

Report on Displacement of Peoples.

Global Mercy Concern Aotearoa New Zealand Report for 14 November 2018.

Preparatory Note: In late January 2018, I was requested by the Leadership Team to join the Global Mercy Concern Aotearoa New Zealand Group. My area is to co-ordinate the Displacement of Peoples dimension. I do not have hands on experience in this area.

Actions taken:

- 1. Conversations with Sisters of Mercy involved in ANZRATH** (Aotearoa New Zealand Religious Against Trafficking in Humans <http://www.anzrath.com/>) Mercy members: Jacqui Miles (Auckland), Natalie Murphy (Wellington) and Mary Hepburn (Dunedin)
 - Awareness raising
 - Working with like-minded groups
 - Wellington Group - new members; writing articles for *Welcom*, *Marist Messenger*; printed and distributed 2000 cards (awareness and contact information); planning calendar for 2019 of significant days to send out to parishes notes/prayers of the faithful, e.g. 16 Feb international day of prayer, 31 July UNO; input into formation of lay pastoral leaders; preparing to link with school students for this is a possible area of study.
 - Auckland Group linking with and fund raising for Shakti to set up of a Shakti Youth Network (SYNC) in Wellington and Christchurch; networking with ECPAT (Ending Child Pornography and Trafficking); arranged for Zaif Khan to meet with Catholic Secondary Schools' Counsellors and planning for meeting with primary and immediate school staffs; letter writing local businesses re-the possibility of 'slavery' in their supply chains; communicating with politicians.

My Future Plans:

- Attending Mercy Asia Pacific Samoa Gathering, 19-25 November 2018. Attendees from Australia, Guam, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines Samoa and Tonga will address the Mercy Global Action - Displacement of People and Degradation of Earth
- With Raylene Boyle (Little Company of Mary) working on bringing Dr. Rebecca Millar of Immigration NZ to Christchurch in 2019 to speak on "Modern Slavery, Trafficking & Exploitation in Aotearoa NZ" with a view to founding an ANZRATH group in Christchurch
- Facilitating "Slavery in the New Testament and Displacement of Peoples Today." Te Ngakau Waiora Mercy Spirituality Centre, Auckland. Friday 24 May 7-9pm & Saturday 25 May 2019, 9.30am-3.30pm.
- On 1 June, submitted a book proposal (currently with a reviewer) on with proposed title: *Jesus, Justice and the Fourth Gospel in the Three Year Lectionary: Hearing the Cry of the Earth and the Poor*. The Roman Empire undergirded by slavery is given attention and links/questions to modern slavery made.
- Continue the learning curve re-my part in Mercy Global Action. I need to link with the migration/displacement dimension

Kathleen Rushton RSM