

Ending Human Trafficking Begins with Us



resounded in Rome, on the final days of this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, November 2016. The theme was endorsed by 130 RENATE delegates (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation) from 27 European countries at their 2nd General Assembly, 6-12 November.

RENATE members work in all areas of anti-trafficking, from victim support, healing and reintegration, to education-awareness, advocacy and campaigning for legislation that will bring an end to this modern-day slavery.

“We are grateful to Pope Francis for the special audience with him as he showed great concern and appreciation for our ministry. We are inspired and enthused by his commitment to bring this modern form of slavery to the attention of the world.”

Pope Francis makes it clear that human trafficking 'violates the God-given dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters and constitutes a true crime against humanity.' Indeed, he made the eradication of human trafficking a mark of his papacy from the outset. His fearless denunciation of the evil of trafficking has strengthened the resolve of RENATE members to end its practice, working collaboratively, particularly through protection and prevention programs.

To this end, together with Church, State and Civil Society, in conjunction with realizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, RENATE Network is committed to:

- working tirelessly to rehabilitate victims, free the world of labour exploitation, sexual slavery and organ harvesting
- addressing the root causes of systemic injustice that creates and sustains this vile trade in human lives
- using its network to strengthen communication and co-operation between countries of origin, transit and destination
- providing opportunities for the full reintegration of victims - including protection in a safe home, acquisition of proper documents and training for meaningful work so that victims can regain and be enabled to live it to the full
- educating society, particularly youth, to view all forms of human trafficking and exploitation as totally unacceptable
- challenging judicial and civil authorities to adopt and enforce legislation that protects victims, provides them with adequate compensation, punishes clients and buyers and seizes the assets of perpetrators
- collaborating with the media in efforts to bring a strong voice to the attention of the world denouncing all aspects of human trafficking and exploitation.

RENATE invites all religious and civil institutions to mark the 8th February, 2017 as a day dedicated to prayer against the trafficking of children. In 2014, the 8th February was dedicated by Pope Francis as the annual Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking.