




# JOIN THE FIGHT TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

[www.breakthechains.org.au](http://www.breakthechains.org.au)



**Welcome to the first MIA Australia Fundraising campaign newsletter. You've been involved with the project in some way, and we're delighted to keep you up to date with our progress.**

**There are few issues more pressing to our global community than human trafficking and modern day slavery.**

An estimated 30 million victims of human trafficking and modern day slavery endure untold exploitation in sweatshops, brothels, restaurants, salons, agricultural labour, forced marriages and other circumstances hidden from view all around the world. At least one of every five people trafficked is a child.

Mercy International Association is engaged in the fight to eradicate human trafficking. Through our non-government organisation seat at the United Nations, Sr Aine O'Connor rsm and her team work diligently toward making a global difference to fight this exploitation of basic human rights.

MIA Australia Fundraising is campaigning to raise awareness and funds to assist the financial demand of continuing Mercy's work at the United Nations and beyond.

Who can fail to be shocked by the statistics and related information regarding this disturbing issue? Human trafficking is a gross disregard for human life, which is exactly why it is of the utmost importance Mercy continues to advocate against it and raise awareness within our own communities.

**Julien O'Connell AM and Sr Denise Fox rsm**

---

# Spreading the Word on Mother's Day

BBQ sausages and scrambled eggs were on the menu at the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Mother's Day Breakfast for MIA Australia Fundraising. As a Mother's Day tradition, the men of the Kenmore parish in Queensland put on a spread for over 90 women who gathered to relax, socialise and hear about issues of concern.

This year parishioner and lawyer Rowena McNally spoke about the international scale of human trafficking and Mercy's work to stop human trafficking. Parish Secretary and Sacramental Coordinator Colleen Tracey said human trafficking has remained on parishioners' minds since the breakfast.

"People subjected to human trafficking are being exploited and unless we're all made aware of this, we'll go around in our bubble thinking everything is wonderful", she said.

"The speech was very timely, because it's easy to get caught up in events of the world that we are not able to assist with - but we can assist with this".

"By becoming aware of human trafficking and MIA we are able to help out in any small way from our own homes. We don't have to travel overseas; we can make a difference from our own homes by the choices we make."

MIA Australia Fundraising would like to thank the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish and Rowena McNally for their efforts to raise \$1000.00 for the cause.





**The 'Break the Chains' wristband is symbolic of the physical or metaphorical chains victims of human trafficking are forced to live in. The black and tan design is purposefully gender-neutral and can be adjusted to any wrist size.**

Wristbands can be purchased for \$4 each or 3 for \$10 inclusive of GST. If you decide to sell them rather than give them away, we can supply you with posters and bumper stickers free of charge.

Proceeds go towards Mercy's work at the United Nations and beyond to stop human trafficking. To order wristbands go to [www.breakthechains.org.au](http://www.breakthechains.org.au) or email [mia@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mia@ismapng.org.au)

If you would like to fundraise or help in another way, please contact Joy King and Rachael Ward via the [mia@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mia@ismapng.org.au)



**Sr Margaret Sheehan packaging wristbands**



**Julien O'Connell and Rachael Ward**



**Jenny Williams, assistant to Julien O'Connell**



**Rachael speaking about MIA's work at the UN**



**MIA Young Speakers Olivia Nicholls, Rachael Ward, Ally Salviani, Jessica Luna and Johanna Mousley.**

Thank you to everyone who has donated their time and lent a hand with the campaign. Thanks in particular to Young Ambassadors who will be speaking to schools about human trafficking and Sr Margaret Sheehan who has labelled 5000 wristbands.

If you can help us in any way, please email Joy King and Rachael Ward at [mia@ismapng.org.au](mailto:mia@ismapng.org.au)

*We can never say, "it is enough".*

**Catherine McAuley**