

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE STREET**

Clementine Hall

17 September 2015

[Link](#)

[...] The often sad realities which you encounter are the result of indifference, poverty, domestic and social violence, and human trafficking. They involve the pain of marital separations and the birth of children out of wedlock, frequently doomed to a life of "vagrancy". Street children and street women are not numbers, or "packets" to be traded; they are human beings, each with his or her own name and face, each with a God-given identity. They are God's children like us, just like us, with the same rights. [...]

[...] It is troubling to see the increasing number of young girls and women forced to earn a living on the street by selling their own bodies, victims of exploitation by criminal organizations and at times by parents and family members. This is a shameful reality in our societies, which boast of being modern and possessed of high levels of culture and development. Widespread corruption and unrestrained greed are robbing the innocent and the vulnerable of the possibility of a dignified life, abetting the crime of trafficking and other injustices which they have to endure. No one can remain unmoved before the pressing need to safeguard the dignity of women, threatened by cultural and economic factors! [...]