

## Our Global Loreto

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### The Palermo Protocol

I joined the webinar for an international conference on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Palermo protocol- the UN protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The event was a brilliant opportunity to learn how governments can improve their implementation of legislation regarding human trafficking offenses. Loreto IBVM is currently committed to ending Human Trafficking and so the information provided by the conference was vital. A wide range of speakers spent time discussing their ideas and thoughts on the problem that Human Trafficking continues to pose to our societies and how they believe we can best tackle it mutually.

The conference was opened by the special rapporteur Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, who placed emphasis on global co-operation and international mobilisation, bringing to the fore the essential need for communication between NGO's. Importantly, Ms. Giammarinaro noted the need for greater social inclusion, law enforcement and protection - which should be implemented alongside current legislature to prevent and adequately discipline Human Trafficking. All panellists were experts in their specific areas of discussion, and their knowledge and understanding of the public was highlighted by Ms. Giammarinaro as crucial to form the correct response the problem, in realising not only government responses but people on the ground working directly with and for victims.

A panellist I found inspirational was Parosha Chandran, a Human Rights barrister based in Kings College London, who advises the UK Government and the UN on issues of modern slavery. Her talk on identifying victims and perpetrators and the need for proper execution of the Non-Punishment clause- meaning those manipulated by their abusers in unfortunate circumstances should not face criminal charges and should instead have their human rights recognised, was particularly illuminating.

The discussions I have listened to or taken part in have been incredibly insightful into the way that our global Loreto community works with various organisations, especially the United Nations. It is crucial that in school we are aware of the part we can play in working towards the sustainable development goals and implementing the Loreto values.