

CALL TO ACTION FROM YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOURNEY IN DIGNITY

Rome, February 12th, 2023

We are a group of young people from different continents, committed to ending human trafficking, representing the partner organizations¹ of the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking (IDPAAHT). We gathered in Rome from the 6th to the 12th of February 2023 to start journeying together in dignity, following the invitation of the IX IDPAAHT. During the week we learned from one another, and from experts who helped us understand this phenomenon more deeply.

“Human trafficking is the process by which people are coerced or lured by false prospects, recruited, relocated, and forced to work and live in exploitative or abusive conditions.”² Human Trafficking is a form of slavery, that is often invisible in our society. People in situations of vulnerability are at great risk of being trafficked. Human trafficking strips people of their dignity, an inalienable right, they are deceived and objectified.

We feel challenged and outraged by this phenomenon. For this reason, we are willing to commit ourselves, within the international network of the IDPAAHT, to the fight against this crime, specifically by raising awareness among young people, who, in many parts of the world, are the main targets of traffickers.

Together, encouraged by the message of Pope Francis on February 8th 2023 to us,³ **we commit:**

- To care for our own dignity and that of all other human beings, because it is God’s gift;
- To spread with hope and joy the light of dignity through spreading information and raising awareness of human trafficking;
- To plan actions that aim to change the circumstances which force millions of people to live in slavery-like conditions, by using our creativity through art, dance, music;
- To pray to end human trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

We call young people around the world to walk and to journey - together with us - for human dignity, in this special year of involvement of young people towards the 10th anniversary of the IDPAAHT that will be celebrated on February 8th 2024. We call all people of good will,

¹ Agesci (Association of Italian Catholic Guides and Scouts), Azione Cattolica Italiana, Caritas Internationalis, COATNET, Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Focolare Movement, JPIC, JRS, RENATE, Talitha Kum International, The Clewer Initiative, USMI Rete Anti-Tratta, World Union of Catholic Women Associations.

² Human Trafficking Section. Prayagainstrafficking.net Website.
<https://preghieracontrotratta.org/more-on-trafficking>

³ Video Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the ninth International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking. Vatican.va Website.
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230208-videomessaggio-tratta-persone.html>



partners and other organizations to support our commitment in guarding the light of human dignity and to be a blessing together for every person.