



**GIORNATA INTERNAZIONALE DI PREGHIERA  
E RIFLESSIONE CONTRO LA TRATTA DI PERSONE**

*UNA LUCE CONTRO LA TRATTA DI PERSONE*

**TALITHA KUM**

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## **Press Conference 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016**

### **Sr. Carmen Sammut, msola, UISG president**

Welcome to you all, friends and members of the press. We are here today because we are all concerned and very much upset by the scale that Trafficking in Humans is taking and very specially trafficking in children. This question concerns us because of our faith and just because we are human. Pope Francis, in 2014, requested the International Unions of Superiors and of Superiors General (UISG / USG) to promote this day, on the feast of St Bakhita. Talitha Kum, the global network of Consecrated Life against trafficking has coordinated the organisation of the activities in Rome – activities that bring together various organisations and dicasteries. Indeed the interest and the participation has greatly increased in these three years and instead of just a day of prayer, this year we have a whole week of activities. The various networks belonging to Talitha Kum organise prayers, reflections and activities in various parts of the world. There are study and awareness raising days in the Philippines, there will be street manifestations in Nigeria. In Australia, as in Italy seminars, in Brazil there is a whole week of education in schools and through television programs.

Indeed women religious all over the world are involved in combatting human trafficking and in a special way the trafficking in women and children : identifying and helping victims, promoting their capacity to find justice, protecting vulnerable groups, education and awareness raising, lobbying, advocating. They campaign through and with other networks for slavery-free supply chains. We also try to be aware of how we might be complicit in promoting human trafficking and slavery through our consumer habits, for, as Pope Francis reminded us “ purchasing is not only an economic but also a moral action.”

Our strength is in our being global and in our working with others from different backgrounds and faiths, from local and international non-government organisations.

Why do we do this? I think that it is because once you meet someone who has been trafficked, you cannot sleep quietly until you do something about it. The meeting of just one person changes your life and your life's direction. I am aware that I am saying this to journalists. I encourage you to meet with victims and to report from first-hand information. I also encourage you to meet the religious and others who are working in such a variety of fields against this Human Trafficking and to report some success stories, so that others may not be discouraged by the dimension of the problem, but know that every action in the right direction, however small it might look, brings change.

I met two young religious working to bring traffickers to justice and asked them if they were not afraid. They answered : “Is it not worth giving one's life so that others may live?”

Thank you for listening.

**COMITATO ORGANIZZATORE:** *Unione Internazionale delle Superiore Generali-Unione dei Superiori Generali (UISG/USG) – Congregazione per gli Istituti di Vita Consacrata e le Società di Vita Apostolica (CIVCSVA) – Dicastero per il Servizio dello Sviluppo Umano Integrale, Sezione Rifugiati e Migranti - Pontificia Accademia delle Scienze – Caritas Internationalis – Unione Mondiale delle Unioni Femminili Cattoliche (WUCWO) – Anti-Trafficking Working Group (UISG/UISG)*