

# NEWSLETTER

## COATNET



### MEMBERS OF THE NEW STEERING COMMITTEE

For Africa: Mr Radoslaw Malinowski (HAART Kenya), Ms Bellancille Mukamusigali (Caritas Rwanda), Ms Nkese Udongwo (Caritas Nigeria). For Asia: Ms Mary Khin (Caritas Myanmar) and Ms Sylvia Rai (Caritas Nepal). For MONA: Ms Hessen Sayah (Caritas Lebanon). For Europe: Ms Geneviève Colas (Secours Catholique-Caritas France), Ms Natalia Holynska (Caritas Ukraine), Ms Ariela Mitri (Caritas Albania). For Global Networks: Ms Elena Sofia Fanciulli (Caritas Internationalis), as Assistant to COATNET.

### KICK OFF MEETING

**COATNET** was re-launched last November 28th with a kick-off event attended by 25 affiliates. The members of the new Steering Committee were elected, and the event discussed the 2023 work plan and intervention areas to strengthen joint advocacy efforts against human trafficking. The handover of the Network coordination from Caritas Internationalis to the Steering Committee has ended, making the latter an active governing body.

### Specific Objectives of COATNET

The Specific Objectives of COATNET affiliates for 2022-2024 are to strengthen ecumenical cooperation in advocacy actions against human trafficking and increase the accompaniment of survivors in regaining their lives.

### Expected Results of COATNET

The main potential expected results for COATNET in the period 2022-2024 are to become a Network of active and engaged members, to make the general public better informed about human trafficking and the work of COATNET, and to collect data on human trafficking trends and affiliates' activities to contribute to each organization's advocacy actions.

## IDPAAHT, 8TH FEB. 2023

COATNET collaborated in organizing the 9th International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking in honour of St. Josephine Bakhita. The event included an online prayer marathon on the theme "Journeying in Dignity" in collaboration with UISG, Talitha Kum Network, and Caritas. The theme emphasized the importance of protecting the dignity of all people and not leaving anyone behind in the fight against human trafficking.

Click [here](#) for more info.



Photo: Caritas Ukraine

## 52ND SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 27TH MAR. 2023

On March 27th, COATNET collaborated in organising the side-event, 'Human Trafficking in Armed Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations', in conjunction with the 52nd session of the HRC (in Geneva). Speakers included: Geneviève Colas, Secours Catholique - Caritas France and COATNET (moderator); Michel Veuthey, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to monitor and combat trafficking in persons; Virginia Gamba de Potgieter, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; Natalia Holynska, Manager of counter-trafficking projects, Caritas Ukraine and COATNET; Codruta Fernea, president of Catholic Action Romania; Hessen Sayah, Head of Protection Department, Caritas Lebanon and COATNET; Mikiko Otani, Chair, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The event has been co-organised with the Sovereign Order of Malta, Secours Catholique-Caritas France and Caritas Internationalis.

Click [here](#) for more info.

**WITNESS FROM UKRAINE** - Oleksandr, a 46-year-old resident of Kyiv, has a large family to support, including his sick wife and elderly mother. Despite looking for legal employment for nearly five years, he could not find a job covering his family's needs. After a projectile hit his house during the war, Oleksandr and his wife sought Caritas's help installing new windows. They were referred to the Caritas Anti-Trafficking Counseling Center. After taking up a job that didn't pay well and then suffering labour exploitation, Caritas helped Oleksandr and is currently employed as a driver in a Kyiv city hospital. With the help of coursework, his wife is learning to sew and is set to start her own business or other income sources. Oleksandr's family is overcoming the negative impacts of war, joblessness, poverty, and lack of care and attention from their father with the support received. "I Came Back to Life Again!" Oleksandr told Caritas Ukraine workers.

## BREAKING THE CHAINS: COATNET AGAINST LABOUR EXPLOITATION

On 29 May 2023, on the occasion of the Trócaire Safeguard Week, COATNET was invited to speak about the report published last 1 May entitled BREAKING THE CHAINS, which aims to provide a global picture of the crime of trafficking from the perspective of labour exploitation. Collecting data from the field with input from COATNET affiliates, the report provides a snapshot of tangible actions. Participating as speakers were Caritas Nepal, Caritas Malawi and Secours Catholique-Caritas France.

For the Report, click [here](#).



Photo: Caritas Nepal

## 53RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 5TH JUL 2023

On July 4th, COATNET collaborated in organising the side-event "Non-punishment of victims of human trafficking: enhancing protection of victims", in conjunction with the 53rd session of the HRC (in Geneva). Speakers included: Michel Veuthey (Moderator), Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to monitor and combat trafficking in persons; Geneviève Colas, Secours Catholique - Caritas France and COATNET; Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict; Patrick Eba, Deputy Director for Protection, UNHCR; Charlie Lamento, U.N. Permanent Representative for Global Hope Network International (GILLP); Olivia Smith, Executive Director of the Caribbean Anti Human Trafficking Foundation; Andrea Salvoni, Acting Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE; Ena Lucia Mariaca Pacheco and Silvia De Rosa, Interpol.

The event has been co-organised with the Sovereign Order of Malta, Secours Catholique-Caritas France and Caritas Internationalis.

Click [here](#) for more info.

***"EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE DECEIVED AND SOLD INTO SLAVERY AS FORCED LABOURERS, COMPELLED INTO PROSTITUTION OR BEGGING.***

***COATNET IS THE CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS.***

***TOGETHER, WE ARE WORKING TO  
END HUMAN TRAFFICKING."***

***WWW.COATNET.ORG***