

**International Conference
Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking
Sacrofano (Rome), 9-11 April 2019**

**CONCLUSIONS and PROPOSALS
FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

During seven sessions, the 18 groups addressed the realities of human trafficking with a view to expressing what can and should be done to combat this scourge upon all humanity. At each session, each group gave priority to five proposals and, through a process of selection and editing, these were distilled into the assembly's five priorities for action and one for communications.

All the proposals were expressed as priority tasks for the Catholic Church. In this case, the expression "Catholic Church" means and includes the visible Church leadership, the Bishops (the national Bishops' Conferences as well as the regional and continental conferences, especially their Migration Commissions, as well as individual dioceses), priests, religious sisters and brothers, officers and heads of organizations. It also and equally means every member of the Catholic Church, acting as a body. Further, it includes organizations of other faiths or beliefs, their leaders and active members, with whom Catholics at all levels cooperate in fighting human trafficking. In a few cases, it is Bishops Conferences which are identified as receiving the particular proposal.

In the case of the sixth proposal in each set, the first one is a task for the Church, as explained above, while the others are addressed to Catholic media. This means the media person within each Migration Commission, the media office of Bishops' Conferences and individual Dioceses, the media outreach of religious congregations and Catholic organizations, as well as independent journalists who have proven willing to communicate fairly the meaning and message of the Church's pastoral action with regard to human trafficking.

With this understanding of the Catholic Church as the "actor" or the "doer", the following 42 proposals are expressed as action verbs, with a sense of urgency and in a spirit of cooperation. At the same time, it is clear that no Church body or member can do everything, and so these 42 items are indeed *proposals* for each one to consider and then choose among, depending on the local circumstances, needs and resources.

First Session: Human Trafficking in the Context of Sexual Exploitation

- To engage proactively in raising public awareness of the different forms of HT for sexual exploitation (e.g. prostitution, pornography, internet), dispelling myths and clarifying the responsibilities of the demand side.
- To develop educational programs/modules on HT to be offered to Bishops, priests, religious congregations, parishes, Catholic schools and seminaries.
- To advocate for international treaties and national laws that criminalize those who buy sex services and those who profit from victims, and that ensure protection to victims as well as holistic social services.
- To collect quality data and document evidence at all levels, to ground awareness campaigns and advocacy work, and to foster the development of adequate services for victims and prosecution of perpetrators.
- To adopt a common and correct terminology in describing the phenomenon of prostitution (it is not “sex work”), making it consistent with human dignity and making it clear in what sense prostitutes are victims.
- To offer training modules on HT for sexual exploitation to journalists and identify for them reliable sources and trustworthy organizations working in the field.

Second Session: Human Trafficking in the Context of Slave Labour

- To develop a responsible procurement policy for employers and an ethical consumer guide to be disseminated among Catholics and beyond.
- To advocate for corporate accountability in the supply chain and law enforcement in cases of slave labour.
- To engage proactively in the eradication of child labour and child exploitation, raising awareness on the issue and advocating for greater penalties for those who employ and encourage forced child labour.
- To offer pre-departure orientation programs for migrant workers to inform them about the risks of servitude and slave labour and empower them to report abuses.
- To request the authorities to undertake frequent inspections on work conditions and treatment of workers in the labour sectors that are particularly at risk of abuse, namely the maritime industry, agriculture, manufacturing, domestic work and many service industries.
- Catholic media should commit to “open the eyes” of consumers who are unconsciously supporting slave labour when buying very cheap products and generate demand for “slave labour free” products.

Third Session: Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling

- To engage in educational campaigns on the connection between migrant smuggling and HT, all along the migrant route (origin, transit, destination, return), empowering local people to recognize and report HT activities.
- To offer pre-departure orientation programmes for would-be migrants to inform them about the regular pathways of migration and the risks of irregular migration.
- To advocate for simpler and more ample channels of regular migration, including humanitarian visas, sponsorship programmes, educational visas and others, to prevent smuggling.
- To set up, along the main migration routes, temporary shelters and service centres in order to meet the basic needs of migrants and provide specialized assistance to smuggled migrants who became victims of HT.
- To promote programmes to foster local sustainable development in countries of origin so as to make migration a real (not coerced) choice; programmes for returnees should also be developed to facilitate true reintegration.
- Catholic media should foster their partnership with journalists, NGOs and institutions so as to engage them in well-designed awareness campaigns on the connection between migrant smuggling and HT.

Fourth Session: Other Forms of Human Trafficking

- To undertake popular awareness campaigns, engaging relevant stakeholders, on the less known forms of HT, namely forced marriage, servitude, forced begging, organ-harvesting, reproductive exploitation and other forms of abuse and exploitation.
- To tackle the root causes of organ trafficking by promoting healthy lifestyles, sensitizing people on health issues (e.g. alcohol consumption), supporting the system of free and voluntary organ donations and increasing its transparency, and advocating for appropriate legislation.
- To collect data and evidence on the less known forms of HT, produce specialized knowledge and translate it into useful materials for catechism, pastoral care of youth and other kinds of formation/training at the parish level.
- Bishops Conferences and dioceses, starting from the POHT, should set up monitoring mechanisms on HT and integrate the concern about HT in their pastoral plans.

- To denounce cases of forced marriage and engage in its prevention by advocating for protective legislation and policies and urging respect for human dignity for both parties in marriage.
- Catholic media should engage in investigating lesser known forms of HT, documenting and broadcasting “real stories” which are likely to be more effective for massive awareness.

Fifth Session: Identification, Prevention and Prosecution of Human Trafficking

- Bishops Conferences should establish specific commissions on HT tasked to collect data and evidence, identify and monitor the trends, prevent vulnerable people from being victimized and advocate with governments for appropriate protection and prosecution.
- To coordinate with other relevant stakeholders and collaborate in providing training from a grassroots perspective for law enforcers, judges, social workers and other professionals.
- To establish programmes and provide resources to support pastoral workers engaged in fighting HT and to protect them from retaliation by criminals.
- To establish a global platform on HT, which would serve to share data and evidence, concerns and best practices, documents and materials.
- To develop, at all Church levels, strong internal and external mechanisms to guarantee transparency and to identify and prevent HT within the Church.
- Catholic media should jointly initiate a long-term global campaign against HT, focusing each year on a specific form of HT.

Sixth Session: Protection of Survivors

- To involve HT survivors as partners in protection and assistance of victims, advocating for their meaningful inclusion in the development of programmes and policies on HT (*no decision about us, without us*).
- To request the engagement of Catholic universities and professional associations in research on HT, development of protective legislation, specialized training and pro bono professional services for survivors.
- To invest in protecting of HT survivors with a holistic and multidisciplinary approach aiming at empowering them, fostering their resilience and promoting their active citizenship and labour inclusion.
- To request dioceses, parishes and religious congregations to offer their available and

suitable structures as temporary shelters and centres for specialized assistance for survivors.

- To promote possibilities of encounter with HT survivors, engaging particularly the youth, so as to foster peer to peer dynamics, overcome stigma and facilitate social inclusion.
- Catholic media should look into the possibility of introducing, whenever possible, the issue of HT and protection of survivors in every event organized by the Catholic Church.

Seventh Session: Partnership in Responding to Human Trafficking

- To foster cooperation in responding to HT among her different structures and offices, religious congregations, Catholic organizations and networks.
- To create new and strengthen existing partnerships with relevant stakeholders (e.g. government authorities, civil society and private sector) to respond promptly and adequately to the challenge posed by HT.
- To acknowledge women's important role in the fight against HT, open up directive roles to them and advocate for a gender-balanced approach in the formulation of policies and programmes on HT and in the distribution of responsibilities.
- To promote joint training programmes on HT for pastoral agents, NGO workers and law enforcers, in order to encourage stronger partnerships in counteracting HT.
- Conference participants should commit to disseminating all the conclusions and recommendations of this conference, implementing the suggestions and reporting about concrete results in the next gathering.
- Catholic media should feature real stories and reliable data in order to avoid stereotypes and so to change the narrative on HT. Stories and data can be posted on a website or shared by an app fed by users.

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