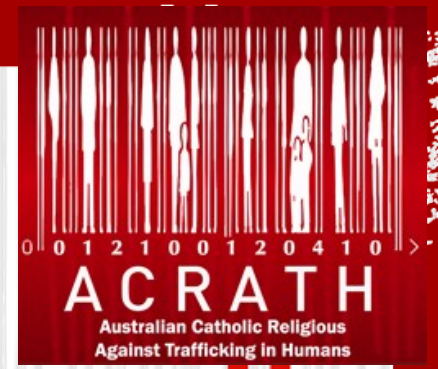


On Sunday, 21 August 2011, twelve members of ACRATH arrived in Canberra for our 5th annual pilgrimage to our national capital. As most have had previous experience visiting Parliament, it was not difficult to launch again into this important task – speaking with over 100 Members of Parliament and their advisers about our major concerns for people who are trafficked.



**In our visit to Canberra we raised:
the well-being of people trafficked into Australia**

1. We are concerned about the critical issues facing women who have been freed from trafficking. The first one is accommodation; we are concerned that they are initially placed in motels or hotels; we are also concerned that they can pay 60% of their income on housing as they await the trial of the trafficker. We ask that the government would provide safe, secure, affordable and supportive accommodation for trafficked people.
2. Our second concern is financial compensation. ACRATH asks that the Australian Government facilitates trafficked women's access to compensation by either harmonising and reforming the existing State and Territory schemes or by establishing a Commonwealth crimes compensation scheme.
3. ACRATH is concerned about the need for trafficked people to learn English and to have access to vocational training courses. ACRATH asks that a State issue become a national right for trafficked people.



trafficking prevention strategies

4. ACRATH also asked the government to promote trafficking prevention through our Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by ensuring that our contribution reaches 0.5% of our gross national income by 2015 and 0.7% by 2020. We also urged that our ODA support girls' education and that the spending of the aid budget is fully transparent.
5. We also asked that the Federal Government change the procurement regulations to ensure that there is a positive requirement on suppliers to show that there is no trafficking or slavery in the supply chain of a product.



Coincidentally:

Jennifer Burn, a lawyer and Director of Anti-Slavery Australia, was scheduled to speak in the Parliamentary Library, and our visit to Canberra coincided with her talk. We were delighted to be invited to her speech, and were **formally acknowledged for our anti trafficking work by Jennifer** .



We raised awareness among Members of Parliament and their advisers across parties and had a very positive response.

Major outcomes in relation to:

- 1. well-being of people trafficked into Australia,** specifically housing, financial compensation, access to English classes and access to vocational education - we made progress in the direction of a whole of government response to the issues through our communications with the relevant Ministers in the jurisdictions of women, justice and trade, and with ministerial advisors for immigration and education.
- 2. promoting trafficking prevention strategies** through Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). We had a very positive response from the MPs from all parties about their commitment to ensure our overseas development assistance reaches 0.5% of our gross national income by 2015. ACRATH also took to Parliament the need for the Federal Government to change procurement regulations to ensure that there is a proactive requirement on suppliers to show that there is no trafficking or slavery in the supply chain of a product.

There was a strong response to our concern:

Four Senators are prepared to speak in the Senate about this. Five Members of the House of Representatives will speak to a Motion on 19 September which is the tenth anniversary of the Harkin-Engel Protocol. This Protocol was an initiative in the US Congress in 2001 to ensure that there was no forced or child labour in the supply chain of cocoa beans brought out by the USA.

Other Positive Outcomes:

We met with AusAID, the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Office for Women, the Attorney General's Department, Anti Slavery Australia, UNICEF, ACFID, and Church public policy representatives.

As part of our international focus, we met with diplomatic staff representing Timor Leste, the Philippines, the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan. We aimed to enter into a dialogue with them, to learn more about how their governments deal with trafficking issues, and to explain our work. We also look forward to future collaboration with their officials on ways to assist their nationals if they are trafficked to Australia. All four meetings were very positive.

We initiated important new relationships which will assist our emerging work in partnerships with the Pacific, in exploring human trafficking in WA and north Queensland.

We issued a media release and appreciated the take-up.

www.acrath.org.au



Organising



Advocating

An adviser said:

'You people have worked hard, seen many people and have been organized in what you had to say. You may not get all you want but you will get results.'



Visiting Embassies

To explore how to participate in our work, please visit our website.

www.acrath.org.au

