



MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Revitalizing Counter Human Trafficking Conference Report

Venue:
Virtual (Zoom)

Scope: Global

Dates:
April: 10th, 17th & 24th 2021

Coordinator:
Sr Mary O' Malley

**MMM Counter Human
Trafficking**

Location: Nairobi

Resource Persons:
Sr Mary O' Malley
Francis Mutuku Nguli
Sr. Catherine O'Grady

Funded by: Misesan Cara



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Rescued, Assessed, Rehab,
Reintegrated



MMM, Mukuru kwa Njenga - Reality of
Slum Environment



A human trafficking victim can be you



Victims are confined to small space to
work, eat, and sleep



Overview and Background

Revitalising Counter Human Trafficking Conference was successfully held through **virtual zoom sessions** beamed from Nairobi, Kenya on three consecutive Saturdays in April 2021 for MMM sisters, AMMMs and MMM ministry staff. Total number of participants per session was: 1st session – 85, 2nd session – 55, 3rd session – 73. Participants were drawn from around the globe, Africa, Europe and the Americas. The conference was facilitated by Sr. Mary O’Malley assisted by Francis Nguli. Sr. Catherine O’ Grady (assisted by Sr. Natalia Mashalo) was a guest speaker who shared the Counter Human Trafficking (CHT) success story and initiative started in 2018 after training by Sr. Mary.

The Conference’s **primary focus** was to spur a chain of actions among MMM Congregational members in Africa and beyond that would endeavour to address community skills, development, and knowledge transfer. In addition, to create a formidable network across the continent to effectively deal with the challenges associated with modern day slavery through awareness and advocacy. Human trafficking is a global challenge whose roots have been identified within impoverished societies, racial discrimination, gender inequality and other social ills such as forced marriages, prostitution and child labour.

This conference was **motivated by** MMM actions in the past. In the earlier years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic two major Congregational conferences were held in Nairobi (1994 & 2004). At the time HIV/AIDS stalked the world and MMMs coming together gathered strength and direct learning from each other on some areas of ‘Best Practice’ approach. Similarly, this conference presents an opportunity for the Congregation to create a broad awareness of human trafficking as a global reality which destroys the lives of millions of people across the world and more particularly in Africa. The outcome of this Conference will heavily inform a broader approach and strategy and also bring on board new energy and renewed commitments from various countries where MMM has missions.

Specific objectives of the “Revitalizing Counter Human Trafficking” dubbed the ‘Conference’ were:

1. To share context and diversity of human trafficking categories: Mapping out both traditional and modern-day slavery categories (child labour, prostitution, domestic servitude, internal cross border trafficking and international human trafficking, surrogacy, child trafficking, forced marriages, etc.)
2. To provide a much-needed platform for expanded networking across Africa and beyond.
3. To expose participants on methods of detection, victim identification and care, a referral mechanism and the legal/policy framework in support of Counter Trafficking in Persons – the Palermo Protocol (December, 2000) and the in-country laws in other states where MMM Sisters are based in mission and/or countries of origin.
4. Incorporate Catholic Church Global efforts: Talitha Kum, Pope Francis’ encyclicals and Independent Religious efforts.

All through, presentations reinforced the message that HT i.e. “Human Trafficking is the Business of Stealing the Freedom of another Person for Profit”. **At the end**, there was general consensus to take CHT on board as a concern that cannot be ignored and to mainstream CHT in all MMM ministries.

This conference was made possible with the **funding** support of Misesan Cara.

Preparations and Approach

Actions preceding the conference: included procuring the webinar link from Germany, hiring an IT support team (two support staff), preparing the training content and presentations, sending out invitation letters to Area Leaders, procuring Tee shirts and roll up banner, sending out advance training content such as videos and reference guidelines, inviting the congregational leadership to open the conference, formulating prayers for various sessions, running internal pre-conference rehearsals, procuring a reliable internet connection, and identifying the conference beaming location in Nairobi.



The conference was done virtually and beamed from Nairobi, Kenya through a zoom link. It was facilitated by Sr. Mary O’Malley assisted by Francis Nguli. All presentations were via power point, video aids and still photos. Integrated in the presentations were case studies and real stories. To illustrate the impact of MMM Counter Human Trafficking, a guest speaker from Tanzania, Sr. Catherine O’Grady was invited to share the humble beginnings of her initiative after capacity building. Following an initial training of community health workers at Singida Diocese, they have since established a “Jukwaa” - platform with great success.

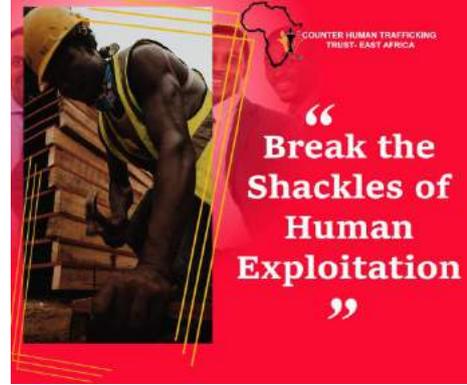
The lead up to the Conference was preceded by a set of questionnaires asking participants to engage with the topic.

As part of preparations, care was taken to set clear **Intended Conference Outcomes:**

- Participants become champions of Counter Human Trafficking (CHT) in their respective countries
- MMM Sisters become CHT Trainers for the Future
- Congregation for the first time considers mainstreaming CHT as a worthy cause particularly across Africa and other lesser developed countries

To guide the deliberations for the three days, a systematic **Conference Framework** was designed:

Day	Session
April 10	Overview and Background
	Definition of Terms and the Human Trafficking Situation in East Africa
April 17	New and Emerging Trends in Human Trafficking
	Human Trafficking: A Challenge to Prophetic Women of Faith
	The Palermo Protocol and the ‘4’ P’s
April 24	The Small Beginnings, Push and Pull Factors, Victim Identification
	Going Beyond Borders: CHT Success Story of MMM Faraja, Tanzania
	A word from Misesan Cara contact, Nairobi



Presentations

From the presentations, participants learnt that Human Trafficking is a global Issue – it can occur within a country or across borders. It is a criminal enterprise where victims can be any age (even days old), race, gender, or nationality or from any socioeconomic group. Human trafficking is for the most part a hidden crime. Victims may be afraid to come forward and get help, fearing retribution from traffickers and threats of danger to their families. Or people may be unaware that they would be considered victims.

In the **Definition of Terms**, Human trafficking was defined as the illegal trading, either nationally or internationally, of human beings for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labour; a modern day form of slavery. It is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, and second largest, tied with the illegal arms industry and second only to the drug trade. "Severe forms of trafficking" are defined as: (A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or (B) the recruitment, harbouring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labour or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

A picture was painted of the **Human Trafficking Situation in East Africa**. Poverty and ignorance/illiteracy are the main causes of human trafficking in East Africa. East Africans are amongst the poorest in the world:

- 82% of Ethiopians and Ugandans earn less than \$1 per day,
- 58% of Kenyans and Tanzanians earn less than \$2 per day.
- The vast majority of populations live in rural areas from 68% in Tanzania to 87% in Uganda.

Trafficking in East Africa occurs on two levels: internal trafficking of children and young women from rural to urban areas for domestic work and prostitution; and on an international level, where women are trafficked to other African countries, the Middle East and Europe for prostitution, and to the Middle East predominantly for domestic labour.

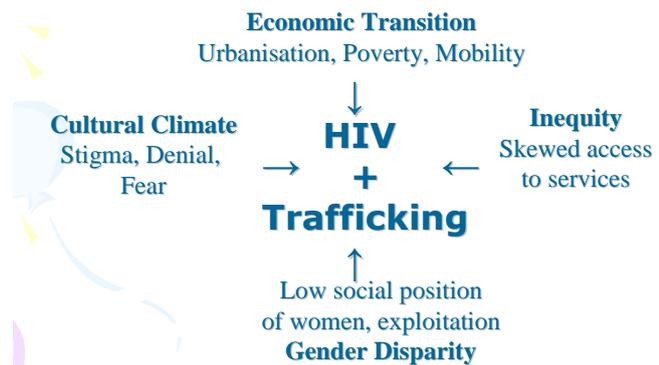
New and Emerging Trends in Human Trafficking includes 'Surrogacy'; Rural Women Recruiters; Kidnapped Children for Ransom; and Lost and Abused Children of Ethiopia.

Surrogate Pregnancies are cases where desperate women willing to undergo a high risk pregnancy for financial gain are recruited. Once the baby is born, in a matter of hours – few days, the baby is whisked off to Qatar (birth cert & travel documents prepared before birth!). One can only assume that these babies are destined for organs retrieval and transplantation purposes for use on infants & children in that country.

We managed to rescue 6 pregnant mothers – the expense was astronomical!! Two others went ahead to opt for CS but the cash payment was less than one third of what was promised (Euro 1.500). These same two developed serious complications which impeded normal walking. Sr. Mary O' Malley

Human Trafficking is a Challenge to Prophetic Women of Faith. In Africa we know HIV is spread mainly through heterosexual contact and drug addicts. Today and in the future its spread is more likely through Sexual Exploitation as in Human Trafficking. Extreme poverty is the main cause of Human Trafficking among women and children. The world of the new Millennium calls us beyond any venture we have faced in the past. It is a 'DO or DIE' time for our world and our generation. The SLAVERY of millions of women, children and men continues unabated outside our walls and residences. We can and must be the leaven in the dough (Matt 13: 33). Can we (MMM) launch out into the deep? We might even attempt to 'walk on water' (Matt 14: 27-31). God is waiting for us to be that bold.

Common Factors that accelerate the Spread of HIV and Human Trafficking



The Palermo Protocol and the '4' P's - The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by General Assembly of 15 November 2000, is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. It opened for signature by Member States at a High-level Political Conference convened for that purpose in Palermo, Italy, on 12-15 December 2000 and entered into force on 29 September 2003. It is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. The 4 P's (+1) capture the Palermo Protocol and the ministry approach for MMM Counter Human Trafficking: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Partnership + Prayer.

Prevention of Push & Pull Factors - In response to the above root causes, most prevention strategies fall within one of the following categories, according to the UNODC: Reducing the vulnerability of potential victims through social and economic development; Discouraging the demand for the services of trafficked persons; Public education; Border control; and Preventing the corruption of public officials.

The Small Beginnings - To bring everything all together and to spur participants into action, the final day sessions comprised a case sharing of how Counter-Human Trafficking was birthed. In 2006, a dream was conceived by Sr. Mary an MMM in East and Central Africa. Relying on newspaper cuttings and a growing UN influence on countries to ratify the Palermo protocol, she created a library of human trafficking stories. While speaking to different religious groups or individuals, some retorted, "The traffic is quite heavy in Nairobi and I wonder what change you can make as a single individual." In spite of such comments Sr. Mary still kept her hopes beyond doubt. Determination at its best, her big dream became clearer with every passing day.

In the meantime, George Matheka was drawn into the bandwagon at around 2007. Sr. Mary offered him a healthy menu of resources for orientation. He was never the same man who entered the room by the time he was concluding the review. At this point Sr. Mary had earned a "disciple" and since then, they never looked back - workshops, awareness campaigns, composing videos, developing and publishing training awareness materials...

**“The rights
of every
MAN ARE
diminished
when the
rights of
one MAN are
threatened.”**

COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Impact Case

Going Beyond Borders: CHT Success Story of MMM Faraja, Tanzania

In 2006, Sr Mary O’Malley, began with a very small Counter Human Trafficking (CHT) Awareness project, targeting Community Health Workers (CHVs) at the Mukuru slums, Nairobi, where MMM have a Health Centre. She only knew that she wanted to sow some seeds of CHT. At a practical level she asked the CHVs to invite her to their churches on Sunday and she started about CHT. At one of these venues a young pastor Peter Kebaso went on to start an NGO himself, “International Youth Generation for Change.” After a few sessions of awareness and training for community based leaders, it emerged that some of the participants bore witness to the existence of human trafficking. Indeed, some of those who attended the trainings turned out to be victims and the number kept growing through a referral mechanism.

In a short time, Sr Mary was heavily involved with running a robust project targeting victims and dependents alike. She also continued to drive a large Awareness program through the Training of Trainers. Some moved from their home/slum areas of Nairobi back to the rural areas where they originated from, this resulted in workshops held mainly in Western Kenya. Their message was credible as the people now had it confirmed where all their young people were going and why some had never heard from them again. The main drivers for human trafficking included the high levels of poverty, unemployment, and the promise of ‘greener pastures’ – especially for young women with a promise to earn a lot of money in the Middle East, serving mainly as house helps.

Going Beyond Borders

Even with all the above challenges, Sr Mary was able to conceive a robust East African expansionist vision which saw her enter into new frontiers. In March, 2018, the first major step towards the fulfilment of this vision came to fruition when the first training took place at MMM Faraja, Tanzania and in four days of intensive Training 33 CHVs were qualified to go out and give initial Awareness. (Phase Two took place in December, 2018 to certify these same CHVs). During the same period, Awareness raising was also offered to two other MMM medical based venues. While on that same trip the next group given an intensive Training were 12 novices at the Missionaries of Africa novitiate in Arusha. In one full day they were equipped with all the necessary information and teaching aids to take them where they were destined to remain in ten other African countries for a period of two years, starting July, 2018.

A major follow up training was delivered in December 2018 which targeted diocesan staff, headed by Bishop Mapunda, Singida diocese, security agencies, municipal staff, Interpol, national government and other civil society organizations. The future of this program within the ranks of the Medical Missionaries of Mary lies in a deliberate effort to consolidate the gains so far made. A Congregational effort stands poised to consolidate and develop a clear and coordinated framework which guarantees a sustainable program connecting with the global networks for Counter Human Trafficking such as Talitha Kum and Interpol.

We perceive that most Congregational members face similar realities and observations within their locations of mission. The mere fact that human trafficking takes place within the confines of the presumed good order of society exemplifies the urgency to institute a pro-active effort towards engaging more robustly in order to increase the impact of the Congregational mission as espoused by the Foundress.

Participation and Feedback

The Conference on “Revitalising Counter Human Trafficking” primarily focused on the MMM Congregational members in Africa so as to spur a chain of actions which will endeavour to address community skills, development, and knowledge transfer. It was also

to create a formidable network across the continent to effectively deal with the challenges associated with modern day slavery through awareness and advocacy. Human trafficking is a global challenge whose roots have been identified within impoverished societies, racial discrimination, gender inequality and other social ills such as forced marriages, prostitution and child labour – all that are heavily manifest in Africa, especially, East Africa.

Therefore, the participants were mainly drawn from MMM missions in Africa but including Europe and the Americas, MMM Associates and MMM project staff. The total participants per session were as follows:

- 1st session – 85
- 2nd session – 55
- 3rd session - 73

Participants’ Evaluation/Feedback of the Conference

There was all round congratulatory messages beginning from the Congregational leadership in Dublin to Area leaders and individual participants, MMM Associates and staff alike. The aura was that of an affirmation that, yes, it is possible to mainstream counter human trafficking within existing MMM projects. Most of this feedback continued to flow in long after the conference was over.

Here is what some of the participants shared on the Chat...

“Thank you, Sr. Mary. Very well done and informative. I feel sad at what is going on but so glad that you and your team are there.” Margaret Meyer

“Thank you Catherine and Natalia and all the team well done and God's grace.” Ifeoma Rosemary

“I saw a zoom from India where the Sisters had trained leaders who had one of the peers watching out for 20 girls in their class and checking in with them every day and reporting when one missed school.” Margaret Meyer

“Thank you Sr. Margaret Meyer for sharing you zoom experience from India. Can MMM think of having a safe house into the future to make CHT more effective?” Catherine Grady

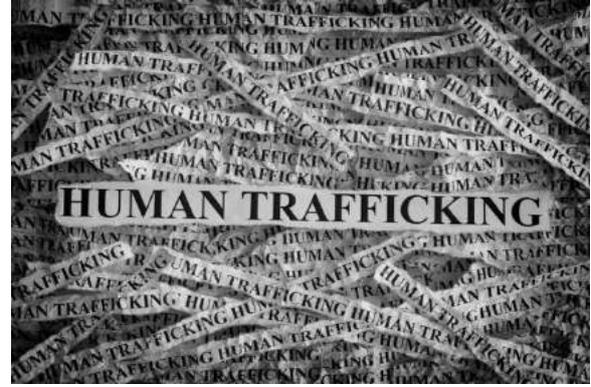
“Thank you very much Mary and team; proud of you.” Angela Katalyeba

“Asante sana Sr. Mary. God bless.” Thomas Nyawir



Moving Forward - What must we do?

Speaking on behalf of the Congregational Leadership Team while giving the keynote address, Sr. Ekaeta Ekop acknowledged that this was a conference of a kind and that would shed light on the dark areas of human trafficking. She challenged each area to choose their response in line with their capacity.



“Let knowledge transform us to make choices to end human trafficking one person, one family, one village, one street, at a time. Let’s see what the Lord does with our five loaves and two fish.” Sr. Ekaeta Ekop

In his closing remarks, Paul Gichuki, the Misesan Cara , the Eastern & Central Africa Development Mentor, thanked the facilitators for a job well done and the participants for having put in time to understand Counter Human Trafficking. He saw the participants as key players who would help reduce the problem of human trafficking, assist the survivors and make sure their rights do not continue to be trampled on.

“Going forward you will be part of the response in your local areas, region, country, and might think and be part of a global network that might emerge out of this conference.” Paul Gichuki

Paul noted that Counter Human Trafficking is a top priority for Misesan Cara and would continue to stand in partnership with missionaries with efforts to address the human trafficking vice. He stressed that there is need for more soldiers, actors to support efforts to stop human trafficking including helping the survivors by providing alternatives through education and/or livelihoods so that they get out of harm’s way.

Resolutions

At the end, there was general consensus to take CHT on board as a concern that cannot be ignored and to mainstream CHT in all MMM ministries.

Participants made resolutions that...

- Once the Covid-19 situation improves, there is need for a second phase follow up training in order to certify the trainees, especially those within Africa. This phase should target Medical Missionaries of Mary representatives from all countries in the Africa Region and Central and South America as future trainers.
- The printed tee shirts and additional materials will need to be distributed during the follow up second training phase.
- There is need for a monitoring and evaluation process to offer support and receive concrete feedback from those MMM missions already trying to mainstream counter human trafficking.
- Counter human trafficking may need to be prioritized for discussion during the next MMM Chapter meeting.
- Support to victims of trafficking need to be prioritized alongside safe houses/shelters.

A Word of Appreciation

The “Revitalizing Counter Human Trafficking Conference” would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of many parties...

- This conference was made possible with the funding support of Misesan Cara.
- Sr. Ekaeta Ekop for the keynote speech and Mr. Paul Gichuki for the closing remarks.
- The conference facilitators led by Sr. Mary O’Malley, assisted by Francis Nguli, and Sr. Catherine O’ Grady a guest speaker assisted by Sr. Natalia Mashalo.
- The 213 participants drawn from around the globe, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Religious Against Human Trafficking, a national network of both Women and Men religious congregations in Kenya adopted the 5th ‘P’ earlier mentioned in the presentations to signify prayer as a spiritual effort towards transforming the hearts of traffickers and their collaborators around the world. Through Prayer, our combined efforts and commitment to the elimination of ‘modern day slavery’ will one day become a reality to those who believe in God’s power for redemption.

