

Two decades of advocacy bring success



ACRATH has just finished its 19th annual advocacy campaign week at Parliament House in Canberra, confident that key 'asks' are being considered by government, including further work on the right of any victim of modern slavery to access compensation for the crime that was committed against them in Australia.

The 2024 advocacy team Frances Hayes pbvm – WA, Ange Hart - SA, Moira Coombs - East Coast, and Carmel Shaw and Executive Officer Christine Carolan from the National Office, also asked decision makers to consider:

- Increased support and protection for seasonal workers working in Australia on PALMS, the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme
- Greater protection for international students in Australia
- Including children in their own right as victim/survivors of modern slavery
- How our microcredential work with Flinders and UniSA can be funded as an ongoing resource.

Christine said during the 2024 advocacy campaign, ACRATH reached out to Minister Tony Burke, the Home Affairs Minister about the need for Permanent Residency for a young woman ACRATH is supporting in our Companionship Program.

"We need the visa categories accessible to victim/survivors to be re-visited. Minister Burke took our request very seriously; he has met with us almost every year since 2006 and he knows that we bring to him stories of real people, people vulnerable to exploitation who need government action. We have joined with Anti-Slavery Australia and met with senior staff on several occasions online and in person and we are hopeful of a positive outcome both for the particular woman we are supporting and for the accessibility of the visa as a whole," Christine said.

"I believe this access to decision makers is possible because we have built advocacy credibility and our networking capability over these past 19 years. I am very hopeful that we can get this work done and achieve the goals we set ourselves."

One unusual point we raised with government in the 2024 advocacy week, was one of congratulations! The team acknowledged the Federal Government's work, in collaboration with civil society, to bring in a large number of recent very positive changes, including:

- the establishment of Australia's first federal Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- the introduction of an additional referral pathway to the STPP, the Support for Trafficked People Program
- the introduction of the Forced Marriage Specialist Support Program
- the introduction of the workplace justice visa
- the introduction of new laws and regulations to enhance the rights of seasonal workers.

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Christine said the improved supports and protections for victim/survivors of human trafficking was the result of years of advocacy and collaboration.

“An additional referral pathway to the Support for Trafficked People Program has been a significant achievement. ACRATH is a part of the NGO network at the National Roundtable. We started meeting together quite a few years ago, and soon realised that the more we collaborated, the more likely we were to achieve important outcomes! Last year we all committed to working about 4 hours each week on a project together to develop a model for an Additional Pathway. It was hard work, and we didn't always see eye to eye, but we overcame our difficulties and were able together to present a viable model to the Australian government. This model we developed together is very close to the version now being trialled ... after 19 years of asking for the government to de-link the services for people trafficked into Australia from a criminal justice response, we now have a trial model,” Christine said.

“Another important aspect of our advocacy campaign is the direct benefit to ACRATH. In working as an ACRATH team in Canberra we build knowledge and competence amongst our membership, so when team members return to their regional groups, they bring an awareness of current ACRATH work and hopefully a confidence in their role of bringing about change.”

“The 2024 ACRATH advocacy team met for team meetings during our time in Canberra. We kept commenting to each other at how great we felt; we felt heard and respected by so many MPs and departmental officers with whom we met. We feel part of a process of change-making.”

Spreading the news using Kyla's resources

Kyla Raby knows modern slavery inside out. She can talk with great authority to her peers and networks, who also know modern slavery inside out. But try telling a mate about the vulnerabilities facing cleaners, fishermen and women in the garment industry – in 3 minutes. It's a challenge Kyla took on and has led to the development of a series of social media resources she has published through a project called Everyday Slavery.



Everyday Slavery, a two-year project funded through an Australian government grant, is producing sharp, factual and easy to understand YouTube, Instagram (IG) and Facebook videos and posts about different areas of modern slavery. They are perfect information resources for those who are new to the topic. They are also great resources to use in a presentation. Many of the Instagram posts ask a simple question and then answer it in clear and evidence-based text or 90 second reels, while the YouTube videos explore a topic in more detail. Topics include:

- What can the community do to help prevent and address modern slavery?
- The Slavery in Every Day series which includes episodes on the risks of modern slavery in coffee, clothes, seafood, chocolate and electronics.

Kyla is doing the project while on maternity leave from the Australian Red Cross where she is the lead on human trafficking, forced marriage and forced labour. She's also doing a PhD exploring modern slavery in global supply chains and has recently co-published a book with Nerida Chazal called, *Modern Slavery in Australia*. Kyla is also a member of the ACRATH - Flinders - UniSA joint project team, *Educating for Change*.

“The idea for Everyday Slavery came from a lot of the focus group work I have done for my PhD where I spoke with consumers about modern slavery. My early findings showed a real disconnect between what we buy, the services we use and understanding any risk of modern slavery,” Kyla said.

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Kyla has deliberately used clear, but catchy language in the 3-minute videos to try and move away from the combative phrases and words so common in the human trafficking lexicon. She believes some language can create a distance between the reality and the reader/listener. Through the videos she hopes to connect the story of modern slavery with our lives and our economy.

Importantly, Kyla hopes the Everyday Slavery videos and other resources will increase awareness of the issues and encourage people to take action to address modern slavery as well as advocate for change, particularly in supply chains of goods and services.

“It’s challenging for people who learn about modern slavery risks in clothing production and try to shop ethically as they often have a lot of difficulty tracing the supply chain of products,” Kyla said.

“Unfortunately at the moment, there are no laws which prevents goods made with modern slavery from being imported into Australia and sold to Australian consumers. These types of laws exist in other jurisdictions like the US, Canada and the European Union and what we are seeing is that a lot of the products banned from the US are being dumped into the Australian marketplace.”

Everyday Slavery has also published a ‘Spotlight Series’ highlighting the work of leading antislavery stakeholders as well as various interviews with stakeholders discussing issues in the modern slavery space, including people with lived experience of modern slavery and labour exploitation, Professor Jennifer Burn AM, Director of Anti-Slavery Australia who explains the My Blue Sky website, and Grace Wong, International Justice Mission who offers a snapshot of online sexual exploitation of children. Everyday Slavery also provides information about referral pathways for people impacted by human trafficking and modern slavery.

Kyla has already exceeded her target of reaching 10,000 people through Instagram and is well on the way to achieving her target of publishing 50 YouTube videos and 200 Instagram and Facebook videos and posts before the project funding concludes in June next year. She plans on continuing the project beyond that point to try to reach as many people as possible to help them explore modern slavery issues.

To follow along and support the project you can:

Subscribe to the Everyday Slavery YouTube channel [here](#)

Follow Everyday Slavery on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/everyday_slavery/

Like and follow Everyday Slavery on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095181619452>

All of the videos and posts made to the Everyday Slavery social media accounts are publicly available, so you are welcome to re-share and use them in your work.

You can contact Kyla at everydaysslavery@gmail.com with any questions or for more information.

To buy Modern Slavery in Australia: <https://store.lexisnexis.com/en-au/products/modern-slavery-in-australia.html>

Christine Carolan resigns as ACRATH's NEO

Christine has worked with and been committed to ACRATH over 19 years and, after 10 years in the role of National Executive Officer has resigned, effective December 2024. It will mark the end of a significant era in human trafficking work in Australia, but will also signal a new phase for the organisation. Her resignation comes as ACRATH prepares to mark 20 years.

Christine started working on human trafficking in 2001 in her role as Executive Officer with Good Shepherd Social Justice, prompted by her then workmate Kathleen Maltzahn.

"Kathleen heard about the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) call to act on human trafficking and she reminded me that our work was focused on supporting women, especially those on the margins. She pointed out that trafficked women would clearly fit that definition! So, the Social Justice Board and I as their EO expanded our social justice focus to include human trafficking," Christine said.

In the following years Christine heard that two young Thai women had died in immigration detention in Australia after what seemed to have been an experience of human trafficking; Christine then began work collaborating with Project Respect and others.

"Project Respect, an organisation founded by Kathleen, said we needed to work together as civil society to explore why the women were in Australia, and not just about the actual clinical circumstances of their deaths. Project Respect took the lead and we were able to eventually get a front-page article in The Australian on the deaths, exposing human trafficking and sexual exploitation. I learnt so much then about the vulnerability of those young Thai women to exploitation, and about the efficacy of civil society working together," Christine said.

There have been many significant moments and mentors along the Christine/ACRATH journey but Christine says the project team who worked together to get a Shadow Report to the United Nations in New York in January 2006 was a turning point in her understanding of the power of advocacy and collaboration. "Jennifer Burn and Louise Cleary csb lead the team of activists, lawyers, academics and Members of Parliament. I didn't really believe in this project of writing for the UN when I was invited to work in the team; I thought the work would get lost in the bureaucracy of the UN! How wrong was I! By the end of that project, I was totally hooked. I could see that kind, hard-working, justice-focused women could link arms within Australia, within SE Asia, and globally, and make a significant difference. I learnt that seeking the common ground was the prerequisite for strong collaboration," she said.

"Our foray into the world of slavery-free chocolate more than 15 years ago came after meeting with Mark Zirnsak, from the Uniting Church in Australia. He had learned about the terrible things going on in cocoa plantations on the other side of the world. We advocated for change and gradually saw more and more high-quality certified slavery-free chocolate come onto the shelves in Australia."

"We've never done anything alone, it's always been as part of a team and that's so important. That's not to say that networking is always easy, but where we looked to each other's strengths, we built a much stronger team. I think this applies within ACRATH and in our external networking work. If we drill down to our common springboard - the trafficked person's right to justice - we can get beyond differences and tensions."

It was these early collaborations, and many times since that convinced Christine of the power of building networks with like-minded organisations and people. Together these networks have advocated for, and achieved, important changes to support victim/survivors of human trafficking in Australia and globally.

ACRATH's achievements are many, but Christine will leave the job in December grateful that "we built a team, or maybe that we built a number of teams, who are feisty and justice-focused and committed".



Celebrate 20 Years of ACRATH with our exclusive anniversary calendar – order yours today!



We are excited to announce that the much-loved ACRATH calendar is now available for order, and this year's edition is particularly special as we celebrate 20 years of ACRATH in 2025.

Since its inception, the ACRATH calendar has become a welcome addition to offices, homes, tea rooms, and classrooms alike. This commemorative edition honours our history and significant milestones. Featuring quotes from our founders, including Louise Cleary csb, who remarked, "ACRATH has played a leading role in prosecuting the case of unjust and exploitative practices in relation to migrant workers and contributing to improvements to the visa regime," this calendar underscores our ongoing mission and achievements.

Place your order today - <https://acrath.org.au/acrath-anniversary-year-calendar/> - and become part of ACRATH's work and future. Each month, the calendar spotlights our essential work, highlights campaigns to join, and provides clear calls to action. You'll also find links and QR codes that offer easy access to more information, and opportunities to get involved.

Discover practical ways to make your tearoom slavery-free, learn how to host a clothes swap and how to best shop ethically. Every calendar purchased supports our crucial efforts in raising awareness.

All proceeds from the calendar go towards ACRATH's mission to eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery and will help us continue our vital work. Order your copy of the 20th anniversary ACRATH calendar today and join us in making a meaningful impact.

Order Now at <https://acrath.org.au/acrath-anniversary-year-calendar/>

Call to action September 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.

RE Search: Catholic Response to Human Trafficking: Uncovering the scope of this terrible problem, how it happens in the modern world, and what people in schools and parishes can do about it with Sister Noelene Simmons, SM, an ACRATH Member.
<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/re-search-episode-63-a-catholic-response-to-human-trafficking/>

Social Justice Statement 2024-25, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. *Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World*
<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2024/07/25/social-justice-statement-2024-25/>

Australian Federal Police charge man for allegedly trafficking Indonesian girl to Sydney to work in brothels
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-23/nsw-child-trafficking-indonesia-teenager-sydney-brothels/104131604>

Fijian government to meet Australian PALM workers following tragic death of Christine Lewailagi
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-20/fiji-government-investigates-palm-scheme-christine-lewailagi/104244032>

Madhu wants to help end a \$230 billion industry. Here's what she wants you to know
<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/madhu-wants-to-help-end-a-230-billion-industry-heres-what-she-wants-you-to-know/p76b9sjo6>

A missing boy spurs Church groups to fight trafficking in Argentina
<https://www.oursundayvisitor.com/missing-boys-case-spurs-church-groups-to-unite-to-combat-human-trafficking-in-argentina/>

Victorian mother jailed for forcing daughter to marry man who murdered her six weeks later
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-29/shepparton-forced-marriage-mother-sentence/104153804>

Talitha Kum: Pacific Islands
<https://www.talithakum.info/en/news/news-from-network-talitha-kum-pacific-islands>

Forced into scamming, trafficking survivors in Zambia recover with sisters' help
<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/forced-scamming-trafficking-survivors-zambia-recover-sisters-help>

The Australian Ethical Consumer Report
<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-consumer-report/>

20,000 workers given weeks to leave Philippines after ban on gambling operations linked to scams
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-07-26/philippine-offshore-gaming-operators-pogo-workers-leaving/104147866>

Foreign diplomat ordered to pay more than \$500,000 to a former domestic worker in wage exploitation case
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-16/former-deputy-high-commissioner-sri-lanka-to-pay-unpaid-wages/104226080>

Patients become prey in fight against organ trafficking bazaars
<https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/news/2024/august/patients-become-prey-in-fight-against-organ-trafficking-bazaars>

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

Be Slavery Free
<https://www.beslaveryfree.com/>

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

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 or <https://acrath.org.au/donate>

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