

Presentation Justice



PRESENTATION
Australia

A reflection for July

“No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 4

The United Nations has designated 30 July each year as the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This day advances advocacy for men, women and children who are trafficked around the world and enslaved by forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced marriage and criminal activities. It is estimated there are 41,000 men and women living in modern slavery in Australia and 50 million people enslaved globally (ACRATH).

Through our membership of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) over many years, Presentation Sisters and Presentation People in Australia have been actively involved in advocating for an end to human trafficking and modern slavery and supporting its victims. It reflects our deep commitment to the dignity due to all people and the liberating message of the Gospel.

In its submission to Australia’s Universal Periodic Review (2026), the International Presentation Association observed that human trafficking was found in a variety of employment sectors within Australia and the instances of trafficking are increasing. While the Australian government has established the Support for Trafficked People Program, challenges remain in providing adequate support to victims. These include issues related to the accessibility of services, particularly for individuals from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, and the adequacy of legal protections for victims during legal proceedings.

In advancing its commitment to human rights, the International Presentation Association calls upon the Australian government to expand its efforts to eradicate labour trafficking, exploitation and slavery through the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020-2025, particularly in areas such as victim support services, coordination among agencies and public awareness campaigns.

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**God of Justice,
we pray for all people
who are trafficked.**

**We pray earnestly that
all who suffer the loss of freedom
and the indignity of being used
to serve the need
and greed of others,
will be freed and find freedom
in a home where
they are respected.
May they maintain their strength
and experience a love
that is tender and good.**

**We pray that
all who exploit others,
will have their evil deeds exposed.
May their hearts
be changed.**

**We pray that
those of us
who live in safety and peace
with more than we need,
will advocate
and act against
trafficking in humans.
May we have the
wisdom and courage
to stand in solidarity
with all who are
deprived of their dignity.**

**Through our work for justice,
may they realise the freedom
that is your gift to us all.**

**We make our prayer
through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.**

*Adapted from "A Prayer for Anti-Trafficking
Advocates" by Australian Catholic Religious Against
Trafficking in Humans*

