



ACRATH would like to wish you peace and all good at Christmas and for the coming year.

Thank you for your support throughout 2014.



Inside this issue:

Radio and Print Awareness Project 2

Geraldton Midwest Anti-trafficking Group 3

Companionship Program 3

Perth Training 4

World Day of Peace 2015 4

Australian Catholic University 4

National Roundtable addresses ACRATH concerns

The National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery met in Canberra on 2 December 2014. ACRATH was represented by Noelene Simmons sm and Ms Christine Carolan. Noelene and Christine met with other NGOs after the Roundtable and shared their belief that there has been significant movement on issues named as important for the NGOs, eg visa titles and entitlements, and access to English classes. ACRATH was delighted by the announcement that people on the permanent trafficking visa can now access AMEP English classes and that there will be no 104 week waiting period! Other issues of concern raised were the need for just compensation for people trafficked into Australia, flexible entry and exits from the Support for Trafficked People Program, and access to support for people facing forced labour, particularly in regional agriculture.

The Roundtable was preceded by a breakfast launch attended by three Ministers, all of whom in conversation acknowledged ACRATH work and commitment. Genny Ryan osu, our ACRATH ACT Convenor, was also invited to the breakfast. The three ACRATH members used the opportunity to network with other invitees on various matters of concern to ACRATH, eg forced marriage issues and human trafficking recognition by health care professionals. The Minister for Justice, Michael Keenan, launched the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015 - 19. The Minister also launched the Forced Marriage Community Pack; both the plan and the pack are available in soft copy on the AGD website.



Noelene Simmons sm, Minister Michael Keenan, Ms Christine Carolan, Genny Ryan osu



Noelene Simmons sm, Senator Michaelia Cash, Ms Christine Carolan, Genny Ryan osu

Supply Chains Working Group has begun its work!

Remember ACRATH raised the need for the Supply Chains Working Group with Members of Parliament in our annual advocacy week in Canberra in September 2014?

Well, we got what we were asking for. This Working Group was convened by the Attorney General's Department (AGD) on 28 Nov and Christine Carolan represented ACRATH at it. The Working Group has a good mix of representatives from government, non- government organisations, unions, universities and big business.

ACRATH hopes that this Working Group will tackle the issue of slavery in the supply chain of goods brought into Australia.

Anti-trafficking Project Works with Chaplains

The RAP (Radio and Print Awareness Project), an initiative of ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) has moved interstate and into Church. The current focus of the project is to create awareness amongst Catholic priests, particularly migrant chaplains, of the dangers of human trafficking within certain communities.

Priests and lay people working within parish communities are being asked to disseminate information through their networks to reach the target language groups, which are Tagalog, Vietnamese, Thai, Korean, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese (Mandarin).

ACRATH's Radio and Print Awareness Project has been working with migrant community groups in Australia to alert them to the dangers of trafficking for sex, or for work in construction, agriculture, hospitality and domestic settings. ACRATH offers support to people being forced to work for little or no pay, and who are vulnerable to exploitation.

The pilot migrant chaplains' project in Victoria was supported by the Melbourne Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office and information has been sent to more than 20 migrant chaplains serving communities in the Melbourne Archdiocese. ACRATH is keen to extend the project throughout Australia and some ACRATH members from ACT, Queensland and South Australia are currently working to have the resources used in migrant Church communities.

ACRATH would welcome contact from any priests or parishioners who work with the target communities and who would like to alert their communities to the risk of exploitation.

The anti-trafficking announcement states:

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

- **Slavery exists in some Australian workplaces today.**
- **Is someone forcing you to work for little or no pay?**
- **Is someone forcing you to work using threats to hurt you or your family?**
- **Has someone taken away your passport, birth certificate, or identification to control you?**
- **If any of these things have happened to you, you may be a victim of serious crime.**
- **If this is happening to you or if you are worried about someone please phone:**
- **Australian Federal Police on 131 237**
- **OR for free and confidential legal advice contact Anti-Slavery Australia**

Christine Carolan, National Director of ACRATH, said recent media reports that the Australian Federal Police are experiencing a rise in the number of human trafficking and forced marriage cases being reported, was a chilling reminder of the importance of reaching communities that may be at risk. "We are not suggesting that all the communities of our target language groups are involved, but we want to try and reach any people who might be vulnerable, or who might know of someone who has been trafficked."

Pope Francis also spoke out recently against human trafficking. In his November 25 speech to the Council of Europe, Pope Francis said "Peace is also violated by trafficking in human beings, the new slavery of our age, which turns persons into merchandise for trade and deprives its victims of all dignity".

Information: If you would like to talk about the RAP resources, or need support to create awareness in your community, please contact RAP worker Rosie Hoban on 03 9481 8943 or 0431 471046.

The RAP resources include:

A news release (English)

An information sheet that could be printed off, posted on websites etc for parishioners (English)

The anti-trafficking announcement in English and in the relevant language (Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Arabic or Spanish).

Visit to Geraldton Midwest Anti-trafficking Group (MAG)

Brianna Lee from ACRATH visited Geraldton early in November to meet with MAG. On Tuesday evening Brianna spoke at a public forum. On Wednesday she attended breakfast at the Rotary Club of Geraldton Greenough followed by four presentations to the new Year 12 students of 2015 (approximately 100 students) at Nagle Catholic College and a late afternoon meeting with the Midwest Multicultural Association. Brianna was also able to speak on ABC Midwest Radio and Radio Mama and there was a small article in the Geraldton Guardian newspaper.

MAG was particularly grateful to:

1. Minister Andrew Burr for use of the St George's Anglican Church Bluff Point Hall facilities
2. President Tim Duggan for the Rotary Club of Geraldton Greenough morning meeting.
3. Andrew Donaldson, Director of Ministry & Organisation at Nagle Catholic College.
4. Erfana Jackey from Midwest Multicultural Association for the networking and encouragement.

Brianna spoke extensively with Maria and Pam from MAG about operational issues including:

- Using the right language to engage
- Recognising trafficking that occurs outside of sex trafficking
- How ACRATH can support the MAG work
- Creating information kits for MAG's use in approaching other organisations and individuals
- What to do if they suspect someone is trafficked

A week later MAG members Pam, Robert and Maria attended the training in Perth organised by The Freedom Partnership - to End Modern Slavery (Salvation Army) and hosted by Perth ACRATH at RUAH Training Room. See page 4 for further details.



Photo: Maria, Brianna and Pam

“Peace is also violated by trafficking in human beings, the new slavery of our age, which turns persons into merchandise for trade and deprives its victims of all dignity. Not infrequently we see how interconnected these phenomena are. The Council of Europe through its Committees and Expert Groups, has an important and significant role to play in combating these forms of inhumanity”.
(Pope Francis Nov 2014)

Companionship Program

We were fortunate enough to complete our Year 11 Companionship Program, from Monday the 24th until Friday the 28th of November, at ACRATH. The students spent three days at home on tasks arising from the ACRATH website and two days tackling tasks at the national office.

We began our week exploring the issue that is human trafficking. Prior to this week, we were quite ignorant towards human trafficking, not really sure what it was about and the role that we can play in putting an end to the trafficking of humans.

We feel very blessed to have been given such a wonderful opportunity to learn more about such a widespread subject. We have learnt so much, and are very much looking forward to bringing our knowledge into our school community and raising awareness for the issue that is human trafficking.



*Caitlin McClusky, Emma Delahunt,
and Isabella Dalla Costa*

Year 11 Genazzano F.C.J College Students



**AUSTRALIAN
CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS
RESPONSE TO
IN HUMANS**

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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.



Above:

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

www.acrath.org.au

People are NOT for sale

Perth Training

On 16 November training on **identifying and responding to modern slavery in Australia** was held in Perth with 50 participants from 26 different agencies. The training was led by The Freedom Partnership (Salvation Army) and co-sponsored by ACRATH.

Among the participants were ACRATH members, people from the Geraldton Midwest Anti-trafficking Group, universities, unions, multi-cultural groups, Red Cross, young people from Youth with a Mission (YWAM), and government groups.

Input came from Jenny and Lauren of the Freedom Partnership on the act, the means and the purpose of human trafficking: policies, signs and case studies. A member of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) spoke about the law and action the AFP can take and a Red Cross representative outlined the assistance they offer. There were many interesting questions, useful small group conversations and a very positive response to the day.

A follow-up network meeting was held on the 17 Nov to plan how the various groups can work together in the interests of preventing trafficking and assisting those trafficked. Thanks are due to Kathy for inviting so many agencies and individuals to the training, to Jenny, Heather and Lauren for presenting the training and to Lucy for organising the venue (Ruah) and the meals.



(Photo shows a group of participants at Perth training)

World Day of Peace 2015

It was announced earlier this year that the Pope's message for World Day of Peace on 1 January will be entitled *No longer slaves, but brothers and sisters*.

Australian Catholic University

Earlier this year ACRATH was approached by the Dean of Law, St Thomas More Law School, Australian Catholic University, with a view to providing some pro bono assistance for ACRATH. After a number of planning meetings 1st Year Law students of the North Sydney campus began a two week intensive pro bono project on 1st December. The students have been given input about the work of ACRATH and the issue of Human Trafficking. They are researching "Principles for a compensation scheme for people trafficked into Australia: What are the learnings from overseas?"

During the project the seventeen students involved attended the bi-monthly meeting of NSW ACRATH during which they gave a progress report on their findings. The final report will be presented to ACRATH on Friday 12th December. This material will be very valuable to ACRATH as we continue to advocate for a Federal Compensation Scheme for women, men and children trafficked into Australia.

ACRATH is grateful for this opportunity to develop a partnership with the St Thomas More Law School and wishes to wholeheartedly thank all staff and students who have been involved.



Photo: Noelene Simmons sm with staff and students during the Dec 2014 intensive.