



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## THE PRESIDENT

27 April 2020

### Message to Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network

The formation of the Australian Catholic Antislavery Network (ACAN) was a major achievement within the Church in Australia and far beyond. ACAN has done much in a short time, working to ensure a high level of cooperation and coordination among Australian Catholic entities in dioceses, as well as education, health and aged care, welfare, finance and investment in response to the Modern Slavery Act.

Catholic entities participating in ACAN are strongly positioned to respond effectively to the statutory requirements in the Modern Slavery Act with a comprehensive risk management program. The Modern Slavery Statements of Catholic entities will also form a compendium of Catholic principles and action for the advancement of human dignity and the common good.

Australia can be a leading force in the Catholic world in seeking to eradicate modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour. That is the purpose of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7, which was inspired by Pope Francis.

ACAN also strives to help the Australian Government in important ways to meet its international commitment to SDG 8.7 and to provide assistance to other countries to end this blight upon the human family.

May Saint Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of slavery victims, guide and protect all associated with ACAN who are working to eradicate modern slavery in service of the freedom which comes from God.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠ Mark Coleridge  
Archbishop of Brisbane  
President