

# Talitha Kum – International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons. A preliminary report

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Talitha Kum<sup>1</sup> is an international network of Consecrated Life against trafficking in persons founded in 2009. Working as a network facilitates collaboration and the interchange of information between consecrated men and women in 76 countries. The network is sponsored by the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), in collaboration with the Union of Superiors General (USG).

It arose from the shared desire to coordinate and strengthen the already existing activities against trafficking undertaken by consecrated persons in the five continents. Talitha Kum is a network of networks, organized in many different ways, each promoting initiatives against trafficking in persons in their particular contexts and cultures.

## History

Female Religious Life has been engaged for centuries in activities against slavery and trafficking in persons. Nevertheless, the seeds that gave birth and growth to Talitha Kum were planted in the late 1990s when consecrated persons realized the importance and value of joining forces and resources in the development of an integrated network.

In 1998 the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), addressed by Sr. Leah Ackerman, SMNDA, accepted the invitation to greater collaborative efforts against trafficking in persons and formed a study group on the topic within the Commission for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation. This group produced training materials which led to greater awareness within congregations of women religious and to more joint efforts against trafficking. The most important of these items was the Tool Kit : "Trafficking of women, girls and children - Information and material for work" which was published in 2003 in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis.

Between 2004 and 2008 the International Union of Superiors General, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, developed a training program that led to the establishment of several regional networks in Italy, Albania, Nigeria, Romania, Thailand, Santo Domingo Brazil, Portugal, Philippines, South Africa. Sr. Bernadette Sagma, FMA, project coordinator UISG and Sr. Eugenia Bonetti, MC Italian network, contributed significantly to the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://www.talithakum.info/> Accessed March 1, 2018.

In 2009, during the second global meeting of networks arising from the training sessions, a proposal was made to create Talitha Kum as the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking with a representative at the UISG. The first official coordinator of Talitha Kum was Sr. Estrella Castalone, FMA who occupied the post from 2010 to 2014. From 2015 the coordinator is Sr. Gabriella Bottani, SMC.

Since its foundation Talitha Kum continued to promote courses for the training of new local networks and to encourage networking and collaboration with other organizations working against trafficking in persons.

The goals of Talitha Kum are:

- To promote networking between consecrated persons, social organizations, religious and political leaders at national and international level;
- To strengthen the existing activities and initiatives, optimizing the resources of the consecrated life, to promote preventative actions, awareness raising, protection and assistance of victims as well as official reporting of trafficking;
- To develop educational programs for raising the awareness of this phenomenon, ( and to enhance the professional responses of our members)
- To act prophetically - condemning the exploitation of persons for economic or other motives and promoting campaigns aimed at changing of attitudes and practices.

## Census 2015

In 2015 the coordinator of the global network commissioned the first systematic collection of data about national and regional networks. This report is based on the questionnaire obtained in response to this initiative. A total of 34 valid questionnaires were returned.

### General overview

Table 1 lists the countries that were represented in the 2015 census. N.B.: the majority of respondents were national networks of women religious against trafficking in human persons. There were however also regional networks or those that involve more than one country.

<b>Africa</b>	Cameroon Nigeria South Africa Zambia	4
<b>Latin America</b>	Nicaragua Perú El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Argentina Uruguay Costa Rica Brasile	9
<b>U.S. and Canada</b>	U.S.A.	1
<b>Australia &amp; Oceania</b>	New Zealand Australia	2
<b>Asia</b>	Philippines Thailand Indonesia East Timor Korea Hong Kong Taiwan	7
<b>Europe</b>	Croatia U.K. Slovakia Czech republic Albania Netherlands England and Wales Germany Poland Malta Hungary Other European countries	20+

Table 1: Talitha Kum members who responded to the 2015 questionnaire, by country and continent.

Table 1 reveals two peculiarities. First, there are few responses from Africa. We have only 4 networks that have sent their questionnaires. One can only speculate about the reasons for this void. Possible explanations include a scarce availability of the internet (the questionnaire was sent out via email) and a generally weaker culture of administrative reporting practices. Second, Europe presents itself as a very differentiated reality. Some networks are limited to the nation in which they are based, whereas others are multi-national, even Europe-wide. There is certain overlap between national and multinational networks. For this reason it is difficult to provide the exact number of countries in which Talitha Kum is present.

## Characteristics of networks

In their most basic forms, networks are no more than **committees and coordinating groups** that meet regularly. At this stage they do not have own structures. Instead, they are hosted and supported by participating congregations. For example, the ANZRATH reported bi-monthly meetings in the capital. Talitha Kum Thailand met every six months in order to prepare a report for the Conference of Major superiors, drawing upon resources (office space) provided by different Congregations. Bakhita is a section operating under the Council of Major Superiors in Poland. Red Kawsay (Uruguay) is a committee of the Conference of the Religious responsible for annual planning and evaluation of activities in the area of human trafficking. Similarly, Talitha Kum Korea operates within the nation's Conference of Women Religious. Their aim is primarily that of networking (information, sharing of experiences) various activities of member in the area of human trafficking.

On the opposite end of the spectrum we find **fully fledged organizations with clear structure and resources**. Examples of it are: ACRATH (which has an ecclesial judicial status and is also incorporated in civil law), in addition to officers of the Association and its governing bodies has a National executive officer who collaborates closely with regional coordinators and local groups; SRTV – the Netherlands; The Medaille Trust (U.K.) has its own Board of Trustees that appoints a Project Director who in turn manages four service managers who deliver services from seven houses. SOLWODI (Germany) runs 17 counselling centers and 6 women's shelters.

The Renate is perhaps the most mature network of women religious in the area of anti-trafficking. It is an old network operating in twenty European states and has built considerable knowledge and experience. It employs three people: secretary and website manager, a communications officer, and a finance officer. Its structure consists of the Core Group, the Steering committee, and four working groups (respectively: education resources, survivor support, legislative advocacy and communications). Among their operation methods they list: regular communication and coordination among the members, regular exchange of information among members, annual strategic planning meeting of the core group, annual training for specific subject related to anti-trafficking, sharing of materials, toolkits, ideas for prayer via a webpage, meeting key people involved in anti-trafficking who represent the Catholic Church and other relevant actors with the goal of shaping public opinion, awareness raising at all levels, providing financial support to members of the network, mapping and analysis of anti-trafficking initiatives.

In between these models we find networks with elements of structural autonomy and resources. This is particularly true of larger scale networks and those that comprise several states. The Um Grito pela Vida (an activity of the consecrated life in Brazil) comprises 23 groups across the nation and is coordinated by a staff of three in the national office as well as one for each region. Kawsay Argentina and Kawsay Uruguay have an executive secretary as well as one person in each country whose task is to interface with local providers and national conferences of religious. Talitha Kum Philippines serves as the secretariat for participating countries of Southeast Asia. In addition to their role in consolidating countries' initiatives for publication and information they assist with supervision, monitoring and networking.

Finally, we find the networks in Africa which develop their activities in association with other organizations such as NGOs, religious communities and evangelical churches. These networks not only focus on human trafficking but develop other activities. For example, COSUDOW Network of Nigeria works against sexual exploitation, child abuse, child labor and abuses against the dignity of women.

### Activities of networks

In this section only those activities are presented that are supporting the networks' principal mission. The activities of networks aimed »ad intra« – meaning that they serve principally to sustain and grow the network – will be presented in the section »Functions«.

To boost the effectiveness in working against trafficking in persons, on 15 November 2000, the United Nations adopted a protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. It supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. This agreement, which is better known as the *Palermo Protocol*<sup>2</sup>, establishes four levels of action:

1. To prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children.
2. To protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights.
3. To promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives.
4. The strengthening of partnerships and coordination

All Talihta Kum's networks carry out activities in each of these categories. In this way, we can identify:

1. Development of educational and information resources that are shared through various media (commonly, social networks). These instruments are used in the context of formation in religious congregations, at meetings of bishops and priests, in Catholic schools and universities, with groups of young people and families. The objectives of this formation initiatives include: raising awareness, analyzing causes and impact, determining risks and vulnerable areas, reflecting on how faith affects one's response and determining what actions can be taken.
2. At the second level, the networks are active in prosecution and in action to influence policy and legislation (lobbying). On the other hand, there are activities of reporting the abuses, rescue of victims, rehabilitation and care of the victims, and the provision of shelters. Last but not least, members provide integration courses, helplines, social work in the streets, repatriation projects and provide financial loans. The spiritual dimension has been important. Some networks have organized prayer days and the service of the spiritual direction for the victims. These activities

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25, is supplementing the UN Convention. It entered into force on 25 December 2003. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. The Protocol contains provisions on a range of issues, including criminalisation, assistance to and protection for victims, the status of victims in the receiving states, repatriation of victims, preventive measures, actions to discourage the demand, exchange of information and training, and measures to strengthen the effectiveness of border controls. The protocol stipulates that states parties must adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children that leads to trafficking. States must become parties to the Convention before they can become parties to any of its Protocol.

(aimed directly at combatting the phenomenon and its effects account) for the bulk of networks' work.

3. The third level concerns the relations between the states. It involves bilateral or multilateral collaboration aimed at mitigating factors that contribute to persons' being more vulnerable for trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and the lack of equitable opportunities particularly for the youth and women. The same work should be developed in the areas of education and legislation, without forgetting the operability that is translated in information exchange, control of the borders, review of documents, etc. Although the activities are varied, Talitha Kum networks act discreetly at this level.
4. The initiatives on strengthening partnerships and coordination occur through its participation with other agencies. For example, Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) works together with Anti-Slavery Australia and Salvation Army Safe House. Cooperation includes working together with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other sectors of civil society. For example in Costa Rica the religious are active in several areas: awareness raising, education, advocacy – jointly with the governmental and non-governmental institutions – in favor of populations at risk. They have specific initiatives aimed at preventing the phenomenon and helping the victims. Trafficking survivors, NGOs, faith groups, donors, academics, and businesses have skills and perspectives that, when combined, will drive innovation and bring sustained progress to the fight against human trafficking. Governments have a vital role in bringing together stakeholders and creating partnerships.

The four levels of action are presented and discussed in greater detail in subsequent sections.

### **1. Prevention and combat against trafficking in persons. Commonly employed methods.**

Most of the networks carry out their work at this level, probably because the conditions and facilities in each country allow it. Other reasons could be: The cost, the availability of human resources and the young age of these structures. Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary view of methods employed.

Awareness campaigns	Divulcation and activism on social media	Educational activities w/ various groups	Research projects
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<b>Africa</b>	Cameroon	x		x	
	Nigeria	x	x	x	
	South Africa	x		x	
	Zambia	x		x	
<b>Latin America</b>	Argentina	x	x		
	Brazil	x	x	x	
	Costa Rica	x		x	
	El Salvador	x	x	x	
	Guatemala	x	x	x	x
	Honduras	x		x	
	Nicaragua	x	x	x	
	Peru	x		x	
	Uruguay	x	x	x	
<b>U.S. and Canada</b>	United States	x	x	x	x
<b>Asia</b>	East Timor				
	Hong Kong				
	Indonesia				
	Korea				
	Philippines	x		x	x
	Taiwan				
	Thailand				
<b>Australia &amp; Oceania</b>	Australia	x	x	x	
	New Zealand	x	x	x	
<b>Europe</b>	Albania	x	x		
	Croatia			x	
	Czech Republic		x	x	
	England and Wales	x		x	
	Hungary				
	Germany	x		x	
	Malta	x	x		
	Netherlands	x			
	Poland	x	x	x	
	Slovakia				
	UK	x			

Table 2: Overview of main activities by countries: Prevention and combat against trafficking in persons

	Awareness campaigns	Divulcation and activism on social media	Educational activities w/ various groups	Research projects
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<b>Asia Network</b>	X		X	X
<b>Central America Network</b>	X		X	
<b>Europe Network</b>	X			X
<b>Uruguay, Peru, Argentina Network</b>	X	X	X	X

Table 3: List of main activities by regional networks: Prevention and combat against trafficking in persons

**Awareness campaigns:** Most networks are trying to raise awareness about this crime. This objective is achieved through the campaigns in schools, churches, religious organizations and the media. This activity involves the dissemination of information about the seriousness of human trafficking. For instance, Croatia's Network promotes the awareness through conferences for priests at clergy meetings, at parish Masses, in religious communities, and students groups – especially those who are interested in human rights and the social teaching of the Church.

**Divulcation and activism through media/ means of social communication:** These networks have prepared some materials to be spread through different media and communities. Among the media more used are: radio, television, newspapers (at national, local and diocesan level, as well as in parish newsletters) and the internet. Many respondents indicated their use of social networks through which they share information about their activities. They organize activities with journalists or train specialized personnel to carry out this type of activities. The Honduras Network has organized training sessions for journalists and social communicators in the country while the US Network has a communications working group which is responsible for USCSAHT's media presence and oversees the maintenance and updating of its website, its Facebook page and its Twitter account. England and Wales Network produce resources about human trafficking. Among these materials are: The leaflets for prison governors and chaplains and a speakers pack that includes information, resources, prayer material.

**Educational activities with different groups:** The networks organize meetings with different participants: Students, priests, religious, members of the government, teachers and parents. These projects involve training people in the main elements related to human trafficking. Experts on the subject participate in these meetings. They may be members of the network or work in others institutions. For example, the Guatemala Network has organized workshops with religious communities, schools, institutes and universities with students and teachers, catechists, youth groups and parish groups. Especially, they have held 12 pedagogical days for teachers from the municipality of Tecún Umán, San Marcos, at the border between Guatemala and Mexico. In Africa there are two innovative projects specifically tailored to local situations. The networks of South Africa and Zambia have a training project for truckers against human trafficking. The Nigerian network offers a training project for young people and families and gives some scholarships to indigent students.

**Research projects:** This activity includes research on the phenomenon of human trafficking. These studies try to identify their causes, dynamics and actors. This work includes material for the training of the agents involved in this task, as well as for the dissemination in the media. In 2014, the Guatemala



network developed an investigation on the survivors of trafficking across the Guatemala-Mexico border. Moreover, the Philippines network developed and produced a training module based in faith and gender.

## **2. Protection of and assistance to victims**

A significant number of networks are involved in the protection and assistance to victims. First of all, we must distinguish that one of the strongest fronts is the denunciation of this crime and social intervention. This requires more experience and expertise in this field. Poland, Brazil, Czech Republic are recognized for their initiatives and activism in the street. Tables 4 and 5 provide a summary view of commonly employed methods.

		Lobbying and advocacy	Assistance, protection of victims	Economic, material support	National help lines	Spiritual support	Reporting and pleadings
<b>Africa</b>	Cameroon	X					X
	Nigeria		X	X		X	
	South Africa	X	X	X		X	X
	Zambia	X	X	X		X	X
<b>Latin America</b>	Argentina						
	Brazil		X				X
	Costa Rica						
	El Salvador					X	X
	Guatemala		X				
	Honduras						
	Nicaragua						X
	Peru	X	X				
	Uruguay						
<b>US and Canada</b>	United States	X	X				
<b>Asia</b>	East Timor						
	Hong Kong						
	Indonesia						
	Korea						
	Philippines						X
	Taiwan						
	Thailand						
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	Australia	X	X	X			X
	New Zealand	X					
<b>Europe</b>	Albania			X			
	Croatia						
	Czech Republic	X	X				
	England and Wales	X					
	Hungary						
	Germany		X	X			
	Malta		X				
	Netherlands	X					
	Poland		X	X	X	X	
	Slovakia						
	UK	X		X			

Table 4: Protection and assistance the victims. Main activities by countries

	Lobbying and Advocacy	Collaborative actions with other institutions	Assistance and Protection	Economic and material support	National Help Lines	Spiritual Support	Complaints and Pleadings
Asia Network	x	x					
Central America Network							
Europe Network	x		x				
Uruguay, Peru and Argentina Network		x	x				x

Table 5: Protection and assistance the victims. Main activities by regional networks

**Lobbying and Advocacy:** These activities include actions to influence policy and legislation, submission to government inquiries, visits to Parliament and interviews with members of Parliament with the scope of supporting the legislation that address human trafficking issues. Australia Network advocates with Members of Parliament whose ministerial portfolios include the issue of human trafficking, e.g., Ministers for Justice, Immigration & Border Protection, Foreign Affairs, Social Services, etc. Talitha Kum Southeast Asia tries to empower, organize and mobilize the women religious to influence legislation, regulation, or other government decisions, actions, or policies in order to respond to and counter human trafficking.

**Assistance and Protection:** The networks provide support to survivors and intensive training on the rescue, rehabilitation, aftercare and reintegration of victims. This level includes social work in night clubs, at national frontiers and in high-risk places; social counselling; assistance provided in dealing with police and legal matters; psychological support; assistance with the legalization of their status in the country; support to victims who became witnesses against traffickers; integration measures such as language courses, vocational training, drama, art and culture projects. For example, a sister of Holy Cross in Czech Republic works as a street worker in night clubs and with women in street prostitution. In Poland, the Bakhita Network has the program of protection and support for a victims and witnesses of human trafficking. People can collaborate with the police and break with perpetrators.

**Economic and material support:** Networks provide the transport for the victims within the country; they offer extended help with the safe return to the country of origin, a shelter for a safe accommodation, provision of beds, clothes, medicaments and financial help in the process of reintegration. SOLWODI in Germany provide micro-credits to the victims and Bakhita in Poland helps the person in recovering her place in society and rebuilding her life. This assistance include provisions of items necessary for everyday life as well as educational support (acquiring a degree, learning a profession, and assistance in entering the job market).

**National Help Lines:** It is a special service for emergencies and complaints, as well as for psychological help. Bakhita in Poland has the helpline 24/7 for the victims and witnesses of human trafficking.

**Spiritual Support:** This service includes days of prayer for the victims but also spiritual counselling for them. For instance, Ramá Network in Nicaragua has organized a prayer day with the participation of different organizations. The Nigerian network offers a spiritual direction service called “Welcoming home” where the victims are helped to recover through counselling and spiritual direction.

**Reporting and Pleadings:** Some networks report sexual exploitation and trafficking of people to the media and the authorities. In addition, they follow up on specific cases. Ramá in Guatemala reported to authorities six cases of sexual exploitation of a minor.

### **3. Promotion and Cooperation among States Parties to the Convention**

Australia, Germany, Netherlands and Europe Network have been involved with international organizations who support the victims. It is understandable that Talitha Kum networks are not more actively engaged in initiatives under this heading since it refers to the states who are parties to the Palermo protocol. Even though the networks are not states, they nevertheless can effectively work across national borders as they cooperate with other members of the network.

### **4. The strengthening of partnerships and coordination**

		Joint actions with other institutions
<b>Africa</b>	Cameroon	
	Nigeria	x
	South Africa	x
	Zambia	x
<b>Latin America</b>	Argentina	
	Brazil	x
	Costa Rica	
	El Salvador	x
	Guatemala	x
	Honduras	
	Nicaragua	
	Peru	
Uruguay	x	
<b>U.S. and Canada</b>	United States	
<b>Asia</b>	East Timor	
	Hong Kong	
	Indonesia	
	Korea	x
	Philippines	x
	Taiwan	
	Thailand	
<b>Australia &amp; Oceania</b>	Australia	
	New Zealand	
<b>Europe</b>	Albania	x
	Croatia	
	Czech Republic	x
	England and Wales	
	Hungary	
	Germany	x
	Malta	x
	Netherlands	
	Poland	x
	Slovakia	x
UK		

Table 6: List of networks reporting joint actions with other institutions, by country.

Networks	Joint actions with other institutions
Asia Network	x
Central America Network	
Europe Network	
Uruguay, Peru and Argentina Network	x

Table 7: List of regional networks reporting joint actions with other institutions.

Most networks work in cooperation with other organizations: religious, governmental or non-governmental. The list includes: The Caritas, the national conferences of religious communities, the episcopal conferences, the police, judges, universities, organizations defending human rights. For example, a Talitha Kum person in Slovakia participates in the expert group advising the Ministry of the Interior; URAT in Albania works with the Peace Corps; Talita Kum in Korea is working for North Korean Defectors; ACRATH in Australia support the victims in collaboration with Anti-Slavery Australia and Salvation Army Safe House; and CTIP in South Africa works with other religious institutions such as Salvation Army, Evangelical Lutheran Women of the East Rand, and Interfaith Counter Trafficking.

### Functions ad intra

While the overwhelming share of reported activities is directed “outward”, that is towards the (potential) victims, important stakeholders in policy-making, prevention, and prosecution, as well as toward the general population, there are certain activities that primarily benefit the organization or network itself. Those activities include:

- Building alliances and partnerships with similar organizations
- Exchanging relevant information
- Formation, for example in language and specific skills
- Mutual support, both formal and informal

Partnership (not limited to organizations that are engaged in combatting the trafficking), as reported by Talitha Kum Southeast Asia, is an example of this function of a regional network, namely to “strengthen the networking with the major religious superiors throughout the region with the aim of prioritizing the issue of trafficking in humans. Empower, organize and mobilize the women religious in the Southeast Asia region to respond to and counter human trafficking, especially of women and children influence policy and legislation, i.e. lobbying.”

Bakhita highlights the importance of information collection and sharing in combatting the phenomenon and helping victims: “Workshops and seminaries (for members of the network) allow for the development of efficient and professional assistance to victims.” Similarly, Renate offers to its members information and education (training, English language course) resources.

## Relationship between the network and the conference of religious

Respondents overwhelmingly emphasize a very good relationship of cooperation and support.

## What can the network (regional, national, global Talitha Kum) do to make your work more effective?

Nineteen networks, of which three were regional networks, responded to this question. The responses were classified in four categories.

		Information, dialogue, sharing, networking and collaboration	Formation, awareness building, coordination, prosecution	Reciprocal support, incl. Resources	Representation to religious, social, and political authorities
<b>Africa</b>	Cameroon		x		
<b>Asia</b>	Philippines	X	x		
	Thailand	X	x	x	
	Regional South Asia	X	x	x	
<b>America</b>	Argentina	X	x	x	x
	Brazil	X	x		x
	El Salvador	X	x		x
	Honduras	X			x
	Nicaragua	X	x	x	
	Peru	X	x		
	Uruguay	X	x	x	
	USA	X	x	x	
	Regional Kawsay	X	x		
	Regional Rama	X	x	x	x
	Regional Kawsay	X	x		
<b>Europe</b>	England and Wales	X	x	x	
	Malta	X	x		x
	Netherlands	X			
	Poland	X	x		
	UK	X		x	
	20 countries	X	x	x	

Table 8: What can Talitha Kum do to make national and regional networks' activities more effective?

Cameroon reported their interest in learning from the experience of Talitha Kum. In particular, they are interested in how to work in a network.

The respondents in the **first category** emphasized their interest in receiving up-to-date information from Rome concerning human trafficking and anything else that relates to it, such as social, political and legal aspects of the phenomenon. This will make their work more effective. For example, the regional network in Europe suggested that the Rome office inform the members about new initiatives and trends in the field; present important member networks and effective methods of work; organize periodical campaigns in which all networks could take part. It suggested that the main web page be made accessible in various languages. A meeting of all member networks every 3-5 years would allow members worldwide to get to know each other and would thus make their communication easier. The U.S. network looks favorably at the opportunity to connect with an international group of women religious because it offers the opportunity to share and learn from the experiences of others, to share information, resources and good practices.

The **second group** of answers deals with aspects of formation, awareness raising, and prosecution. According to respondents, the network must provide formation to its members with the goal of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of their work. All networks should act as prophetic voices of denunciation as well as a proactive force for change within the Church and vis-à-vis international institutions. There are various ways to sensitize people about human trafficking. For example, the U.S. emphasizes the need for formation on specific problems, such as gender equality and exploitation of labor. Here, the Philippines network emphasized the importance of building a cross-referenced database of victims.

The **third topic** that emerged relates to financial autonomy of networks. The U.S. network, for example, mentioned the importance of organizing a forum dedicated to discussing the development of a strategic plan for Talitha Kum's activities, particularly in view of their financial sustainability. Almost all respondents mentioned the issue of financial and material support, particularly as they relate to common activities and to production and diffusion of informational resources, as well as in the area of prevention.

**Last** but not least, certain respondents mentioned the role of the central office in representing their activities to religious, social and political actors, thus rendering their efforts more effective. They affirm the importance of networks to spearhead the efforts by the Church towards an effective change in the fight against human trafficking.

The crucial role of the central office in facilitating exchange, sharing, and prayer was also mentioned by several networks.

Finally, the U.S. network asked for the outcome of the census to be shared with all members of the network. Not only is it useful to have this information, it undoubtedly will boost the morale of those who at the grass roots level are involved in this difficult fight.