



Special points of interest:

Don't forget to seek out Fairtrade Christmas gifts.

And for ideas about promoting ethical Easter egg production in Australia for Easter 2013, go to our website:

<http://acrath.org.au/2238/is-your-easter-egg-slavery-free/>

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From the National Committee

The ACRATH National Committee met on 7th and 8th November in Melbourne.

We looked at incorporation planning; details of this will be presented to the National Conference in Feb by Br Shane Wood.

We also looked at major threads of our ACRATH work for 2013:

- awareness raising amongst senior secondary students and teachers using the new ACRATH Vic materials and our great website
- awareness raising amongst CALD communities, employing someone for a short phase project to include trafficking news in ethnic radio programs
- support for anti trafficking work emerging in NZ and Darwin
- strengthening our international network links, especially at the UN, through UISG, and in the Asia Pacific
- Canberra advocacy in an election year by sending two separate small groups, pre and post the election

2013 Conference and AGM

**18 (1PM) – 20 (3PM) FEBRUARY 2013
THE CENTRE, RANDWICK NSW**

Eveline Crotty rsm has agreed to facilitate our conference and we have been able to secure two keynote speakers for the conference – Bob Kinnaird, research officer for CFMEU, who will speak on Labour Trafficking and Jennifer Burn who will speak of Forced and Servile Marriage.

Other aspects of the conference at this stage are as follows:

- Chairperson's reflection and report
- Current Reality of Trafficking in 2013 – Australia and Beyond
- ACRATH members who have had international experience during 2012 sharing their reflections
- Strategic Plan 2013
- Working groups
- Policies, e.g., website and social media
- Role statements, e.g., state co-ordinators, project workers
- AGM

COST: \$250 per participant (this covers the Conference and AGM, accommodation and all meals).

PAYMENT METHOD: CHEQUE (made payable to ACRATH)
DIRECT DEPOSIT Name: ACRATH **BSB:** 064000 **A/c#:** 1214 3351

Transport costs will be reimbursed by ACRATH. Please send your invoice/receipt to SJWood@edmundrice.org or 126 The Avenue, Parkville, Victoria 3052.

For registration please contact: Denise Mulcahy fcj dmulcahy2011@gmail.com

Human Trafficking in New Zealand

Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking is a relatively newly-formed group with members from several religious orders, including the Dominican sisters, the Society of Mary sisters, the Sacred Heart sisters, the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, the Josephite sisters, and the Franciscan friars.



Spokesperson, Sr Gemma Wilson SM, said the group wants to learn more about the issue so it can best learn which areas of concern members can work in.

They have also signed up to the New Zealand Network Against Trafficking in Persons, alongside other religious-based groups that want to combat trafficking.

AUCKLAND — University of Auckland researchers have concluded that many Indonesian crew on Korean chartered fishing vessels in New Zealand waters are victims of human trafficking for forced labour. That's what Dr Christina Stringer, senior lecturer at the university's Department of Management and International Business, told a meeting of Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking at St Benedict's church crypt, Newton, on July 25.

Dr Stringer and co-researcher Glenn Simmons had interviewed 76 Indonesian crew who had been aboard 12 Korean vessels from 1998 to 2011, as well as amassing thousands of documents.

The Korean vessels were chartered by some New Zealand fishing companies, who have fishing quota, to come to New Zealand waters and fish on their behalf.

Dr Stringer and Mr Simmons concluded that the men interviewed essentially met the International Labour Organisation and European Commission criteria for trafficked persons. They were subject to deceptive and coercive recruitment practices, employed in exploitative working conditions and subjected to various forms of serious abuse.

Excerpt from: *NZ Catholic* August 12 - 25, 2012

Visit to the Australian Institute of Criminology

Maree, Noelene, Janine and Therese visited the AIC in August.

Firstly we were interviewed by Hannah Westropp-Evans as part of their Construction Project Consultations. Then Laura Beacroft joined the group. She and Hannah insisted that ACRATH are their best networkers!! We had assisted them in previous pieces of research including the Information Sessions on Trafficking in Persons in Australia when they conducted training in places like Mildura, Hobart and Darwin. They believe there could be labour-trafficking happening in country Queensland so Janine will work with them on that research. The Asia-Pacific is an interest of theirs also with the fisheries being of potential concern.

Therese Power

Combating Child Sexual Exploitation On-line

On October 26, Josh Frydenberg MHR met with representatives from a number of community organisations including Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH). The delegation met with Josh to discuss the issue of combating child sexual exploitation on the internet. The delegation delivered petitions which Josh will take to Canberra next week.

Carole McDonald



Start Freedom Sunday

A number of the Christian based members of STOP THE TRAFFIK have asked that we provide resources for a Sunday where churches can focus on the theme of freedom and ways it can connect to campaigns for ending trafficking and modern slavery.

Start Freedom Sunday can be done on any Sunday of the year and we are inviting people to join the global celebration of freedom on Sunday 17 February 2013, through co-branding with Not For Sale Australia and registering on their website. We are encouraged to do it before Easter and to have a chocolate theme.

Those involved in actively promoting *Start Freedom Sunday* will be asked to nominate a project they would like to invite people in their networks to make a donation. They will provide others with information about the project and ask people to make donations.

Resources will be available online and also via the purchase of a USB drive of resources. This will include a Worship bulletin insert with a Prayer and Information on buying certified chocolate, and a Poster. You can arrange to print these and distribute them in your networks with your logo added to those of STOP THE TRAFFIK and Not for Sale. Existing and new resources can be submitted by people to be included on the USB drive and website.

10 Ways to Start Freedom

Start Praying, Start Freedom: prayers for public worship, private devotions and prayer stations

Start Preaching, Start Freedom: sermons from a number of preachers

Start Studying, Start Freedom: 3 bible studies

Start Singing, Start Freedom: hymns from commonly used hymn books and songs from invited composers

Start Giving, Start Freedom: ways to contribute to the organisations behind Start Freedom Sunday

Start Buying, Start Freedom: guide to certified chocolate

Start Writing, Start Freedom: send a postcard or write a letter

Start Freedom with children and young people: Sunday School and youth activities

Start Eating, Start Freedom: chocolate fondue to celebrate freedom and raise awareness of trafficking

Start Watching, Start Freedom: video clips on Australian and international trafficking

The Salvation Army stores will also be selling merchandise connected to Freedom Sunday. You will be able to pre-purchase bulk supplies for distribution and/or sales in their networks.

News from WA

Sr Lucy van Kessel pbvm will spend six months, January to June 2013 at the United Nations with the International Presentation Association as an NGO representative alongside other Sisters who are there. While there Lucy will support the Association's work for women and children, particularly focussing on the trafficking of humans, on sustainable development, indigenous people's issues and human rights.

She will continue to be active in the Commission on the Status of Women gathering in March, hopefully linking with UNANIMA and representing ACRATH at a side event; she will also support the Children's Parliament activity. As events occur in relation to human trafficking we hope to hear from Lucy; we wish her well.

In early November **Brianna Lee**, ACRATH WA, is visiting two places in Thailand with whom ACRATH WA have good ties; they are COSA, a shelter for trafficked children, which also does rescue work, and the Fountain of Life, a training and support centre in Pattaya for women in the sex industry.

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Above:
Logos for 3 forms of
certification of cocoa.

www.acrath.org.au
People are NOT for sale

Resource: Prayer Service

Developed by the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, Seattle, Washington

Human Trafficking Awareness Day | Nov 2012
St Josephine Bakita

God of hope and freedom, inspire us in our work to loosen the chains of human trafficking in our world. Strengthen us, so that like St. Josephine Bakhita, we may stand firm in our resolve to create a slave-free world. Amen.

www.ipjc.org/links/trafficking.htm



Campaigns

The **Human Rights Council of Australia** have a campaign to ask the Australian Government to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families. ACRATH is a sponsor of this campaign. The website is <http://hrca.org.au/activities/migrant-workers-convention/>

Stop the Traffik



Order postcards by sending your name, number of cards and postal address to australia@stopthetraffik.org

GOOD NEWS: Hershey Announces 100% certification

Hershey announced it will move its chocolate to 100% certification by 2020, though they remain vague on which certifications, and on incremental benchmarks. They're now going further than Kraft, Nestlé or Ferrero are willing to go, at least as far as certification is concerned. An announcement from STOP THE TRAFFIK will be made shortly. All five major chocolate companies have now made commitments. This is cause for celebration but there is still much to be done in monitoring their promises and seeking more information on their plans.

The expansion of ACRATH over the past two years has created new demands on our resources; we need an extra \$50,000 per annum to meet current commitments. In this edition of our newsletter, ACRATH wishes to acknowledge several generous donations from religious congregations and schools to assist us to tackle human trafficking.

We also acknowledge the funds received under a grant from the Australian Government.