



29th regular session Human Rights Council – 15 June / 3 July 2015

Item 3 Cluster Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking

**Joint oral statement delivered by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII,**

APG23 and other six co-signing NGOs welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, Madame Giammarinaro, submitted to this 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council.

We do agree on the fact the trafficking should be seen and tackled not only as a crime, but as an economic and social phenomenon, linked with global economic trends and as such its fight requires addressing the systemic/underlying social factors that create vulnerabilities in victims and potential victims of human trafficking.

On the other hand, it is also necessary to define the kind of crime human trafficking is amounting to.

On 2nd December 2014, in Rome, Catholic, Anglican, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Orthodox religious leaders signed a Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery.

The declaration proclaims: “In the eyes of God each human being is a free person, whether girl, boy, woman or man, and is destined to exist for the good of all in equality and fraternity. Modern slavery, in terms of human trafficking, forced labour and prostitution, organ trafficking, and any relationship that fails to respect the fundamental conviction that all people are equal and have the same freedom and dignity, is a crime against humanity.”<sup>1</sup>.

We take the floor today to clearly testify through our experience in the field, that human trafficking is indeed a “modern form of slavery” and its practice is not only a gross violation of human rights but amounts to “crime against humanity”!

We ask States to fight against this new form of slavery with a real and strong political commitment.

We appreciate the programme of action of the Special Rapporteur, especially the recommendations concerning the prevention of this crime.

There is need to work jointly towards the full eradication of such a crime.

In this regard, we call upon the Special Procedures to unify efforts in documenting, denouncing and recommending actions to fight this phenomenon.

Thank You

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<sup>1</sup> *Joint Declaration of Religious Leaders Against Modern Slavery*, Casina Pio IV, Headquarters of the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences, 2 December 2015;