

## Taking Action

### Engaging the Story

What do you feel as a result of this presentation?

...can you name your reaction?

...can you identify your attitude?

...can you identify where you could take action?

### Personal Action

You might like to respond with an action that is a change:

...of attitude;

...of heart;

...of mind;

...of policy;

...of funding priorities

?

Thank you for your participation in this week's Soup and Substance Lenten programme



29TH MARCH 2012

### Working with Others to combat Trafficking

Presenter: Mick Quinn

Anti Human Trafficking Unit,  
Department of Justice and Equality





## Anti Trafficking Unit – Department of Justice and Equality

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit was established in February 2008 to ensure that the State's response to trafficking is co-ordinated, comprehensive and holistic. It works closely with both State and non-governmental organisations. The Unit is also responsible for the implementation of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking of Human Beings in Ireland. The National Action Plan focuses on:

- Prevention and Awareness Raising
- Prosecution of Traffickers
- Protection of Victims
- Child Trafficking

The Plan, which was published by the Minister for Justice and Equality on 10 June, 2009, sets out the structures to facilitate ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The main aim of the National Action Plan is to ensure that Ireland's response to trafficking in human beings is appropriate to the nature and scale of the problem and in line with international best practice. The Unit maintains close links with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB), which is actively involved in the fight against the trafficking of human beings into and within Ireland.

A continuous professional development training course for members of the Garda Síochána has been developed with the assistance of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and is designed to provide the necessary skills to identify victims of trafficking and provide a range of specialist investigative techniques. The Unit has organised, in conjunction with IOM, for the delivery of Awareness Raising Training covering legislation, the difference between trafficking & smuggling and the indicators of trafficking. This course has been delivered to in excess of 100 persons from various organisations.

## Finding Inspiration

**What do the themes of Catholic social say to us about human trafficking?**

### Pope John Paul II

The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights. ... Such situations are an affront to fundamental values which are shared by all cultures and peoples, values rooted in the very nature of the human person. The alarming increase in the trade in human beings is one of the pressing political, social and economic problems associated with the process of globalization; it presents a serious threat to the security of individual nations and a question of international justice which cannot be deferred.

—Letter on the Occasion of the “Twenty-First Century Slavery -

The Human Rights Dimension to Trafficking in Human Beings” Conference, 2002

### Vatican Council II

... [W]hatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are supreme dishonor to the Creator.

—Gaudium

### Scripture

**John 10:10** I came that you may have life and have it abundantly.

**Psalms 140:12** I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and justice for the poor

