

**Online presentation of the Annual Report of Talitha Kum 2021
Rome, June 28, 2022**

Talk by Lucia Cappuzzi

Journalist of Avvenire

What struck me about this report is that it was done in an unexpected way. Normally when you think of a report from an association, an organization, a nonprofit, you think of something bare bones with data confined to a balance sheet. In contrast, this year's Annual Report has extraordinary richness in both the description of the phenomenon of human trafficking and the stories shared by survivors and members of the Network. While stories are often included in reports like this one, what is often not portrayed is the magnitude of the phenomenon.

In Talitha Kum's Report it is as if the reader is compelled or stimulated, enticed to take a journey into the world of trafficking, to discover this immense dramatic world in order to understand it. The Report acts as a compass to orient us on an issue that is increasingly in danger of passing under the radar, as if it is commonplace, as if it were just one of the many phenomena of the media landscape, in reality it is not. This Report helps to bring trafficking back to its social dimension; trafficking is a social phenomenon and as such it is a product that is generated by a number of causes.

These causes are addressed, but it does not limit itself to denunciation, which is too easy, solutions are also put forward, and a story is told about this network, because Talitha Kum is not a classical association, it is a Network of religious women who on the basis of their charism from their own countries are engaged in the fight against trafficking. And through their voices, which are heard throughout the report, a living picture of trafficking is composed, a picture that entraps us. Trafficking stops being a phenomenon far away in geography, society or relegated to the social peripheries. Trafficking is revealed in all its power, and we are forced to face this phenomenon by feeling involved, which is the hardest thing. As a communicator it may be easy to make a denunciation but it is very difficult to make the reader feel involved.

Here, this report makes you feel like a participant, the phenomenon calls you directly into it. It is difficult after reading it, to continue to see that phenomenon or to pretend not to see it, to look at it with the same eyes as in the past. At that moment it's like a curtain falling, which is why I think it's release is so important, especially now that Covid has made trafficking even stronger and even more vicious. What I am saying is: continue on this path for the future and above all, continue to make people feel that trafficking is a human phenomenon, it is a social phenomenon and as such it can be fought. And it can be fought by people coming together, by the Talitha Kum Network, and by so many others who feel involved in the phenomenon.