



## 2nd International Coordination Meeting of Talitha Kum

Rome, 25 January-2 February 2016

The second international coordination meeting of Talitha Kum was convened by the International Union of Superiors General, through the coordinator of the Talitha Kum project, Sr. Gabriella Bottani, SMC. The participants were 27 sisters of 25 different congregations, representatives of all the member networks of Talitha Kum .

The aim of the meeting was to define the priorities of Talitha Kum and to formulate a strategic plan for the three years 2016-2018.

**The program can be presented in three parts, linked together in dialogue.**

**1. From January 25th. to 27th.** the participants gathered at the UISG. The days were facilitated by Stefano Volpicelli. During these three days we shared experiences: the reality of trafficking in persons, the path taken by the local networks, the activities and organization of the network. At the international level, we examined the strengths and weaknesses of the global network. The report presented by Sr. Gabriella Bottani, encouraged reflection on the identity of TK member networks and the verification of the vision and mission of the network. The tool proposed was the reinterpretation and implementation of the 2008 Declaration.

At the end of this first phase, there were the points on which to develop the proposed priorities for the strategic plan of Talitha Kum for the period 2016-2018 and the revision of the joint declaration. These points were taken on January 30th. After discussion and amendment, we approved the priorities for the strategic plan of Talitha Kum 2016-2018.

**Summary of presentations on the situation of trafficking:** The sharing of the different networks have shown that trafficking in persons is a growing phenomenon in all continents. Although trafficking in persons occurs in all countries where the Talitha Kum networks are present, it was pointed out that countries, marked by the absence of employment opportunities, poverty, political instability and insecurity, are the main places of origin of victims of both internal and international trafficking. South and Southeast Asia as well as Africa show an increase of women, men and children who are internally trafficked, trafficked from neighbouring as well as from more distant countries.

**Summary of the activities carried out by Networks Presentations:** The member networks of Talitha Kum are primarily engaged in the prevention and protection for victims, in cooperation with several governmental, non-governmental and church organizations. The various local bodies have highlighted some specific features, such as the political commitment of the networks in Latin America or the organizational capacity of the networks in South and Southeast Asia. Although women and children continue to be the main beneficiaries of the projects of the member networks of Talitha Kum, men are also beneficiaries.

**Summary of network structure:** The religious involved in the networks are about 1500. Some networks in Latin America and Asia register the participation of religious and diocesan priests, about 20 in total. Some networks are exclusively religious, as USCSAHT and AMRAT. Many have opened participation to the laity. We have no record of how many lay people are actually involved in local networks. The organizational structures of networks are diverse, more or less centralized. From the sharing, it was seen that here is a

difficulty in working as networks on the African continent. This calls for greater commitment by Talitha Kum / UISG to motivate the religious on the continent to take on this commitment.

**2. From 28th. to 30th. January**, the meeting continued in the Casina Pio IV, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences which greatly facilitated the formation and dialogue. The first day of this second phase was devoted to deepening our knowledge with valuable input from experts, who gave us up to date information on the complexities of migration routes and the effects of the current economic situation: Helga Konrad (Austria), Plant Anthony Roger Maxwell (UK); Teresa Albano (Vienna OSCE); Geneviève Colas (Caritas France). The following days were devoted to dialogue with partner organizations of the Vatican: The US ambassador to the Holy See Mr. Kenneth Hackett, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, represented by Christine Jeangey, the section responsible for human rights, 'International Organization for Migration, represented by the head of mission Federico Soda, the Foundation Arise by John Studzinski. Card. Gerald Vincent Nichols, the Archdiocese of London and promoter of Santa Marta Group and Mons. Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences Vatican. These presentations have increased mutual understanding between Talitha Kum and some other organizations linked to the Catholic Church engaged, at the international level, in working against trafficking in persons. The training manual of Talitha Kum, organized by Stefano Volpicelli, was presented on the afternoon of the 29th. At the conclusion to all interventions we have reformulated the priorities of Talitha Kum for the next three years. The plan was approved unanimously.

The third part of the meeting was marked by the participation of representatives of the member networks of Talitha Kum in the final meeting for the year of consecrated life. On the morning of the 31st. the religious gave four workshops in different languages (Italian, French, English and Spanish) to the participants of the Secular Institutes, at the Agostinianum. On February 1st. the group attended the audience with the Holy Father and on the 2nd. at the 17:30 Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Sr. Mercy Muthoni Wanguna representing all religious working against trafficking, carried the candle in the entrance procession.

#### **Priorities for the Strategic Plan 2016-2018:**

- **Networking**
  - More attention to the regional and continental level
- **Communication**
  - In and outside
- **Visibility**
  - to human trafficking, to our thinking about trafficking – declarations - and TK activities
  - Participation in Researches
- **Formation**
  - Leadership training, collaboration with Universities, TK trainings
- **Geographical Scope**
  - Africa – Middle East

**Means to promote:**

- Trainings
  - to qualify and promote the formation of Talitha Kum Leaders
  - to improve the skills and professional qualification for anti-trafficking activities and for the accompaniment of survivors of TIP.
- Resources
  - To plan action to involve more sisters working full time;
  - To create fundraising procedures support the projects of the Networks member of TK.
- Data Collection
  - Internal Data Base
  - Participation in research