

Group: RSHM Sisters at Marymount Convent

Description:

With energy twenty five women including sisters living in the convent and from the Tarrytown area, from the Extended Family and some members of the provincial staff shared stories and committed to action to end this new form of slavery. Comments from some of the participants:

From Anne O'Brien:

Although I knew about trafficking in general, I was interested in learning more, and particularly, what I could do about it. I was gratified to see a list of some "To Do's." in the presentation.



Working to change the law:

Perhaps we need to learn more about prospective changes in the law, and how we might work to bring them about. Which other groups can we work with to support those changes? Contributing money to the safe houses for trafficked women affects people concretely – but a relatively small number of them and in the present. Working to improve laws affecting the situation may be the most potentially effective longer range step we could take.

One person's commitment:

Sr. Catherine's making trafficking a subject of a meditation group class impressed me. She is going to do something – just as those working to increase awareness are doing something.

From Agnes Fleming, RSHM

The session on Modern Slavery and the Secret World of Trafficking of Women at the Convent in late June made us very aware of the prevalence of Trafficking in the United States and the economy around us. Many of us were already conscious of Modern Slavery in Africa, Asia, South America and other cultures.

We now became more aware how this issue is very much part of our present day life where we live and also see it on television programs and advertisements.



In our dialoguing we see that the more we are concerned about the dignity of each human person "created in the image and likeness of Our God" the less we will tolerate Trafficking. We need to ask: Who is benefiting from the Trafficking which abuses particularly women and young children? We need to look for actions in our local and government programs that negate Modern Trafficking. The video and the Modern Slavery Booklet are excellent materials for working on this important issue.

From Susannah Bourbeau

I remember in my small group their feeling that our efforts to respond to this issue had to be practical and within our means. We had to explore what we could realistically do.

We found the action sheet hand out to be practical and useful and felt we could be active participants by simply signing a petition.



I felt the topic needs to be discussed more openly. More conversations need to take place on the topic of sex, respecting our bodies and each others';

understanding natural desires and self control. Sex education needs to be reframed, with the emphasis on respect of the body and one another.