



Trafficking in the maritime world

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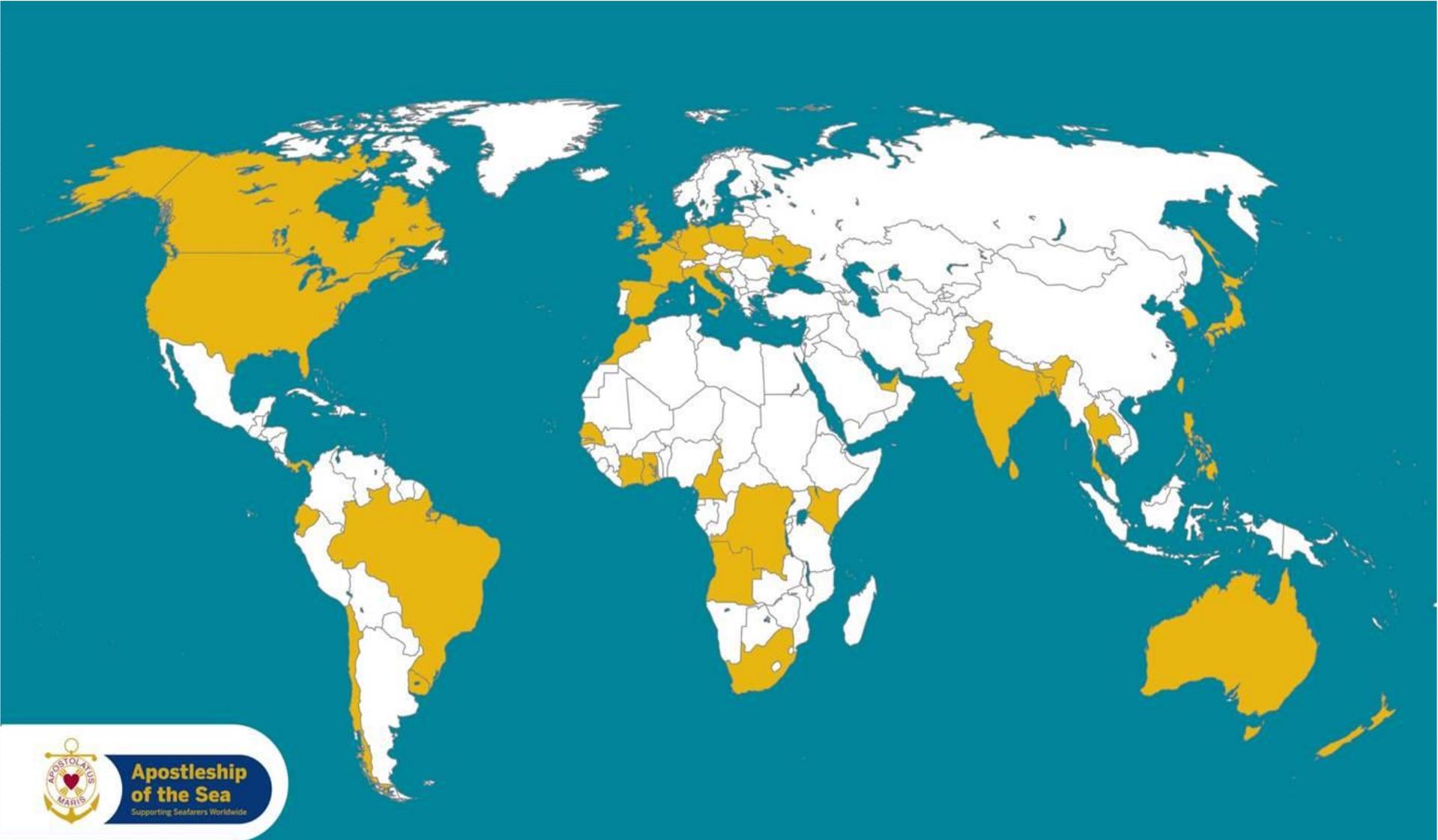
Apostleship of the Sea International

(Dicastery for Promoting Human Integral Development)



The Apostleship of the Sea,
is the Catholic ministry
serving seafarers, fishers and their families,
around the world, with a global outreach:
261 ports worldwide
55 countries
Over 200 port chaplains





Commercial shipping

90% of the goods in the world are transported by thousands of vessels crisscrossing every possible ocean, sea or river. These vessels are managed by a workforce of 1.5 million seafarers of all races, nationalities and religions.

Fishing

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), fisheries and aquaculture provided livelihoods and income for an estimated 54.8 million people. The total number of fishing vessels in the world was estimated at about 4.36 million.



In 2012, an estimated 20,9 million people globally were victims of forced labor, ...that primarily occurs in labor-intensive industries, including fishing...



Fisheries crimes covers a range of criminal offenses, frequently transnational and organized in nature...Such offences **include...forced labor and trafficking in persons.**

(source ILO)



Seafarers and fishers: vulnerable people

- Their work makes them vulnerable because they are invisible to the society where they come from, and they are not known in the foreign ports where the vessel docks.
- They are vulnerable because often it is impossible, to determine the ship/fishing vessel owner and who is responsible for their welfare.
- These people spend months, if not years, often in the middle of the sea, without any opportunity to contact their families or any government authority to seek help and assistance.
- Seafarers and fishers are victims of trafficking, not only in developing countries but all over the world



What AOS is doing...

- AOS has continuous contact and collaboration with international organizations (ILO, IMO, FAO, etc.), seafarers unions and other maritime organizations in order to promote seafarers/fishers welfare and reduce their vulnerability.
- The XXIV AOS World Congress with the theme: «Caught in the net» dealt with trafficking within the maritime world and increased awareness on this issue among the 250 delegates.
- In the Philippines, soon after the AOS World Congress, more than 100 spouses and partners of seafarers and fishers were trained to deal with human trafficking and forced labor.
- We are planning for more of these training programmes.



What AOS is doing

- AOS together with Santa Marta Group had the first “pilot project” training in Tilbury involving the people working in the port with the objectives to:
 - Raise awareness of modern slavery and trafficking of human issue within the ports
 - Increase understanding of the legislation, the local situation and partners with whom we could work
 - To understand how to prevent and protect victims of trafficking and work with others to eradicate modern slavery

AOS is planning to have these trainings in ports around the world.

- AOS is partner with the Coalition of Organization and Ministries Promoting Abolition of Slavery at Sea (COMPASS)



The challenge that we are facing to prevent and free seafarers and especially fishers from situations of trafficking and forced labor in the maritime world, is like sailing in to the open ocean in which every moment vessels of seafarers and fishers of all races, nationalities are endlessly sailing.

We might not be able to reach out to all of them, we might not answer to all their needs, we might not free them from trafficking and forced labor, but the commitment of all of us and the dedication of our organizations could make the difference.

THANK YOU!

