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People are NOT for sale

## Join our 16 Days Campaign

Each year ACRATH participates in the 16 Days Campaign to end gender-based violence. The United Nations 16 days of activism against gender-based violence begins on 25<sup>th</sup> November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and ends on 10<sup>th</sup> December - Human Rights Day.

Human trafficking, a \$150 billion global industry, is one of the greatest examples of violence against women and girls. Millions of women and girls are forced to marry or to work in slave-like conditions for little, or no pay and, no chance of an education.

We ask you to join us for two special 16 Days Campaign events, and to learn more about the people working to combat human trafficking through advocacy, research and evaluation, work in schools and parishes, fundraising, prayer and support.

We are holding two special lunchtime events this year (*registration details in this newsletter*). On December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm we invite you to join ACRATH's webinar, **Looking into Australia's Slavery Past**. The zoom webinar will explore the early practice of 'blackbirding' workers from the South Sea Islands in the 1800s and the impact on today's society.

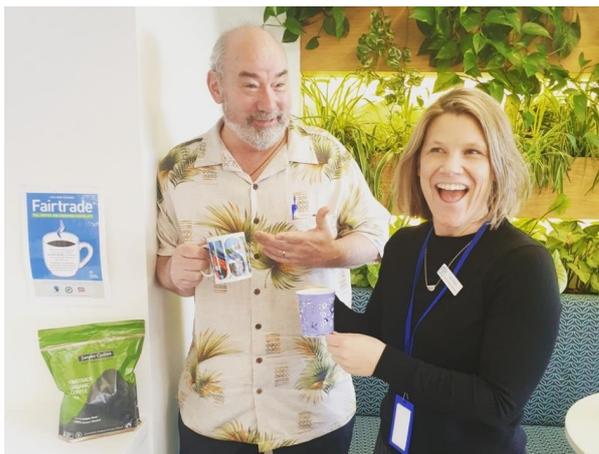
ACRATH is hosting a prayer and reflection gathering on 10<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm, the UN declared Human Rights Day. The zoom gathering will bring light and hope into the darkness of human trafficking.

As well as these two important events, there is also a range of resources including:

- 16 stories of people and projects combating human trafficking, including Jess Brady (**pictured**).
- A poster to download for your workplace, school, parish, home or to forward to a friend.
- A 16 Days reflection sheet offering a focus for each of the 16 days of activism. Gather with others (where you can) and join ACRATH in lighting a candle and praying, reflecting or remembering.
- A range of other resources.

Go to <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/16-days/> for zoom links to events, and for all information and resources for the 16 Days Campaign.

*Louise Cleary CSB (President) and Christine Carolan (EO)*



### ACRATH's 2021 calendar is now available.

In light of the difficulties caused by COVID-19 the calendar is free, OR you can offer a donation to defray our costs. To order a calendar, go to <https://acrath.org.au/2020-acrath-calendar/> OR contact [calendar@acrath.org.au](mailto:calendar@acrath.org.au)

Jess Brady, from Catholic Education Melbourne, who helped develop the '**Make Your School Slavery-Free**' kit. Jess and Simon Stephens - Education Officer, Catholic Leadership and Governance - celebrating International Coffee Day with an ethically sourced brew.

## Success for Canberra 'Chapter' of 2020 Advocacy — COVID-style

Every year ACRATH advocates on a range of issues, including a week of meetings in Canberra. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to advocate differently, using technology to meet with several Ministers, Shadow Ministers and backbenchers from the Australian Federal Government; with departmental officers from three Departments; with other church groups, and with colleague NGOs.

A comprehensive report on the advocacy 'trip' can be found at <https://acrath.org.au/advocacy-covid-style/>. In summary ACRATH asked for five things and can now report the following success:

### 1. An Act of Grace for 22 'egregiously exploited' Vanuatu seasonal workers.

We have through our advocacy been linked to the Australian High Commission in Vanuatu who have undertaken to help. ACRATHers have 'met' by zoom with 19 of the men! We are still a long way away from the men being paid their stolen wages, but we are significantly closer than we were before this advocacy campaign started. Most readers are familiar with this case, but if not, it is outlined in ACRATH's submission (final page) to the Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Temporary\\_Migration/TemporaryMigration/Submissions](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Temporary_Migration/TemporaryMigration/Submissions) (submission 108)

### 2. De-linking the Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) from a criminal justice response.

We are now in an e-group working to leverage the insight we gained.

### 3. Funding for NGOs.

We had some success on this issue. The recent Budget announcement was for five year funding for NGOs working on human trafficking out of the departmental budget. Now we need to apply! The announcement acknowledged NGO advocacy on this point over the past several years.

### 4. A national registration scheme for labour hire companies.

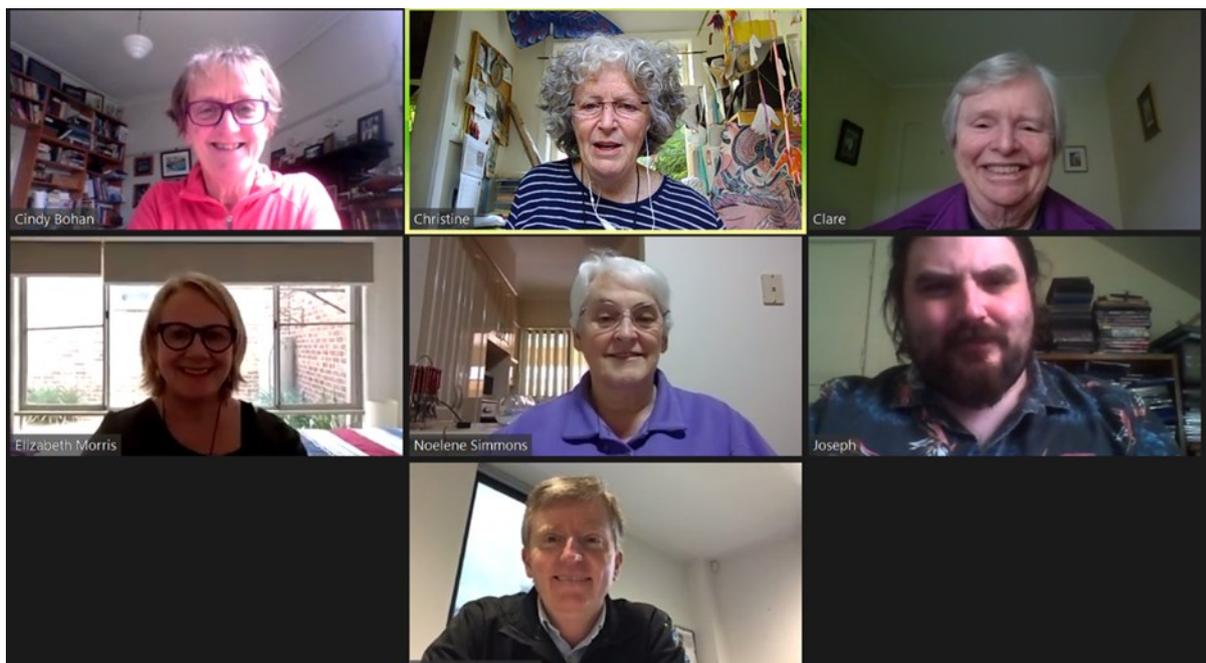
We have been linked to six people within the Parliament who can help make this decision. We have arranged meetings and letters and emails.

### 5. An increase in Australia's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

Again the budget shows a move on this. We've been advocating on this for several years, but it doesn't go anywhere near far enough.

And a bonus outcome - three parties are working together on slavery-free Parliamentary offices - and maybe even the whole of Parliament House.

Stay tuned!



ACRATHers prepare for advocacy – COVID style.

## New forced marriage worker no stranger to human trafficking

Welcome to Megan Bourke, ACRATH's new forced marriage worker. Megan joined ACRATH in October after seven years in education and advocacy as the Caritas Australia Justice Educator (Melbourne Archdiocese).

Megan is no stranger to the complexities of forced marriage. For years she developed close connections with the Caritas projects that supported communities to develop jobs and programs that would help prevent people being vulnerable to human trafficking. Now she will work in schools and communities to educate people about forced marriage. She will also train front-line workers to know the correct referral pathways for people who are at risk of, or who are in, a forced marriage.

"I do believe that many of the projects Caritas supported did prevent women and girls being forced into a marriage. Relieving poverty can be like an intervention," Megan said.

For the past eighteen months Megan has also served as the Caritas representative on the Victoria-Tasmania Catholic Modern Slavery Taskforce.

"Working with ACRATH is a neat fit for me because it takes in my passion for Catholic social justice in action. Working to combat human trafficking and forced marriage is a way to do this," Megan said. "We are called to accompany the vulnerable and marginalized. John's Gospel talks about people having 'life to the full', but human trafficking is an affront to that."

Megan said she was excited by the job but also conscious of the challenges of working in communities and in schools where the well-being of young women needs to be the highest priority.



Megan Bourke

## Fashion gets COVID scrutiny in the new Ethical Fashion Guide



The eagerly awaited Baptist World Aid Ethical Fashion Guide and report is now available.

"Every piece of clothing you own was made by someone. And amidst the COVID-19 crisis, the people who make your clothes are experiencing new and unprecedented risks," according to Baptist World Aid Australia.

"Infection, shortages of PPE and health care, along with a rapidly changing global fashion industry have devastated garment workers... making them even more vulnerable to unsafe working conditions, forced labour, child labour and human exploitation."

Order a copy of the COVID Fashion Report and Guide and find out which companies are doing the most to protect workers in their supply chains. The report found that between March and May 2020, the world's 50 million garment workers lost wages totaling \$5.79 billion USD. More than 1 in 3 surveyed Bangladeshi garment workers reported their children had gone without food during May 2020.

You can have the Guide as a digital or hard copy. It is free, but we encourage you to make a donation.

Go to: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/>



## Proclaim the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW)

Prior to the passing of the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act in December 2018, the NSW Parliament passed a Modern Slavery Act in June 2018. The NSW Act is considered to be ground-breaking legislation, but to date it has not been implemented. In 2018 Premier Gladys Berejiklian spoke of “the privilege” of introducing the Modern Slavery Bill 2018 to Parliament and stated: “There is an undeniable moral imperative to take action in relation to all forms of modern slavery.”

Both the Commonwealth and NSW Acts require that businesses with an income above a particular threshold investigate to report on whether there is slavery in their supply chains and, if found, what they are doing to remedy the situation. The threshold in NSW is \$50 million while the Commonwealth threshold is \$100 million. Unlike the Commonwealth Act, the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW) provides for an Anti-Slavery Commissioner, community awareness raising, support for victims of human trafficking and penalties for businesses who fail to report on their supply chain.

During 2019 an Inquiry conducted by the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues recommended that the NSW Act be commenced on, or before, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. When responding to the Inquiry report the NSW Government indicated it would enter into discussions “to achieve greater harmonisation with the Commonwealth Act”.

There is concern that a harmonisation process will weaken and further delay the implementation of the NSW Act. Check ACRATH’s website for any updates on this issue.



## Calling all teachers engaged in Curriculum Planning for 2021

ACRATH will hold a Webinar to introduce its website and various resources including the **Modern Slavery: A Teaching Kit for Senior Secondary Students**, on Monday 23rd November 2020 at 4.30pm (Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra time).

The webinar will offer opportunities for secondary school teachers engaged in 2021 curriculum development.

The purpose of the Webinar is to introduce teachers to resources they can use, including the Teaching Kit and their applications in the classroom. It will be ideal for teachers engaged in course planning for 2021. Those engaged in educating for justice will also find valuable resources in this Webinar.

To register in advance for this webinar on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 4.30pm (Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra time) click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpfuiurjlvE9fHVgb5SjpJcx-C-BuoSEQGs>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. You will also be invited to nominate an area of special interest, namely: the teaching kit; current issues concerning modern slavery; how a large organisation went about examining and auditing its slavery footprint; how to run an anti-slavery campaign, e.g. chocolate; forced marriage: what is it and might any of my students be vulnerable?

### Webinars scheduled for 2021

Support webinars on the **Modern Slavery: A Kit for Senior Secondary Students** have been planned for early 2021 and will be held on: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 4.30pm, and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 4.30pm.

To register for a 2021 webinar contact: [office@acrath.org.au](mailto:office@acrath.org.au)

## ACRATH prayer and reflection gathering — Bring light & hope into darkness of human trafficking



**Zoom on 10 December 2020 – Human Rights Day  
1:00 - 1:30pm**

**Please join us**

An international prayer and reflection zoom gathering will be held by ACRATH on 10<sup>th</sup> December to end the 16 Days campaign against gender based violence.

The day has deep significance; 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948 is the day after the horrors of WW2 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights of all human beings. Article 4 of the UDHR commits the world to freedom from slavery and forced labour.

The United Nations 16 days of activism against gender-based violence begins on 25<sup>th</sup> November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and ends on 10<sup>th</sup> December - Human Rights Day.

Human trafficking, a \$150 billion global industry, is one of the greatest examples of violence against women and girls. Millions of women and girls are forced to marry and to work in terrible conditions for little, or no pay and, no chance of an education.

**The prayer and reflection zoom gathering will be held at 1pm (Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra time) on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. To register in advance, please click here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rdeCrrz8iGtz5dB4Lgu68idqhS0AtQG\\_q](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rdeCrrz8iGtz5dB4Lgu68idqhS0AtQG_q)**

One of the prayer and reflection gathering organisers and Victorian ACRATH Coordinator, Claire Griffin CSB, believes Human Rights Day, in the season of Advent, is a fitting day to focus on hope and a call to action.

“This time of Advent offers us a gleam of light and a hope in Jesus, to those who live in despair, especially women and girls who are living in a world dark with violence,” she said. During the prayer and reflection gathering people will be asked to reflect on various aspects of human trafficking.

### **Contact:**

For information about the prayer and reflection zoom gathering please contact: [office@acrath.org.au](mailto:office@acrath.org.au)

ACRATH needs core business funding and additional funding for special projects.

Please consider a regular donation to ACRATH so that we can plan ahead. Thanks.

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/acrath>  
or <https://acrath.org.au/donate>

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

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