

NO ONE SHOULD BE LOST IN THE CHAOS OF OUR TIMES

(because, "A PERSON IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN THE WHOLE WORLD")

The moment you read about the theme of the International Day Against Human Trafficking 2024, we are all reminded about our loving mother St. Euphrasia's one fine statement "NO ONE SHOULD BE LOST IN THE CHAOS OF OUR TIMES". Interestingly the theme of this year is the same that says "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking". The concern for the future generation has been emphasised here. As followers of St. Mary Euphrasia, we, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, our Partners-in-Mission and many more who are in the same line of thinking and doing are committed to strive to create a society where no one is lost. The least and the lost are our priority. We do not want anyone being trafficked in the disguise of false promises. No one should be carried away by false



Blue Heart Campaign by the Sisters & Partners-in-Mission of the Good Shepherd

From 2009 onwards, ever since the Blue Heart Campaign started, the Sisters and Partners-in-Mission of the Good Shepherd have been organising activities in Guntur and Palnadu Districts of Andhra Pradesh State to raise awareness among different sections of people about human trafficking and its impact on people and society.

This year, the Sisters and the Partners-in-Mission of the Good Shepherd (Amaravathi) had organised programmes for 3 days; each day with different groups.

Day 1: On 27th July 2024 – Training to the students studying at Palloti Junior College, Amaravathi;

Day 2: On 30th July 2024, an Awareness Rally was organised on the streets of Amaravathi; and

Day 3: On 31st July 2024, a public meeting for the Women's Collective initiated by the Sisters and the Partners-in-Mission of the Good Shepherd in the Pethakurapadu, Amaravathi, and Krosuru Mandals.

Following is a short narration followed by the photographs taken on these three days:

Day 1: Training to the students studying at Palloti Junior College, Amaravathi

The Blue Heart Campaign around the world encourages involvement from governments, civil society, the other sectors and individuals alike to inspire action and help prevent human trafficking. This year's theme highlights the critical need for inclusive and focused efforts to protect children. Sisters who are very close to the vulnerable children and women took

the initiative to start with Adolescents who are studying at Palloti Junior College, Amaravathi.

Sr. Deanna, Counsellor of the Good Shepherd Mission in Amaravathi, Sr. Vinnarasi, Director of Good Shepherd Mission in Amaravathi, Fr. Vinod of Pallotti Congregation, Mr. Bathlu Babu, Partners-in-Mission of the Good Shepherd were the resource persons to address the Adolescents of both sexes studying at Pallotti Junior College, Amaravathi.

The message conveyed by the resource persons include reasons for human trafficking, kinds of human trafficking, strategies used for human trafficking, prevalence of human trafficking, who are the targets of human trafficking (children, indigenous women, migrants and refugees, widows, separated women from wedlock, economically weaker section from the low caste groups and communities), ways and means of identifying the traffickers and means keeping away from the traffickers.

Soon after the orientation cum training, the students in the 'Feedback Session' openly said that this session is quite revealing and an information every person needs to be aware of, they said.

Day 2: Awareness Rally in Amaravathi

The awareness rally was organised on 30th July 2024; participated by students from Palloti Junior College, Amaravathi, Adolescent Girls Studying at Good Shepherd Computer Training and Spoken English Course, Staffs and eminent leaders from Department of Police, District Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, and the religious leaders working in the region. The rally was flagged off by Mr. A. V. Bramam, Circle Inspector of Amaravathi Police Station at 10 am and the rally went around the main streets of Amaravathi Town and halted in few cross roads where the leaders addressed the participants about the relevance of being cautious about the human trafficking and safeguarding the vulnerable, especially the children and women.

Day 3: Women Trained on Safeguarding from Human Trafficking

On 31st July 2024, a public meeting was organised for the Women Forum initiated by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Adolescent Girls studying at Good Shepherd Computer Training and Spoken English Course. As many as 450 women and Adolescent girls attended the public meeting. There was a gathering of around 450 women and men at this meeting. Mr. Narasimham, Sub-Inspector of Amaravathi Police Station, and Fr. Vinod, Correspondent of from Pallotti Junior College, Amaravathi, and Mrs. Himami Sheikh from Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), were the guests invited for the meeting. Apart from that, Sr. Madhalai Vinnarasi, Director of Good Shepherd Mission in Amaravathi, Sr. Deanna Pereira, Counsellor at Good Shepherd Convent (Amaravathi), were the key persons who had addressed the women and the adolescent girls participated in the program.

All the speakers unanimously expressed their concern for preventing human trafficking and rehabilitating the victims. Following are few key messages shared by them:

Police in Prevention of Human Trafficking: Mr. Narasimham, Sub-Inspector of Amaravati Police Station in his speech assured of his support towards prevention of human trafficking in any form. The Police Officials are alert around the clock to safeguard the public from traffickers, he said. One of the places where trafficking could be stopped is the home. We need to love and children and pay attention to them, educate them especially the girls, help them to stand on their own feet and give them awareness of the society and how they need to live in it. This will take us a long way in stopping human trafficking.

Spend Quality Time with Children: Fr. Vinod, Correspondent of Palloti Junior College, Amaravathi, cautioned the participants to take care of their children. Children who lack close attention of their parents and love have the chance of searching happiness outside the precincts of the home. Nowadays, after admitting children in the school, the parents think that their duty is over. Some parents are ready to provide all that their children want, but take lesser care about the children's behaviour. It is time that parents provide little more attention on their children's attitude, and their relationships with others.

Types of Human Trafficking: Sr. Deanna Pereira of Good Shepherd Convent (Amaravathi) in her turn listed the different types of human trafficking; human trafficking for sexual exploitation, human organs, forced marriage, debt bondage, and labour.

Frontline Workers are Trained to Prevent Human Trafficking: Mrs. Himami from Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) said that under the ICDS project, the Staffs are taking responsibility to stopping child marriages in their respective areas of work. It is also everyone's responsibility to stop child marriage, she said.

Protect Children: Sr. Madhalai Vinnarasi, Director of Good Shepherd Mission in Amaravathi in her speech cautioned the parents to monitor the children. Parents need to go to school and meet the class teacher to enquire about their children's progress, because nowadays, we read in the newspapers about children falling prey to drugs. It is also important to keep watching with whom the children are communicating as mobiles are being misused to lure people. Child trafficking thrives in environments of family dysfunction, lack of parental care, poverty, inequality and inadequate child protection.

Make Use of CHILDLINE for Protecting Children: Mr. B. Babu, Field Organiser of Child Rights Project, shared his experiences of rescuing the children from trafficking while he was working at CHILDLINE 1098.

Feedback Session: In a feedback session, after everyone invited to address the women and adolescent girls spoke their mind, few participants came forward to express their learning from the public meeting. The main purpose of the 'Feedback Session' was to give an opportunity to the participant to express their learning and point of view in connection the human trafficking in persons. This session went on lively because those who came forward had different stories to share.

Mr. Nutaki Dileep, English Tutor of Adolescent Girls Empowerment Project, at the end of everyone's message, summed up the sessions and proposed a vote of thanks.

Conclusion & Reflection

“Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ. It is a crime against humanity.”

— Pope Francis

Human trafficking is said to be ‘modern slavery’. The definition of ‘human trafficking’ needs to be updated as to the needs of our times. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. The man who lives on the streets, the businessman who travels country to country by flight, the lady who earns her living by daily labourer, the lady who is elected to rule the country – all have same rights, rights to live a dignified life. Everyone's life is important and there is no right for anyone to rule over others. What is being expected is one thing, that is to respect one another and learn to live amicably. When an employer pays smaller than what is due to the worker as per the law of the land, there the trafficking take place. Because labourers are many, no one should exploit others. Trafficking in any form is violation of human rights. Each one has the duty and responsibility of safeguarding the rights of oneself and others. Everyone needs to internalise that we all have a duty and responsibility, as human beings, to care for those at the brink/margins of the society, because, they are vulnerable. Children are precious, they are vulnerable to abuses and they need to be closely attended to in all settings. Each person is precious, an image of God.

Documented jointly by

Sr. Deanna Pereira, Counsellor of Good Shepherd Mission, Amaravathi,

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Photographs of Awareness Program on Human Trafficking in Persons

Day 1: 27th July 2024



Mr. Bathula Babu is making students of Palloti Junior College, Amaravathi aware of the issue of trafficking in persons and its impact on the victims and society



Sr. Deanna explained clearly about human trafficking in persons in a way that the students could understand by using power point presentation.



The students of Palloti Junior College, Amaravathi are listening attentively to the worlds ofSr. Deanna Pereira



Sr. Vinnarasi shared her experience in human trafficking while she had been to Singapore and also locally in Amaravathi



Fr. Vinod shared his valuable knowledge about human trafficking to everyone



Mr. Dileep Kumar took an oath with the guests, staff and students that we will prevent human trafficking in our society

Awareness Rally on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

DAY 2: 30th July 2024



Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Partners-in-Mission, Staffs and Adolescent Girls, Students from Palloti Junior College Take Out a Rally on Human Trafficking



Mr. A.V. Brahmam, Circle Inspector of Police Flagged Off the Rally against Human Trafficking - Sr. Vinnarasi, Sr. Deanna Pereira, Fr. Vinod, Sr. Gracy and Mrs. Mangamma, from Anti-Human Trafficking Unit join the Awareness Rally



Participants Raised Slogans Anti-Human Trafficking in Persons



Students and others participating in the Awareness Rally learn the root causes of Human Trafficking and the means of preventing.



Mr. A.V. Brahmam, the Circle Inspector of Police said that prevention of human trafficking is everyone’s responsibility and Police are ready support you around the clock.



Good Shepherd Sisters, Students from Palloti Junior College, Staff, the District Anti-human Trafficking Unit, and the Police Officials formed a human chain in Maddur down in Amaravathi Town and made the people aware of human trafficking.



Participants get educated about the different dimensions of Human Trafficking



District Child Protection Officials Mr. Krishna, Mrs. Supraja, Sr. Vinnarasi, Students joined the Anti-Human Trafficking Rally

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons at Good Shepherd Campus, Amaravathi

Day 3: 31st July 224



Bathula. Babu and students together are singing the awareness song “*Vastunnam Vastunnam Pillalam – Aa repati lokam made made*” (Children Come; Ours is the Future)



Fr. Vinod of Palloti Congregation lights the lamp as a sign beginning of the Program



**Mr. Narasimham, the Sub-Inspector of Police lights the lamp and started the program
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**



**Sr. Vinnarasi, Director of Good Shepherd Mission in Amaravathi, lights the lamp on
the Occasion of the World Day Against Human Trafficking in Persons**



Mrs. Himambi, Supervisor of Child Care Centers, Amaravathi, lights the lamp as a sign of hope on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



Sr. Deanna and Sr. Gracy of the Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi, light the lamp together on the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



Mr. T. Laxman takes the responsibility of Master of Ceremonies of the Awareness Meeting on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



Globally, one in three victims of human trafficking is a child, and the majority of these trafficked children are girls says Fr. Vinod of Palloti Congregation, Amaravathi.



A group of young girls and women actively participate in the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30th July 2024



Mrs. Himambi, Supervisor of Child Care Services says that girls and women are being trafficked more and we should be careful about this human trafficking



Ms. R. Suma sing a awareness song “Kaalam neetho nadavadu – Ninnu adigi munduku saagadu” on the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons



Sr. Deanna explains the different types of human trafficking in our society and highlights the critical need for inclusive and focused efforts to protect children.



Mr. Narasimham, Sub-Inspector of Amaravathi Police Station says that Human Trafficking is a Crime Against Humanity



Students studying at Good Shepherd Computer Training Centre (Amaravathi) hold placards with anti-human trafficking message.



The participants raise their hands to express their commitment for preventing human trafficking and respecting the life of others.



The speakers of the day on the stage and the chief guests - all put of their hands to express their solidarity to prevent human trafficking



Sr. Vinnarasi said that, we, the people and the Department of Police should work in tandem to prevent human trafficking in our society



Mrs. Usha, Mother of a Computer Training Course Student shares her learning of the day from this awareness program about Human Trafficking



Mr. Dileep Kumar leads the participants on a swearing-in activity where the participants express their commitment to prevent the Human Trafficking happening in our society



Students of Good Shepherd Computer Training Course and Members from Women Forum from Pedakurapadu, Krosur, Amaravathi Mandals take oath together



Sisters of the Good Shepherd from Amaravathi express their gratitude to the Guests of the World Day Against Human Trafficking by a ‘Golden Shawl of Honor’

