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**Australian Catholic Religious
Against Trafficking in Humans**

ACRATH PRESS RELEASE

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ACRATH asks people to *Indulge Responsibly* this Easter



Australian Christians, preparing for the start of Lent on Wednesday, are being urged to join with the one billion responsible 'indulgers' this Easter and watch what chocolate we buy.

Join ACRATH's *Indulge Responsibly* Easter chocolate campaign starting on Ash Wednesday, 14th February 2024.

Much of the world's chocolate, including that sold in Australian shops and supermarkets, is produced using cocoa beans harvested by child labourers, many of whom endure enslavement and poor, sometimes dangerous, working conditions. Most are deprived of an education. In West Africa, where much of the world's cocoa is grown, it is estimated that about 1.5 million children are involved in the often-hazardous cocoa production.

This Easter and beyond, ACRATH is asking people to indulge responsibly and select ethically sourced chocolate and support companies that are working to eliminate slavery from their supply chains.

ACRATH's campaign poster is packed with actions, resources and hope. [Download it here.](#)

To join ACRATH's *Indulge Responsibly* campaign we ask people to read the [Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard](#) and make purchasing and eating decisions based on the behaviour of the companies.





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The scorecard has been used as a resource by an estimated one billion people around the globe. So, join this massive and well-meaning global community and find out which companies are trying to do the right thing when it comes to chocolate production. Find the scorecard [here](#).

ACRATH's Executive Officer Christine Carolan said Easter was a good time to focus on the injustices within the chocolate industry as Australians will spend about \$1.5 billion on chocolate and food over Easter.

"We can do something about the exploitation of children in the production of chocolate by finding out which chocolate producers are trying to eradicate slavery from their supply chains. That's the great thing about the Chocolate Scorecard," Christine said.

The most recent scorecard highlights some of ACRATH's favourite chocolate, including delicious Tony Chocolonely and Alter Eco, which are readily available in Australia. While the makers not only produce chocolate that is perfect for those wanting to *Indulge Responsibly*, they also create awareness of the injustices in the industry.

"At Tony's, we always pay the Living Income Reference Price (LIRP) for all the cocoa we buy. We believe the LIRP is essential for structurally lifting cocoa farmers out of poverty, the root cause of modern slavery and child labor," according to the Tony Chocolonely website.

"Things aren't shared fairly in the chocolate supply chain. The chain starts with the millions of farmers that produce cocoa and ends with the billions of consumers that enjoy chocolate. But what about the bit in between? This section is dominated by a group of chocolate giants that profit from keeping the cocoa purchasing price as low as possible. For the farmers, this creates a poverty trap that leads to illegal child labour and modern slavery."

The second part of the campaign is about eating chocolate that features the Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance logos. The presence of either of these logos says that this chocolate company has committed resources to ensuring the cocoa they source is slavery-free.

There's lots of information about these programs. You can read more here:

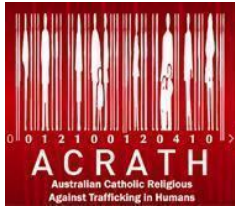
<https://fairtradeanz.org/what-is-fairtrade/how-fairtrade-works>

<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org>

Read more about ACRATH's ethical chocolate program [here](#).

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