GOOD SHEPHERD SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES, TAIWAN

Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services, Taiwan plays an important role in anti-human trafficking in Taiwan. We were commissioned by Taiwan’s government since 2009 to set up a shelter particularly for victims of human trafficking with providing social welfare and protection services. In 2010, we set up the Human Trafficking Prevention Office in Taipei for prevention, advocacy and international cooperation to end human trafficking in Asia-Pacific Region. Last year, we have attended “Blue Heart Campaign” with our international partners, through Facebook, YouTube, and official website to enhance the public participation in anti-human trafficking. This year, we organized a series of activities, including the social media campaign, the public event of anti-human trafficking and the public calling for responding to the World Day against Trafficking in Persons from 1st to 30th July, 2015. This campaign is aimed to awaken the citizens to recognize the problem of human trafficking in Taiwan, and also seeking to change the myths and common misunderstanding about victims of human trafficking. Meanwhile, we were calling on the civil societies to work together to end human trafficking.

Public Event of Anti-Human Trafficking: 19th July, 2015: We cooperated with the Labour Department of Taipei government to organize the public event of anti-human trafficking on 19th July, 2015 in 228 Memorial Park. There were thousands of migrant workers attending, and most of them came from Indonesia, the Philippines and South-East Asia countries. We designed a series of activities for these migrant workers to understand the patterns of human trafficking, the characteristics of potential victims and accessible help information, including the hot line, counselling and emergency rescue services. In addition, we invited these participants to give their blessings to those victims or those migrant workers who face difficulties or are at risk of the crime of human trafficking.

Social Media Campaign: This year, Human Trafficking Prevention Office worked with shelter and the department of fundraising and promotion. Good Shepherd organized a story-telling campaign through our social media channel, including Facebook, Blog of Good Shepherd International Affairs and official website. We encouraged our social workers, assistants and specialists who are working in the field of anti-human trafficking to write down their working experience, observation, feedback, and the stories of victims of human trafficking from their personal perspectives. We collected and published those stories and articles through our social media channel, to open the importance of human trafficking to the public from 1st - 30th July, 2015. This campaign is aimed to awaken the citizens to recognize the problem of human trafficking in Taiwan, and also seeking to change the myths and common misunderstanding about victims of human trafficking. Meanwhile, we were calling on the civil societies to work together to end human trafficking.

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There were almost 100 people to complete all the activities and to write down their best wishes on the banner. Although there was intermittent heavy rain, we received so many blessings and encouragement from the participants, both foreign and Taiwanese.

Public Calling for Ending Human Trafficking: 30th July, 2015: For World Day against Human Trafficking, Sr. Therese Thong (CEO of Good Shepherd Social Welfare Services) hosted for the activities of anti-human trafficking on 30th July, 2015. There were more than 30 foreign guests and government officials, who visited our shelter for victims, and attended the public calling for an end to human trafficking. These foreign guests who are experts and senior specialists in the field of anti-human trafficking, came from USA, UK, Switzerland, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, etc. The director of the shelter- Ms. Lin Win Juan, introduced our protection services and shared our working experience. In addition, the shelter staff helped our guests to understand how we provide these services to support the victims, for better recovery in the shelter. Sr. Therese Thong invited our foreign guests to make the public calling for combating human trafficking both at national and international levels.

WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS-
MYANMAR

In honor of World Day against Trafficking in Persons(30 July 2015), together with Myanmar Catholic Migration and Anti-Human Trafficking Network, we, Good Shepherd Sisters in Myanmar, conducted a program to raise awareness on Anti-Human Trafficking at Aniskhan, in Mandalay Division.

The aim of the day was raising awareness around this global issue, and highlighting the plight of the millions of women, men and children who are victims of trafficking from all corners of the world and especially Myanmar, as well as encouraging people to take action against this crime.

There were 250 young participants at our session from different townships of Myanmar. We began our program with “Non-Violence Against Women” song, which was demonstrated by our candidates from RGS formation. Then we had a short role play, which presented the story of a rural girl who was trafficked due to her lack of knowledge on Human Trafficking and economic crisis. After that we had a power point presentation about the present situation of Modern Slavery in Myanmar and around the world. We had the privilege to listen to testimony from a trafficked survivor, who shared her story willingly and generously. We ended up our program with Question and Answer item. After that, the youth signed on the wall paper to express their solidarity with the victims, and to take part in combating anti-human trafficking in their own way.
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons: An Experience and A Prayer - Malta

By Sr. Margaret Gonzi, Malta

I presented this poster to a media person. It was part of an assessment that had to do with a media course I had been following.

The media person said it was a very good poster. However, he did not like the smiley with the screws.

He said it was not human, rather like a robot.

I said that is how a trafficked person becomes… being sold,… being bought, … a lifeless face,… distraught … hollow eyes,…a lifeless life…unable to cry…

Lord Jesus what can I do? 😞

Grateful for the presence of partners in the 30th Chapter of the Congregation 2015: Co-creating the future together and taking risks for the mission... but also we appreciate their presence in our Units.
The Good Shepherd Mission Partnership Training Program in Korea has just concluded. It was a two-day training session that was held on 19th and 20th May 2015, in a parish of Yona. 40 mission Partners participated at this meeting.

The first day of the meeting, there was a presentation of the previous year's mission partnership and on how this mission partnership has developed. The main focus of the discussion was about the foundational mission experience, the mission cooperation, and the communion. We acknowledged our foundational mission experience in the various ministries we carry out as Good Shepherd mission partners. We continued the discussion and the sharing of the experiences in a small group. The sharing helped us to strengthen our collaboration and mission partnership.

We also had the opportunity to enrich our mission partnership awareness by watching a film: "Lesson from Geese". Inspired by the story of that film, we have realized how important it is to help and support one another.

After supper, all ministry partners had the opportunity to meet and share everything that was related to their own ministry issues. It was such a meaningful time of sharing.

On the second day, during the morning session, we had another sharing opportunity with two other partners, talking about different ministries and how they are accomplished in the spirit of the Good Shepherd in their own places.

This Good Shepherd partnership training is held every year since 2008, with different themes. The partnership training session was carried out as part of the mission partnership program. The 2014 and 2015 training sessions were prepared by Sister Stella and two lay partners, namely Mariana Yong and Veronica Kim.

**Useful Links**

- CRIN (CHILD RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL NETWORK)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty—17 October
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Human Rights Council
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women—CEDAW
- Direction Statement Congregational Chapter 2015
To live the mission from an Experience of God

*Heidy Hochstäatter Garcia, responsible for the Office for Development in Latin America (ODMAL), participated as a partner in the first part of the Chapter of the Congregation.

She shared with us her experience in this short testimony:

“For 14 days, the Holy Spirit has moved into my heart, allowing me to live an experience that has filled me with energy, but also with many challenges. With eight other partners in mission, we were invited to discover the face of God that we did not know, and to live the mission from an experience of God.” This invitation to risk together for mission, has been developed in total commitment, where we ourselves - from our position of partners, have been invited not only to participate but to build, and in particular to commit ourselves to the mission.

We have been involved in this process of looking at the way of the Congregation for the next six years. They have been moments where we have shared our experiences, joys, visions, experiences that we live as partners, where we have built a stronger relationship of unity, and in particular, we were energized to continue to build the road of partnership in Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.

In this time of grace that God has given me, I have been the clay in God’s hands, enriched by every space, but especially with the commitment and love for God's mission. I thank the sisters and partners of the Province of Bolivia/Chile, because they are the beginning and a constant enrichment in my commitment to the Mission of the Congregation.

An experience with the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Viterbo

Josephine and I knew Sister Rosalinda, because we attended the course in Spiritual Direction together. Without each other's knowledge, we both had the desire to visit the Sisters in Viterbo and to do some voluntary work there, and we both had talked to Sister Rosalinda separately about our wish. Sister Rosalinda’s encouragement helped us to put our wish into practice and without wasting any time, we immediately booked our flights. Our experience was very enriching - materially and spiritually.

The sisters’ faces, their welcome, their open hearts and the peace they showed, were transmitted to us as we also experienced peace, love and joy in our hearts – a peace that we did not have with us when we first arrived. It was a blessing that we lived that week with Jesus’ faithful lovers and we could see that their hearts throb with love for their Shepherd and their mind is well set to serve him and love him, even in their difficulties. We could see that their hearts still burn with love for their Maker. This gives us courage to look at our burdens with a positive eye and remember that the Shepherd will be helping us also in our life as he did with the nuns. They lead a simple life contemplating Jesus’ mysteries. This made us aware that we have to let go of material things that we can do without, and live a simpler life, in order to overcome the distractions that come by when following Jesus.

We enjoyed listening to their experiences and life stories and appreciated the fact that they shared these with us. They let us share also their times of prayer, breakfast, lunch and dinner. The conversations we had with them strengthened us to seek more fully the Spirit of God in our daily lives. We could appreciate more what God had done in days gone by and what his mighty arm is still doing among and through his people, when we visited Orvieto, the Trappist Sisters at Vitorchiano and the Church of Santa Maria Della Quercia.

We are thankful to Sister Rosalinda for having organized this outing for us. Both of us thought that during our week in Viterbo we would do more manual work and probably return home tired and with many stories to share about all the work we did. Well, yes, there are stories that we are sharing with others, but these are not about the work we did but about the love we received and about all that we mentioned earlier on. We do not feel tired, rather we feel refreshed and strengthened, and are more convinced that the Good Shepherd will be with us wherever we go, and He will protect and guide us in all our endeavors to do His Will. We feel this time it was the Good Shepherd giving us the opportunity, and calling us to restore our souls beside still waters (Ps 23, 2-3).
The Geneva for Human Rights NGO often organizes a Global Training on Human Rights. The Human Rights were written and signed in the year 1948. Human rights must be implemented by the countries themselves. Aware that massive human rights violations are ongoing, increasing the gap between the standards of the United Nations and the implementation of their decisions, Geneva for Human Rights-Global Training (GHR), bridges this gap. Through training, study and protection, GHR aims to strengthen the work of those in the field involved in the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular human rights organizations and defenders. Every year, its Global Training Department, conducts dozens of Courses and Seminars in Geneva and in the field.

Thanks to our Main Representative – Sr. Hedwig Joehl – our NGO (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd) who through the office in Geneva had the opportunity to participate in a training organized by Geneva for Human Rights NGO-Global Training. This training was held from September 14th to the 25th. The sisters participating were: Claudia Palacio, from USA; Klara Karrer, from Austria (who will be a member of the team at GSJIO in Geneva) and Yolanda Sanchez, from Colombia (who will be next year the main GS NGO Representative in Geneva).

The participants share with you their experiences during the training on human rights:

Claudia Palacio: “Coming to Geneva for a Human Rights training has been an exceptional experience. The great desire to understand the functioning of the United Nations and its Human rights instruments at a global scale was satisfied when I witnessed how many people are involved in the Human Rights field as defenders. The Good Shepherd people who work for a world where dignity and reconciliation will be upheld as intrinsic values, bring awareness to violation of Human Rights, network with others and make a personal choice for justice and peace. The responsibility of unifying our efforts at the local and global levels represents a challenge that we must not ignore.”

Klara Karrer: This course is a very good opportunity to learn a lot about the United Nations and Human Rights Council: how it works, the structures and strategies, and to identify which structures we can use as members of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd to be effective in helping women and girls in our countries to change their situation. We got to know links to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council whose duty is to visit countries to get to know the real situation. They make reports to the Human Rights Council to call for change.

It is interesting to follow the debates, the recommendations of the ambassadors and the rapporteurs during the council.

Yolanda Sanchez: “Personally, this course on Human Rights has been a great learning experience and an opportunity to enhance my knowledge on this topic. Looking more closely at this wide world of Human Rights has raised a desire to work and to be more involved as a Good Shepherd sister in the promotion of human rights for all. I feel and I am aware that knowing more about human rights it is a call to change my life style, the way to live in community and with mission partners but also in the mission that has been entrusted to me. I see the field of the Human Rights at the United Nations as an opportunity to have a strong voice on behalf of most vulnerable people, especially women and girls around the world and more specifically in our different services where the Congregation is present. As NGO we are blessed to have a voice at the United Nations through the different human rights mechanisms: ‘To know much better about Human Rights is to be a better advocate on these issues in the Congregation and in the world’.” Hedwig, Claudia, Klara, Yolanda.
**International Day of the Girl Child 2015**


Since 2012, the United Nations marks 11 October as the ‘International Day of the Girl Child’. The day promotes girls' human rights, highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys and addresses the various forms of discrimination and abuse suffered by girls around the world.

Sr. Winifred at the JP Office in New York makes a call: “I am asking you to celebrate the International Day of the Girl in whatever way possible and hopefully with girls and boys and the local community. If you work with girls and have access to social media - Facebook or Twitter or other you may wish to have the girls engage in one or more of the days of action. If you don't have access and want me to post for you please send to my e-mail address - winifreddohertyrgs@gmail.com Subject line IDG 2015.”

Go to the following link to get an explanation of the International Day of the Girls: International Day of the Girl-October 11 2015

And the eleven days of action with a focus for each day in this link: Actions for IDG- October 11

Visit the regularly updated Good Shepherd JP website for news, events, JP training resources, and so on. Go to: [http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en](http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en)

**Editor’s Note:**

“Embrace the World” can be published, thanks to each of your contributions with articles, stories and other news concerning justice peace issues in the world-wide Good Shepherd Congregation. We continue to count on you for the next editions of the journal. Share with us your activities, news and events in your Units and countries. I take the opportunity to say thanks to all who were helping with translations and proof reading and especially to those who sent articles for this edition of October 2015.

“*We commit ourselves to work zealously with women and children, especially those who are trafficked, forced to migrate or oppressed by abject poverty*”

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Please distribute to all communities, programs, and Good Shepherd Partners in your Unit.

Thank you