

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours

Together
Against
Human
Trafficking



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The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) has designated **February 8** as an annual *Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking*. "Together Against Human Trafficking" is the theme for this year's commemoration, highlighting the great need for global collaboration to eradicate this heinous crime against so many women, men and children.

One anti-trafficking partnership the Congregation of Bon Secours participates in is Talitha Kum - a global collaboration of Congregations of Women and Men Religious who are committed to raising awareness of and eradicating human trafficking. This international "network of networks" was founded in 2009 as a way of connecting religious on five continents as we address human trafficking.

This issue of JPIC News will focus on the work of Talitha Kum and the networks of Catholic Sisters that make up its membership.

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



<https://www.talithakum.info/>

Network Members

France & Ireland: (RENATE) Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation
<http://www.renate-europe.net/> (English)
<http://www.renate-europe.net/contact-us-france/> (French)

Peru: Red Kawsay
<https://www.talithakum.info/members/10/red-kawsay-pe> (Spanish)

USA: (USCSAHT) U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking
<https://www.sistersagainstrafficking.org/>(English)

The Sisters of Bon Secours are members of and partner with these country organizations to address human trafficking. Use the links provided to learn about these organizations and the work they do to address human trafficking.

Talitha Kum

Inspired by the common, global interest of religious congregations in 76 countries to coordinate and strengthen their work against trafficking in persons, Talitha Kum offers resources to educate and advocate for anti-trafficking legislation that supports survivors. "Talitha Kum", an Aramaic expression found in the Gospel of Mark means: "Little girl, stand-up". These words were addressed by Jesus to the daughter of Jairus, who lay apparently dead. After uttering these words, Jesus took her by the hand and she immediately got up and walked.

This worldwide network of 22 sister-led organizations committed against trafficking in persons chose the expression "Talitha Kum" to define its identity. It is an invitation given to all to stand up and to counter with our voices, our actions and our lives everything that promotes and supports trafficking in persons.

"Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society."

Pope Francis



No one likes to acknowledge that in their own city, region or nation there are new forms of slavery, yet we know this wound afflicts almost all countries. We must then denounce this terrible scourge in all its gravity. Pope Francis



Madre de Dios, Peru, is one of the regions most affected by human trafficking in Peru.

Red Kawsay is the network of the Conference of Religious of Peru working against human trafficking in Peru.

Peru is a source, destination and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Indigenous Peruvians are particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Tourists from the United States and Europe purchase sex from child trafficking victims in areas such as Cuzco, Lima, and the Peruvian Amazon.

RENATE has networks in 29 countries in Europe (including Ireland and Great Britain) with 139 anti-trafficking networks.

The Global Slavery Index estimates that there were 129,000 people living in modern slavery in France on any given day in 2016, reflecting a prevalence rate of 2.0 victims for every thousand people in the country.

Hundreds of Nigerian women have been trafficked into Paris as sex workers, lured by the promise of a new life only to find themselves in a cycle of abuse and exploitation. Police believe 150 sex slaves work in Paris' largest park, the Bois de Vincennes.



Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France



Dublin, Ireland

Ruhama is a voluntary organization based in **Dublin** and works on a national level, with women affected by prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Ruhama is Hebrew for 'renewed life'. In 2014, Ruhama celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing services to women affected by prostitution - over 2,500 women from over 60 countries during those 25 years.

Human Trafficking by the Numbers

- 40.3 million people are trafficked
- There are 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people in the world.
- 24.9 million for labor
- 15.4 million for sex, including forced marriage
- 7.5 million forced labor victims work in construction, mining, manufacturing, or hospitality
- 71% of trafficking victims are women/girls and 29% are men/boys.
- 5.5 million victims are under age 18.
- Sex trafficking is a lucrative industry making an estimated \$99 billion a year.

Source: International Labor Organization

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

USCSAHT is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy in an effort to eradicate modern-day slavery. Bon Secours USA belong to this organization and are one of the sponsors of the monthly newsletter USCSAHT produces. You can access the newsletter here: www.stopenslavement.org



Labor trafficking in the hotel, construction and agriculture industries USA

As Sisters of Bon Secours we commit ourselves to "cry out against human trafficking".

**When and how often do I "cry out", speak out against human trafficking?
What is my personal next step in living out this Chapter call?**

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA) Chair
- Sr. Noelia Lara Núñez, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Marguerite Provost, CBS (France)
- Sr. Alice Talone, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)

Facebook Challenge:



What would it be like if the Bon Secours Family posted a FB message on February 8th to raise awareness of human trafficking? Are you up to that challenge? Here are some sample posts you can use but you can also be creative. (I'm especially thinking of our young sisters in Peru who are really tech savvy and can add links and pictures!)

- St. Bakhita survived slavery and persevered. Once she gained freedom by asserting her human dignity and refusing to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian sister. In her honor, we recognize today as a Day of #Prayer for victims of #humantrafficking and #slavery.
- Many years ago, Josephine Bakhita lived as a slave. Years later, St. Bakhita was canonized and is now known as the patron Saint of Sudan. Today, in her honor, we pray for all of those who have been victims of slavery and trafficking.
- A survivor of kidnapping and slavery, we celebrate a Day of Prayer for St. Josephine Bakhita, the Patron Saint of Sudan, on Feb. 8th.