



CLAR - Confederation of Religious in Latin America and the Caribbean- LATIN AMERICAN GROUPS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (Members of **international network TALITA KUM):** RAMA (Central America), TAMAR (Colombia), KAWSAY (Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay y Argentina), UM GRITO PELA VIDA (Brasil), RAHAMIN (México)

Declaration

We, the members of the CLAR networks that work in collaboration with lay people against human trafficking, make the following declaration to the governments, the churches, the media and public opinion in general:

We denounce the increase of human trafficking on our continent. This crime is present in all our countries and affects thousands of people, particularly women and children in vulnerable situations and constitutes a flagrant violation of fundamental human rights.

As consecrated women and men, and as lay people committed in solidarity to our sisters and brothers suffering the consequences of this offense, we vigorously condemn not only the crime of trafficking, but also its multiple economic, political, cultural and social causes.

We demand that governments assume their responsibility to raise awareness of this issue, respect and execute the signed treaties, dedicate human, economic and structural resources for the integral care of its victims, and implement laws that prevent and punish whatever action that seeks to undermine the dignity of any person by converting her or him into an object/merchandise of this abominable form of modern slavery. We ask for special attention for vulnerable populations, for borders and growing migratory movements where these criminal actions ordinarily find fertile ground. It is urgent that courses are taken that provide immediate and effective assistance to the victims.

Committed inexhaustibly to partnership and open to all classes of collaboration, we insistently plead that all churches, especially the Catholic Church in its local and national conferences of bishops and religious, as well as religious congregations, oppose this crime, take the side of the victims and courageously denounce all forms of human trafficking in light of the defense and promotion of life and rights of persons, most importantly the most vulnerable. We know it is our responsibility to promote local, national and international networks capable of effectively diminishing the trafficking of people.

We promise to:

- ✓ Welcome, protect, support and integrate the victims of trafficking and other types of slavery in order to humanize their lives by freeing them from the degradation to which they have been summated.
- ✓ Work in networks at all levels, in collaboration with other social, civil, religious and political organizations, plus accompany and advance the establishment of new networks across the continent.
- ✓ Strengthen the existent efforts and initiatives to reduce the root causes of human trafficking, identifying and accompanying the areas and populations most vulnerable.
- ✓ Seek the resources needed for prevention, protection, assistance, education, communication, political action and the condemnation of human trafficking.
- ✓ Participate at every level in studies and investigations in order to better understand the causes, risk factors and vulnerability within new scenarios of human trafficking.



Confederation of Religious in Latin America
and the Caribbean **CLAR**

“Let us go out with haste to meet with life”

We are conscious that only through raising awareness, collaboration and solidarity will we be able to stem the tide of structural causes that generate trafficking. We keenly feel that, from the cries and silence of the victims and survivors of human trafficking—the slavery of this era—God continues calling and inviting us to go out now with haste, to meet with the life of our sisters and brothers endangered by this enslaving system (see Luke 1:39).

Bogota, Colombia, September 2017

