

## **Report for Mercy Global Action Network (MGAN) (October 2018)**

### **Aotearoa New Zealand**

#### **Displacement of Peoples**

There are a number of NZ Mercy Sisters who are members of ANZRATH (Australia NZ Religious Against Trafficking of Humans) who meet on a regular basis in the main cities of NZ.

A number of months ago ANZRATH in Auckland arranged for Child Alert (ecpat) NZ to speak to the frontline staff (i.e. counsellors) in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Auckland about the dangers posed online to children. The speaking to staff was a success, with a number of schools organising with Child Alert to run workshops for staff in the future. However, research has shown that children are exposed to dangers online at a far earlier age (e.g. around 8 and 9) thus ANZRATH are looking at ways to contact primary school staff to get the word out.

ANZRATH Wellington have been proactive in distributing 2000 cards regarding trafficking throughout the diocese. These cards were designed by Cheryl Connolly rsm.

#### **Sustainable Choices/Care for Creation/Climate Change**

Climate Change in our part of the world (Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific) continues to have a major impact for the most vulnerable communities. In the Pacific, storm surges are becoming more frequent and loss of land is becoming more evident.

Plastic pollution in the Pacific, is becoming more of a problem and efforts worldwide from various groups are pushing for people communities to try and reduce their plastic footprint.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> August MGA NZ had a special meeting with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) on the Government's proposed climate migration policy within the Pacific. This meeting was at the request of MFAT and both organisations were asked for feedback on the proposed policy. The policy itself is pioneering and shows the present government's foresight in seeing immigration due to Climate. At the same time, the Government is looking at being proactive in helping in adaptation and mitigation within the Pacific and acknowledge that there has been a disconnect with Pacific nations for a number of years.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Caritas Oceania launched the Environment report for our region, this makes valuable reading as to highlight the effects of climate change in the Pacific.

In mid-November, there will be a Mercy Asia -Pacific gathering in Samoa to talk further about climate change in our region and Mercy's response and future actions to this reality.

Bridget Crisp