



Permanent Observer Mission  
of the Holy See to the UN

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## SAVE THE DATE

*You Are Cordially Invited To A CSW 60 Side-Event Entitled*

# The Pastoral Care of Women and Girls Working or Living on the Streets

**Monday, March 21, 11:30 am to 12:45 pm**  
**UN Headquarters Conference Room 11**

### CONCEPT

When Pope Francis addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations last September 25, he emphasized that “our world demands of all government leaders a will that is effective, practical and constant” who will take “concrete steps and immediate measures” to eliminate as quickly as possible “the phenomenon of social and economic exclusion, with its baneful consequences: human trafficking, ... the sexual exploitation of boys and girls, slave labor, including prostitution, ... and organized crime.” He added that “we must avoid every temptation to fall into a declarationist nominalism” and “to ensure that our institutions are truly effective in the struggle against all these scourges.”

While the international community, national and local governments all have their crucial roles to play, there is likewise a need for people on the ground to care for those who are already victims of the type of social and economic exclusion that Pope Francis described. In this side event during the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we will examine some approaches to caring for women and girls who are working and living on the streets, to address their real needs and work to liberate them from the multiple forms of exploitation they suffer. The Speakers will include:

- **Archbishop Bernardito Auza**, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN
- **Commissioner Kevin Hyland** (video), the UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, leading efforts to end human slavery and human trafficking.
- **Sr. Lynda Dearlove, RSM**, Founder of Women@theWell in London, England, which cares for vulnerable women and girls caught up in street based prostitution and trafficking, with access to physical, mental and health services, legal advice, domestic violence referrals, drug and alcohol services, life skills to provide basic needs, skills and training, food, showers, and so many other services that empowers women and girls to leave the streets and achieve their potential free from exploitation, exclusion, discrimination, abuse and neglect.
- **Kathryn Hodges**, Head of the Department of Social Care at Anglia Ruskin University and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Women@theWell. A registered social worker with a background of supporting individuals facing severe and multiple disadvantages, her research has sought to improve access to effective support and quality service provision for women.
- **Rachel Moran** of Dublin Ireland, of SPACE International, an international organization founded to give voice to women who have survived the abusive reality of prostitution and press for political recognition of prostitution as sexually abusive exploitation, criminalize the exploitive purchase of paid sex, end penalties against exploited women, and provide viable exit strategies, including education and training, for women and girls on the streets. From 15-22 years of age, Rachel Moran was prostituted in Dublin and other Irish cities, before extricating herself, obtaining a journalism degree and returning to try to help other women leave the streets.

In extensive comments on human trafficking in December 2014, Pope Francis said, “The physical, economic, sexual and psychological exploitation of men and women, boys and girls, currently holds tens of millions in inhumane and humiliating bondage. ... Modern slavery — in the form of human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution or the trafficking of organs — is a crime ‘against humanity.’ The victims of this are from every walk of life, but most are found among the poorest and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. ... Despite the great efforts of many, modern slavery continues to be an atrocious scourge that is present throughout the world on a broad scale, even as tourism. This crime ... masquerades behind seemingly acceptable customs, but in reality claims its victims through prostitution, human trafficking. ... It hides behind closed doors, in particular places, in the streets, automobiles, factories, the countryside, in fishing boats and many other places. And this happens both in towns and villages, in the reception centers of the wealthiest nations as well as in those of the poorest. And the worst thing is that this situation, unfortunately, grows more serious every day. We call to action all people of faith, leaders, governments, businesses, all men and women of good will, to give their strong support and join in the action against modern slavery in all its forms.”

This side event focuses on those who have responded to this call to action and hopes to serve as a catalyst for others to join them.

**A UN, NGO or CSW 60 Pass is needed to attend. To request a special events pass and/or to register for the event, please RSVP at [holyseemission.org/rsvpMarch21](http://holyseemission.org/rsvpMarch21) by March 17.**