

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Nuns Healing Hearts Human Trafficking

July, 2019
Vol. 4, Number 11



"We are facing a global phenomenon that exceeds the competence of any one community or country, and therefore, we need a mobilization comparable in size to that of the phenomenon itself." Pope Francis

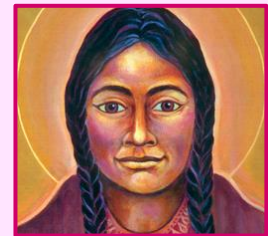
During this month as we commemorate the **World Day Against Human Trafficking**, this issue of JPIC News will focus on the many ways Catholic Sisters throughout the world, including the Sisters of Bon Secours, are working to raise awareness of and eradicate human trafficking.

Pope Francis reminds us in the quote above that "we need a mobilization" of people to address the global crisis of human trafficking. Talitha Kum, a network of religious sisters from all over the globe working to combat human trafficking, is a prime example of how Catholic Sisters are engaged in anti-trafficking efforts. The Congregation of Bon Secours is part of the Talitha Kum network.

Just recently Pope Francis launched the **Nuns Healing Hearts Campaign** at the Vatican to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Talitha Kum. Founded in 2009, today the Talitha Kum network spans 76 countries on five continents and involves over 2,000 Catholic Sisters who have devoted their lives to the victims and the survivors of trafficking. The **Nuns Healing Hearts** photo exhibition shows their work in Guatemala, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand, Italy and the United States. This exhibit will be traveling to 5-6 countries throughout the coming year and will be featured at the United Nations, on July 29 and July 30.

July
JPIC Days of Remembrance

July 14
**St. Kateri Tekakwitha
Patroness of
Ecology and the Environment**



July 28
World Hepatitis Day

July 30
**World Day Against
Human Trafficking**

Human Trafficking Around the World

- The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally.
 - 81% of them are trapped in forced labor.
 - 25% of them are children.
 - 75% are women and girls.
- 20.1 million people are trapped in forced labor in industries including agriculture, construction, domestic work and manufacturing.
- Forced labor and human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide.
- In South America, over 80 % of the victims of trafficking are women. Most of them are victims for the purpose of sexual exploitation " (Source: Global report on trafficking in persons unodc, 2016).
- The U.S. Department of Labor has identified 148 goods from 76 countries made by forced and child labor.

Source: Polaris Project



Learn more about Talitha Kum and the Nuns Healing Hearts campaign. You can also sign up for the Talitha Kum Newsletter:

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

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

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



Sisters of Bon Secours...Women of healing...defending and caring for all creation (Mission Focus)



Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking & Exploitation (RENATE)
Working to Break the Chains of Human Trafficking

RENATE was established by a group of Religious representing several different Congregations working against human trafficking in Europe. To date this network includes Religious in 31 countries in Europe with 139 anti-trafficking networks. Self-managing groups focus on various aspects of the work against human trafficking. These include: RENATE Advocacy, Awareness Raising, Capacity Building and RENATE Assembly 2021.



Ireland: APT is a faith-based group of religious congregations in Ireland working against trafficking in persons.

Recently the UN Council of Ireland has found that the real rate of human trafficking into Ireland is 50% higher than the official figures. In April 2019, the police broke up an international human trafficking ring in Cork City run by a Chinese national. Hundreds of impoverished Chinese nationals were trafficked into Ireland to work as slaves and prostitutes. Groups such as Renate and APT are helping these survivors.

Police forces across England and Wales have recorded over 10,000 modern day slavery offenses since April 2015 – almost half of them in 2018 alone.

A film on Human Trafficking was recently shown at a local convent in Ireland which many Sisters of Bon Secours attended. A repeat showing of the film is planned in other areas of Cork.

U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

The Sisters of Bon Secours USA are members of this USA network of Women Religious who are working to eradicate human trafficking. This organization sponsors a monthly online newsletter and a rich variety of resources. <https://www.sistersagainstrafficking.org/>



Did you Know? In the US lack of support for youth who identify as LGBTQ put them at higher risk of human trafficking. Up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Reasons for youth homelessness often include; family rejection, neglect, bullying in school, social discrimination and marginalization.

Safe House for Victims of Human Trafficking



Sr. Anne Marie Mack (seated) attends Press Conference announcing the opening of the Safe House.

Safe Harbor & Bon Secours Richmond Health System together established a human trafficking shelter to serve the Central Virginia area. The shelter provides transitional housing and services for survivors of human trafficking and is the latest service addition to Safe Harbor's program. This is the region's first dedicated shelter of its kind to provide transitional shelter, counseling and case management in a single location to adult female human trafficking victims. Donating this shelter is one of the many ways Bon Secours is actively working to end human trafficking and to support its survivors in their courageous effort to rebuild their lives."

Red Kawsay - Peru

Red Kawsay is the network of the Conference of Religious working against human trafficking in Peru. Among the groups working against human trafficking in Latin America are: RED UN GRITO POR LA VIDA in (Brazil); RED KAWSAY (Peru); and SUMA (Central America).



Trafficking in people in Peru is a problem that is increasing both in the number of victims, routes and methods used to capture girls and women with poverty being one of the factors that makes people very much more vulnerable to this crime.

The precarious situation in which many of the families live makes it possible to access the "attractive job offers". This motivates Catholic Sisters to work for prevention and protection in all their apostolic ministries. <https://www.facebook.com/redtrata.peru/>



Recently Sister Teresa Margot Benites participated in a conference on human trafficking in Lima with Sisters who are members of Red Kawsay.



Michelle Ash and Paula Hastings (BSVM) from outpatient behavioral health at Bon Secours Baltimore attend Resource Fair.

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)