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People are NOT for sale

August 2015

## Forced Marriage Project

The past few months have been filled with wonderful opportunities for the Forced Marriage Project to really take off.

Nine pilot schools in NSW, SA and Vic are implementing the Australian Marriage & Choices Pilot Project – as it is currently titled. The teachers in the pilot schools have participated in Workshops to explore, in depth, the Attorney-General’s Department materials published in December 2014. Their training has also included some time to unpack elements of the learning and teaching materials, developed for the Secondary Schools Resource Kit, which contains the Unit of Study.

The teachers are having their Year 9, 10 and 11 students complete a Pre-Learning Student Questionnaire to ascertain existing knowledge about forced marriage. At the conclusion of the Unit of Study – which will be being trialled over the next six weeks - the students will complete a Post-Learning Student Questionnaire, so that we have some empirical data about growth in knowledge and understanding of secondary students as a result of their participation in the Project.

We have made copies of the Kit available to the ACRATH National Committee (for consultation as a group), to all state and territory Education Departments, to the Catholic Education Offices in NSW, SA and Vic and to our colleague NGOs. State police in NSW, SA and Vic have also received a copy of the Kit, as has the AGD and Australian Federal Police. We have invited feedback from all these departments and agencies and have started to receive helpful advice that will assist us to further refine the Kit for use in Australian secondary schools in the future. An exciting time indeed for the Project!

Special thanks are extended to Christine Carolan for her collegiality, assistance and support as well as all her valuable insights and input, as I have found my way through the initial months of the Project.

If you would like any further information about the Forced Marriage Project, please feel welcome to contact me at [fm@acrath.org.au](mailto:fm@acrath.org.au) and 0400 627 060.

Liz Payne (ACRATH Forced Marriage Project Worker)



## Forced Labour

Forced labour and or labour exploitation is often in the news in recent months and ACRATH, in collaboration with several other non-government organizations, is working on policy change and advocacy.

Victorian ACRATH member Therese Power rsm and RAP worker Rosie Hoban are representing ACRATH on a networking group that includes National Union of Workers, Salvation Army, Walk Free and more recently, Harris Wake Legal (Migration). Mark Zirnsak, Justice & International Mission Uniting Church in Australia, is leading the group.

ACRATH has joined this group with letters to Ministers expressing concern about the exploitation of migrant and temporary worker visas and seeking greater compliance for labour hire companies. There is also a letter-writing campaign. Please check out the ACRATH website for details on this.

Rosie, in collaboration with Janine Bliss fmm, has developed a PowerPoint on forced labour, which also includes general information about ACRATH and the RAP. This PowerPoint is a resource for ACRATH groups to use, or to take part of and use. If you want a copy, please contact the ACRATH office or Rosie at [rap@acrath.org.au](mailto:rap@acrath.org.au)

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



## Update on the recent Attorney-General's Department (AGD) Grant to ACRATH Progress report 1: January—July 2015

Recently the National Office submitted the second Progress Report to the AGD. The report strongly demonstrated the diverse range of work that ACRATH members are currently undertaking across Australia. The report also demonstrates the breadth of ACRATH's work, which is continuing to grow as we are becoming more widely known as an organisation in various sectors.

### In this reporting period:

- ACRATH volunteers have recorded 3,243 donated hours across Australia.
- ACRATH was contracted to do 5 presentations and we have given 94 presentations.
- ACRATH has provided support to 24 people who have been trafficked, and their children.
- ACRATH was contracted to attend a minimum of 5 network meetings. We attended more than 92 network meetings.
- ACRATH was contracted to upload a minimum of 5 items to the website. We uploaded 52 items to the ACRATH website.
- ACRATH was contracted to distribute 6 e-news communications. We distributed 39 e-news communications.

### Some highlights of this reporting period include the following:

**The National Conference-** Marking ACRATH's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

**Regional, rural and remote collaboration across Australia-** ACRATH members have engaged with community members and organisations, schools, parishes, and local MPs in many regional centres including: Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton and Bundaberg, Geraldton and Karratha, Orange, Wellington and Wagga Wagga, Mildura, Harrietville, Wangaratta, Ballarat, Bendigo, Apollo Bay, Geelong, Swan Hill, Melton, Geelong, and the region of Gippsland and Port Augusta.

**ACRATH has made a major expansion in our support for trafficked women and their children in Australia-** Members have helped people access and find accommodation; have helped women be in touch with their home country communities, and have accompanied several trafficked women to parent teacher meetings at their child's school.

**Changes to human trafficking visa framework-** Minister Cash and Minister Keenan acknowledged ACRATH's long term advocacy work on the visa framework at the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery. ACRATH members and collaborating NGOs have begun to work on the next phase of advocacy which will continue to address the needs of trafficked people.

**Increased engagement with Catholic groups-** Including: Preparation of resources and promotion of World Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking/St. Bakhita Day, increased work with Migrant Chaplains, training of priests on human trafficking, forced labour and forced marriage and Noelene's advocacy work on human trafficking whilst on the General Chapter of the Marist Sisters in Rome.

**The successful roll-out of the separate forced marriage pilot project.**

*Madelaine Curnow*

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## NSW Workshops

Noelene Simmons sm recently presented four workshops for the Yr 11 students at St Columba's Springwood. Many of the students signed Mondelez postcard asking Mondelez that Cadbury and Toblerone chocolate be #Traffikfree. Photos are below.



## Style for Life Day - Sunday 26 July ABC 774

On Sunday 26 July, ABC 774 Melbourne and radio announcer Libbi Gore presented the *Great Broadcast and Blow-dry* live from a Hair Salon in Point Cook, Victoria. The radio segment was in support of the *Style for Life Day*; a campaign in which hair salons all over Australia donated their time to cut, colour and blow-dry people's hair on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July to raise money for Hagar- a charity that works with survivors of human trafficking and human rights abuses.

Hagar CEO Kate Kennedy and Hagar Ambassador Rachel Griffiths were interviewed during the 2 hour segment as were other prominent anti-human trafficking advocates, including Joumanah El Matrah, Executive Director of Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights; Federal Agent David MacGregor, Team Leader AFP Human Trafficking Team and ACRATH Victorian member Therese Power rsm and Executive Officer Christine Carolan.

Christine and Therese were interviewed by Libbi on radio about how human trafficking and modern slavery affects us here in Australia and how slavery and exploitation is used in the products we use everyday. Therese spoke about the individuals she supports and provides companionship to. Christine was interviewed about the Slavery-free Easter Chocolate Campaign, specifically what ACRATH have advocated for since 2009. The Supply-Chain Manager of Haighs, Peter Millard, was also on air and he spoke about Haighs UTZ certification and the message conveyed by positive advocacy on corporate companies and their willingness to move to certified supply chains.



**You can listen to the 2-hour segment via the two following links:**

**First Hour of radio segment:** <https://soundcloud.com/774-abc-melbourne/the-great-broadcast-and-blowdry-first-hour>

**Second half of radio segment:** <https://soundcloud.com/774-abc-melbourne/the-great-broadcast-and-blowdry-second-hour>

## Clergy Conference, Wagga Wagga

The annual clergy conference for Wagga Wagga was held at the Cathedral Parish Centre on July 21-22.

Noelene Simmons sm and Genny Ryan osu were invited to present on the final day of the conference. They gave a presentation raising awareness of human trafficking including forced marriage, its causes and outlined possible local action. Noelene and Genny also spoke of the work of ACRATH to ensure the rights and complex needs of people trafficked into Australia for cheap farm labour or for the sex industry.

ACRATH's advocacy for ethical shopping was also highlighted. Including purchasing gifts and clothing that bear an ethical certification label.

The clergy responded well to the wide ranging question time.



Genny Ruan osu, Noelene Simmons sm and Bishop Hanna



Clergy Conference gathering



## News from Singapore

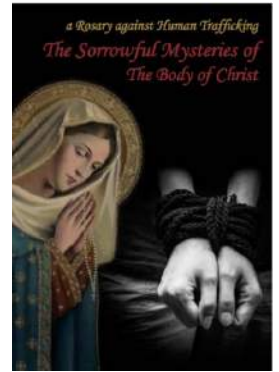
The Conference of Religious Major Superiors (CRMS) in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei has taken on the following initiatives as part of their Anti-Human Trafficking commitment for 2015-2016:

- 1) Website <http://saynohumantrafficking.info>
- 2) Rosary against Human Trafficking, which is downloadable from the website

Both were specially put together for the Conference, by the Franciscan Friars, together with a couple of their lay collaborators. The Conference is inviting all members of its institutes and ministries to visit the website, and share in the action and prayers.

Together, let us Say a resounding NO to Human Trafficking!

*John Wong ofm (Custos, Custody of Saint Anthony)*



## TEAR Fund Poverty Cycle (New Zealand)

**TEAR Fund** stands for **The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund**, an organisation formed in Britain in the 1950s in response to African famine. It later became a permanent organisation. The New Zealand group was formed in 1975.

The TEAR Fund Poverty Cycle is a competitive cycling challenge that gives businesses, schools, clubs and groups the opportunity to raise funds for some of the world's most vulnerable and at-risk children. This year the focus is on addressing the booming human trafficking trade and reaching the most vulnerable children. Fundraising is encouraged to join TEAR fight for a better world and life for them. Supporting projects both locally and globally, this year's challenge will be held on August 29th 2015 at Ti Papa Events Centre in Clevedon, Auckland.

Franciscan Friar, Philip Jeffares ofm, will be taking part in this cycle. We wish him all the best.

For more information visit <http://www.povertycycle.org.nz/>

## Watch this space...

As you may have heard, the group #Speakup is hosting international advocate, author and speaker Jasvinder Sanghera CBE to Australia in October 2015. Jasvinder, a survivor of forced marriage, is an activist and campaigner for women's rights and the Founder and Chief Executive of Karma Nirvana, a UK based charity that assists and supports victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour-based violence. She is also the author of two best-selling books *Shame* (autobiography) and *Daughters of Shame* and has recently published *Shame Travels*. **Jasvinder will be in Adelaide on the 24 October, Melbourne on the 28 October and in Sydney on the 30 October**, to speak about her experiences and her fight against forced marriage and honour-based violence. More information and details coming soon...

ACRATH supports the visit of Jasvinder Sanghera to Australia.

Visit- <http://www.speak-up.com.au>

## Department of Social Services

The Australian Government has developed a family safety pack with information on Australia's laws regarding domestic and family violence, sexual assault and forced marriage. The pack aims to reduce violence against women from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, by ensuring they understand their rights and where to get support. It also aims to strengthen support for women coming to Australia on a Partner Visa. [www.dss.gov.au/family-safety-pack](http://www.dss.gov.au/family-safety-pack)

*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.*

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