



ACRATH NEWS

November 2011

*News from Christine Carolan,
National Projects Co-ordinator*

Community Awareness

Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) projects have begun in four states. Allens Arthur Robinson (AAR) and Christine Carolan have written an article for the Alternative Law Review.

Ensuring Trafficked People access their rights: Housing Project Jeffrey Dalton has been exploring in Victoria follow-up to ACRATH's Canberra advocacy work on safe and affordable housing.

English Language classes: Minister O'Connor's advisor has been exploring with ACRATH this entitlement for people who have been trafficked.

Financial Compensation Project: Red Cross now routinely makes people on the government support program aware of their right to claim financial assistance as a victim of crime. There are five financial compensation cases that AAR have undertaken with ACRATH as their pro bono client.

Networking to advocate for change: Pacific focus, specially in the Solomon Islands has been picked up by Therese Power. ACRATH is giving support, through Noelene Simmons sm to an emerging group of NZ Religious. The UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons is to visit Melbourne in late November. Christine Carolan will spend a week in Geneva in

December focusing on anti-trafficking with the UN Human Rights Council and other NGO's.



Press Release: Support for the Work of ACRATH Minister for Home Affairs and Justice Brendan O'Connor and Member for Melbourne Ports Michael Danby visited the office of ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) in Albert Park, Victoria on 5 October 2011. Their visit was the formal acknowledgement that the Government has committed \$350,000 over the next three years to ACRATH to support its work in anti-trafficking.

"Slavery and human trafficking are fundamental debasement of humanity. The Government is committed to working with community organizations to address the full cycle of these crimes" Mr O'Connor said. "NGOs such as ACRATH are invaluable resources for trafficked people, providing much needed outreach, support services and advocacy." Mr Danby said.

ACRATH is working towards the elimination of people trafficking in Australia, the Asia Pacific and internationally. This grant will help ACRATH's work to raise community awareness, share information and build networks nationally and globally. ACRATH also helps provide direct services to people trafficked into Australia.



News from ACRATH in NSW At the NACRATH meeting held in September it was decided that at future meetings we will spend some time reviewing resources or discussing recent developments with regards to human trafficking. Over recent months presentations have been given to parish groups, youth groups, university students and secondary school students. A new prayer card was developed for distribution to young people. One side of the card provides a prayer to end human trafficking while the other side has suggestions for becoming involved in the fight against human trafficking. At all presentations participants have been keen to take part in the various postcard campaigns we are supporting.



Some ACRATH members in NSW have been taking part in the Sydney Trafficking Response Network. These meetings are an opportunity for NGOs to share their wisdom about issues and plan a united voice about issues of concern. The group is currently preparing for a meeting with Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons who will be in Sydney on November 17 & 18. Noelene Simmons sm

News from ACRATH in Western Australia

Recently Murdoch University held an open day. Part of the display from the Law Department included a display board with information about human trafficking through questions and answers. A chocolate fondue enticed many visitors to consider not only information about trafficking but advertised fair trade. During the day there was a constant flow of people to the display

asking questions and tasting the chocolate. In September an ACRATH member spoke to year 9 and 10 students from a Muslim School in Morley. The young women came from Africa and Middle Eastern countries such as Syria, Iran, Bahrain. The students had no idea that human trafficking and slavery was evident in our world". Lucy van Kessel pbvm

ACRATH WA is holding a Special Fund Raising Concert on Sunday 5th February at 2.30pm at Loreto Nedlands Primary School 69 Webster Street, Nedlands. Artists; Soprano Merlyn Quaipe & pianist Andrea Katz. All proceeds goes to the work of ACRATH \$35.00 full \$25.00 concession. Admission include concert, CD and afternoon tea. Bookings PO Box 491, Cloverdale WA 6105 For information www.acrath.org.au

On Nov 4, Lucy van Kessel & Kathy Fagan made an ACRATH presentation to the Religious Education Co-ordinators at the Catholic Education Office in Perth. Lucy is photographed with the participants.



A Report from the Victorian ACRATH Education Committee.

The Victorian Education Committee has been steadily broadening its activities. A request to make a presentation to the school staff at Mater Christi Secondary College in Belgrave offered a splendid opportunity to begin more sustained work throughout a school. We have often lamented the fact that a 'one off' talk in a school is

not the best way of making an effective & sustained impact on a school environment. Brothers Tony Cummins (fsc) & Shane Wood (cfc) have taken this on board and are planning to begin a campaign in their respective boys schools by beginning with the teachers. We are

consulting with Paul Zappa from the Victorian Women's Trust to include a piece of trafficking in his "Be the Hero" Program—a series of interactive sessions on violence, designed for secondary school students. We are looking at the possibility of producing a series on trafficking in a similar way to the "Be the Hero" program. Meanwhile visits to girls' schools continue, a session for teachers at St John's Dandenong & a Professional Development day for 90 Primary School Secretaries. Plans are in place for Professor Bob Pease to give a workshop to secondary school teachers on May 2, 2012. Carol Hogan sss.

ACRATH in South Australia take on CALD projects.

The main initiative in recent months for ACRATH in South Australia has been our work on Cultural and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) projects. On October 4 we held a CALD meeting. We invited the head of the Catholic Multicultural Office in Adelaide and representatives from the Vietnamese, Indian and Sudanese Communities. At this meeting we began with a presentation on human trafficking and the work of ACRATH. We asked them what they thought their communities already knew about human trafficking? We explored together the best way to raise awareness on human trafficking issues within their communities. We asked if there were issues about which some members within their communities may be very sensitive? We encouraged them to think about which community members may wish to be involved in raising awareness in relation to human trafficking.

On October 29 we were invited to speak at the Filipino Catholic Pastoral Support Committee. I have met with the Manager of the Vietnamese Women's Association. ACRATH has been invited to present to a group of Vietnamese women on November 8. Anne Tormey rsm



International Women's Development AGENCY INC.

On September 1, I attended the Pacific Partners Event organised by IWDA. Fiji islander Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, the founder of the innovative feminist-based organisation femLINKPACIFIC which enable women's voices to be heard by political leaders in her country was one of the speakers. Also Stephanie Polyn from the Solomon Islands, from their Live and Learn Environmental



Educational project told the group of their challenges and successes in enabling women's voices to be heard across the Pacific.

The Executive Director of IWDA, Joanna Hayter, in her introduction to the visitors insisted that "partnership is the essence of all we do at IWDA".

I hope to attend the Meeting on November 8th at the same venue in Melbourne, as one of their aims is to create positive change for women and their communities in Asia and the Pacific. We, at ACRATH are also focusing on Asia and the Pacific to support endeavours that increase opportunities for girls to access education.

Therese Power rsm

'Just Salvos' Brothel Support Team

Attendance at the information morning led by the Support Team held on August 6 was inspiring. About sixty people, men and women, older and younger, listened to reports from Nikki Capp, team leader, worker from Craigieburn and others from as far away as Perth. It was noted that the key components of this ministry were prayer

support, visiting brothels, making cupcakes for distribution at the brothels, research, record-keeping and interpreting. One woman who took twenty-four cupcakes each fortnight to a local brothel told the gathering that the women look forward to her visit and feel valued that she would think of them, take time to bake for them and then visit

them. The question was asked about ways to engage in the ministry. I came away with the challenge that was expressed in their latest newsletter "if you do nothing else please would you pray for this ministry, for the women we visit and for the team members involved". *Therese Power rsm*

Pornographic Material & Internet Safety. I attended a meeting organized by Senator Scott Ludlum from the Parliamentary Committee on Cyber-Safety. He spoke with internet consultants re the accessibility of pornographic material and internet safety - how to interrupt the supply chain of pornographic/abuse sites via disruption of payments etc. Discussions included measures to combat child abuse online and issues linked to human trafficking. *Therese Power rsm*

ACRATH Continues to Network with Others in the Local Area.

A luncheon, hosted by Mary Kingsbury (Co-ordinator of the Kilbride Centre) was held on Wednesday 26 October 2011 at the Kilbride Centre in Albert Park. Special guests for the occasion were the City of Port Phillip: Cr Frank O'Connor (Councillor for Emerald Hill Ward), Cr Janet Bolitho (Councillor for Sandridge Ward), Robyn Szechtman (Community and Health Development Officer) and Cristina Del Frate (Multicultural Liaison Officer, Diversity and Ageing). Also present were Mary Anne Confoy rsc (Director of the Kilbride Centre), Brigid Arthur csb (one of the Co-ordinators of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project), Christine Carolan and Denise Mulcahy fcJ representing ACRATH. There was mutual sharing on issues being faced in the various situations.

Appreciation was expressed for networking which is currently happening, and possibilities of further collaboration were envisaged. *Denise Mulcahy fcJ*



L-R Cristina Del Frate, Robyn Szechtman and Christine Carolan

In Federal Parliament on 31st October Mr L D T Ferguson MP put forward a motion on the Harkin-Engel Protocol .

Group Battles the Slave Trade.

The motion of Mr L D T Ferguson-That the House:

- (1) notes the tenth anniversary of the Harkin-Engel Protocol signed in Sept. 2001, designed to encourage voluntary standards for the certification of cocoa production that prohibits and eliminates engagement in the worst forms of child labour, as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 which has been ratified by Australia; and
- (2) calls upon the Australian Government to:
 - (a) be proactive in measures to counter people trafficking or slavery;
 - (b) actively engage in International fora to ensure greater priority for consideration of measures against child slavery and trafficking;
 - (c) work co-operatively to improve traceability of products through the monitoring of products through the monitoring of their derivation where practical with reference to people trafficking and slavery; and
 - (d) co-operate with organisations and entities against people trafficking.

This motion was seconded by Dr Sharman Stone. ACRATH is very grateful to both Members of Parliament for this action. The debate on this motion continues in Parliament.

An International Conference on 'the Regional Responses to Labour Trafficking & Refugees: Movements in Asia Pacific' was held at the Armidale University on September 26 & 27. Margaret Ng rsj from NACRATH presented a paper on Direct Services and Support of Survivors of Trafficking and the Importance of Collaborative Initiatives.



This was the title of a article in the Port Phillip Leader (Local Paper, Melbourne) It stated that 'while the trade in humans is often overlooked, a group in Albert Park is working hard to put it back on the national agenda. The photograph was printed in the Port Phillip Leader. L-R Christine Carolan, Denise Mulcahy fcJ and Carol Hogan sss.

International Links. In November Kathy Fagan from WA's ACRATH will visit several Rescue/Recovery Centres in Thailand and Singapore. This includes COSASIA in Mea Rim, Maela, Refugee Camp on the Thai Burmese Border, the Fountain of Life Women's Centre in Pattaya and Bridget's House in Singapore. She will met up with some people on the ACRATH international contacts list while she is in Bangkok.



ACRATH is now on Twitter & Facebook. The links for Twitter is <http://twitter.com/#!/ACRATHumans>
The Facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/ACRATH/130485207059377>

**Slavery Still Exists Today.
Yes! Here in Australia.
Increase Awareness
You can help stop it!!**

**View our new look website
on www.acrath.org.au**

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Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans

And that is who we are - we represent more than 8000 women and men who belong to religious orders and who are passionate about eliminating trafficking and slavery in Australia.

We also work in collaboration with other groups and individuals -both government and non-government.

Our Inspiration "*Nobody has the right to treat you as her or his slave and you should not make anyone your slave.*" *Article 4 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.*

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full" *John 10.10*