

**Latin American Meeting on New Slavery
and Human Trafficking
"Together against Human Trafficking"**



We want especially to thank all of you, Organizations, Institutions, Organisms and all the people, who day after day work with generous dedication and commitment to eradicate human trafficking and accompany victims and their families. The work in order to build good structures renews the hope that working together is possible to raise a more human and just world.

Summary of Conclusions

At the Latin American Meeting on New Slavery and Human Trafficking with the slogan "Together Against Human Trafficking" we have gathered representatives from different organizations of several countries of America Latina from the Catholic Church, from other religious Confessions, civil society and the Federal Police, with the Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, England, appointed to the head of the Santa Marta Group by Pope Francis to fight against the human trafficking. We started the encounter on Friday 8 February, adhering to the World Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking on St. Josephine Bakhita Day, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Buenos Aires.

We feel impelled by the Holy Spirit, with prophetic voice, to highlight, value, defend, honoring equality in dignity and rights of every human person, supported in the biblical tradition. Life is a gift from God and no one has right to remove or damage it, because every life answers to a project of God.

We are joint the voice of Pope Francis to say, "Even if we try to ignore it, slavery is not something of another time. In the face of this tragic reality we cannot wash our hands, but we don't want to be, in any way, accomplices to these crimes against humanity. We cannot ignore that there is slavery in the world, as much or more perhaps than before."

In front of this scourge of humanity that currently affects 40 million people in the world, violating what is expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in various international conventions, we must deal with this evil face to face and confront together every day this brutal reality for prevent, rescue, assist, protect and serve the victims of these new enslavements, from each of our communities.

In the reflection of these days we value the need:

- ✓ To promote Integral assistance processes focused on the person and the defense unrestricted of their dignity. The Human person is at the center of our work and our consciousness.
- ✓ The Church and the institutions attending are committed to promote initiatives between civil society, the various Confessions, the police and government agencies, in order to build confidence in all these institutions to the eradication of this evil and in the assistance to the victims. This commitment involves developing and sustaining practical cooperation on a shared vision.
- ✓ To encourage accompanying actions that allow victims to be able to collaborate with the judicial proceedings without fear of consequences.
- ✓ To claim more resources be earmarked for the eradication of human trafficking, driving countries to have a specific budget for this purpose.
- ✓ To raise awareness to the communities so that we all open our eyes to the invisible reality of human trafficking, particularly from the most vulnerable, including the migrant populations.
- ✓ To delve into all levels of formal and nonformal education contents as dignity, equality, respect for every human person.
- ✓ To promote legislative and executive measures that allow preventive actions on Internet and social networks, understanding these as new settings for victim recruitment.
- ✓ To advance measures for the effective implementation of confiscations of goods from human trafficking, whose destiny must be the combat against the crime and the prevention and assistance of the victims, effectively administered. While most countries have regulations, in some of these its implementation remains an outstanding debt.
- ✓ To request a greater presence of the States and the effective running of the prevention, control and assistance agencies of the victims, as well as the effective persecution of the corruption and impunity of the organized crime, in order to achieve the prosecution of the perpetrators of this evil.
- ✓ We call on the States prevention measures in front of the disappearance of girls, boys and teenagers, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation and organ extraction. We also ask for effective and quick assistance for the victims' children.

- ✓ To promote that the Countries no buying goods and services of supply chains where there is slave labor, setting up an obligatory audit system for state's providers.
- ✓ To promote the founding of specialized prosecutor's offices, in the realm of the justice, in order to combat the crime and promoting the quickness of resolutions in justice.
- ✓ To strengthen the communication network between institutions and organizations at the diocesan, national and Latin American level, in order to achieve effectively a network of networks, where to include all the social actors who work against this scourge, to share resources and to enhance actions.
- ✓ To realize regional campaigns, focusing on people and the valorization of the human being and on the awareness of this evil.

We entrust the conclusions we have arrived, our work and especially the victims and their families, to God, Father of the life. May the intersection of Mary, the Mother of the poor and suffering, accompany us to walk.

Buenos Aires, February 11, 2019
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

The Latin American Meeting on New Slavery and Human Trafficking "Together Against Human Trafficking" promoted by the Santa Marta Group, the Episcopal Conference of Argentina, through the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, the Episcopal Commission of Social Pastoral and the National Commission of Justice and Peace, along with the Latin American Episcopal Council - CELAM-, through its Department of Justice and Solidarity, the Red Clamor and the International Forum of Catholic Action, in which more than 100 referents of this theme participated.

