

REPORT

Biennial meeting of the COATNET affiliates co-organised with Secours Catholique – Caritas France



Main objectives of the meeting

- Finalise and adopt the strategic plan for 2016-2020.
- Discuss possible ways for evaluating the Network.
- Plan the 2016 Anti-Trafficking Conference in Africa.
- Promote networking and sharing of experiences among the participants, including the use of Baobab.
- Empower affiliates in advocating at national and international level and in existing human rights mechanisms.
- Present the topic “Human trafficking in conflict situations” and discuss further action.

Introduction

This was an international meeting of a global network against Human Trafficking, which took place in Paris from the 9th-11th of November, 2015. Fifty five people were present from thirty three countries worldwide. Members represented the following:

Caritas Internationalis

National Caritas (Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, India, Kenya, Kongo, Kosovo, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey.)

USCCB (United States Council of Catholic Bishops)

Anglican Alliance

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Papa Giovanni XXIII Community (Italy and Belgium)
CCEM (Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne) NGO
Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.
Medaille Trust, UK
IOM (International Organization for Migration)
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Methodology

The first two days included **Inputs from panel** and **work in groups**.

The third day covered the presentation of the group's work; training on the use of the members' e-platform called Baobab; the election of the Steering Group and the closing remarks.

Inputs from panel – Day 1

Following the opening session, the president of GRETA, Mr Nicolas Le Coz, spoke about the function of the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism. He highlighted the importance of NGOs in reminding the states that the signing of the Convention obliges them to identify, support, protect and recompense victims by confiscating the assets of the traffickers.

Statistics state that there are 24,000 victims in 28 states of the EU, but it is believed that the number of victims is higher.

Following Mr Nicolas Le Coz, four joint projects on Human Anti-Trafficking were introduced and presented to the audience.

- *The Euro-Mediterranean project* presented by Caritas Albania representative, Ms Ariela Mitri
- *Caritas Asia Against Trafficking* presented by Ms Mary Khin (Caritas Myanmar)
- *A bilateral project between countries of origin and destination*, presented by Ms Hessen Sayah, (Caritas Lebanon).
- *Cooperation for combating trafficking of seafarers* presented by Apinya Tajit (Apostleship of the Sea, Caritas Thailand)

This session was concluded with an address by Ms Hilary Chester, USCCB (United States Catholic Council of Bishops), who spoke about *The global initiative against trafficking of seafarers*.

Following these inputs, Ms Martina Liebsch introduced the work in groups.

Day 2

Mr Stefano Nobile, representative of Caritas Internationalis (CI) Delegation in Geneva, gave a presentation on how the Human Rights Mechanism can be used for combating Human Trafficking. It was suggested that we can use all International bodies to promote, lobby and advocate for the interests of the people we support.

He stressed the importance of bringing the reality from outreach to the highest level of advocacy by recommending that we share information with the COATNET Secretariat and CI Delegation in Geneva. He also referred to four instruments which help move the HRC (Human Rights Mechanism):

- ¹ HR Complaint Procedure
- ² HR Universal Periodic Review
- ³ HR Special Procedures
- ⁴ HRC Advisory Committee,

Mr Michel Frost, National Rapporteur on Human Rights in France, informed the audience about the role of this institution of the UN. It is an independent body and they are working now on measuring the cost of Human Trafficking, by focusing on the financial cost of non-action. His own particular role consists in advising the government of France to respect the treaty which they have signed.

An outline of two studies followed this input. The first one was entitled: “Human Trafficking in Conflict and post Conflict situations.” This was presented by Ms Genevieve Colas from Secours Catholique and Mr Oliver Peyroux (Consultant). The Research involved countries of the Euro-Mediterranean Project (Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, France, Kosovo, Lebanon, Romania, Turkey, , Ukraine).

The second one was entitled: “Human Trafficking in Emergencies,” and was introduced by Michella Macchiavello from IOM. It was interesting that both research findings identified similar problems. They both highlighted the urgency of immediate action as these situations fuel the phenomenon by making it easier for the traffickers to profit from the vulnerability of the people.

On the evening of the second day we had a cultural film event which was organised by the office of the French Bishops’ Conference. We watched and commented on two films which had been produced to raise awareness of Human Trafficking and Migration.

¹<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ComplaintProcedure/Pages/HRCComplaintProcedureIndex.aspx>
HR Complaint procedure

²<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx> HR Universal Periodic review

³<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx> HR Special Procedures

⁴<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/AboutAC.aspx>
HR Council Advisory Committee

Day 3

The third day was mainly for the presentation of the work in groups. We also participated in training on the use of BAOBAB - the electronic platform where all the members can communicate as well as download or upload information.

Work in Groups

All the members were divided into three sub-groups and each group had to devise two strategic orientations for the new Strategic Plan of COATNET. Additionally, we were to select one or two members to become a fourth group, to work on the organisation of the International Conference on Anti Human Trafficking of Africa. For two days the same groups worked together and the fourth group comprising members from each group worked on the organisation of the Conference in Africa.

The fourth group shared the draft of the organisation of the Conference in Africa. It will take place in Nigeria the second week of September 2016 and the name will be changed from “Pan African Conference” to “The first International Conference on Trafficking in Persons within Africa.” This event will be organised by Caritas Internationalis, COATNET and Caritas Nigeria.



Outcomes from the meeting

- 12 contacts were shared personally between the MWL and RENATE Network representative and members of COATNET. All contact details of the members can be found in the BAOBAB electronic platform.
- We shared the best practices of each NGO.
- All the members of the network are interested in possible collaboration into the future
- MWL and RENATE promotional materials were displayed in the Market Place and more than 40 leaflets were taken by those present.

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