwindle

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-17/hong-kong-domestic-workers-fear-to-speak-out-about-rights-expats/103557152>

New Bill Would Protect Child Farmworkers in USA

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/03/21/new-bill-would-protect-child-farmworkers-us>

A global cocoa shortage could soon impact the price of chocolate, and PNG growers are cashing in

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-29/cocoa-crisis-poured-money-into-png-villages/103601514>

Stop Trafficking Newsletter

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

Global Sisters Report

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/sections/trafficking-0>

Freedom United

<https://www.freedomunited.org/>



We need you!



Lace up your running shoes and join ACRATH at [Run Melbourne](#) on Sunday, 21 July 2024, to raise money and help fund our education, advocacy, and victim/survivor support programs. Be part of our mission to eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery.

You can sign up and run with the 'friends of ACRATH' team or create your own team with friends or colleagues and run under the ACRATH STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING banner. Choose from a 5.5km walk/run with an entry fee of \$62 or a 10km run for \$85.

WHEN: 9AM - Sunday 21 July 2024.

WHERE: Start line at Batman Ave. Finish line at EventHub Grand Slam Oval, Melbourne Olympic Park.

Not a runner? You can still show your support by sponsoring our teams and cheering them on.

Learn more, donate or register your team today at <https://runmelbourne24.grassrootz.com/acrath>

For additional information, please contact Erin at functions@acrath.org.au

Have a blast running, or walking, past some of Melbourne's famous landmarks alongside your friends, family or running crew. As well as having a great day out you can make a difference to the lives of many victim/survivors of human trafficking and support ACRATH's programs.

Thank you for your support.

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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Come work with ACRATH

ACRATH is a dynamic social justice organisation with a passionate staff and volunteer base. There are two new Community Development positions coming up and you might be the perfect person to join the ACRATH team.



Seasonal Worker support promoter

ACRATH is seeking a Community Development worker for a 3 year project supporting seasonal workers across Australia from Timor Leste and the Pacific. The Community Development worker reports to the ACRATH National Executive Officer. Remuneration is according to the SCHCADS Award.

Location: Based in Melbourne at the ACRATH national office; the worker will need to travel within Victoria and also occasionally interstate, and some work from home is also possible.

EFT: 0.7, or 52.5 hours per fortnight. Hours and workplace are to be negotiated with the ACRATH NEO.

Closing Date: Sunday 28 April 2024. Interviews are scheduled for Wed 1 May 2024

Contact: To apply for this position, send a maximum 2 page response to the Role description below, and a current CV to: Christine Carolan, ACRATH National Executive Officer (NEO)

T 0427 302 755 **E** eo@acrath.org.au

The Role

The Community Development worker's role is to provide high quality support for seasonal workers. The worker will promote seasonal workers' wellbeing in many different ways, from practical support to policy development to encouraging volunteer initiatives to promoting community links.

Specifically the Community Development worker will:

- Work within the ACRATH seasonal worker focused team to support seasonal workers from Timor Leste and the Pacific, and build support systems for these workers
- Attend on arrival briefings of seasonal workers in regional Victoria, and assist workers to adjust to their new workplace
- Assist in the expansion of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office – ACRATH joint project to enhance seasonal worker wellbeing by facilitating links with local church, sporting and social communities
- Extend ACRATH's links with current worker support networks including, but not limited to, the Community Connections network, Timor Leste and Pacific communities in Australia, Edmund Rice Australia, and other relevant groups
- Support the ACRATH nominated delegate to the PALM Scheme Agriculture Committee after building knowledge of the PALM Scheme, the Approved Employer Deed of Agreement and Guidelines, and other relevant resources

To be considered for this position the Community Development worker will have the:

- Relevant tertiary qualification
- Ability to work cross culturally
- Commitment to empower seasonal workers to access their rights
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Ability to communicate effectively using social media
- Ability to travel within Victoria, and also to undertake occasional interstate travel
- Ability, ideally, to communicate in Tetum or in a language of one of the 9 Pacific countries in the PALM Scheme

The second position is for a **Community Development Co-ordinator**. The position of 0.7 EFT will be advertised towards the end of April on ACRATH's website, social media posts and on network bulletins. The duties are currently being finalised, but will relate to resourcing and supporting ACRATH's volunteers, co-ordinating ACRATH's Companionship program, ensuring that ACRATH's safeguarding responsibilities are met, and managing the ACRATH office. Other duties will emerge from this work.

Enquiries can be addressed to ACRATH's NEO Christine Carolan eo@acrath.org.au.