



CONFEDERACIÓN CARIBEÑA Y LATINOAMERICANA DE RELIGIOSAS/OS - CLAR

“Let us go out with haste to meet with life...”

CONTINENTAL SEMINAR AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Bogotá-Colombia, 18th to 20th August 2017

FINAL MESSAGE

The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad news to the lowly, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, Isaías 61:1

Those of us who have gathered during these days in Bogota Colombia, women, consecrated men and lay friends in the Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAR) mission, have been called to become more and more aware of the dignity of the human person, of the complexity of the reality that produces new slavery of all kinds, of our commitment to the defense of life and the urgency of the care of our common home, the person-earth, this inseparable binomial that is the basic dynamism of our mysticism and our prophecy.

During these days of encounter and discernment we have felt strongly the cries and silences of the victims of human trafficking, this century's slavery, God has been calling us and invites us to go out in haste, without delay, to meet these sisters and brothers, reduced by the system to a commodity. In studying the numbers and statistics we never lost sight of the fact that these were people with names and a history of violence that never stopped being full of dignity.

This seminar dynamics led us to move from a global understanding of the trafficking phenomenon, especially from the perspective of migration and childhood, to a biblical theological reflection, helping us continue reframing our charisms around new axes of articulation given by the cries of life.

The fundamental objective of this seminar was to strengthen our networks in the defense of life, and act together against the networks of death that bring so much pain and hopelessness to the world today. We are also pleased with the new anti-trafficking networks that will be formed in Conferences where they do not yet exist.

In an attitude of setting out, we recognize people immersed and influenced by the global process of dehumanization marked by a general crisis of coexistence, increase of individualism and the progressive rupture of the social structure and human fraternity fostered by neoliberal policies and laws. From this reality, we feel moved to walk towards the ethics of common care, paying special attention to the most vulnerable and abandoned in our society.

With the strength of the Spirit, we commit ourselves to rethink our Consecrated Life, to sharpen our senses and recover the prophetic aspect of the charisms, with words and actions, that

encourage us not to leave alone those who have been forced by this unjust system to walk - excluded - on the frontiers of history. We commit ourselves to host, protect, promote, and integrate victims of trafficking and other forms of slavery by this system that dehumanizes, objectifies, alienates and humiliates.

We recognize the importance of pursuing interdisciplinary formation and advocacy in order to accompany integrally all those affected by trafficking and every other kind of modern slavery, beginning with the most vulnerable and abandoned, and relying on the dynamism of hope. We would like to help our charismatic, consecrated and lay families to experience ethical indignation in the face of modern slavery and to recover our charisms' foundational experience of mercy. We want to be a new Consecrated Life, a prophetic vanguard and not just a work force.

Our eyes are on "Mary the woman of the first step" the faithful believer, the disciple, the woman of the encounter, on the move, with urgency, at the service of others. The silent one who knew how to draw close. A woman of life, who never fails to point out the paths of new encounters.

To all of you, we embrace you in peace and with deep solidarity.

Participants of the Continental Seminar Against Trafficking*
August 20, 2017



* 97 Participants from 48 Religious Congregations and 19 countries. .