

Talitha Kum Congratulates Pope Leo XIV



Leo P.P. XIV

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Filled with joy and hope, the Talitha Kum global network extends **heartfelt congratulations** to **Pope Leo XIV** on his election to the papacy. Talitha Kum, as a network united in the mission to ending human trafficking and uphold the dignity of every person, we prayerfully **welcome** this new chapter, under the Holy Father's guidance. We are especially grateful and encouraged to see **Pope Leo XIV** has placed a strong priority on the defence of human dignity, justice, and peace—values that lie at the core of Talitha Kum's mission.

*"We trust that Pope Leo XIV will continue to walk with us, as we accompany those most affected by human trafficking and exploitation," said **Sr. Abby Avelino, MM**, International Coordinator of Talitha Kum. "May his leadership inspire greater global solidarity, peace, and action to protect human dignity."*

We pray that **Pope Leo XIV** will continue to raise the Church's voice for the most vulnerable and journey with us as we strive for a world free from human trafficking and exploitation. May his pontificate bring peace, uphold justice, and compassion for all.

The Third Edition of the Youth Ambassadors Training Course Just Started in Latin America & the Caribbean!



[Click here to discover this year's program](#)

Preventing Trafficking through Local Awareness: From Bangladesh to Mali

Talitha Kum places **local awareness** at the heart of its mission to prevent human trafficking in all its forms. In particular, **sensitizing the youth** is key to the long-term sustainability of our work to end human trafficking, ensuring that the next generations are **free from exploitation**.

In **Bangladesh**, the network organized a prevention seminar for high school students in Sylhet, a rural area near the Indian border where **early marriage** is common due to widespread poverty.

Led by **Sr. Josephine Rosario, SSMI**, the seminar focused on forced and early marriage, using group work, testimonies, and a final rally to help students recognize exploitation and **become advocates for freedom**.



In **Mali**, TAKUMA the Talitha Kum network is growing with the establishment of a new team in the Diocese of San. In this region, trafficking is often linked to unsafe migration, with traffickers luring victims through false promises of jobs abroad.



To counter this, the new team is working to raise awareness about these tactics through school visits, radio broadcasts in French and Bambara, and meetings with community leaders to protect the **young generations**.

Last chance to nominate a Sister for the SATAs!

Click here
to submit your
nomination for
the *Sisters
Anti-Trafficking
Awards* before
15 June 2025.

Honorees will be
recognized on
November 21, 2025,
in Zambia.



Raising Global Awareness: a Webinar on Digital Safety & Online Exploitation



On April 29, Talitha Kum hosted a global webinar on **Digital Safety and Online Exploitation**, bringing together over 700 registered participants from around the world. Guest speakers Duncan Jepson, Gigi Tupas, and Atty. Ralph Catedral shared their expertise, highlighting the **power of collaboration** between individuals, organizations, and institutions. Their insights also reaffirmed the **crucial leadership role of survivors** in shaping the movement against trafficking.

The webinar featured **interactive breakout groups**, where participants exchanged experiences, challenges, and practical ideas with one another – planting seeds for future action and solidarity. We were especially heartened by the strong participation from Argentina, including members of the national law enforcement and representatives from various ministries. Their presence is a hopeful **sign of growing multisectoral commitment** in the fight against trafficking.

Thank you to all participants and speakers for your valuable contributions and engagement!



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