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People are NOT for sale

OUR GOALS: 2017 – 2020

OUR VISION:

A world free of human trafficking

<p>GOAL 1 ELIMINATE FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & IN FORCED LABOUR</p>	<p>GOAL 2 ELIMINATE FORCED MARRIAGE IN AUSTRALIA & GLOBALLY</p>
<p>GOAL 3 ENSURE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED ACCESS THEIR RIGHTS</p>	<p>GOAL 4 PROMOTE SLAVERY-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GOAL 5 DEVELOP OUR ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY & INFLUENCE</p>	

ACRATH appreciates the bipartisan support for policy work on human trafficking. ACRATH believes positive change has grown out of the genuine collaboration between government and civil society.

In the past 12 months ACRATH *exceeded* these milestones related to Home Affairs funding:

- ⇒ Assisted 28 trafficked women through our Companionship Program, supported by 17 trained volunteers; 24 children are assisted through this program
- ⇒ Disseminated forced marriage awareness-raising materials in 4 states to ACRATH volunteers, marriage celebrants, parents, teachers, school counsellors and student groups in Government, Catholic and Independent schools
- ⇒ Conducted over 60 media engagements to raise awareness of labour exploitation, forced marriage and human trafficking via print, radio and digital media
- ⇒ Collaborated with St Vincent's Health Australia to assist hospitals identify and treat trafficked people and 'slavery proof' the goods and services they use
- ⇒ Over 7,705 hours of volunteer time donated, conservatively costed at \$238,189

MODERN SLAVERY BILL

ACRATH notes that the Modern Slavery Bill is before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee. ACRATH is pleased to see the inclusion of annual reporting on risks of modern slavery in supply chains by large companies and actions to address those risks; government reporting on procurement is also welcome. ACRATH supports the establishment of an Anti-Slavery Business Engagement Unit to manage these statements.

ACRATH recommends the following crucial inclusion to the current Bill:

1. The **appointment of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner** with oversight of the implementation of the Act. We urge that this Commissioner be independent, support business as a trusted advisor, encourage best practice in the prevention of slavery and human trafficking, and promote public awareness.

ACRATH further believes that new legislation is needed including:

1. The **licencing of labour hire firms** would address in part the exploitation currently being experienced by overseas workers. These workers can suffer from coercion when they do not know their rights. They are often underpaid and can even be offered fewer hours of work than was promised. They also can experience inadequate living conditions. This will help to realise Goals 1.3 and 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The **establishment of a National Compensation Scheme** would eliminate the inconsistencies currently in place across State and Territory schemes and enable compensation for the full harm experienced by trafficked persons.

FORCED MARRIAGE

There have been 173 referrals of forced marriage to the Australian Federal Police and the number is growing exponentially since 2013. Based on its work on Forced Marriage, ACRATH asks for

the **establishment of a national approach to awareness-raising education** amongst educators and high school aged students about the incidence of forced marriage in Australia and about the need to include forced marriage in the definition of family violence . This will help to realise SDG Goal 5.3.

ACTION We ask MPs to approach the Minister for Education and Training, Senator Birmingham, to encourage him to take national leadership on this issue.

FUNDING

ACRATH's work is compromised by not receiving Home Affairs funding for the next 12 months. We believe that the current 12 month ad hoc funding of NGOs makes it difficult for NGOs to achieve their work of crime prevention, advocacy and support of trafficked persons. The current model used to award funding puts us in competition with other counter trafficking NGOs which is counter productive. We seek one commitment:

1. The inclusion of a **3-5 year funding schema** in the Home Affairs departmental budget under the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery. This would enable funded NGOs to undertake their work in a systematic and productive way.

ACTION Please write to Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Minister Hawke, asking for 5 year non-competitive funding for NGOs, embedded in the Home Affairs budget.

Christine Carolan
ACRATH National Executive Officer
eo@acrath.org.au 0427 302 755

Sr Noelene Simmons sm
ACRATH President & Web Manager
president@acrath.org.au 0450 279 463