

JOIN THE FIGHT TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

www.breakthechains.org.au



Spreading the Word

While promoting **Break the Chains**, we have had a number of conversations with supporters who are shocked at the prevalence and hidden nature of human trafficking and slavery in the modern world. This is understandable, as statistics such as 40 million people are victims of modern day slavery, and 1 in 5 people trafficked is a child, are horrendous. Though confronting, we as a society do nothing to stop this shocking disregard for human life by wilfully turning away from individual's stories and shocking statistics.

Human trafficking and modern day slavery are a hidden reality of modern life, and only by educating ourselves will there be any hope of stopping it in the future. As people of Mercy, we cannot allow ourselves to turn away from the plight of those most disadvantaged in our global community.

This is why **Break the Chains** is engaged and committed to community education. To date, we have spoken to over 3000 students (and counting) in Mercy schools around Australia about what human trafficking is, how Mercy works to stop human trafficking and how individuals can make an impact in their local community.

While we hope this outreach will have an impact on the young people we speak to, it is important to recognise we all have the choice to be conscious decision makers and consumers in our personal and work lives right now.

Julien O'Connell AM and Sr Denise Fox rsm,
Co-Chairs MIA Fundraising Australia

School visit update

Over the past few months **Break the Chains** have spoken to Mercy secondary school students at St Joseph's College Mildura, Mercy College Chatswood, St Aloysius College North Melbourne and the Australasian Mercy Secondary Students Association (AMSSA) conference in Sydney. All the students we've spoken to have shown great enthusiasm for learning more about human trafficking, making differences in their own community and making ethical choices. We would like to thank you for your hospitality and generosity when hosting our Young Ambassadors.

To enquire about our **Break the Chains** schools program please contact mia@ismapng.org.au



Olivia Nicholls with student leaders at the Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association Conference in Sydney



Rachael Ward and Elisa Bolzonello with year 9 students from St Joseph's College Mildura



Olivia Nicholls with student leaders of St Aloysius College



Olivia Nicholls with student of St Aloysius College



Rachael Ward speaking to students of Mercy College Chatswood



Rachael Ward and Elisa Bolzonello with students from St Joseph's College Mildura

Student Reflection: Breaking the Chains Campaign at St Joseph's College Mildura

Olivia Putland, Year 9

The theme of Year 9 choice week for 2016 was 'Inspiring and our future' and because of this, the Year 9 student body was able to experience the opportunities we have once we leave school. As a part of this, we got to listen to an International Aid presentation regarding 'Breaking the Chains'. This opened our eyes to how equality and social justice is not present in our community.

This was run by two university students. Rachel is studying Journalism at RMIT and Elisa is an Arts Law student at Monash. Both of these girls are involved in Young Mercy Links and various other community organisations that foster equality. Despite both having an incredible history in relation to volunteering, that wasn't what they came to discuss. They talked to us about what we could do in order to stop the ever growing problem of Human Trafficking.

One true story they told us was about the life of a South African girl Grizelda Goobrum who was trafficked by her friend in order for that so-called friend to go to university. Stories like these touched our hearts and made us realise we all had to play a part to stop Human Trafficking. Some of the ideas we discussed were downloading the "Shop Ethically" App which rates brands as to the working conditions of their staff, asking shop keepers before you buy a product if slaves made it and donating to Aid Organisations that aim to stop Human Trafficking. Overall, the International Aid Presentations showed every Year 9 student that our world, our community and our life is full of inequality at every turn and as a society we must band together in order to stop barbaric behaviours.

Mercy Global Action at the UN Anti-Trafficking work

Mercy at the UN have been very busy over the last few months, speaking on panels, teaching university classes, participating in workshops across the USA and Austria, listening to qualitative data from survivors of human trafficking and preparing for the Commission for the 2017 Status of Women.

Highlights include:

- Preparing online resources on 'the voices of those trafficked' to be launched for the 16 days of activism for Non Violence Against Women 25 November to 10 December 2016.
- Launched preventative framework of 17 Life Course Conditions based on Sr Angela Reed's post-doctoral research. The 'Eliminating the Trafficking of Children' panel was sponsored by NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See, Salesian Missions, ECPAT-USA and Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. [Click Here](#) to view the video (watch from 38.30 – 54.00).
- Sr Angela Reed gave the academic convocation and presented three classes at Gwynedd University Pennsylvania. Topics included hope, critical thinking and Mercy in relation to the reality of human trafficking, and looking at the global reality of human trafficking.
- Presented to students on the Mercy Academy in Meriton about on the girl child and human trafficking.
- Attended the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, NGO UN Committee to stop human trafficking in persons meeting, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime conference in Vienna, 'Contributing to a global compact on migration: Actions to address Trafficking in Persons GA Summit and more.



Who's down the supply chain?

Beyond obligatory 'made in' labels, how much do you know about where your clothes come from? Who spun the thread to make the cotton in your shirt? Who sourced the minerals to make your mobile phone?

The reality is few of us know who made the goods we purchase, and too few businesses know where materials used come from down the supply chain. It's a shocking reality, but not one intended to instil guilt or lay blame. Recognising we don't know enough about what we buy, and educating ourselves about the supply chain effect, is an important step towards addressing modern day slavery which thrives down the supply chain.

An increasing number of guides, apps and websites aim to educate people to have choices when we shop at larger stores. These guides often fail to account for small businesses that pride themselves on ethical business decisions, but fail to publicise their efforts.

The next time you shop, ask yourself, who made this? Do I want to make an informed purchase?

We can never say, "it is enough".

Catherine McAuley