



A Decade of Making a Difference Against Human Trafficking

The Sisters and Associates of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary mark the ten year anniversary of taking a corporate stand against human trafficking. Animating the work of the Provinces/Sector of the Congregation and collaborating with many partner organizations has resulted in extraordinary work and witness to address human trafficking. In this report we highlight the efforts of the congregational network, sisters and associates and the collaborative and creative partnerships that have arisen and benefitted from the SNJM Justice and Peace Network.

We will educate ourselves and others regarding the magnitude, causes and consequences of this abuse, both wherever we are missioned and throughout the world.
—SNJM Corporate Stand

UISG - International Union of Superiors General – A Call to Action

“At their 2001 meeting in Rome 700 Superiors General from all parts of the world made a commitment to work to end the nightmare of modern human trafficking. I vividly remember the story shared by a local Italian Sister. She described a call in the middle of the night from the Italian police who had just discovered a smuggler’s boat from Asia full of women with no belongings and no identification. Would the Sisters help? The Sisters took the women in and over time helped each one decide and prepare for her future. Sisters serving in the women’s place of origin were able to connect the women with their families on return and organized opportunities for their employment. We realized that our incredible network could be a structure for liberation.”

—Mary Pat LeRoy, SNJM superior general in 2001



The NGO, UNANIMA, of which the SNJMs are a founding member, began developing materials to assist religious communities of women to educate themselves on the issue of Human Trafficking. These training materials were made available to use with other church entities, with health and service providers, law enforcement agencies and local groups interested in learning Human Trafficking facts.

The information packet, **STOP THE DEMAND**, composed and compiled by UNANIMA, was a major educational tool that was used for several years. Many Sisters and Associates received formation to transmit this information at conferences and workshops held in parishes, school faculties, other religious church groups, educational settings, community health, and law enforcement services and beyond.



Education, Involvement, Action

Sisters and Associates throughout the congregation prepare and participate in a variety of events against human trafficking.

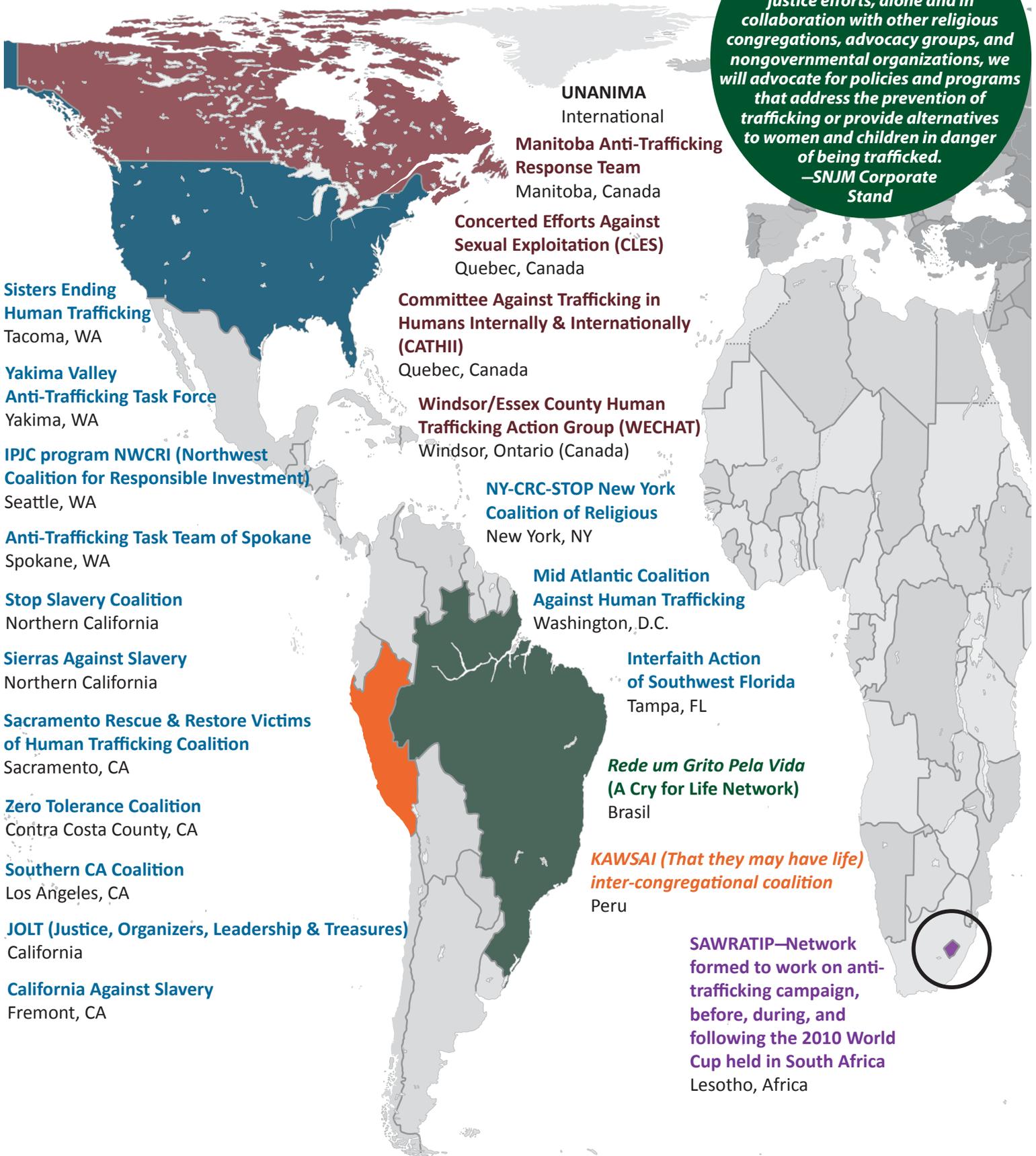


- ☞ Give witness at Freedom Walks
- ☞ Pray at silent Vigils or at community gatherings
- ☞ Host Symposiums or panel discussions
- ☞ Give presentations to parishes, Universities, high schools and other communities.
- ☞ Host fund raisers to support victims of trafficking, educational campaigns, etc
- ☞ Lobby legislators / hold town hall meetings / sign petitions
- ☞ Facilitate education by sponsoring: films; music projects; drama productions; “pub-gatherings” or “Justice Cafes”
- ☞ Extend support for safe houses

SNJM Sisters and Associates—Active in Coalitions

The fight against human trafficking continues:

Through our NGO affiliates, the SNJM Justice and Peace Network and our other justice efforts, alone and in collaboration with other religious congregations, advocacy groups, and nongovernmental organizations, we will advocate for policies and programs that address the prevention of trafficking or provide alternatives to women and children in danger of being trafficked.
—SNJM Corporate Stand



Sisters Ending Human Trafficking
Tacoma, WA

Yakima Valley Anti-Trafficking Task Force
Yakima, WA

IPJC program NWCRI (Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment)
Seattle, WA

Anti-Trafficking Task Team of Spokane
Spokane, WA

Stop Slavery Coalition
Northern California

Sierras Against Slavery
Northern California

Sacramento Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Coalition
Sacramento, CA

Zero Tolerance Coalition
Contra Costa County, CA

Southern CA Coalition
Los Angeles, CA

JOLT (Justice, Organizers, Leadership & Treasures)
California

California Against Slavery
Fremont, CA

UNANIMA International
Manitoba Anti-Trafficking Response Team
Manitoba, Canada

Concerted Efforts Against Sexual Exploitation (CLES)
Quebec, Canada

Committee Against Trafficking in Humans Internally & Internationally (CATHII)
Quebec, Canada

Windsor/Essex County Human Trafficking Action Group (WECHAT)
Windsor, Ontario (Canada)

NY-CRC-STOP New York Coalition of Religious
New York, NY

Mid Atlantic Coalition Against Human Trafficking
Washington, D.C.

Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida
Tampa, FL

Rede um Grito Pela Vida (A Cry for Life Network)
Brasil

KAWSAI (That they may have life) inter-congregational coalition
Peru

SAWRATIP—Network formed to work on anti-trafficking campaign, before, during, and following the 2010 World Cup held in South Africa
Lesotho, Africa

Youth Actions—SNJM Schools and University

Holy Names Schools

Our SNJM schools throughout the U.S.-Ontario province and Manitoba have engaged in numerous anti-trafficking activities. All social justice classes educate students on the SNJM corporate stands on water and human trafficking.



Most schools participate in school-wide prayers on human trafficking through the announcements or theology classes. Many schools have used movies to educate students such as “Half the Sky”, “Trade of Innocents”, “Girl Rising,” and “The Oldest Oppression” produced by St. Mary’s Winnipeg students and faculty. St. Mary’s Portland, HNHS, and Ramona Convent all have regular trafficking assemblies while HNA Seattle participates in an annual Justice Day which features human trafficking. St. Mary’s Portland and Ramona Convent participate in walks against human trafficking while HNA Seattle participates in regular trafficking vigils sponsored by IPJC. Additionally, HNA Seattle, St. Mary’s

Portland, and Ramona Convent participate in IPJC’s annual JustVideo Contest.

Some special activities include St. Mary’s Winnipeg Human Trafficking Awareness Café

with the local Jesuit boys’ school and an annual dinner with the House of Peace which highlights issues surrounding human trafficking.

Ramona Convent hosts an annual “Thrift Shop” which encourages girls to bring in clothes they no longer wear and sell them to other students. This encourages recycling and reusing as well as removing themselves a step from sweatshops. They also sponsor an annual Fair Trade Chocolate Valentine Gram sale. Ramona also produced a Human Trafficking Museum with monologues written and performed by Ramona students.

AHN Tampa has marched with the Coalition of Immokalee workers. AHN has also provided hospitality to the workers as they were marching.

At HNHS in Oakland, students joined the *Not for Sale Campaign*. They held a number of sales on campus offering Fair Trade items from Catholic Relief Services during annual holiday celebrations and invited the neighboring communities as well.

HNHS’s “Not for Sale” club sponsored a showing of the documentary, *The Dark Side of Chocolate*. Many students participated to learn about the scandal of child labor and human trafficking during the production of chocolate.

Holy Names Network of Schools

Academy of the Holy Names—Albany, NY (AHN)
Academy of the Holy Names—Tampa, FL (AHN)
Holy Names Academy—Seattle, WA (HNA)
Holy Names High School—Oakland, CA (HNHS)
Saint Mary’s Academy—Portland, OR (SMA)
Saint Mary’s Academy—Winnipeg, MB (SMA)
Ramona Convent Secondary School—Alhambra, CA

School activities in Lesotho

Students in Lesotho are working against human trafficking. Recognizing that lives are treated as a commodity, they have worked at...

- ☞ teaching people through media
- ☞ advising youth to stop having sugar mummies and daddies
- ☞ inviting individuals to report any suspicious actions
- ☞ publishing a magazine based on SNJM corporate stands

They recognize that it is important to work as a team. Each member of the team needs to be patient, to be humble and willing to help, to love those they help.

☞ Under the leadership of Srs Francisca Khooa and Josephine Mohlomi, four students, one from each of four schools directed by SNJMs, attended the 2012 SNJM Youth Justice Forum. Their experience led to greater engagement on this issue.

Mazenod High School, Mazenod
Mabathoana High School, Maseru



Holy Names High School, Bela-Bela
Abia High School, Maseru

HNU Students in Oakland get involved – 2014 (CA)

Holy Names University students have taken action this year to raise awareness and to raise funds for V-Day which is a worldwide movement to end violence against women and girls.

First, HNU participated in One Billion Rising for the second year in a row – a global call to women and men everywhere to RISE, RELEASE, DANCE, and demand JUSTICE! In partnership with 25 elementary school students from Raskob Day School, approximately 30 HNU students, staff and faculty performed flash mobs on February 14th to raise awareness

and demand an end to violence against women and girls.

Then, students also organized a related event which was held for the first time on the campus, “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes”, which is an International men’s march to stop rape, sexual assault, and gender violence. Approximately 15 male students wearing high heeled shoes walked around campus with their female peers to raise awareness about gender violence.

Finally, students performed an inspiring, heartbreaking, hilarious, and eye opening benefit production of Eve Ensler’s famous

play “The Vagina Monologues”. This is the 3rd year in a row that HNU has brought this event to campus. The crowd of over 100 attendees enjoyed the performances by approximately 20 students, which raised money for three Bay Area organizations: BAWAR, MISSSY, and Pillars of Hope - an organization in Contra Costa County which responds to needs of teenage trafficked girls. PILLARS OF HOPE will soon be opening a residential facility for the holistic rehabilitation of trafficked teen girls. One SNJM works collaboratively with Pillars of Hope.

San Jose Diocese (CA) Network to End Human Trafficking

In his desire that every parish and school be educated on the issue of human trafficking, Bishop Patrick J. McGrath called together a broad-based committee to provide resources toward this goal. The 36 members of this committee include religious, county officials, San Jose Police Task Force on Trafficking, Catholic Charities, Representatives of the County Board of Supervisors, the County Office of Women's Policy, Santa Clara University faculty, Jesuit Province of CA, South Bay Coalition to End Trafficking, other related agencies. They

collaborate with the Dioceses of Oakland and Monterey. Rosemary Everett, snjm of our South Bay MC, is a member.

Its Mission Statement: *As a Catholic faith community, we value the dignity and rights of all persons and we endeavor to educate, influence public policy and engage our community for the purpose of eradicating human trafficking in all its forms. We work in collaboration with other faith communities, law enforcement and established organization addressing the issue.*

Initially, the committee offered two training sessions for members of parishes and schools. Attendees filled out questionnaires on what they have done on the issue, what resources they needed from the committee. As follow-up our committee divided into three sub-groups relating to parishes, schools and social service agencies. We responded to the requests received and are available to meet with parish justice coordinators, give presentations and other services.

Lenten Campaign 2014 - Brazil



Each year the Brazilian Bishops' Conference (CNBB) promotes an ecumenical Lenten reflection on a theme that has a social impact on the Brazilian population. For over 20 years the CF, (*Campanha da Fraternidade*), Fraternity Campaign, has influenced personal and collective change in the Brazilian people.

After more than 10 years of struggling to have the theme of Human Trafficking chosen as the Campaign's theme, a dream became reality. This year's CF has Human

Trafficking as its theme, with the slogan "When Christ freed us, He meant us to remain free." (Gal.5:1)

This is the result of a concentrated 2-year effort on the part of Christians from all over Brazil – individuals, parishes, pastoral, women's rights and human rights groups, child protection networks, workers' organizations and international networks against HT. The Brazilian Religious Conference's network against HT, *Rede Um Grito Pela Vida*, and the Immigration Commission of the CNBB mobilized the action and succeeded in convincing the bishops to vote in favour of the proposal. Petitions with hundreds of thousands of signatures, conversations with bishops, letters to bishops written by major superiors, a lobbying campaign, dissemination of information to the public and prayer put the Human Trafficking theme on the board in the year that the World Cup will take place in Brazil.

There is resistance from some bishops and priests who are ignoring the Campaign, but lay people have taken up the cause with a commitment and intensity that is beyond our hopes.

The seeds have been thrown to the wind, may they bear good fruit.



Staffing anti-trafficking information booths at events (CA)

Following an SNJM Justice and Peace Network suggestion in 2013 Sisters/Associates have provided displays with materials from many Human Trafficking resources/agencies at Diocesan Religious Education Congresses, area Walk-Runs supporting Anti-Trafficking, Holy Names University events, speaking engagements for secular groups, and individual parishes.



Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center



IPJC, over the years, has developed a variety of resources and sponsored various events/activities to help counter human trafficking:

- ☞ Silent vigils the first Sunday of the month
- ☞ Justice Cafes held on the topic—in Africa, Canada and US
- ☞ Junior high webinars with multiple classrooms interacting via the internet
- ☞ Just Video Contest for High school students with Human Trafficking being one of the focus areas
- ☞ Parish presentations; testimony given at legislative hearings

IPJC does diligent work in the area of *Corporate Responsibility*, requesting companies to: adopt a code or human rights policy that protects children from sexual exploitation in their hotels; train staff to identify & report potential victims to management; develop materials for guests; report publicly on progress in implementing the policy.

SNJM Sisters and Associates were feet on the ground for legislative change. (CA)

In 2008, no anti-trafficking law existed in California. Joining a San Jose elected Representative, Holy Names sisters led the way offering a broad based education to the public about the need for a law against Human Trafficking. To get a Bill on the state Ballot, Sisters/ Associates were involved for months in pamphleting, collecting petition signatures, posting signs to vote on the petition. When the petition was approved, they were involved in a similar

public endeavor for 4-5 months to inform voters about the Anti-Trafficking Bill that would be on the ballot. The SB 24 Bill passed and became the first Anti-Trafficking law in California. Subsequent actions have followed for additional Anti-Trafficking laws in California. Success has been due largely to the commitment of SNJM Associates and Sisters in collaboration with many others.



CATHII – Quebec



In 2004, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary and three other religious congregations in Quebec came together with the desire to build awareness around the question of human trafficking. They associated themselves with several organizations and by September they were ready to engage in a common mission. The CATHII committee seeks to work in solidarity to put an end to human trafficking both internally and internationally. It is presently comprised of eight religious congregations, members of UNANIMA International, members of the Center for Faith and Justice, Franciscans International and the Association of Women Religious for the Rights of Women.

An initiative of CATHII to broaden the outreach: in April 2013, some 30 organizations concerned about human trafficking came together to form the *Quebec Coalition Against Human Trafficking*. It consists of about 30 public or para-public organizations, community and non-government groups. Their main objective is to provide a unified response in providing services to the victims of trafficking.

The coalition gathers 4 times per year to share updates, to discuss recent cases and the action that was provided in response or to discuss specific issues. It is becoming more and more of a resource/counsel outlet, whilst relying on CATHII's expertise. It directs requests toward specific services.

It is presently developing an online data site – this to provide the list of main available resources and services (info exclusively for its members). It is helping to strengthen bonds of trust, between different groups, notably the police, the judicial body and the community; it is also providing better resources for victims of trafficking.



Unwavering support from SNJMs in Windsor area

The Windsor/Essex County Committee Against Human Trafficking, in existence since 2003, is a Coalition of government and non-government organizations. Its mandate is to educate on the reality of human trafficking in Canada. The Committee communicates regularly by phone conference with other Human Trafficking Committees across Canada to share resources, strategies and policy development.

“Our first victims of human trafficking came to our attention from a lead prosecutor who

was able to identify certain signs in women who had pressed criminal charges against the owner of the factory where they were working. These women were granted Temporary Resident Permits after being interviewed by Immigration Canada and identified as persons trafficked into Canada and kept in slave like conditions. Since this first encounter with trafficked persons, we have provided them with services and support. Currently we have assisted 35 women and men who came forward and were identified by Immigration as trafficked persons. ... Our success is due to

many factors. Most importantly, we had established a trust level with the first group of women, this gained thanks to a solidly built protocol of services made available to them and treatment marked with respect of their decisions and readiness to approach Immigration. ...”

—Helen Petrimoulx, SNJM
co-chair at the time

Holy Names House of Peace – Winnipeg

A collective dream entrusted by God to a community of diverse peoples

So many women with no place to lay their head ... so much trauma, so much pain. God, what do you want? In the spring of 2004, the Franciscans decided to put their downtown building up for sale. “God, are you speaking?” Decisions had to be made immediately. The Province Leadership Team called in Mr. Bob Dick, our financial advisor. Together we discerned, and together, we leapt and trusted that the net would unfold. Bob bought the building. The Manitoba Province committed financial resources. Srs Vera and Lesley were missioned, “Go and do what the Lord tells you.” God, you are amazing grace! On September 1, 2004, Holy Names House of Peace, an intercultural, life affirming community that welcomes all, opened its doors. One month later, a young woman asked to live with us and “Neighbours”, a safe home for newcomer women in transition, was born. Over the last 10 years, 77 women from 26 countries and 11 different

faith backgrounds have lived and grown together as neighbours.

A “Neighbour’s” letter to her unborn son: *Dear Son, your mom is from Ghana, Africa. I came to Canada when I was three months pregnant because we were being threatened by the community and I wanted to save your life. I was so nervous and afraid. I didn’t know anyone. I didn’t know where to go. I kept praying to God, “Help us find a place where we will be in safe hands.” God answered and gave us the House of Peace, a caring family where we are loved so much.*

Statue of *Natasha* at House of Peace. “Natasha” is an Eastern European name synonymous with trafficked women due to the large number from the region trafficked into North America. Natasha is often used to maintain anonymity.



Some strides taken in Lesotho



☞ The Justice and Peace Committee works to foster education on human trafficking in school and community settings. Thanks to an initiative between the Lesotho Sisters and the SNJM East Bay Justice & Peace group funds were provided to support education in rural areas.

☞ It is important to note that, though Transformation Resource Center, the NGO we are affiliated with, does not have human trafficking as a focus, the sisters provided TRC staff with training and education so that they could include it in their public gatherings.

The Daily News

One day, in the newspaper,
I saw the face of a disfigured woman.
I looked to see, who might have tortured her?
And, the answer was given in the last lines:
Her beloved ...

One day, in the newspaper,
I read the news of a woman who had been raped.
The body was not shown, it was so mutilated.
Who might be responsible?
No one knows anything ...

One day, in the newspaper,
I read that the trafficking of women is all too common,
that it is difficult for those responsible
to be brought forward.
Given the scope of the news, I am stunned ...
What will become of our lives?

All women are touched,
by the news of today's life,
they have a name, an identity.
What they do not encounter,
are men of good will.
They die of fear,
and in the majority of cases,
the violence, suffered by them,
remains hidden ...

In the city, in the countryside, at home or on the street,
women feel naked,
stripped of protection.
And they warm their hearts,
in prayer,
at church, in communities ...
And together discuss solutions,
form action groups,
and, through experience, come to see
signs of evolution
inclusive of men, our brothers.
Many of them, so very lost,
in a world of oppression.

—Ana Maria Fonseca
excerpted from the Brazilian Journal *Mandragora*



Trafficking survivors from the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking, based in Los Angeles

Prayer for those who are Trafficked

O God, you always hear the cry of your people and uphold the oppressed and enslaved.
Give them the opportunity to live the freedom of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus.

We plead with you on behalf of those who suffer the scourge of human trafficking.

Convert us by the strength of your Spirit and help us to become sensitive to the pain of these, our sisters and brothers.

Committed to overcome this evil, we live as your daughters and sons in freedom and in peace.

Through Jesus, your chosen One.

AMEN!

These pages are just a brief reflection of the 10-year span of SNJM response to the call to end human trafficking.

We Celebrate... a DECADE of commitment to end human trafficking!

We Pray... to ask for healing, to open minds, to change hearts, to strengthen our resolve.

We Partner... with coalitions around the world to help eliminate this modern-day slavery.



SNJM Anti-Trafficking Committee

a sub-committee of the **SNJM Justice and Peace Network**

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