



Appeal to Male Congregations to get involved in the issue of Human Trafficking.

We are four men who have become involved in raising awareness of the issue of Human Trafficking. We are members of a group called APT (Act to Prevent Trafficking; www.aptireland.org) that is raising awareness of the evils of Human Trafficking with a special concern for those who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. The great majority of our members are women religious. However, they and we the few men involved, feel that this is not just a women's issue. The reality is that the drivers of this crime are men who purchase the sexual services of these trafficked women. And of course, a majority of the human traffickers are also men.

It is so important that we men raise awareness around human trafficking especially among men and boys; and that we put our weight behind campaigns like "We don't buy it" which tries to explode some myths around human trafficking and prostitution. *"Every day, all across the island of Ireland, up to 1000 vulnerable woman are trafficked and forced into prostitution simply because of the lies we tell ourselves, the myths we pretend are true and the awkward justifications we allow ourselves to believe. Prostitution is abusive and degrading. The only people to really profit are criminal gangs."* <https://wedontbuyit.eu/>. Past pupils' networks of male congregations and diocesan schools could be harnessed to raise awareness around the corrupting influence of pornography, and of the fact that it is now a crime for men to purchase sex.

As missionaries we realise that the source countries for trafficked people are most often countries where our members work; and our members have experienced at first hand the shocking damage wrought by the traffickers not only on individual women and girls but on their families and communities. We are inspired and challenged when we see the heroic work being done in Ireland by so many of the Sisters' Congregations, and by their members who are working in the 'source countries' to prevent women and girls from being trafficked and to rehabilitate those who have been rescued from this modern slavery. As one small response to this challenge, St. Patrick Missionary Society (Kiltegan) has made human trafficking one of its two priority justice issues and are opening a rehabilitation house in Kenya for trafficked women and girls. We would like to hear about similar initiatives by other men's Congregations, and to encourage the leadership and members of men's Congregations and male members of lay missionary organizations to be actively and visibly involved, at home and abroad in this urgent ministry. It would give great support and encouragement to the Sisters involved in APT if more male members of religious Congregations were to join APT.

Donal Dorr SPS (ddorr2012@outlook.com), Pat Murphy SPS (pmurphysps@gmail.com),
Paul Walsh sm (pauldwalsh75@gmail.com) Paddy Dundon Cssp,