

We defend human dignity

Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. It turns people into objects to be traded, bringing physical and emotional suffering that can last a lifetime.

As a faith network with shared Christian values, COATNET members help survivors regain their sense of human dignity.

“Whenever I was unable to complete my work I was assaulted, abused, and even threatened with death.”

Amanthi, housemaid*

“I was scared. So scared. I didn’t want to be killed.”

Rebecca, forced into prostitution*



After getting training from Caritas Nepal, Meena helped 14-year-old Nagchung reject a female trafficker

Photos: Philip Laubner/CRS, Katie Orlinsky & Natalia Tsoukala/Caritas, Ben White/CAFOD

**Names have been changed*



Can we help?

HELPLINES

If you are or you know a trafficked person who needs help:
Find helplines listed by country at coatnet.org or call the number below.

NETWORK

Coatnet is open to new members, and to cooperation with organisations fighting the same cause and sharing the same values. We welcome enquiries about advocacy, campaigning or donating. Contact our coordinator or your nearest Coatnet member (listed on website).

“The human person ought never to be sold or bought.”

Pope Francis

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Christian Organisations
Against Trafficking
in Human Beings
Network



One human family against trafficking

COATNET: a global network of Christian organisations working to combat human trafficking and assist survivors of modern slavery

Human trafficking is the acquisition of people by force or deception, with the aim of enslaving and exploiting them for profit. It is the fastest-growing global crime.

Who we are

COATNET links over 45 Christian organisations fighting human trafficking. Co-ordinated by Caritas Internationalis, we have Christian (Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox) members from 39 countries, and co-operate with other faith and civil society organisations worldwide.

What we do

Support

We help survivors of trafficking start a new life and get access to justice.



Prevention and protection

We help people vulnerable to traffickers, with education, counselling, economic opportunities. We fight root causes like poverty and inequality.

Advocacy

We push for policies on safe migration, anti-trafficking laws and their enforcement and decent working conditions.

Awareness

We raise public awareness of human trafficking.

Networking

We co-ordinate across borders, sharing information and best practice.

Who are today's slaves?

No-one knows the true scale of modern slavery. The International Labour Organisation estimates there are 21 million people in forced labour. Nearly one third of detected trafficked victims are children. (UNODC 2016)

Women and men, boys and girls are bought and sold worldwide. They may be living in poverty, unaccompanied children, migrants or people displaced by conflict. They are abused in many ways:

- Sexual exploitation and forced marriage
- Forced labour and begging
- Domestic servitude
- Child soldiers
- Organ removal



Justice is rare. Of 136 countries surveyed in 2012–14, 40 per cent recorded ten or fewer convictions (UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016).

Our demands

- Safe and legal ways for migrants and refugees to travel across borders.
- Victims of trafficking to be quickly identified, protected and given access to justice.
- Proper systems in place to protect people at risk of trafficking during and after emergencies.
- More traffickers brought to justice.
- States to ratify the convention on decent work for domestic workers (ILO Convention 189/2011), the Palermo Convention, and the 2014 protocol on Forced Labour (to ILO Convention 29). States to ensure implementation.
- Businesses to ensure transparent supply chains. All of us to consume responsibly.

