



International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons

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FIRST TALITHA KUM COORDINATION MEETING

May 30 – June 1st, 2011

Rome, ITALY

The First Talitha Kum Coordination Meeting was held in Rome on May 30 – June 1st, 2011.

After two years in the mission of counter trafficking, the Talithakum members felt the need to come together, keep in touch with each other and assess the journey so far undertaken on behalf of the victims and the more vulnerable sectors of trafficking in persons.

Participants in the Coordination Meeting are the Coordinators of the Talitha Kum Member Networks or a delegated Sister. (*cfr. List of Participants*). Sr. Josune Arregui, CCV, UISG Executive Secretary, officially welcomed the participants and Archbishop Joseph Tobin, Secretary of CICLSAL graced the meeting with his presence and words of encouragements in his greetings.

Objectives

The Coordination Meeting hopes to give space and time to the participants for:

1. Reflection on shared experiences, best practices and difficulties encountered in the mission against human trafficking in view of mutual support, encouragement and concrete mutual assistance
2. Assessment of the realization of the initial Plan of Action of Talitha Kum
3. A well defined Plan of Action aimed at:
 - 3.1 Consolidation of Talitha Kum as the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Person (towards a stronger sense of ownership for more pro-active networking, protection, referrals and assistance in the aspect of rescue, protection and healing and recovery of victims and vulnerable persons)
 - 3.2 A more effective management of the Network.

Resource Persons

The Coordination Meeting was successfully carried out thanks to the invaluable services of the Steering Committee composed of:

1. Sr. Ines Gutierrez, SUSC
2. Sr. Zenaide Ziliotto, MSCS
3. Sr. Estrella Castalone, FMA
4. Dr. Stefano Volpicelli of IOM

The Anti Trafficking Working Group of the Justice and Peace Commission (USG-UISG) contributed to the smooth process flow of the meeting thanks to their volunteer services offered to meet the different needs of the participants.

The Process Flow:

The meeting started with Reports from the Network members presenting the mission carried out in the field of counter trafficking these past two years, giving evidence to the networks' points of

strengths and weaknesses. Posters illustrating initiatives and activities were also put on display as objects of reflection and discussion. Sr. Estrella Castalone, FMA as Coordinator of Talitha Kum gave her report on the status of the Network. She presented Talitha Kum's accomplishments namely:

1. Additional member networks:
 - 1.1 AMRAT – South Asia
 - 1.2 Mans deins le man – West Africa
 - 1.3 Red Kawsay – Bolivarian countries
2. The Counter Trafficking Campaign in South Africa on the occasion of the Soccer World Cup when Talitha Kum undertook:
 - 2.1 Preparatory workshop in Johannesburg,
 - 2.2 Issuance of 4 open letters to the public
 - 2.3 Press conference in Rome on May 6, 2010, official launch of the Campaign marking the start of initiatives carried out by religious women all over the world from May 6- July 2010
3. Design and Launch of Talitha Kum web site in 5 languages
4. Participation in the “*International Conference on the Female Face of Migration*” organized by Caritas Internationalis.
5. Participation as a speaker at the USA Embassy to the Holy See Conference on “Building Bridges of Freedom: Public-Private Partnership to End Modern Day Slavery” – Rome, May 18, 2011
6. Counter Trafficking Formation courses held in:
 - 6.1 Senegal (for religious women of West Africa)
 - 6.2 India (for religious women of South Asia)
 - 6.3 Peru (for religious women of Bolivarian countries)
 - 6.4 Kenya (for religious women of East Africa)

Sr. Estrella also mentioned the “shadow areas” of Talitha Kum from her viewpoint as its Coordinator and challenged the participants to come up with strategies to overcome them.

These inputs were object of reflection and discernment in group work and discussions aimed at answering the questions:

“How can I improve my sense of ownership of Talitha Kum”?

“How do we improve the management of Talitha Kum”?

Conclusion

After three days of serious work of reflection, discernment and discussion on the concepts of “ownership” and management of the network, the Sisters came up to a consensus with two important conclusions:

1. **New Directive of Management** which will consist of the Coordinator and a Board to help her in the management of the Network.

COORDINATOR: Estrella Castalone, FMA

BOARD MEMBERS:

Africa: Patricia Ebegbulem, SSL

America: Gabriella Bottani, CMS

Asia: Maria Victoria Sta. Ana, FMA

Europe: Dagmar Plum, MMS

Rome: Nicole Rivard, NDA

Rome: Claudio Barriga, SJ

2. **Guidelines for Action** covering the areas of:

- 2.1 Visibility – to make Talitha Kum “visible” first and foremost to all Religious Congregations within each National Conference of Religious
- 2.2 Service – to share what ever service we provide on behalf of the victims of trafficking in persons and in the prevention actions in an improved and updated Content Management System of the network website
- 2.3 Networking – to expand linkages and partnership in the identification of actual collaborators

Like the disciples of Emmaus, the participants went back each to her own country with hearts burning alive with hope, certain that the Network is ready to take on longer and surer strides in the mission of bringing Christ’s compassionate love to those whose lives have been affected by this modern day slavery.

At the conclusion of the meeting, there is one conviction that all the Sisters of Talitha Kum share: *Talitha Kum is not only the name of our Network but most particularly the guiding spirituality that animates our commitment to counter act trafficking in persons. We make our own **Talitha Kum!**, the words of Jesus (Luke 8:55) to the girl whom he raised from the dead, that we may continue to nurture our hope and desire that shall raise every woman, man and child from the harrowing experiences of modern day slavery and restore them to the dignity of the children of God which is rightly theirs.*