



It's just 5 months ago since we, as Loreto Irish Province in collaboration with **Act to Prevent Trafficking**, hosted the **UN GIFT Box**.

A big **THANK YOU** to all province members and those of our wider IBVM family who supported the initiative which despite, at times, some very real logistical difficulties, was a great success. Many, many people around the country engaged with the Box and the members of the public were very positive and appreciative.

With such a project neatly behind us, we might be tempted to think that we've done our bit. Yet, even as we draw attention to Human Trafficking through a project like the GIFT Box, all over the world there are people still falling into the hands of traffickers. So, it's these people we need to keep in mind.....people who deserve better; and if *we* don't continue to lift up our voices, sign petitions, keep ourselves aware, *their* human dignity will continue to be violated and the traffickers will be pocketing the proceeds!

*Elizabeth Byrne IBVM  
Irish Province Representative  
IBVM Anti-Human Trafficking Network*



# WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 30 JULY

## THE BLUE HEART CAMPAIGN.....

[www.unodc.org/blueheart](http://www.unodc.org/blueheart)

.....is an awareness raising initiative to combat human trafficking and its impact on society. It seeks to **encourage involvement** and **inspire action** to help stop this crime. The campaign also allows people to **show solidarity with the victims of human trafficking** by wearing the **Blue Heart**.

### How can I/we "wear" the **Blue Heart** and show my/our support?

1. If you are on Facebook: join the Blue Heart Facebook group and "wear" the **Blue Heart** on your Facebook profile. Like and share posts from **Blue Heart**.
2. If you are on Twitter: follow the Blue Heart Campaign: @BlueHeartHT
3. Make and "wear" your own **Blue Heart** – see possible designs below.
4. Spread the word about the campaign among your family, colleagues and friends



## THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



Global leaders convened at a United Nations summit in September, 2015 and adopted **17 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) which focus on people, the planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. The goals are universal, meaning every nation must take on to achieve them and must help others to do the same.  
*(continued on page 2)*

An important aspect of the goals is that they are ‘sustainable’ which means they aim to meet the needs of our present time without hindering the ability of future generations to meet *their* needs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will help combat Human Trafficking through **Goals 5, 8, and 16**.



**Goal 5** – Target 2 specifically calls for countries to *“Eliminate forms of violence against all women and children in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.”* Other targets under this goal are connected to women’s empowerment, including eliminating child marriage and unpaid domestic work.

**Goal 8** - Target 7 calls for nations to, *“Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.”* This is perhaps the most direct target to combat human trafficking.

**Goal 16** - Target 3 calls nations to *“Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.”* Human trafficking is a prominent concern in countries where the rule of law is weak. It has been nearly two decades since the enactment of the Palermo Protocol and various anti-trafficking legislations, but the crime still remains. Hopefully more traffickers and organized crime groups will be prosecuted as countries work to meet this target.



We might think that we can do little to affect the global situation but finding out how what we eat, wear or use in our everyday lives can be linked to trafficking and other forms of human slavery may be very enlightening! Find out what **YOUR slavery footprint** is at: [www.slaveryfootprint.org](http://www.slaveryfootprint.org) Here, you can do a very engaging online survey at the end of which you will be asked for your email address to which they will send your personal slavery footprint report! If you are not ‘computer friendly’ ask someone to do it with you. It’s fun to do but quite revealing. Also, pay attention to the information squares.....food for thought!

IN IRELAND.....



#### Good News

The ***Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017*** took effect on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a major achievement in Ireland’s response to human trafficking as it targets the demand that fuels it. The Act includes unconditional penalties for the purchase of sex from any person and severe penalties for purchasing of sexual services from a trafficked person. In respect of the latter offence, the burden of proof has been shifted to the accused person, who must prove they were unaware that the person was trafficked. Measures against child grooming are also included in the Act as well as the decriminalization of people involved in street prostitution...and this will benefit some victims of trafficking.

#### Work to do

Significant problems remain in the accommodation of trafficking victims. In spite of previous criticism from international monitors and national NGOs, particularly the ***Immigrant Council of Ireland***, trafficking victims are still accommodated in direct provision centres originally established for the short-term residency of asylum seekers. Conditions in these centres are inappropriate for those who have suffered severe distress, they are gender neutral, and they lack privacy and have no trained personnel to respond to trauma. There is *no* specialized care for *female victims* of crime, including those who have suffered sexual abuse and trauma. Only those identified as suspected victims of trafficking can avail of medical, legal, personal assistance to aid their recovery. Inadequacies in the state framework means the process of identification is cumbersome and slow. The ***Immigrant Council of Ireland*** recommends changes.

(For more on this see: <http://immigrantcouncil.ie/files/publications/130ea-submission-to-trafficking-in-persons-report-2017.pdf> )