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People are NOT for sale

Australian Catholic Religious
Against Trafficking in Humans

ACRATH MEDIA RELEASE: February 2026 PEACE BEGINS WITH DIGNITY

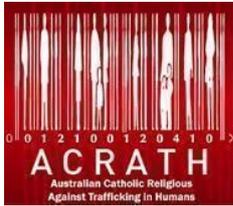


This week marks the beginning of a series of events, both online and in Rome. ACRATH and Talitha Kum invite you to join the global movement of prayer, reflection and action against human trafficking on February 8, which is the feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita and the *International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking*.

The theme this year, “Peace Begins with Dignity: A Global Call to End Human Trafficking,” draws inspiration from Pope Leo XIV’s powerful reminder that true peace is gentle and humble, born of love, and sustained where human dignity is upheld. The exploitation and objectification of people through trafficking fundamentally destroys the foundations of peace and justice, making its eradication essential to building a just world. Human trafficking is a global wound that denies human dignity and shatters the peace of communities everywhere.

Join ACRATH in a pilgrimage of prayer on 6th February, 2026, as we connect with our global community in our shared mission to end human trafficking and the harm it causes.





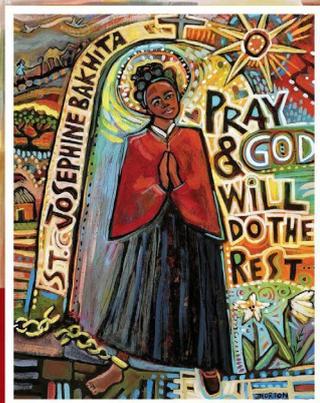
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"This day holds special significance in the ACRATH calendar, and we invite you to join our global community in marking it. As we begin 2026, let us come together in prayer and action, reaffirming our commitment to end human trafficking and build a world free from exploitation," said Sarah Puls, ACRATH Executive Officer.

International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

Peace Begins with Dignity:
A Global Call to End Human Trafficking



Pope Francis designated 8th February, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking following a request from Talitha Kum, the worldwide Network of Consecrated Life Against Human Trafficking.

Born in 1869 in Sudan, Josephine knew the pain and sorrow of losing her freedom, when at 7 years of age she was taken by slave traders. She was bought and sold many times in the following decade. Taken to Italy by a family, who 'owned' her, she met the Canossian Daughters of Charity, became a Catholic and joined the Canossian congregation. She died in 1947 and was canonized in 2000.

ACT NOW

1. Learn about human trafficking and tell three others.
<https://acrath.org.au/the-issue/what-is-human-trafficking/>
2. Pray for the victim/survivors of human trafficking.
See Prayer vigil via the QR Code.
3. Purchase goods that have not been tainted by slavery within the supply chain. Look for the logos:
4. Join the live-streamed online Marathon of Prayer
Friday 6th February. See details here: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/world-day-of-prayer/>



For all resources see:
<https://acrath.org.au/take-action/world-day-of-prayer/>
or scan the QR code



You can join in many ways, such as:

Joining the online **Pilgrimage of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking** on Friday, 6th February. The event will take place across all continents and time zones.

Download or order your free ACRATH poster via our website. It features information and calls to action. Display it in your common area and *don't forget to take a pic and tag our social media channels.* [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#): [BlueSky](#)

For more suggested actions for participating in the event, prayers and resources, see: <https://acrath.org.au/take-action/world-day-of-prayer/>

In a world marked by conflict, displacement, and growing forms of trafficking and exploitation, we are invited to pause, pray, and raise awareness together, walking alongside victims and survivors.

For more information, please contact Ange Duthie at 0430 488 001 or email networks@acrath.org.au.

