



Religious in Europe Networking
Against Trafficking and Exploitation



Feast of St. Bakhita.

World day against Human Trafficking, 8th February, 2016.



Samples of Events from amongst the RENAME network.

The URAT Network in Albania: In Tirana, Albania, on the evening of the 7th of February, Bishop George Frendo, who is very supportive of the work against human trafficking, will lead a liturgy at the Cathedral. At this event, the Canossian sisters have been invited to give a little introduction on St Bakhita. This will then be followed by a screening of a short Novela film of her life led by one of the URAT members. A classical quartet will play reflective music in the middle of the service and then there will be a symbolic gesture, forming a chain around the cathedral, to express the unity in breaking the chain.



The Mary Ward Loreto Foundation in Albania will be holding events every day during the week of the 8th of February. Around the country, people will meet in groups for prayer and action against trafficking.

Check back on www.renate-europe.net for photos of the events after the 8th of February!

In **France**, RENAME member Marie Hélène Halligon translated the whole of the Inter-Faith Tool kit on Human Trafficking into French, and circulated it to all the Congrégation de Notre-Dame de Charité du Bon-Pasteur communities in France, Belgium, Hungary and the Netherlands, in addition to sharing it with other religious communities in France, via CORREF (French CONFER), so that all religious could benefit from the resource.

In **The Netherlands**, on the 7th of February, a special Mass will be held in the Cathedral in Breda and RENATE member Ivan de Kar has organised a Vesper Prayer Service to be held on the 8th of February, with the congregation of the SCMM Sisters of Mercy, Tilburg.

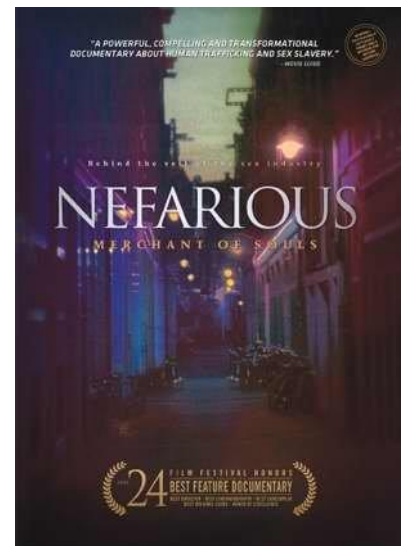
The Bakhita Network in Poland, together with The Committee for the Prevention and Help for Victims of Modern Forms of Slavery, under the umbrella of the Conference of Major Superiors of Female Religious Orders in Poland have arranged the following events for the 8th of February in Poland:



- a Prayer Vigil for the night of the 8th of February - translated to English;
- poster advertising the appeal;
- poster advertising the film, as attached;
- video advertising the

action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAfJNxDQCP1>

On Sunday, the 7th of February at 3.30 p.m., the film *Nefarious Merchant of Souls* will be screened in the church in Warsaw (Kościół NMP Matki Miłosierdzia w Warszawie na Stegnach, ul. Św. Bonifacego 9).



Sr. Stanka Oršolić, RENATE member in **Croatia** shared with us that in the days leading up to St. Bakhita's day, the sisters of the Notre Dame Congregation in Croatia, together with friends and members of their informal network, will be sharing Prayer Services in the convent and a special Mass will be held on St. Bakhita's Day itself.

As a volunteer with the Jesuit Refugee Services, Sr. Stanka will be interviewed by the Jesuit Refugee Service Radio, (Croatian Catholic radio) in a recording for their programme "On the Journey of Hope." In addition to discussions on St. Bakhita and human trafficking, they will also discuss issues related to the ongoing migrant crisis, human trafficking and smuggling.



In **Spain**, Justa del Sol from the Conferences of Religious, informs us they have prepared a prayer vigil which they will share with all the parishes, communities and prayer groups on the 8th of February, in honour of St. Josephine Bakhita. Pilar Gonzalez Cano, IBVM shares a prayer card which will also be distributed amongst the schools, teaching staff, parents and pupils and is available in Spanish.

APT Ireland (Act to Prevent Trafficking) and RENATE member, Eilis Coe, RSC, kindly shared the Prayer Calendar, a resource from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, in the United States of America. The calendar provides a prayer for each day of the coming four weeks, with a specific focus on St. Josephine Bakhita and is a wonderful resource which we hope you will enjoy, thank you Eilis for sharing!



TRAC UK have produced an Awareness Raising Card to coincide with the Feast Day of St Bakhita, 8th February. The cards are printed in A6/postcard size and the members of TRAC are aiming to distribute them as widely as possible. A pdf version is available at www.renate-europe.net

Sr. Andrea Bezákhová, RENATE member, sent us a copy of the poster, inviting everyone to join in a special Prayer Service, which will be held in St. Stephen's Capuchin Church, in Bratislava, **Slovakia**, in honour of the 8th of February. More information at www.obchodsludmi.sk



From **Malta**, RENATE member Sr. Margaret Gonzi shares a PowerPoint presentation which she has prepared as an educational and awareness-raising resource, which will help her work with 10-13 year old girls who are spending St. Bakhita's Day on retreat at the Good Shepherd Sister's convent in Malta. It is available at www.renate-europe.net



From **Romania**, where each year more than 1,000 Romanians become victims of trafficking, either externally and internally, RENATE member Sr. Adina Balan shares with us the prayer to St. Bakhita and a poster which will feature in all Parish churches and Religious communities throughout the country. Bishop, Msgr. Ioan Robu has supported the initiative by sending



a letter to everybody so they will remember to pray. In all churches and Religious Communities, all will pray on Monday for the victims and the exploiters, as well as those who work in support of the victims.

Bakhita Week Events in MWL Women areas, Albania.

Prayers:

1. A prayer against human trafficking at the Church of Kallmet on Feb 7th, 2016.
2. A prayer at the Cathedral of Lezha on Feb 7th, 2016.
3. A prayer day in Shendelli on February 14th 2016.

Information sessions:

4. A training session will take place in Barbulloje with the support of the Sisters of Barbulloje, on Feb 9th, 2016.
5. Training session on February 10th in Fier with the involvement of the religious of the area.
6. A training session will take place in Hot i Ri on February 11th.

Raising awareness:

7. An awareness-raising activity with the collaboration of the religious in Tropoja involving 4 villages (Raja, Dushaj, Cernica and Zona B) on February 25th.



RENATE member, Gabriela Legradi sends us the following from the **SÁRA TEAM, Budapest, Hungary;**

Last year the Vatican designated February 8th, the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, as an International day against trafficking. On this day, the world of human trafficking and modern-day slavery would pray.

We would like to offer two options for the common prayer:

1. A compilation of prayers, as a Prayer leaflet, for individual or community use, and is available separately on the RENATE website.
2. On Monday, the 8th of February, we invite everyone to attend a Prayer service which will take place at 18.00, at the Heart of Jesus Church, Maria Street, Budapest. We look forward to seeing as many people attending as possible.

With prayers and love: TEAM SARA.

- In addition to the above, you might also like to consult the following links useful for preparation of the event, which Olga Zhyvytsya, Advocacy Officer with the Combat Human Trafficking Policy & Advocacy Team at **Caritas Internationalis , Vatican City**, shares with us;

Blog by Fr. Evaristus on trafficking and mercy <http://www.caritas.org/2016/02/mercy-and-trafficking-ransom-the-captive/>

How you can help in the fight against trafficking: www.coatnet.org or <http://www.caritas.org/2016/02/international-day-prayer-awareness-human-trafficking/>

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