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People are NOT for sale

**Australian Catholic Religious
Against Trafficking in Humans**

ACRATH Press Release 4 September 2025

20 years of commitment to human trafficking and modern slavery awareness and action!

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) is marking two decades of mission and impact with participation this week in Parliament House to advocate for the rights of victim/survivors of modern slavery.



Twenty years ago, a group of women, Louise Cleary csb, Margaret Ng rsj, Tania de Jong rgs (deceased) and Pauline Coll sgs (deceased), gathered to discuss the global tragedy of modern slavery and reports of people being trafficked into Australia for sex work and other forms of exploitation. Two decades later, ACRATH continues to companion victims/survivors, advocate for their rights, educate the community, and raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery within Australia and globally.

Image: ACRATH Staff and Members Parliament House 3 September, 2025

This year, ACRATH advocates for:

- A National Compensation Scheme for victims/survivors of modern slavery,
- Increased protections for workers participating in the PALMS, the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme, from unscrupulous operators who engage in exploitative practices, and
- Changes to the Human Trafficking Visa Framework to ensure it meets its intended purpose - providing adequate protection and support for survivors of human trafficking, slavery, and slavery-like practices.

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ACRATH members Judy Lamb and Marg O'Shea reflected "We learnt that in the corridors of power, along with the voices of many others, the ACRATH voice could be heard. The experience of participating in advocacy gave us a sense of hope that systemic change may occur. It was enlightening, enriching and informative".

ACRATH remains committed to the future and the milestones achieved with partners, including the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act (2018), the establishment of Anti-Slavery Commissioners, an additional pathway for victim/survivors into the Support for Trafficked People Program and pioneering work on forced marriage, in collaboration with Anti-Slavery Australia.

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