



## From the President of ACRATH

Recently, we were saddened by the death of Sr Carol Hogan, tireless worker for ACRATH within the Victorian Committee and National Committee, as National Secretary, until the end of 2013. This good and gracious woman who endeared herself to us all has now entered into her joy. In this we rejoice.

The National Committee, after a recruitment process, is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Christine Carolan to the new position of National Executive Officer. Christine is well known through her enthusiastic and effective leadership in her previous role as National Projects Coordinator for ACRATH. Noelene Simmons sm was also reappointed for the next three years. Noelene has given outstanding service, particularly in her roles in NSW and as webmanager. We congratulate Christine and Noelene on their appointment.

ACRATH, now incorporated as an Association, has received Commonwealth funding through the Attorney General's Department of \$360,000 for the next triennium. We received an additional grant of \$61,000 to develop materials pertaining to the education, prevention and detection of forced marriage for use in government and private schools. Assured funding enables us to plan for the future.

We are particularly grateful to the leaders of many religious institutes within Australia who continue to contribute so generously to the work of ACRATH. These donations enable us to further our work of awareness raising, advocacy, networking, support of people identified as having been trafficked, and help us to ensure a sustainable future for ACRATH. Religious communities globally have been at the forefront of combating human trafficking since 2001.

We welcome the emphasis Pope Francis has given to the urgency of addressing the trafficking in humans:

"Modern slavery is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free the victims and stop this increasingly aggressive crime which threatens not only individuals but the basic values of society and of international security and justice, to say nothing of the economy, and the fabric of the family and our coexistence" (12 December 2013).

*Anne Tormey rsm*

## Freedom Partners

The Josephite Counter Trafficking Project has partnered with the Safe House in Sydney for trafficked women from the beginning.

This partnership provides education opportunities, material assistance, financial support and pastoral care to Safe House clients.

Jenny Stanger, manager, says that "one of the unexpected benefits of the Safe House's engagement with the sisters is in how they have helped clients build a peer support network which is of invaluable benefit." Sister Margaret Ng (pictured right) is of Chinese Malay background and speaks Mandarin, Sister Margaret Lergessner (pictured left) spent 25 years living in India and speaks fluent Hindi. Their language skills are really valuable tools in working with us.



### Above:

Logos for 3 forms of certification of ethical sourcing of raw materials (chocolate, coffee, tea etc)



### Easter Eggs: Slavery Free Easter Chocolate

<http://www.acrath.org.au/take-action/>

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## Meeting to educate people in Parishes and Deaneries

ACRATH Victoria conducted a meeting on Trafficking in Australia in conjunction with the Melbourne Archdiocesan Office for Evangelisation and the Office for Justice and Peace in March. The meeting began with a Ritual incorporating Lenten and Trafficking themes. This was followed by input from members of ACRATH. The topics covered were:

### What are elements of the challenge of modern day slavery?

Pope Francis' concern and invitation to all and the basic human right to be treated with dignity:

Where does modern day slavery exist? Here and globally? What is meant by "trafficking in humans?" Examples of modern day slavery – people being trafficked for sexual exploitation, as cheap labour eg domestic servitude, cocoa harvesting, farm work, organ harvesting, forced marriages etc

### ACRATH: One response to the call:

What/who is ACRATH?

What were ACRATH's origins?

What does ACRATH do? (4 objectives)

How does ACRATH support others in their work for justice?

### These presentations were followed by group discussion .

What surprises you in what you've heard?

What strikes you in Pope Francis' words?



### Possibilities of Action and Response to these challenges in the parishes

ACRATH's willingness to work with groups of parishes was reiterated  
Easter Chocolate Campaign

The evening concluded with the song "Who will speak if we don't?" Marty Haugen

*Carole McDonald rsm*



## Introducing Madelaine

I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with ACRATH on a part time basis. I have recently returned to Australia following a three month internship with Edmund Rice International in Geneva and the opportunity to work with ACRATH is a further chance to enhance my skills and knowledge of human trafficking. So far it has been a pleasure to work in the office with Christine and Denise! They do an amazing amount of work behind the scenes so I'm very happy to be helping them out for the next few months.



I will be working on the next stage of the Slavery- Free Easter Chocolate campaign and drafting a project proposal in the coming week, ultimately aiming to encourage all suppliers of chocolate to stock Fairtrade chocolate during Easter. Keep an eye out for further developments!

To help ensure more Fairtrade Easter chocolate is available on supermarket shelves, including IGA, Coles and Woolworths, I encourage you to tell one of these local supermarkets to stock greater amounts of UTZ, Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certified Easter eggs for Easter next year.

You can simply do this by logging onto Stop the Traffik Campaigns page at: <http://www.stophetraffik.org/au/ozeasterchoc> and follow the prompts.

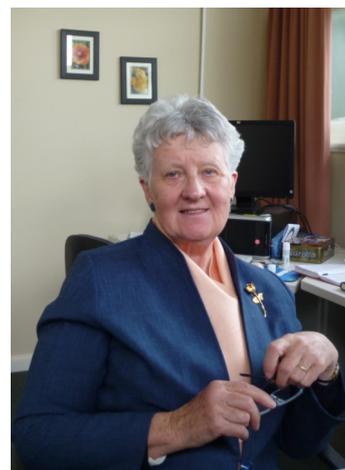
*Madelaine Curnow*

## Remembering Carol Hogan sss

### A Serene, Cheerful and Generous Woman

ACRATH members wish to pay tribute to Carol Hogan sss who died on Monday 2nd June. Carol made a significant contribution to ACRATH through the person that she was, through her assuming the role of Victorian co-ordinator and then National Secretary and through her encouragement of a group of young professional women who wished to take up the fight against human trafficking. At her funeral on 10th June Carole McDonald rsm delivered the following tribute to Carol.

"It seems very fitting that a woman who had begun her adult life as a Contemplative Religious in a Congregation devoted to the Blessed Eucharist, before turning to theological studies and ministry to students, should use those skills and inner qualities to work towards the extinction of all forms of exploitation, in particular of women. Carol often said that it is difficult for Christians to celebrate the Eucharist completely while members of the Body of Christ are suffering through the denial of their human rights and dignity.



We members of ACRATH were privileged to benefit from Carol's utter dedication to the education of the wider community about this evil. Carol gave not only her time, but more especially the fruits of her rich inner life of prayer, her insights and her ability to innovate with new ideas and to work towards their achievement. We will continue to miss Carol's serene, cheerful and generous presence among us, her tireless activity urging us on and her reminders through the inspirational prayers she provided for our meetings, that God is not bound by gender. God was always Sophia for Carol and we commend her now to enjoy that abiding new life in the presence of Sophia/Wisdom/Love, towards which her whole life was directed."

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***'Human trafficking' and 'slave labour' are 'horrors',  
'a scourge, a crime against the whole of humanity.'***

(Pope Francis 28 May 2014)

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## DGR Status for ACRATH

ACRATH received official notification that we have been granted Deductible Gift Recipient status and have been placed on the Register of Harm Prevention charities. As a Harm Prevention Charitable Institution there are a number of obligations ACRATH must fulfill.

The message included the following:

'The principal activity of ACRATH is to promote the prevention or control of emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. The organisation is required to actively seek donations from the public and actually receive them, if this does not happen the organisation cannot be on the Register and will be removed. The organisation must continue to meet the principal activity requirement, if it does not the organisation will be removed from the Register. The first statistical return, for 2014-15 is due on 31 October 2015'.

Once the Australian Tax Office completes the endorsement we will be able to advertise the availability of Tax Deductible receipts and maintain donations that will ensure the sustainability of ACRATH and enable us to broaden the scope of our work into areas we have wanted to reach, but could not because of limited funding.

Approval for this Register has required a significant amount of work and time and we are very grateful to Shane Wood cfc (ACRATH Treasurer) and our pro bono layers from Allens.

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(L) Noeline Simmons sm with  
Michelle Rowland MP

(R) An Interfaith forced marriage event organised by Anti-Slavery Australia was held at NSW Parliament House. This photo includes Rebekah Kilpatrick from the Attorney General's Department with Genny Ryan osu and Noeline Simmons sm.



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

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

*Please consider a regular donation to ACRATH so that we can plan ahead.*

*Contact Christine at the National Office.*

[www.acrath.org.au](http://www.acrath.org.au)

**People are NOT for sale**

This message was distributed widely by ACRATH in WA:

Further to our Lenten season Chocolate Easter Egg campaign, ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) asks that schools, their Boards and Parents' and Friends' bodies make a stand for justice by asking for and using FAIR TRADE labelled chocolates in all fund raising campaigns.

We will draw more people's attention to the continuing existence of slavery and human trafficking in the world when we sell FAIR TRADE chocolates. Our choices make a positive difference in the lives of many. When buying or using chocolate products please ask for and use only brands clearly marked with the following labels.

**REQUEST:**

PLEASE KEEP UP THE PRESSURE FOR FAIR TRADE FOR JUSTICE.

**Universal Periodic Review**

ACRATH is currently drafting a submission to the Australian Shadow Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council. This will highlight the positive actions already taken by the federal government. The submission will also include proposals for policy changes and possible actions for the federal government to consider. This will also be fed into the UN CEDAW process.

**National Roundtable**

On 14 July ACRATH staff, Noelene Simmons sm and I, attended the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking hosted by Justice Minister Michael Keenan at Parliament House Canberra. The Roundtable was an all day meeting at which I was able to raise some of ACRATH's major concerns – access to services for trafficked people, visa titles and the entitlements that fall out of each visa class (eg English classes) and the need for the slavery free supply chain working group to begin its work. We were both pleased to endorse other groups' concerns, eg the need for a federal financial compensation scheme, the need to work to address poverty and to encourage resilience, especially amongst women, in source countries. Noelene and I utilised the break times for focussed networking.

Noelene and I had a series of meetings after the Roundtable, some with other advocates, and one with a Senator who encouraged us in our advocacy work, particularly our annual advocacy visit to Canberra. Jennifer Burn joined our ACRATH team: Genny Ryan, Noelene Simmons and myself for a series of meetings in Ministers' offices and with the Australian Federal Police. We were able to explore in more depth our key issues, and to flag our return to Canberra in September to promote a resolution to the issues we have flagged.

At the end of our work on Tuesday Genny said she felt that we have developed a good strategy for our next visit in September with the Ministerial level advocacy. Noelene said she appreciated the sense of collaboration we had experienced and had a sense of hope with regard to some issues we raised. I felt re-newed energy for ongoing collaborations with so many good hearted people.

*Christine Carolan*