

Consumer Power Making a Difference
Aotearoa NZ Religious Against Trafficking of Humans

Pope Francis is strongly committed to eradicating human trafficking. He reminds us, in the light of the Good Samaritan, not to look the other way.

The primary focus of the Wellington group of Religious and Friends Against the Trafficking of Humans is to raise awareness of trafficking and exploitation of persons, and to educate. Where possible, we collaborate and network with similar groups locally, nationally and internationally.

Our initial project in 2017 is to promote and encourage the slavery free Easter chocolate campaign.

Chocolate is a sweet indulgence for many of us. But for many cocoa farmers, the reality of the chocolate industry is anything but sweet.

More than 70 per cent of the world's cocoa is grown in tropical West Africa, where over 10 million people are dependent on cocoa farming for their income. But the low prices of commodities like cocoa mean that poverty is widespread amongst the cocoa farming communities.

Most villages lack basic services such as clean water and education. Villagers often have to walk for several hours a day to collect water and often this water is dirty, contributing to the spread of disease.

In some cases, low incomes mean the children of farmers need to work in order to help the family make ends meet. As well as being deprived of an education, children are often engaged in dangerous work, such as using machetes and applying toxic pesticides. Even more worrying is the well-documented use of child slaves on cocoa farms – particularly in the Ivory Coast.

If you're buying chocolate at Easter, or at any time, buy products with these logos. Look for these logos in supermarket chocolate wrappers as an indicator of slavery free cocoa.

You can send letters or emails to companies in New Zealand who are not yet making or selling ethically produced chocolate, encouraging them to produce slavery free products.



For more information and resources on this campaign, go to: acrath.org.au/slavery-free-easter or slaveryfootprint.org or www.anzrath.com

For more information about ANZRATH Wellington, contact Sr Anne Powell, Cenacle Sisters, office@cenacle.org.nz. Our meetings usually take place at the Brigidine House, 12 Ernest St, Ranui Heights, Porirua.