

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



migration without trafficking

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The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General has designated February 8 as an annual *Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking*. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to comforting people who are poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

On February 8, Catholics all over the world are encouraged to pray and to become more aware of human trafficking. The theme for the 2018 *International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Trafficking* highlights the situation of human trafficking among migrants, refugees and internal displaced people. We pray and act now so that one day, with our efforts and welcome, people on the move will experience migration *without* human trafficking.

Sending the Vulnerable to Traffickers

One factor weighing heavily on the lives of refugees that continues to go overlooked is their vulnerability to human trafficking.

Because they are fleeing from situations of conflict, refugees are exposed to prolonged conditions of insecurity, isolation, persecution, and hunger – leaving them incredibly vulnerable to situations of exploitation, abuse, and trafficking. The large numbers of those displaced increases competition over already limited resources and thus increase desperation, making displaced populations more willing to take risks and more susceptible to exploitation as they grasp at any means of survival.

For various reasons, sanctuary is becoming increasingly harder to attain for refugees. The massive disparity between those with a need for resettlement and those who actually receive resettlement creates tremendous opportunities for traffickers. *Source: Human Trafficking Center*

*"Migration is not a choice,
it is not an option.*

*It is not something you can plan.
Rather, it is a decision between
life and death."*

Adil Ahmed, Somalian refugee



"When we turn a contemplative gaze to migrants and refugees, we discover that they do not arrive empty-handed. They bring their courage, skills, energy and aspirations, as well as the treasures of their own cultures; and in this way, they enrich the lives of the nations that receive them."

Source: Pope Francis, World Day of Peace Message, 2018

February
JPIC Days of Remembrance

February 1-7
World Interfaith Harmony Week

February 2
World Wetlands Day

February 8
Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita
International Day of Prayer and
Awareness Against Human
Trafficking

February 11
World Day of the Sick

February 20
World Day of Social Justice

February 26
International
STAND UP to Bullying Day

“ Welcoming others means welcoming God in person. Pope Francis ”



By the end of 2016, 65.6 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. That was an increase of 300,000 people over the previous year, and the world's forcibly displaced population remained at a record high.



In the United States immigrant women and children are particularly vulnerable to the deceptive and coercive tactics of traffickers because of their lower levels of education, inability to speak English, immigration status, and lack of familiarity with U.S. employment protections.

As of 2016 there were 22.5 million refugees worldwide and 5.5 million of them were from Syria. The Syrian refugee population is highly vulnerable to trafficking in neighboring Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Children below 18 years of age constituted about half of the refugee population in 2016.



The International Organization for Migration found that of the 4,000 women and children fleeing from Nigeria, 80% were trafficked.

Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh



Follow the Vatican's new website on migrants and refugees, to join the Church's efforts to ensure that those forced to flee are not left behind.

English: <https://migrants-refugees.va/>
French: <https://migrants-refugees.va/fr/>
Spanish: <https://migrants-refugees.va/es/>

Refugee camps are set up to provide a safe haven for those who have fled from conflict. Unfortunately, life for those in refugee camps is sometimes worse than being on the run. Large numbers of desperate people in overcrowded situations create an entirely new set of problems. Deaths, kidnapping, robbery, and sexual violence towards women and men alike are exceedingly common in many camps.

In camp areas where families are unable to generate an income, it is not uncommon for women to become the sole earners through sex work. Some are forced by husbands and parents, others do so through the sheer necessity of survival. In the 1990s, several reports from Africa revealed repeated instances of sexual violence among women, girls, and boys. Sudanese girls and women were being kidnapped for forced marriage.

Unfortunately, this has not changed much in recent years. Less than a year ago women's organizations in Germany warned of a 'culture of rape and violence' that pervaded Giessen, one of Germany's largest refugee camps. These conditions leave women in particular, more desperate for opportunities to leave the camp, and more willing to accept dangerous or risky arrangements to do so.

Source: Human Trafficking Center

“ Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. ”

Pope Francis

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

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We pray...

God of Wisdom, help us to be aware of those in our midst who are the most vulnerable. For all in forced labor, including those who are trafficked overseas, many of whom are part of the process to create our favorite products; for women, children and men who are exploited for their bodies on the streets or internet. We also pray for the traffickers and those who benefit from exploitation, may they have a conversion of heart that leads them to release those they have enslaved. Guide us in ending human trafficking of all persons, with special attention to those migrants and refugees who seek lives of safety and security. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Congratulations, Sister María Pintado Peña

Ambassador of Peace Award



We are pleased to share with you the great joy that all the sisters of Peru have because our Sister, María Pintado Peña, was recognized as an Ambassador of Peace, granted by the Federation for Universal Peace.

She received a certificate that recognizes her as such, in that she meets the requirements of promoting, through her example, word and deed, the values and goals that can bring reconciliation and peace in today's world.

An important feature that this organization promotes is "living for the good of others" and Sister Maria has that quality.



Picture: Dr. HAK JA HAN MOON, Co-founder, Federation for Universal Peace and Sister María Pintado Peña

Recognition by the Association of Nurses of La Libertad

We are also pleased to share with you the great joy that all the sisters of Peru have because our Sister María Pintado Peña, was recognized by the Association of Nurses of Peru-Region of La Libertad, as a SOLIDARITY NURSE for solidarity with the most needy people during the disasters caused by the phenomenon El Niño Costero of 2017.



Picture above: Sister María Pintado Peña



Picture right: Sisters Joana Castillo, Nora Jimenez, María Pintado Peña, Rosalinda Pajuelo Urena and Rosa Gomez

Text and pictures by Sr. Noelia Lara Núñez, CBS