



GIORNATA INTERNAZIONALE DI PREGHIERA
E RIFLESSIONE CONTRO LA TRATTA DI PERSONE

"Una Luce contro la Tratta"

TALITHA KUM

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Press Release

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International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking.

The power of care: all continents united in prayer.

The eighth International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking will take place on Tuesday, 8th February. The **theme** is **"The power of care. Women, economy and human trafficking"**.

On the liturgical memory feast of Saint Bakhita, the universal symbol of the Church's commitment against human trafficking, all those committed to fighting this phenomenon will join in an **online prayer marathon from 9.00 to 17.00 (CET)**. Moving across different time zones, the marathon will start in Oceania, Asia and the Middle East, then move on to Africa, Europe, South America and finish in North America. It will be live streamed in five languages (French, English, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish) on the event's website www.preghieracontrotratta.org

Participants will come from **over 30 countries** from **all continents**. There will be representatives from religious institutions, but also survivors, activists, volunteers, economists and entrepreneurs.

The day will include a **message** from **Pope Francis** who first introduced the International Day of Prayer and Awareness, in 2015.

Prior to the event, on Sunday, 6th February, the appointment will be at the Angelus Prayer with the Holy Father in **St. Peter's Square**, where there will also be the statue of **St. Bakhita** by artist **Timothy Schmalz** "Let the oppressed go free". The artwork is dedicated to the **victims** of trafficking and to all **women**, particularly the nuns committed to their liberation.

The event has been coordinated by **Talitha Kum**, the international anti-trafficking network of over 3000 nuns, friends and partners, and is being promoted by the **International Union of Superiors General**, in partnership with the **Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for the Integral Human Development Service**, **Caritas Internationalis**, the **World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations**, the **Focolare Movement**, the **Jesuit Refugee Service** and many other organisations around the world.

THE STRENGTH OF CARE. The theme of the day

This year the committee have decided **to focus on the power of care and women.**

According to data from the United Nations, women and girls account for **72 percent of the identified victims of trafficking**; two-thirds of the world's illiterate population are women; the employment rate, - between the ages of 25 and 54 - is 90 per cent for men and just under two-thirds for women and 30 percent of young women are not in education, employment or attending vocational training.

These are just some of the indicators of the inequality and injustice experienced by women in our societies, a condition of vulnerability that exposes them to greater risk of violence, trafficking and exploitation.

Women should not be considered **victims**, but **agents of change**. It is therefore necessary to transform the current socio-economic model that is the basis of trafficking, urgently creating an economy of **care for people and the common home**.

“The pandemic has caused an increase in trafficking, has heightened the vulnerability of those most at risk and has led to a rise in gender inequality. All this must be faced with courage. We women, as a result, must take on a leading role in promoting a new economic model based on the power of care. This day provides an opportunity to reflect on the causes of trafficking and to identify possible paths to a solution. The violence caused by exploitation can be transformed with gestures of care and solidarity. We are all called to care about the dignity of each person”. **Sister Gabriella Bottani**, Event Coordinator.

THE DAY ON TWITTER

The organisers invite everyone on Tuesday, February 8, between 13.30 and 14.30 CET, to show their support for the day by dedicating a tweet to the Day using the official hashtag of the event #PrayAgainstTrafficking

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