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Talitha Kum Japan is a network group among Association of Major Superiors of Women Religious and Association of Major Religious Superiors in Japan in collaboration with J-CaRM (Catholic Commission of Japan for Migrants, Refugees and People on the Move) commissioned by CBCJ (Catholic Bishop Conference of Japan) to counteract trafficking in persons.

"Church of Christ Fulfilling His Mission as a Minister to Humanity" The Prophetic Liberation Posture of Bishop Jorge Bergoglio /Pope Francis

~ Reflection by Bishop Mario Yamanouchi Michiaki - the In-charge Bishop of Talitha Kum Japan

It has been 10 years since Talitha Kum (TK) was established to counteract trafficking in persons around the world. The 10th-anniversary celebration culminated with the Talitha Kum assembly that was held in Rome (UISG) to evaluate the network's movement over the last ten years and set the priorities for the next five years with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The group also met the Pope during the time of the assembly. The Talitha Kum 10th anniversary celebration started with the significant event on February 8, the feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947), as Pope Francis stressed on his message to the group of superiors; *"This is undoubtedly the most prophetic service in the church... and calling on religious men and women who have not yet participated."*

On the occasion of Pope Francis's visit to Japan (November 23-26), I'd like to share this reflection on how I saw Bishop Jorge Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) when he was involved in fighting against human trafficking especially for refugees, migrants, and people on the move.

When I heard the name of "Jorge Bergoglio" for the first time...

I lived on the outskirts of Argentina for five years as the rector of the Salesian novitiate for Argentine and Paraguayan (1992-1997). One morning in August, when I opened the Buenos Aires newspaper, my eyes were nailed to a photo of the priest who was wearing a black cassock (soutane). The headline of the article "Bishop Bergoglio, came to San Cayetano church last night" and the article stated that "immigrants and workers gathered in St. Cayetano church again this year on August 6. They gathered in thanksgiving this year, for good health and a hopeful year ahead of them. Bishop Bergoglio of Buenos Aires talked with the people who were there all night, listened to their confessions and presided at the mass the following morning then returned to his home place by subway.

Even more amazingly about the Bishop...

Another surprising action by the Bishop when he celebrated the mass at the [Constitution Square] among poor people. This plaza/square was known as one of the most dangerous places where most of the drug trafficking and prostitution happened. That's why many people were afraid to get near to this plaza. It's amazing to see the bishop who was so dedicated to celebrating the mass at the plaza in spite of all the dangers. His action was televised on the local news. The same situation was shown in the movie, "The Day of Becoming Pope", where he would fight for the poor and marginalized people. A scene when he intervened in the demolition of the housing complex in front of the big bus terminal near the harbor (north of Buenos Aires) where mostly poor people lived. Bishop Bergoglio intervened with the mayor and police officers to stop the demolition in favor of the people. It was very impressive. The church should never leave people in need.

He was never afraid to go beyond the margin in such dangerous estates like "Favera" in Brazil and "Villa de Emergencia" in Argentina. Pope Francis also visited the poor at "Valguinian Favela" and spent time with them when he went to Rio, Brazil for World Youth Day.

Pope Francis' attitudes and actions as "good shepherd" and "good Samaritan" are enormous. The Pope leads the whole church and is calling us, especially religious, "let us fight together with *"parrhesia"* to release our brothers and sisters who are sold as goods." He might be encouraging us all to adopt a posture of *"parrhesia"* as we take up the church's mission in the world.

Talitha Kum Japan Seminar in the Sapporo Diocese

~Awareness Campaign Against Trafficking in Persons~

Talitha Kum Japan organized the second awareness campaign seminar against trafficking in persons this year. This seminar was held in the Sapporo Diocese Catholic Center at Sapporo, Hokkaido (Northern part of Japan) on October 5, 2019. The theme of this seminar was "Human Trafficking in Japan and Church Support Activities ~The Situation of Vietnamese Technical Intern Trainees". There were about 70 people who attended the seminar. The main purpose was to provide information about trafficking in Japan and the situation and support of the church to the rapidly increasing Vietnamese technical intern trainees in the Sapporo Diocese.



TK Japan Seminar in Sapporo

Bishop Mario Yamanouchi, the in-charge Bishop of TK Japan gave the introductory talk about the history of the church's involvement in fighting against human trafficking, the Talitha Kum International network, and the Talitha Kum Japan's establishment and their activities to support the victims of human trafficking.

Catholic Church Action to Eradicate Human Trafficking

Ms. Motoko Yamagishi, J-CaRM & Talitha Kum Committee member, was the next presenter and talked about the Catholic church's effort in responding to the needs of the migrants and refugees in Japan as well as the human trafficking issues. Global migration is increasing rapidly due to conflicts, persecutions, poverty and economic reasons. Pope Francis launched the "Share the Journey: Exclusion ZERO Campaign", a global campaign to support refugees and migrants. As members of the church, we must strive to realize the value of dignity and rights of every person in our church and society. No one is excluded! Pope Francis is calling us to respond to the "culture of encounter" and to promote the 4-verbs; to "Welcome", "Protect", "Promote" and "Integrate" with migrants and refugees.

The "Pastoral Orientation on Human Trafficking" was also released by the Migrants & Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development this year as guidelines to use in parishes and dioceses to counteract human trafficking. As Pope Francis said, *"Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ."*

In response to these calls, Talitha Kum Japan is making efforts in promoting the prevention by public awareness campaigns nationwide; protection and prosecution by helping the victims of human trafficking in providing shelter, legal and financial assistance; and partnerships with government and non-government organization in advocating the rights of migrants and refugees. Some parishes also provide Japanese classes to the number of technical intern trainees.



The Situation and Support to Vietnamese technical interns

Sister Le Thi Lang, a Talitha Kum Committee member also introduced her current involvement in pastoral support activities for the Vietnamese community at the Saitama Diocese Open House and at Kawaguchi Church. The technical intern trainees and international students are increasing rapidly at Kawaguchi Church. Most cases are labor exploitation such as suffering from overwork, low wages, and violence which is completely different from what they have expected before coming to Japan. Many cases were forced to give up without claiming their rights. The death toll of technical intern trainees is increasing for many reasons; overwork, suicidal cases and accidents, etc.

Consultation service center based in Kawaguchi church provides regular consultation on labor/law issues and emotional and spiritual counseling with the coordination of Sister Lang and the cooperation with lawyers and experts. Recently, many Vietnamese women and their children are being helped for their healing and support on their daily living with the collaboration of the "J-CaRM Vietnamese team and Vietnamese priests and sisters. Finally, Sister Lang pointed out that it is important to provide information about consultation services in various places in Japan to prevent serious problems. She also mentioned the importance of the pre-departure training program in Vietnam and the dissemination of information about the reality and situation of the technical intern training program before coming to Japan. The seminar concluded with the festivity and celebration of the mass with Bishop Yamanouchi.

Support of Sapporo Diocese to the Vietnamese community!

The next day, there was a gathering and mass for Vietnamese people that was organized by Sapporo Diocese. Consultation and counseling in the Vietnamese language were provided on that day. It was amazing to see many young Vietnamese people gathered and excited to hear the mass in their language. Father Fuku, Divine Word missionary priest from Tokyo was invited to celebrate the mass and heard the confessions. Not even a single Vietnamese priest is assigned to the Sapporo Diocese.

Talitha Kum Japan will continue to support the Vietnamese community as a growing young faith community in the Sapporo Diocese.

~ Motoko Yamagishi - Member of the Steering Committee of Talitha Kum Japan

International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking (Taiwan)

~ Sr. Abby Avelino, MM - Member of the Steering Committee of Talitha Kum Japan



The 2019 International Workshop on Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking was held on July 25-26, 2019 in Taipei, Taiwan. This two-day workshop was sponsored and organized by the National Immigration Agency (NIA) of the Ministry of the Interior (Taiwan government).

At the opening ceremony, Vice President Chen Chien-Jen of Taiwan and other top government officials gave the opening remarks in which they indicated a strong commitment to the prevention of human trafficking and to strengthen collaboration with the international community. There

were about 300 participants (local officials and international representatives) who attended the 2-days workshop.

There were about 50 participants from Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Asia, AOS, Talitha Kum, COATNET, Seafarers, etc.) who attended this workshop. The two-day event comprised speeches and panel discussions on themes divided into four sessions; The Global Trend of Human Trafficking Prevention; Corporate Social Responsibility and the Fishery Exploitation; Regional Joint-Presentation of HT; and Anti-Human Trafficking Case Studies.

Caritas Internationalis President Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle and Secretary-General Aloysius John were two of the nine speakers, along with eight trafficking expert commentators from all over the world who shared their experiences, named root causes of HT and the challenges of prevention measures and strategies of combatting human trafficking on issues of labor exploitation in the fishing industry and migrant workers, forced criminal activities, etc. Many shared the strong effort of building awareness on migration and exploitation. Many migrants start their journey to another country without understanding well what they might encounter in destination country. We all committed ourselves to strengthen our national and international networking collaboration in order to combat human trafficking.



Sr. Abby, MM (2nd fr left) with the other participant Sisters from Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand.

Around fifty representatives from 20 plus countries attended the Caritas meeting on anti-human trafficking on July 27. This meeting was expanded to include other church organizations, etc. (AOS, Talitha Kum, COATNET, etc.). We talked about our impressions and reflections of the two-day workshop; what we learned; what was challenging and useful to take back for implementation. We shared our experiences and challenges on the issues of HT. Caritas Nepal expressed their concern about the destination countries like Korea, Japan, etc. on the issue of prevention in spite of their diligent efforts on pre-departure training. What can be done to prevent these people from being exploited and trafficked? We also discussed the implementation of the Pastoral on Human Trafficking (POHT) guidelines.

Highlight Report on the Talitha Kum General Assembly in Rome

"Together Against Trafficking: Weaving a Web in Love."

On September 21-27, 2019, eighty-six delegates from all over the world gathered in Rome for the Talitha Kum General Assembly. We were energized by the richness of diversity of the delegates represented by 48 countries. The theme of this assembly was "Together Against Trafficking: Weaving a Web in Love." We began this assembly with thanksgiving and recognition awards given to the ten religious women who work/worked tirelessly against trafficking. The assembly was available to the public online and onsite on certain days.



Sr. Gabriella Bottani, the international coordinator of the Talitha Kum, gave the presentation on how Talitha Kum has emerged over the last 10 years. The number of TK networks is increasing. In 2018 alone, Talitha Kum helped over 15,500 survivors and involved about 235,000 people in prevention activities according to the report. The message of Sr. Pat Murray, Executive secretary of UISG (International Union of Superiors General) gave us a deeper reflection of challenges that we are facing in our networks and congregations yet there was a message of HOPE with the assurance of support from UISG.

At the assembly, we practiced the contemplative dialogue approach to evaluate, to see, to judge and to act in identifying directions for the future work of Talitha Kum. We listened with compassion as we engaged with one another. We heard the testimony of survivors who were with us during this assembly. Their voices have encouraged us to remember them as our priority in intervention activities, i.e. to promote the involvement of the survivors at all times.

From our six days' experience at the assembly, our facilitators led us into the directions of the Talitha Kum priorities for the next five years at the international, regional and local levels particularly in Africa and Asia.

In Asia we listed some concrete specific areas of intervention for implementation based on the three main priorities of this assembly:

A. Strengthen collaboration between networks

More specifically we continue to engage with each other since international labor migration is increasingly flowing from developing to developed countries, safe migration intervention should be in place. Invite Asian countries who has yet represented e.g. Malaysia, Vietnam, Nepal, Bangladesh, Singapore, Laos, Cambodia, etc.

B. Communication

- ✦ Each network develops and distributes a database of their directory
- ✦ Have a secretariat at the regional level
- ✦ Enhance public awareness and visibility through educational and awareness-raising campaigns
- ✦ Joint actions/campaigns on Day of Prayer against trafficking in persons:
 - February 8 – Feast Day of Saint Bakhita (International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Trafficking)
 - July 30 – World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
 - ✦ Continue to use social media and websites
 - ✦ Organize a project to raise awareness of human trafficking on airlines, international sports events e.g. Olympics
 - ✦ Encourage Talitha Kum to link papal visit in coming years to promote visibility

C. Formation

- ✦ Training for coordinators in regional level (on-line training when applicable)

D. Advocacy - Consider supply chains advocacy that link our work from source countries to countries where the products are used.

Through the contemplative dialogue process, all expressions and suggestions were heard during this assembly. We unite in solidarity with hope in our commitments to Talitha Kum' declaration of the assembly. [See the Talitha Kum Final Declaration available online in five languages- at www.talithakum.info]

Of course, it was a meaningful experience and blessing for all of us to have had a private audience with Pope Francis. At the end of his message, he said "Never end the day without thinking of and reflecting on the face of one of the survivors. "This will be a beautiful prayer."

We affirmed that we are Together to fight against human trafficking, to give hope and dignity to all. "Working in Faith and Hope, weaving a web in Love."

~ Sr. Abby Avelino, MM - Member of the Steering Committee of Talitha Kum Japan



(L-R) Sr. Abby, Sr. Gabriella Bottani and Sr. Shioya.



TK Assembly participants with Pope Francis.



The sisters donated an icon from Syria to Pope Francis, created by the artist Nemat Badawi with fragments of the ruins of Aleppo.

"When webs of a spider join together, they can trap a lion." – Ethiopian proverbs

Consultation Service on Facebook is Now Available in Vietnamese Language!

~ Motoko Yamagishi - Member of the Steering Committee of Talitha Kum Japan

These days, a number of Vietnamese religious Sisters and Priests all over Japan are helping out in providing counseling services through Facebook.

Currently, there are many pregnancy consultations from Vietnamese women, mostly technical intern trainees and from an increasing number of international students who become pregnant.

There have been many cases of pregnant women being forced to consider abortion or to return home because of the dilemma of not knowing how to solve their situation. To deal with such problems, the Vietnam Support Team under J-CaRM opened a consultation service in the Vietnamese language through Facebook in August this year. At the same time, we distributed leaflets and disseminated information on Facebook about the rights/laws and services available about this issue. It's a violation of the gender equality law if the women are unfairly treated due to marriage, pregnancy or childbirth.

Seven pregnancy cases were recorded from August to October 2019. All women who consulted chose to give birth. Many returned to Vietnam for the preparation of giving birth. In one case, the woman decided to stay in Japan during her pregnancy but unfortunately, she could not afford the medical expenses. Through further assistance from the Vietnamese Support Team and Talitha Kum in negotiation with the hospital, she was able to remain in Japan and give birth to a healthy baby girl.

Talitha Kum supports pregnant women victims of labor exploitation or violation of women's rights by providing shelters, temporary emergency assistance, and interpretation assistance in collaboration with the Vietnam Support Team.

Talitha Kum International Networking Update

~ Sr. Abby Avelino, MM - Member of the Steering Committee of Talitha Kum Japan

The celebration of the Talitha Kum's 10th anniversary culminated in September 2019 with the first International General Assembly in Rome. Eight-six delegates from 48 countries gathered at the UISG (International Union Superiors General) in Rome on September 21-27, 2019. (See the above article for more details).

The Talitha Kum Southeast and East Asia delegates gathered for a side meeting during the time of the assembly. The main agenda was the upcoming Talitha Kum Southeast/ East Asia conference. The group decided to extend an invitation to the other Asian countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Middle East, Bangladesh, etc. The Talitha Kum Asia conference will be held at the Syantikara Retreat House in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from June 11 to 16, 2020. Talitha Kum Indonesia is hosting this conference.

We are happy to announce that Taiwan and Pakistan are the newly established networks in 2019. We are encouraging more countries in Asia to establish Talitha Kum in their own countries for better collaboration and networking to fight against trafficking in persons.

On November 21, the "Nuns Healing Hearts" exhibition was inaugurated in Tokyo to mark the Apostolic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis (November 23- 26) in Japan. The "Nuns Healing Hearts" campaign was officially launched by Pope Francis on May 10, 2019, at the Vatican, as part of the 10th anniversary celebration of Talitha Kum. This exhibition is the project of the Galileo Foundation, one of the main sponsors of Talitha Kum to support the campaign in combatting human trafficking all over the world. The exhibition is ongoing at the **Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum in Tokyo and at Gyoko-Dori Underground Gallery (Marunouchi)** from **November 22, 2019 until December 20, 2019**. This photographic exhibition shows the work of Sisters all over the world as wounded healers in accompanying the victims of human trafficking.

We are grateful for your supports and prayers as we continue to collaborate with the international community to eradicate trafficking in persons all over the world. 🌟

NUNS HEALING HEARTS EXHIBITION

***February 8 - World Day of Prayer, Reflection
and Action Against Human Trafficking***



心の主
救世主

世界各地で
人身取引撲滅
に取り組む
シスター。

ローマ法王来日記念
「タリタクム」リサ・クリスティン写真展

2019年11月22日(土)ー12月20日(木)

開館時間 10:00ー18:00 ※入館は開館の30分前まで
休館日 月曜日(祝日、祝日の翌日の祝日、公開最終日は除く)
主催 ガゾレオ・ファンデーション
会場 三菱一号館美術館歴史資料室

入場無料

行幸地下鉄丸の内線千代田駅下車千代田駅西口にて開催
※地下鉄丸の内線千代田駅西口にて開催いたします

アクセス情報はこちら
(千代田駅地下鉄千代田駅西口より徒歩2分)



























Nuns Healing Hearts Exhibition
November 22, 2019
to December 20, 2019
at Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum &
at Gyoko-Dori Underground
Gallery Tokyo
Admission is Free

Pope Francis has declared the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, which is celebrated each year on 8th February to be the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking. St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of victims of slavery and of Sudan. Talitha Kum networks work together, through grass roots action to end trafficking and slavery around the world.

*Prayer to
St. Josephine Bakhita*

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church.

O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.

Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.

Amen.



[We thank you for your generous financial support for Talitha Kum Japan. Your donation will be used to provide support for victims of human trafficking for shelter expenses, living expenses, legal case work, translation/interpretation expenses, Newsletter, Seminars and Workshops Awareness Program] ~Japan Post Bank money transfer form is available at J-CaRM Secretariat office. Please fill in for “Talitha Kum Japan”. Remittance charge is covered by J-CaRM.~

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