

Spain

Spanish Episcopal Conference

During 2017, Section of Human Trafficking from the Bishop's Conference of Spain has been working just as the previous year 2016, and that's because the guidelines and goals are clearly defined as they are accurate. Our motivation to work on this mission to face the problem of human trafficking increases each year, while we hear the effect in every circle and surroundings where we are present.

We usually use a wide range of means of communication. Apart from the possibility to appear in press, radio, social media, web pages from the dioceses... Bishop's Conference of Spain has created recently a blog that includes all of the activities, initiatives, news, links, supplies, resources... which allows us to be more present on the internet and reach a higher number of people. Check here www.cem-noalatrata.org

One of the basic pillars of our pastoral project is the online job relating to the ecclesial entities and religious congregations that we are connected with. That's why we created the «Grupo Intereclesial contra la Trata», which includes *Cáritas Española, CONFER, Justicia y Paz, Cruz Blanca Foundation, Amaranta Foundation* and the Section of Human Trafficking from the Episcopal Commission of Migration. This group work as an engine at a national level, we encourage and prepare resources to celebrate prayer vigils during the World Day of Prayer for Human Trafficking. These resources are spread throughout different media, so that many prayer vigils can be organized. Coordinators of the section of human trafficking in the different areas of Spain organize these prayer vigils. «Grupo Intereclesial contra la Trata» itself also organize a prayer vigil in Madrid (capital of Spain) in collaboration with the coordinator of this diocese, and each year the number of participants increases.

Another meaningful moment is the 30th of July, World Day against Trafficking in Persons. «Grupo Intereclesial» publish a press release that contains a reflection and position as the Catholic Church, regarding the topic and the slogan. It's an activity of political denunciation that allows us to be present in the media and influence public opinion about the problem of human trafficking. Each year more and more media talk about our press release.

The third activity promoted by the «Grupo Intereclesial» is the European Day against Trafficking in Persons, around the 18th of October. It used to be an educational activity and it has become an activity in the parishes, that's because our desire is to raise awareness in the Christian community. In the last couple of years, we celebrated this day in the parishes and we want to continue this way. The topic of this Day revolves around the topic that the Holy See suggests.

Apart from the «Grupo Intereclesial», Section of Human Trafficking created the Group of diocesan coordinators. It is a group that keeps increasing its number, which allows us a wider range of activity and reaching a large number of people. The members of this group support in their own dioceses and areas the activities that we have commented earlier. Also, they work in resources to raise awareness, for example a photographic exhibition that will be named «*Punto... y seguimos*». We hope this exhibition could be presented in September 2018, available for the different dioceses and parishes.

We are working to update and improve a Facilitator Guide, published in 2014 by «Grupo intereclesial», widening its vision to all types of human trafficking. This publication is oriented to work with young people in an educational environment, and its goal is to face the problem of trafficking to prevent it, making young people aware. The Guide is being presented in the different dioceses to teachers and professors through the Delegation of Education, both the religious and private schools. This guide form part of the precautionary work, with activities such as take part of meetings, lectures, presentation in schools and high schools.

As an entity we have participated in educational meetings and Congresses in different places, to make present the problem of human trafficking and to give proposals from the Church, ecclesial entities and congregations.

Each diocesan coordinator of the section of human trafficking are really active users of social media, and work as well with civil entities and public administration at a local level. Some of them have designed a specific pastoral project for 2018. Some of them also have created a department of human trafficking in the diocese (a team, not just a person).

We have set up a Forum about trafficking coordinated and motivated from this Episcopal Commission of Migrants, as a place of analysis, reflection, discussion and creation of thinking around the topic of human trafficking. It's a multidisciplinary place where participants entities that work directly with victims, both religious and civil entities, jurists, public administration, national police, professors, sociologists. This Forum also promotes specific actions and, currently we are in a process of gathering data about the situation in each region, resources and answers that are given as Church to attend the victims. With this data we will elaborate a document to present to the Spanish Bishops by the next Plenary Assembly and it will be a forward move to improve our labor of fight against trafficking and to help the victims; protect, accompany and recover these people.

At present, we are also in contact with other Christian Confessions that work through this goal, to help each other and coordinate so that we can create activities and promote specific actions.