



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL

Talitha Kum

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Report

of the 2nd International Coordination Meeting of Talitha Kum

Rome, 25 January-2 February 2016

The second international coordination meeting of Talitha Kum was convened by the International Union of Superiors General, through the coordinator of the Talitha Kum project, Sr. Gabriella Bottani, SMC. The participants were representatives of all the member networks of Talitha Kum .

The aim of the meeting was to define the priorities of Talitha Kum and to formulate a strategic plan for the three years 2016-2018.

Co-ordinator: Sr. Gabriella Bottani, SMC

Facilitators: Stefano Volpicelli, Sr. Patricia Murray, IBVM and Patrizia Morgante.

Organizing Secretaries: Sr. Laurence Zaninka, AP, Sr. Rosarii O'Connor, SMG, Sr. Albertina Pauletti, MS, Representative of the Secretary of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences - Simonetta Ulysses

Secretary to the meeting: Sr. Lucia Citro, MX

Liturgy: Sr. Carmen Elisa Bandeo, SSPS and sisters of networks

Communications: Sr. Anna Sanchez Bora, and Patrizia Morgante

Translation and Administration: UISG team (Rosalia and Svetlana)

Translators: Marilu Balbis, Giorgeri Marinella, Pisanti Gabriella, Gabriella Scanavino

Congregations offering hospitality to the sisters were:

Poor Servants of the Mother of God; Benedictine Sisters; Salvatorian fathers; Salvatorian Sisters; Comboni Missionary Sisters; Marist Sisters; Sisters of the Good Shepherd; Sisters of Social Service; Institute of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Poor Clare Missionary Sisters of SS. Sacrament.

Private taxi service to and from the airport: Black Cab Service Stefano Fratini

PARTICIPANTS - Network representatives

CATHII (Canada) Rivard Sr. Nicole

USCSAHT (USA) Sr. Kathleen Coll

Red Ramà and Red Tamar (Central America) Gibaja Esquerdo Sr. Carmela

Rede Um Grito pela Vida (Brazil) Alves de Oliveira Sr. Eurides

Red Kawsay (Latin America Spanish speaking) Oliveira Aldaya Sr. Maria Silvia

Renate (Europe) Balan Sr. Adina

ANATH (Africa Nigeria and West Africa) Ebegbulem Sr. Patricia Nnenna; Wanguna Sr. Mercy Muthoni

Earn a Tip (East Africa) Nankya Sr. Noeline

CTIP (South Africa) Nyadombo Sr. Annah; Oosthuizen Sr. Zelna

Main dans la Main (Francophone Africa) Bambara Sr. Yvone Clemence

AMRAT (South Asia) Arulanandhu Sr. Sahaya Mary; Kaluthanthiri Arachchige Sister Mary Niluka Perera

Talitha Kum EA and SEA (South East Asia and the Far East) Abamo Sr. Adeline; Trisopa Sr. Kanlaya; Sri Juwarni Sr. Katarina; Sr. Mary Veronica Endah Wulandari

ACRATH and NZARATH Simmons Sr. Noelene Robyn

PARTICIPANTS - Invited by TK Rome:

Working Group against Trafficking of the Justice and Peace Commission English (UISG):

Sr. Carmen Elisa Bando; Sr. Margaret Maamalifar Poreku; Sr. Kathy Ann Schmittgens.

Representatives of the General Councils:

Sr. Hanan Youssef; Sr. Marina Cassarino; Sr. Julia Arciniegas; Sr. Runita Borja

Migrants Project Sicily - UISG: Sr. Chiharhula Vitoria Munyerenkana; Sr. Paola Paul

We acknowledge the presence of **Card. Joao Braz de Aviz**, Prefect of the CIVCSVA and **Sr. Carmen Sammut** MSOLA and President of UISG, who opened the working session.

During the three days at the Academy of Sciences at the Vatican we welcomed **Cardinal Gerald Vincent Nichols** (Archdiocese of London), **Card. Peter K.A. Turkson** (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace) and **Mons. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo** (Pontifical Academy of Sciences).

Organizations:

Secretary of the State, (relation with the States and international bodies): Francesca Di Giovanni

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace: Christine Jeangey

Pontifical Council for Migrants and Itinerant Peoples: Dona Francesca

US Ambassador to the Holy See: Kenneth Hackett

Ambassador of Ireland to the Holy See: Emma Madigan

British Embassy to the Holy See: Priest Simona

US Embassy to the Holy See: Antoinette Hurtado, Markus Bakermans; Jennifer Olejnik

Organizzazione Internazionale per la Migrazione: Federico Soda

Caritas Internationalis: Olga Zhyvytsya

WUCWO: Lia Zervino

Arise Foundation: John Studzinsky, Luke De Pulford

External Experts:

Helga Konrad ((Executive Director Anti-Trafficking Inst. for the Danube Region and Central Europe); Plant Anthony Roger Maxwell (Writer and independent trainer); Teresa Albano (Vienna OSCE); Geneviève Colas (Caritas France)

Mass Media:

Team of RAI 1 "In His Image" coordinated by director Barbara; Radio Vaticana in Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish and English; Menor Darío - magazine Vida Nueva; Sylvia Poggioli - National Public Radio; Solen De Luca - TV 2000; Natasha Palmieri; Sandro Bartolozzi; Emanuela Soldano.

The program can be presented in three parts, linked together in dialogue.

1. From January 25th. to 27th. the participants gathered at the UISG. The days were facilitated by Stefano Volpicelli. During these three days we shared experiences: the reality of trafficking in persons, the path taken by the local networks, the activities and organization of the network. At the international level, we examined the strengths and weaknesses of the global network. The report presented by Sr. Gabriella Bottani, encouraged reflection on the identity of TK member networks and the verification of the vision and mission of the network. The tool proposed was the reinterpretation and implementation of the 2008 Declaration.

At the end of this first phase, there were the points on which to develop the proposed priorities for the strategic plan of Talitha Kum for the period 2016-2018 and the revision of the joint declaration. These points were taken on January 30th. After discussion and amendment, we approved the priorities for the strategic plan of Talitha Kum 2016-2018.

Summary of presentations on the situation of trafficking: The sharing of the different networks have shown that trafficking in persons is a growing phenomenon in all continents. Although trafficking in persons occurs in all countries where the Talitha Kum networks are present, it was pointed out that countries, marked by the absence of employment opportunities, poverty, political instability and insecurity, are the main places of origin of victims of both internal and international trafficking. South and Southeast Asia as well as Africa show an increase of women, men and children who are internally trafficked, trafficked from neighbouring as well as from more distant countries.

Summary of the activities carried out by Networks Presentations: The member networks of Talitha Kum are primarily engaged in the prevention and protection for victims, in cooperation with several governmental, non-governmental and church organizations. The various local bodies have highlighted some specific features, such as the political commitment of the networks in Latin America or the organizational capacity of the networks in South and Southeast Asia. Although women and children continue to be the main beneficiaries of the projects of the member networks of Talitha Kum, men are also beneficiaries.

Summary of network structure: The religious involved in the networks are about 1500. Some networks in Latin America and Asia register the participation of religious and diocesan priests, about 20 in total. Some networks are exclusively religious, as USCSAHT and AMRAT. Many have opened participation to the laity. We have no record of how many lay people are actually involved in local networks. The organizational structures of networks are diverse, more or less centralized. From the sharing, it was seen that there is a difficulty in working as networks on the African continent. This calls for greater commitment by Talitha Kum / UISG to motivate the religious on the continent to take on this commitment.

2. From 28th. to 30th. January, the meeting continued in the Casina Pio IV, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences which greatly facilitated the formation and dialogue. The first day of this second phase was devoted to deepening our knowledge with valuable input from experts, who gave us up to date information on the complexities of migration routes and the effects of the current economic situation: Helga Konrad (Austria), Plant Anthony Roger Maxwell (UK); Teresa Albano (Vienna OSCE); Geneviève Colas (Caritas France). The following days were devoted to dialogue with partner organizations of the Vatican: The US ambassador to the Holy See Mr. Kenneth Hackett, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, represented by Christine Jeangey, the section responsible for human rights, 'International Organization for Migration, represented by the head of mission Federico Soda, the Foundation Arise by John Studzinski. Card. Gerald Vincent Nichols, the Archdiocese of London and promoter of Santa Marta Group and Mons. Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences Vatican. These presentations have increased mutual understanding between Talitha Kum and some other organizations linked to the Catholic Church engaged, at the international level, in working against trafficking in persons. The training manual of Talitha Kum, organized by Stefano Volpicelli, was presented on the afternoon of the 29th. At the conclusion to all interventions we have reformulated the priorities of Talitha Kum for the next three years. The plan was approved unanimously.

3. The third part of the meeting was marked by the participation of representatives of the member networks of Talitha Kum in the final meeting for the year of consecrated life. On the morning of the 31st. the religious gave four workshops in different languages (Italian, French, English and Spanish) to the participants of the Secular Institutes, at the Agostinianum. On February 1st. the group attended the audience with the Holy Father and on the 2nd. at the 17:30 Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Sr. Mercy Muthoni Wanguna representing all religious working against trafficking, carried the candle in the entrance procession.

Outcomes and decisions:

Declaration:

We the members of Talitha Kum, the worldwide Network of religious life against trafficking in persons

**Denounce the crime of Trafficking in persons
and proclaim it as a grave offense against the dignity of the person
and a serious violation of human rights.**

As consecrated persons/women religious in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who suffer the consequences of this evil we will speak out loud and clear.

We strongly condemn this crime, addressing ourselves first of all to all the society, which permits wealth and power to control the lives and dignity of our sisters and brothers who are sold and dehumanised in this modern form of slavery.

We urge local and national Catholic Episcopal Conferences, Regional and National Conferences of Religious, and religious congregations to take a stance and commit themselves with renewed energy for the protection, promotion and fulfilment of the rights of these sisters and brothers and to denounce all forms of trafficking.

We call on governments to be responsible, not only to make laws against trafficking and to protect the victims, but also to implement these laws at all levels and to allocate adequate resources both human and material to combat this crime and to compensate the victims. It is their responsibility to activate local, national and international networks capable of effectively counteracting this trafficking in persons.

We commit ourselves:

- To network among ourselves and with other social, civilian, religious and political organizations.
- To strengthen existing efforts and initiatives to reduce the causes of human trafficking.
- To maximize and update resources for the prevention, protection, prosecution, assistance, awareness raising and condemnation of trafficking in persons.
- To continue to develop educative programs that awaken the consciousness of people and denounce this phenomenon.
- To participate in research in order to better understand the causes, risk factors and vulnerabilities in the new scenarios of human trafficking.

We know that only by working in collaboration and solidarity will we be able to confront the structural causes that generate trafficking. This mission obliges us to take a prophetic stance that requiring of us continuous conversion and change of mentality.

We renew our commitment to promote the dignity of every person as a response to Christ's words: "I have come that they may have life, life in its fullness" (John 10:10)

Priorities for the Strategic Plan 2016-2018: (power point attached)

- **Networking**
 - More attention to the regional and continental level
- **Communication**
 - In and outside
- **Visibility**
 - to human trafficking, to our thinking about trafficking – declarations - and TK activities
 - Participation in Researches
- **Formation**
 - Leadership training, collaboration with Universities, TK trainings
- **Geographical Scope**
 - Africa – Middle East

Means to promote:

- Trainings
 - to qualify and promote the formation of Talitha Kum Leaders
 - to improve the skills and professional qualification for anti-trafficking activities and for the accompaniment of survivors of TIP.
- Resources
 - To plan action to involve more sisters working full time;
 - To create fundraising procedures support the projects of the Networks member of TK.
- Data Collection
 - Internal Data Base
 - Participation in research

Composition of the Coordination Committee of Talitha Kum

It was decided to retain the existing structure of the the coordination committee of Talitha Kum, with one representative per region / continent. After group work and discussion in regional groups, the meeting decided that the names of the regional representatives to compose the co-ordination Board of Talitha Kum will be announced, after consultation with the local networks, by the end of June. Taking into account the different realities of the networks, the regions have been defined as : Oceania, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America USA, North America Canada and Africa

The African Sisters present expressed the need to develop greater capillarity, by considering and promoting a direct relationship between TK and sub-regional representatives. The proposal was made to develop the network construction process in a complex environment where trafficking in persons is a growing phenomenon and the consecrated life is having difficulties in placing this pastoral action among its priorities. The representatives submitted the following proposal: **South Africa:** Sr. Melanie O'Connor/ Sr. Annah Nyadombo. **Central Africa:** Sr. Mercy Muthoni. **West Africa:** Sr. Yvone Bambara **Eastern Africa:** Sr. Joan Jane and Sr. Noeline Nankya. They also gave the name Sr. Patricia Ebegbulem as a continental reference person.