

Talitha Kum
ARISE

Declaration

Rome, January 27th. 2016

We members of Talitha Kum, the worldwide Network of religious life against trafficking in persons.

**We denounce the crime of Trafficking in persons
and proclaim it as a grave offense against the dignity of the person
and a serious violation of human rights.**

As consecrated persons and women religious in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who suffer the consequences of this evil we will speak out louder and clear.

We strongly condemn this crime, addressing ourselves first of all to all the society, which permits wealth and power to control the lives and dignity of our sisters and brothers who are sold and rendered objects of this modern form of slavery.

We urge local and national Catholic Episcopal Conferences, Regional and National Conferences of Religious, and religious congregation to take a stance and commit themselves with renewed energy for the protection, promotion and fulfilment of the rights of these sisters and brothers and to denounce all forms of trafficking.

We call on governments to be responsible not only to make laws against trafficking and to protect the victims, but also to implement these laws at all levels and to allocate adequate resources both human and material to combat this crime and compensate the victims. It is their responsibility to activate local, national and international networks capable of effectively counteracting this trafficking in persons.

We commit ourselves:

To network among ourselves and with other social, civilian, religious and political organizations.

To strengthen existing efforts and initiatives to reduce the causes of human trafficking.

To maximize and update resources for the prevention, protection, prosecution, assistance, awareness raising and condemnation of trafficking in persons.

To continue to develop educative programs that awake the consciousness of people and denounce this phenomenon.

To participate in research in order to better understand causes, risk factors and vulnerabilities in the new scenarios of human trafficking.

We know that only by working in collaboration and solidarity will be able to confront the structural causes that generate trafficking. This mission obliges us to take a prophetic stance that requires of us continuous conversion and change of mentality.

We renew our commitment to promote the dignity of every person as a response to Christ's words: "*I have come that they may have life, life in its fullness*" (John 10:10)