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People are NOT for sale

**Australian Catholic Religious
Against Trafficking in Humans**

MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2018

ACRATH World Day Against Human Trafficking Appeal

ACRATH has today launched its fundraising appeal and hopes to raise more than \$100,000 in the lead up to World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30. The money will help ACRATH maintain vital programs to combat human trafficking, especially forced marriage and forced labour.

While you are reading this, the marriage of a teenage schoolgirl in Australia is being planned by her family. She will most likely have never met the groom and she will have no say in the marriage. If she objects to the marriage she risks rejection by her family and community.

But thankfully she will not be left alone and homeless.

Because of the work of ACRATH in lobbying the Federal Government she will have somewhere to stay, and support, if forced to leave her family home to escape the forced marriage.

President Sr Noelene Simmons SM said ACRATH could only do the work it does because of the generosity of supporters.

“Last year leading up to 30th July you helped us raise \$85,000 to keep us going. In acknowledgment of the critical work performed by ACRATH we also received a \$125,000 grant from the Federal Government. That grant runs out on June 30 2018,” Sr Noelene said.

“Our mission is unchanged and the need is greater than ever– we must eradicate modern slavery and help the victims and survivors of human trafficking recover and thrive.”

We know we are making a difference and with your support this year we have:

- Extended our partnership with St Vincent’s Health Australia which is changing the way hospitals identify and treat trafficked people and ‘slavery proof’ the goods and services they use. This project is now in its second year.
- Helped establish the Melbourne anti-slavery working group along with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and supported the work of the Sydney Archdiocese’s Anti-slavery Taskforce.
- Advocated for justice for young people facing a forced marriage. This advocacy has led to the provision of 200 days of support and funded accommodation for a young person at risk of forced marriage – not linked to their involvement in criminal prosecution of their parents or carers.
- Worked in dozens of schools across the country informing students of the support available if they face a forced marriage. These sessions have also supported teachers on how best to respond to a disclosure.
- Worked with politicians on the needs of a robust Modern Slavery Act, which will be introduced into Federal Parliament in coming weeks. We were asked to critique the draft legislation.

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- Worked in rural areas and with language groups to highlight the risk of forced labour.

To continue our programs in the coming year we need \$300,000. Without our army of volunteers this figure would be double.

Many of you, or your congregations, parishes or communities, already donate to ACRATH. That is a remarkable contribution that has helped ACRATH do what it does. But we need your support now so we can continue our programs.

As World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30 approaches, we are asking you to help secure the future protection of thousands of trafficked people and many more at risk of forced marriage.

Please support ACRATH and the victims and survivors of human trafficking today. Please, can you:

1. make a donation today.
2. Go to ACRATH's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ACRATH> and like it. You will then receive the regular posts about our fundraising appeal. To help spread the word please share these posts on your timeline.

Donate Now

Cheques payable to ACRATH Public Fund and posted to:
ACRATH National Office, 54 Beaconsfield Pde, Albert Park, 3206.

Direct Deposit

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

ACRATH Public Fund

BSB 063 111 Account number 10802141

(Please send an email to treasurer@acrath.org.au if you make a donation by direct deposit giving name and contact details so that a receipt can be sent).

For more appeal information contact Rosie Hoban on 0431 471046 or rap@acrath.org.au.