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People are NOT for sale

## Farewell Christine

At its final 2024 meeting the National Committee farewelled Christine Carolan at a dinner before she leaves ACRATH in December. Christine's contribution as the National Executive Officer of ACRATH for the past 10 years was acknowledged and President Sr Clare Condon sgs, said Christine's "outstanding social justice commitment" governs all her activities.

Clare acknowledged that in her youth, Christine was greatly influenced by the Cardijn Movement; the Young Christian Students (YCS) and Young Christian Workers (YCW) which sustained her long-standing commitment to the Church's Social Teaching.

"I think of your resilience, persistence and, at times, your tenacity to see the outcomes and the results. For example, the advocacy that has led to the appointment of a Federal Anti-Slavery Commissioner, the alternative pilot program for trafficked people and many other achievements for people who have been trafficked. These qualities of yours emerge from a strong sense of responsibility," Clare said.

"You persist and, at times over many years, until your goals and those of ACRATH are achieved. But you have not done that alone. Collaboration, collegiality, and partnership are inherent in your whole approach. You work alongside committed and generous ACRATH Members and staff and, other civil society organisations to achieve outcomes that we all have in common."

"Underlying your work is the importance of relationships. It is the ground from which you work. You seek to build relationships and to establish long term connections. They are fundamental to your approach. You are an energetic woman who is excited when progress is made."

"As you head off on annual leave, we wish you well and we hope you have the time and space to rest and relax."

## Acting NEO appointed

ACRATH's National Committee has appointed Lys Crowe to the position of Acting/Interim National Executive Officer of ACRATH for the period Tuesday 29 October 2024 until 31 March 2025.

Lys has been a member of the Victorian group of ACRATH for the past four years. She is a woman of faith, integrity, and creativity with strong leadership and pastoral care skills. Lys has a background in education and pastoral care practice, and she has coordinated the Archdiocese of Melbourne's Pastoral Associates.

Her email contact is: [eoacting@acrath.org.au](mailto:eoacting@acrath.org.au)



## Join ACRATH and the international community for 16 days of activism

16 days of activism begins on 25th November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the anniversary of the brutal assassination of Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa Mirabel, three activists in the Dominican Republic in 1960 and ends on 10th December - Human Rights Day!

ACRATH uses this campaign to raise awareness and foster action in support of our work. We create a 16 day calendar each year which highlights the work carried out by ACRATH against Modern Slavery. The calendar serves as a tool to share knowledge and resources.

Follow our daily socials for a reflection linking to a call to action and resource you can learn from each day.

To join this global network to end violence against women and girls.

1. [Download](#) our calendar today
2. Follow our socials as we offer a daily reflection and link to a call to action!

# 16 Days of Activism

## Against Gender-Based Violence 2024

Join ACRATH in raising awareness and fostering action against Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>REFLECT WITH US</b></p> <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Understand the working conditions at the start of your coffee supply chain. Watch this enlightening video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdvtV3SRW6U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdvtV3SRW6U</a></p> <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Download the 2024 Edition of the Baptist World Aid Australia Ethical Fashion Guide to make informed decisions as a global citizen. Make your Christmas shopping just!</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Download and display ACRATH's 16 Days calendar in your office, and follow us on social media for resources and ways to get involved.</p> <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Help fundraise by purchasing the ACRATH 20th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE Calendar as a gift this Christmas.</p> <p><b>9</b></p> <p>Listen to Fiona Kendall, Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy-Mediterranean Hope, speak with Christine Carolan about the significance of the 16 Days campaign and its impact on migrant workers.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Listen to Attorney-General Hon. Mark Dreyfus discuss "Educating for Change," an ACRATH initiative, with Australian universities, to raise awareness of modern slavery. Check out our newsletter...</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>Listen to ACRATH's St. Noeline Simmons sm on the podcast: Uncovering the Scope of Modern Slavery, how it happens in the modern world, and what people in schools and parishes can do about it <a href="https://acrath.org.au/catholic-response-to-human-trafficking/">https://acrath.org.au/catholic-response-to-human-trafficking/</a></p> <p><b>10</b></p> <p>Human Rights Day. Join the ACRATH network by signing up for our free newsletter to be part of a network of people committed to realising a future free from violence against women and girls!</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Educate yourself on statistics related to violence against women and girls by checking out the UN Women's Research and Data page.</p> <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Spread peace and help empower lives this Christmas by helping us raise the final \$70,000 of our 2024 fundraising appeal target of \$350,000. Donate to our essential Christmas appeal.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Join the Holding the Light Ecumenical Service at 5:00 PM at Wesley Church, Melbourne, to remember victims and survivors of family domestic violence.</p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Learn about the new Additional Referral Pathway for Support for Trafficked People Program, an initiative born from over 15 years of ACRATH advocacy work.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Hear Sr Jean Quinn dw, Director of UNANIMA International, share her insights and the work being done to redress many of the injustices suffered by migrant women.</p> <p><b>6</b></p> <p>Use these Prayers of Intercession in your parish Mass, prayer gathering or community event, during the campaign.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Support ACRATH through the Ferngrove Wines Fundraiser. \$20 from every six-pack purchased will be donated to ACRATH.</p> <p><b>7</b></p> <p>REGISTER YOUR INTEREST in Run to Stop Slavery in July 2025 and join the team of ACRATH friends and family.</p>

**Join the conversation here:**

See more on this campaign and valuable resources here: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/16-days/>



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## 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/>





## Carmel finds the perfect 'fit' with ACRATH

Carmel Shaw's recent appointment as ACRATH's new Community Development Coordinator, is a culmination of decades of working for a fairer world and the dignity of all people. Carmel sees ACRATH as a 'perfect fit'.



While the position with ACRATH might be new to her, Carmel has a long history in working to prevent modern slavery.

It was during her early career as a secondary school teacher that Carmel first learned about Fairtrade and ethical supply chains. She hopes some of the students she taught 20 years ago might still be looking out for products that are certified slavery-free.

In recent years her work with St Vincent's Health Australia gave her the opportunity to learn about human trafficking and ACRATH. She was on the working party that led to the ACRATH and St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) Human Trafficking Project, launched in 2017. The project looks at how trafficked people – who may present at any of SVHA's hospitals Australia-wide – can be identified and receive necessary treatment, support, referrals, and access to services. This includes women who have been sexually exploited, people facing forced marriage and people who have experienced forced labour.

"This new job brings together a lot of past experiences such as education, volunteer management and advocacy," said Carmel, who is based in Sydney.

Within weeks of joining ACRATH Carmel headed the recent Canberra advocacy week, training volunteers and coordinating meetings with MPs and policy officers.

"Canberra was a wonderful experience, and it gave me an important insight into how ACRATH is seen. Everyone was so affirming and familiar with ACRATH and values the contribution that ACRATH can make to ending modern slavery in Australia," Carmel said. "It was a great opportunity to meet with people who already respect the organisation and what it has to say."

"One of the big learnings for me was seeing the hard work and commitment of the politicians and their advisors. What we see in the media is often a poor reflection of what happens in Parliament where most of the people believe in building a better and more just society."

Carmel cited the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) as one example where MPs and advisors want to hear what ACRATH has to say, particularly in relation to the PALM Scheme Approved Employers Deed and Guidelines published in June 2023.

"We know that there is good compliance, but we also know that some employers are not following the guidelines properly. It's important that seasonal workers leave Australia better off than when they arrived and that requires involvement at many levels of the community," she said.

Next month Carmel will also attend her second Federal Government National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery, which was established in 2008 as a mechanism for the government to consult with civil society about issues relating to human trafficking. ACRATH has been part of the Roundtable since its early days.

Another key part of her work is the Companionship Program which is undergoing some changes and developing more structures to better support the volunteer Companions.

"We are transitioning the program into a new structure, with more training and support so the Companions can continue to provide person-centred care for victims and survivors of modern slavery. We want to capture and nurture the best of the program, so it is sustainable. That means gaining insights and expertise of the many people who have been involved with the program over many years."

## Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus backs new uni course

A new university program, educating staff and students about modern slavery and pathways for support, has been endorsed by Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus as well as key advocates and educators.

ACRATH, Flinders University and the University of South Australia are working together to create **Educating for Change**, 6 micro-credentialed courses that will equip the next generation of professionals to recognise and combat modern slavery. The courses are free and have been developed for students studying social work, law, criminology, education, and health care as well as for staff working with international students.

**Educating for Change** has already been trialled in some tertiary settings and is set to be rolled out across the country's universities in 2025.

The Attorney-General encouraged law students to engage in the relevant **Educating for Change** module and said: "Because modern slavery can occur in any sector, industry or domestic setting, I encourage you to learn and understand the indicators of modern slavery so that you can help us identify those who are experiencing modern slavery and support them."

Professor Jennifer Burn AM, Director Anti-Slavery Australia, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney, echoed the Attorney-General's view and said, every lawyer should be aware of what slavery looks like, what the indicators of slavery are. And so, when a person presents to a lawyer or law office, there can be an awareness that not only is this a problem about family violence or property law or housing, or immigration, but there also could be a modern slavery element".

Samantha Lynham, Principal Research Analyst, Australian Institute of Criminology said: "Research has demonstrated that teachers have a really important role to play in being able to identify and respond to human trafficking that might be happening among, students that they teach. And some of the signs that a child might be experiencing or at risk of, exploitation include that, their attendance at school is quite low, they don't feel comfortable spending time at home, they might be hanging around, a lot of adults instead of children their own age, they might be wearing inappropriate clothing for their age, and they might be talking about things like work or even marriage, that might, you know, send a signal that something's not quite right, especially if they're talking about going overseas, for a marriage as well".

"So teachers, also have a role to play, I think, in educating students about what human trafficking and modern slavery are, and that helps them to learn what it is, know what the signs are, know what to do if they come across something that's suspicious, and can also help them learn about broader consumer behaviours that might help them make ethical choices, as consumers to help prevent human trafficking in society," Ms Lynham said.

ACRATH's Melissa Halliday said the course was almost ready to roll out with final testing of some modules now underway as well as input by an Advisory Committee that includes Australian Red Cross, Anti-Slavery Australia, and the Attorney-General's Department. The Department's funding for the program runs out in June 2025.

ACRATH has also established a working group of people who are developing networks in universities interested in embedding Educating for Change in their courses.

[Listen](#) to Attorney-General Hon. Mark Dreyfus discussing the importance of **Educating for Change**.

Join ACRATH in helping future frontline professionals prevent and address modern slavery in Australia, from universities to the workforce. Together, we can educate for change. If you would like to register your interest in the project, or have any questions you can email us at [edforchange@acrath.org.au](mailto:edforchange@acrath.org.au) or learn more <https://acrath.org.au/resources/educating-for-change/>



## Let's wrap up the year with hope

Spread peace and empower lives this Christmas by helping us raise the final \$70,000 of our 2024 fundraising appeal target of \$350,000. Your generosity has helped ACRATH continue to offer important programs and awareness raising campaigns to support victim/survivors of human trafficking. Raising \$350,000 means crucial projects, including Educating for Change and the Companionship Program, can continue.

We hope you will consider a Christmas gift to ACRATH to get us to the much needed \$350,000 target. The shortfall is only \$70,000, but that amount means a lot for a small organisation that receives very little government grant money and relies heavily on volunteer support around the country.

Please join the Christmas push to \$70,000!

One of ACRATH's key roles is ongoing advocacy that requires staff, planning and resources. The standout example of ACRATH's commitment to long-term advocacy was the announcement at the federal government budget in 2023 of a pathway for victim/survivors of human trafficking onto the Support for Trafficked People Program. ACRATH started working on this in 2005 when a group of counter trafficking NGOs led by Professor Jennifer Burn made this recommendation as part of a submission to the United Nations. In early October of this year, details of this pilot project were released and ACRATH is working to ensure trafficked people know the service is now available.

**Educating for Change**, an ACRATH joint project with Flinders Uni and UniSA, is another wonderful project which your donations are helping sustain and strengthen. **Educating for Change** is being rolled out across 21 Australian universities to equip students and staff with the skills to identify human trafficking and ways to respond to reports or concerns. The program is supported by an Advisory Committee that includes St Vincent's Health Australia, Australian Federal Police, and the NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

We know many of you are not gift buyers, or you want your Christmas spending to make a difference. Please consider donating to ACRATH for Christmas and help ensure programs continue. Or you might want to give a loved one, or friend, a donation to ACRATH as a Christmas gift. You make the donation, and we will let them know the donation has been made as a Christmas gift in their name.

One of ACRATH's many donors and a previous Member, Sister Margaret Schofield rsm, said she became a donor after learning more about human trafficking and the various responses people can make.

"I was aware of ACRATH for some time, but after living in Bundaberg for a while and looking for a social justice issue which a parish group could address, became aware of the backpackers who came to Bundy to help on the farms, which was a local issue. I was fortunate enough to attend some ACRATH meetings where I became aware of the broader work of ACRATH and the many people involved in different ways, with people trafficked in Australia or overseas, as well as ways in which we can all help, particularly with our purchases."

"I decided to donate to ACRATH because everyone is meant to be free, treated with dignity and respect, and ACRATH goes a long way in doing this both on the ground and advocating with government and their policies."

ACRATH understands that many people are grappling with cost-of-living issues and cannot give more. If this is the position you are in, then we thank you for your amazing support. Including a gift to ACRATH in your Will maybe something you could also consider? This is a lasting way to make a meaningful impact, empowering the victims and survivors of Modern Slavery well into the future. If you want to learn more, please contact our office at [networks@acrath.org.au](mailto:networks@acrath.org.au) for more confidential information.

If you can be part of the Christmas push to \$70,000, please consider a donation [today](#).

## Call to action November 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.

*Maiden, Arise:* Sister Marie Claude Naddaf, R.G.S., heads Wells of Hope, based in Beirut, part of the international Talitha Kum network, which works to put an end to all forms of human trafficking. In this video, hear Sister Marie Claude's passion for her work, then hear from a trafficking survivor who is being accompanied in her healing journey by Wells of Hope.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXfaQG5ly20>

Federal police deploys specialised officers to combat online child abuse, human trafficking

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/federal-police-deploys-specialised-officers-to-combat-online-child-abuse-human-trafficking-20241025-p5klbv.html>

Union calls for end to super tax for Pacific and Timor-Leste workers

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-24/union-wants-super-rethink-for-palm-workers/104506854>

Commonwealth heads of government to defy UK on slavery reparations

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd6vy79p750o>

PALM Scheme and Migrant Workers in Australia

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2024/10/24/palm-scheme-and-migrant-workers-in-australia/>

Australia's PALM working visa scheme is a 'modern day slavery risk', advocates say. The system needs to change — and fast

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-11/australia-palm-working-visa-scheme-exploitation-calls-reform/104450508>

Forced into scamming, trafficking survivors in Zambia recover with sisters' help

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/forced-scamming-trafficking-survivors-zambia-recover-sisters-help>

NSW inquiry to probe modern slavery risk for regional migrant workers

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2024-10-15/nsw-inquiry-modern-slavery-agriculture-migrants/104475236>

'Debt bondage' and 'sexual servitude': NSW's 'emerging' modern slavery crisis

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/nsws-emerging-modern-slavery-crisis/ectal0sx>

Be Our Guests: Addressing urgent modern slavery risks for temporary migrant workers in rural and regional NSW

[https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/legal-and-justice/anti-slavery-commissioner/plans-and-discussion-papers/Be\\_Our\\_Guests\\_-](https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/legal-and-justice/anti-slavery-commissioner/plans-and-discussion-papers/Be_Our_Guests_-)

[\\_Addressing urgent modern slavery risks for temporary migrant workers in rural and regional New South Wales.pdf](https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/legal-and-justice/anti-slavery-commissioner/plans-and-discussion-papers/Be_Our_Guests_-Addressing_urgent_modern_slavery_risks_for_temporary_migrant_workers_in_rural_and_regional_New_South_Wales.pdf)

Kiribati fishermen bring expertise and song to Australia's tuna farms

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-05/kiribati-workers-bring-fishing-expertise-and-song-port-lincoln/104427452>

Trafficked to Scam

<https://alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org/2024/09/september-2024-monthly-reflection/>

Modern slavery report uncovers dark side to PALM visa scheme leaving vulnerable workers homeless and destitute

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-09-23/palm-visa-scheme-exploitation-modern-slavery/104382194>

Women congregations address human trafficking in Sri Lanka

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/women-congregations-address-human-trafficking-sri-lanka>

Walking in Dignity: News from Peru

<https://www.talithakum.info/en/news/walking-in-dignity-news-from-peru>

Unpaid wages left celery farm migrant workers

'frightened', Ombudsman says

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-09-17/worker-underpayment-celery-farm-mornington-peninsula-lammattina/104360360>

Police say babies in Indonesia are being sold for as little as \$1,450 — this is why baby trafficking is 'difficult' to eradicate

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-18/selling-babies-remains-a-problem-in-indonesia/104480064>

Stop Trafficking Newsletter

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



## Have a drink and join WA winery to support ACRATH

Ferngrove Wines in Western Australia is supporting ACRATH with a Wine Fundraiser. \$20 will be donated for every six pack of wine sold! The wines are bright, aromatic and balanced with all the freshness you can expect from Western Australia.

Have your order delivered via Australia Post for an additional charge of \$10/6pack. The final order date for home deliveries is Monday 2nd of December.

For prices and more details click [here](#)

**16 Days of Activism**  
Against Gender-Based Violence 2024

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**ACRATH WINE FUNDRAISER**

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

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

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