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People are NOT for sale

## With your support we changed lives

ACRATH's 2021 fundraising campaign has beaten all expectations, thanks to your generosity. We reached our campaign target of \$150,000 in a year that proved difficult for many people.

"This campaign result shows how committed our supporters are to eliminating human trafficking and provides greater hope that together we will bring an end to modern day slavery," said ACRATH President Sr Louise Cleary. "We have so much to thank you for."

This year ACRATH, with your help, has been able to support, advocate for, create awareness of and provide companionship to, many victim/survivors of human trafficking. COVID meant that once again we had to do things differently, mostly apart, but always keeping the trafficked person at the centre of our work.

We reached more than 500 of you through our Conversation series over five months. We spoke to dozens of politicians, via zoom, in a bid to improve outcomes for trafficked people. Importantly, both of these initiatives informed more people about human trafficking and the impact here in Australia and globally.

We thank you for your donations, your prayers, your attendance at events (online and in person) and most of all your willingness to play your part in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery.

Your generosity has meant:

- A young victim/survivor of human trafficking, supported by an ACRATH Companion for several years, was able to get long overdue eye surgery.
- Our four years of advocacy for the 22 seasonal workers from Vanuatu, who were exploited in Australia and left with almost no wages, finally led to Act of Grace payments for the men. This was a partnership with our ACRATH membership, with civil society colleagues, and at least 38 people in Parliament and departmental roles.
- Our staff and volunteer teams pivoted during pandemic lockdowns into major new tech-assisted initiatives to engage effectively in regions across Australia and internationally. We trained front-line workers in education and healthcare on identifying indicators of forced marriage and we built support connections with overseas partners for trafficked people overseas who have been exploited by Australian citizens.
- ACRATH, in partnership with St John of God Health Care embarked on a major formation-training program, offered to 563 leaders from its facilities in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste.

Many religious congregations have been long-time donors to ACRATH with major cash and in-kind donations. Sr Louise said regular donations to ACRATH guarantee that our advocacy, training and victim/survivor support programs can continue into the future and enable us to plan with confidence.

Monthly donors, the Presentation Sisters from Tasmania, captured the sentiment of many:

*We are aware that sadly, there are many who are unable to exercise their God-given rights over who they are and how they live as that freedom is taken from them. They are prevented by others from being able to make choices as to how they live their life and are forced to become the property of others.*

*Trafficking of humans is evil personified by those who inflict it on their fellow human beings. In the developed world it is mostly hidden from sight but is no less real.*

*Our Sisters are grateful for the opportunity to contribute financially in some small way, to assist in eradicating this evil from our world so that our sisters and brothers can freely choose to live their life to their fullest potential, as Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness" (Jn 10:10).*

This year is coming to an end and it is also a time of coming together. Our States and Territories are beginning to open up and hopefully you will get to spend Christmas with your families and friends. Enjoy the time over summer with your friends and families and we wish you all a very Happy and blessed Christmas.



Louise Cleary csb (President) and Christine Carolan (Executive Officer)

## Pip takes 'healing' to heart

Pip McIlroy is the sort of person Lisa McDonald has in mind when she talks about the 'head and heart' needed to combat human trafficking. Lisa, the Group Mission Leader at St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA), has been part of a partnership with ACRATH for several years. Pip entered the picture a year ago when the responsibility for leading SVHA's national response to Modern Slavery was included in her role at St Vincent's.



Pip, who works on ethics education, advice and strategy and supports staff formation across the SVHA network, including the Modern Slavery Advocates for Change Program, heard about victim/survivor \*Karlie, who had completed a health care certificate and was looking for work in the health sector. Karlie has been supported for the past five years by an ACRATH volunteer in regional NSW, through the Companionship program.

Pip's determination to help Karlie set off a chain of events involving many staff and departments within St Vincent's. All worked together to try and find work for Karlie within the network. Pip took a lead role when Karlie's application for work at one of the SVHA facilities in Sydney led to an interview.

"We are a very large network so I was able to explore several options to determine where Karlie might best find work. I ended up talking to colleagues in Sydney and there was a sense 'that we can make this happen'," Pip said. There was a clear commitment to put Karlie, a victim/survivor of human trafficking at the heart of the 'story'.

"We were no longer talking about abstract cases, but about a woman who had survived human trafficking," Pip said.

Pip became Karlie's mentor in the lead-up to the interview, running through possible questions with her and explaining the process of the interview and familiarising Karlie with the St Vincent's staff on the panel. The pair even tested the Zoom technology that Karlie was required to use for the interview.

"Karlie had never had a job interview before, so I just tried to allay her fears by giving her as much information and preparation as possible. She had the qualification, the skills and the passion, she just needed support."

Karlie got the job in clinical support at St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney. 'Team Karlie' involved many St Vincent's staff and a Sister of Charity who help Karlie find accommodation in Sydney.

"I was just a tiny part of this story that involved various St Vincent's staff and ACRATH. We are a big organisation, our mission is at the heart of who we are and it was such a privilege to be part of Karlie's story, which is ongoing."

Dr Lisa McDonald said: "The work we do to combat human trafficking is about more than complying with the Modern Slavery Act, it's about ensuring the dignity and flourishing of every human being, especially where a person is vulnerable. I cannot imagine any organisation whose purpose is healing being committed to anything less".

*\*Karlie is not the woman's name.*



**Photo above:** Helen Thomas and Anna Dickinson look through the 2022 ACRATH calendar.

## Keep up to date

Loreto Kirribilli is committed to creating awareness of human trafficking and believes that gifting all teachers and support staff an ACRATH calendar is a good place to start.

Helen Thomas, Director of Mission at the school in NSW, said teachers and students were interested in finding out more about human trafficking in Australia and globally.

Loreto Kirribilli's Principal Anna Dickinson has bought about 250 calendars for the past two years and distributed them amongst the Kinder to Year 12 teachers, support staff and maintenance staff. The school is the largest buyer of ACRATH calendars.

"We love the calendar because it is a snapshot of the issues and every page provides some information, facts and insights into an aspect of human trafficking and modern day slavery," Helen said.

The calendar, put together by ACRATH Queensland coordinator Sr Janine Bless fmm, was first published in 2015 to create awareness of human trafficking and to raise funds for ACRATH's work.

The ACRATH calendars are now on sale for \$10 plus postage. If you would like to order a 2022 calendar please go to

<https://acrath.org.au/acrath-2022-calendar/>

## Ambassador Chiara Porro urges people to be the voice of the victim/survivor

Chiara Porro was appointed Australian Ambassador to the Holy See last year after a career that has taken her to some major human trafficking destinations globally. She is passionate about doing whatever she can to create awareness and strengthen networks to combat human trafficking, and to support victim/survivors. Chiara praises Pope Francis for using his influence to shine a spotlight on human trafficking and by working closely with faith and secular leaders on the issue. She spoke with ACRATH this week about her work.

Listen to the interview here <https://acrath.org.au/a-voice-for-victim-survivors/>



**Photo above:** At that same time that she presented her credentials, Ambassador to the Holy See Chiara Porro also presented as a gift to His Holiness Pope Francis a book of Indigenous poetry, which he was very pleased to receive.

## RESPECT Please!

A powerful series of seven posters, designed by Marilyn Ross and Liz Payne, is now available to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign starting on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Marilyn and Liz have worked together on awareness raising and education projects for a number of years and continue collaborating to get the message out that human trafficking and modern slavery happens here in Australia and we all have the capacity to be activists to help eradicate this violence.

The United Nations 16 days of activism begins on 25th November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ends on 10th December – Human Rights Day. Human trafficking, a \$150 billion global industry, is one of the greatest examples of violence against women and girls. As well, millions of women and girls are forced to marry or to work in terrible conditions for little pay and no chance of an education.

Marilynn, a long-time colleague and supporter of ACRATH, is passionate about human rights and teaching as many people as possible about human trafficking, modern slavery and slavery-like practices. Liz is a member of ACRATH and is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of the most vulnerable through education and companionship.

“The RESPECT posters have been designed to provide an ongoing and developmental understanding of the reality of gendered violence in human trafficking and modern slavery. They are a gradual unfolding of the issues and of the ways in which we can work together to eradicate the problem. It’s by a prevention-based approach and putting victim-survivors firmly at the centre of all our efforts that we can achieve outcomes,” Liz said.

The RESPECT focus seeks to examine the rights of the victim-survivors and to place their human dignity at the forefront of our collective efforts.

“Our inspiration comes from our first-hand experience of the human face of human trafficking and modern slavery. We are passionate activists focused on contributing to social action,” Marilyn said.

Liz and Marilyn hope the posters and a film clip will help people understand that human trafficking and modern slavery happens here in Australia. It’s not just an “over there” problem. “We can all make a difference by being aware and by being prepared to take note and take action”.

The brief film seeks to provide a snapshot of human trafficking and modern slavery from a global, regional and national perspective. The majority of victim/survivors are women and girls. There are actions we each can take to help eradicate it - now! Start with getting these posters into at least five places.

Find the posters at <https://acrath.org.au/respect-please/>

## ACRATH - 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 2021

### POSTER SERIES

### It's all about RESPECT



**Orange the world: End violence against women now!**

## Shop fair at Christmas

Most Australians want to shop ethically and Christmas is the perfect time to start. It is estimated that Australians will spend more than \$18 billion this Christmas. Lots of the gifts will end up in landfill and much of the clothing will be worn less than 10 times.

According to the 2021 [the Australian Ethical Consumer Report](#) 87% of the 2000 people surveyed want to change their fashion consumption habits to consume more ethically, but just 46% regularly purchase from ethical/sustainable fashion brands.

Ethical shopping was under the spotlight during ACRATH's recent online Conversation, ***Placing the person at the centre of our Christmas shopping***, featuring Bonnie Graham (pictured), Ethical Fashion Coordinator with Baptist World Aid Australia and Nick Savaidis, founder of ETIKO. Nick's company scored an A+ in the recently released [Ethical Fashion Guide](#)

Clothing sold by ETIKO is certified FAIRTRADE and ensures workers are paid fairly and that the FAIRTRADE premium is used to improve community outcomes.

ETIKO t-shirts are made using cotton produced by the Chetna Organic Cooperative, which now has 7000 members. Producers are paid a floor price for the cotton, which will not drop if the global price of cotton collapses. However, they are paid more if the price of cotton increases. The cooperative has diversified with many farmers now also growing legumes. The FAIRTRADE premium has been used to improve communities including the building of toilet blocks and educational facilities.

Nick said buying FAIRTRADE was not about making a donation to a charity, but about spending money on quality products that could also improve the lives of the producers and their communities.

Bonnie joined Baptist World Aid after a career in the fashion industry, which she left because of many practices she witnessed. She didn't want to 'contribute to a broken system that exploits people, it exploits the planet and ultimately relies on convincing people that they constantly need more'.

Bonnie and Nick urged people to think about their purchases for Christmas and where possible to buy from companies that are working to improve conditions for workers and the environment.

Listen to the 30-minute online Conversation, ***Placing the person at the centre of our Christmas shopping***, at <https://acrath.org.au/shop-fair-at-christmas/>



And don't forget about slavery-free gifts of chocolate, teas and coffee. Just look for one of three labels: FAIRTRADE, UTZ and Rainforest Alliance.

And when you shop, please ask the staff in the shop if their goods are slavery-free, and if they don't know, ask them to register your interest with their manager.

We need to be demanding consumers!

## Join us in prayer and reflection

### Bring light & hope into the darkness of human trafficking

Join ACRATH's zoom gathering at 1pm on  
10 December 2021 – Human Rights Day

An international prayer and reflection zoom gathering will be held by ACRATH on December 10 to end the 16 Days campaign against gender based violence.

The day has deep significance; The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, was the result of the experience of the Second World War. It is a milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights of all human beings. Article 4 of the UDHR commits the world to freedom from '**slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms**'.

The United Nations 16 days of activism against gender-based violence begins on 25<sup>th</sup> November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends on 10<sup>th</sup> December - Human Rights Day.

Human trafficking, a \$150 billion global industry, is one of the greatest examples of violence against women and girls. As well, millions of women and girls are forced to marry and to work in terrible conditions for little, or no pay and no chance of an education.

**[The one-hour prayer and reflection zoom gathering will be held at 1pm \(Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra time\) on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. To participate, please join the Zoom Meeting](#)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85832477712?pwd=OEVidXZ1eHEzMGNxUIZkVXM5WjJaUT09>

One of the prayer and reflection gathering organisers Bernard Dobson said that we are reminded in Genesis 1:27 that 'God created humankind in God's own image' and that this is a foundational passage guiding all of us to treat others with equal dignity and respect. We are also reminded by Isaiah (49:15) that God will never forget us. God's tender love and support extends to all.

"Jesus reveals to us that our God is a God of hope. Whenever Jesus encountered a person suffering and apart from the community, he restored their dignity and drew them into the light," Bernard said.

"During the prayer and reflection gathering people will be asked to reflect on various aspects of human trafficking and ways we can support those who are trafficked. We are reminded by St Teresa of Avila that Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Another organiser Mary Cameron said: Violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable. Whenever we assist another, especially someone whose dignity has been downtrodden, we are a source of hope and light to them. No matter how small our action may be, we become co-workers in proclaiming the reign of justice.

Bernard and Mary said they want people to end the 16 Days Campaign on December 10 with a sense of hope that "we can go and do something to bring light where there is darkness and despair".

For more information about the prayer and reflection zoom gathering please contact:  
[office@acrath.org.au](mailto:office@acrath.org.au)



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

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

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/acrath>  
or <https://acrath.org.au/donate>

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

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