



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
SACBC

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

*Migrants, Refugees and Human
Trafficking Office*



*Migrants,
Missionary
of Hope*

This Annual Report 2025 presents the activities carried out in 2024 by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference – SACBC, Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office, as well as the initiatives implemented by the dioceses.

Activities related to human trafficking are reported together with those concerning migrants and refugees, as all these areas are now under the same office, reflecting a more integrated approach to pastoral care and protection.

In this report you will find:

Message of Liaison Bishop Joseph Mary Kizito's message (p.3)

A message from Sr Neide Lamperti, mscs, National Coordinator (p.4)

Introduction (p.5)

Migration reality of Southern Africa (p.6)

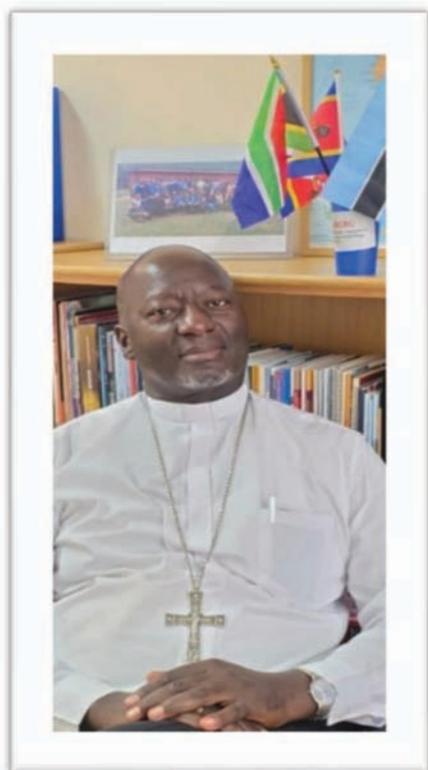
ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT EM 2025 (p.9)

1. Institutional development and capacity building (Teaching/Training/Facilitation) (p.9)
2. Legal assistance - Various services provided (p.36)
3. Outreach Programmes (National Prayer Day and Inter-religious dialogue) (p. 37)
4. Online Diploma in Pastoral Care of Human Mobility – SIMMI (p.48)
5. Network - Meetings, national and international conferences (p. 49)
6. Some photos of the main activities we took part in (p.54)
7. Report from the Dioceses (p.58)
8. Strategic Plan (p.103)Strategic Plan (p.97)
9. Caritas Africa Project (p.98)
10. Print Materials (p. 100)
11. Table of activities (103)
12. List of acronyms (p.110)
13. Conclusion (p.112)

Sponsored by:



Message of Liaison Bishop Joseph Marie Kizito



I am writing these forward words to the report of 2025-2026 as are in the middle of consultation over the draft revised “White Paper On Citizenship, Immigration And Refugee Protection”. This public consultation opportunity must be welcomed; it deals with several issues that are both positive and negative. The outcomes or the reforms of this White Paper will have a lot of effect on our work that we do for the migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

South Africa remains one of those countries that are still very attractive to migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and victim of human trafficking. Several causes are known to us to why people find South Africa to be their destination point. There are many reasons. Unfortunately, South Africa receives a large catchment of migrants, more than other SADC countries. We have been able to deal with the needs of migrants by accompanying them and walking with them.

The Church has been called to live as a Synodal Church, which has three pillars: Communion, Participation, and Mission. This final document in (paragraph 112) remind us that “our times are marked by a growth in population mobility. Refugees and migrants often form dynamic communities, including religious practice rendering multicultural the places in which they settle. Some... find it difficult to form connections in their new country: others find themselves

living without roots” (2025:38). It is our role to offer such people a home and roots so that they may stand again.

Once again, I wish to give thanks to all the Dioceses and Parishes, Religious congregations of men and women, sodalities, and NGO for providing better protection, rights, and dignity to migrants. What we all strive and aim to combat is intolerance, discrimination, and xenophobia. The SACBC has been at the service of migrants, refugees, and people who have been trafficked for a long time; we cannot remain indifferent to the needs of the whole human race. The Pastoral Plan of the SACBC calls each one of us to “become a missionary disciple, make a difference on the socio-political, economic and cultural dimensions of persons and society”. (2019:26). The world has become a small place, frontiers are tending to collapse, more spaces are being reshaped, and we are all in one village. Thank you once again for welcoming those brothers and sisters in our communities and churches. Let us offer pastoral services to emigrants; we may also entrust them with particular tasks in our parishes and communities. Let our parish pastoral programs have a space and a ministry for migrants. In this way, the Church will bringing salvation to all the people, even those on the move. Thank you for sharing in their problems and challenges, they are the poorest of the gospel in our synodal Churches.

These are people who have left their habitual abode in order to seek a new and better life. Let us share with them our skills with them and also call upon them to share their skills and industrial and technical knowledge. Those migrants are workers with skills. Migrants offer us new way of thinking and new styles of living with “others”. We need to be open to their needs. Let us enable them to adapt to our way of doing things and to our spirituality; this will help us to build strong faith. The Church is a pilgrim on earth; we must be open to all people of different cultures, to be the leaven and compassionate toward them. Let us help migrants and others to stand up, and let your prophetic voice in the world not be overlooked.

May God bless our rainbow Nation, may the Holy Spirit guide our pastoral care activities and the Blessed Benedict Daswa intercede for us.

Bishop Joseph Mary Kizito

Liaison Bishop of SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

Coordinator of SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

The year 2025 was a time of grace and renewed commitment for the SACBC Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking Office. It was a period in which God's grace accompanied us and we reaffirmed our pastoral and social mission to serve people on the move, promoting concrete actions of solidarity, formation, advocacy, and the prevention of human trafficking. It was a year to renew our commitment to walk alongside those who suffer, enlightened by the Christian hope that calls us to see in every migrant the face of Christ the pilgrim.



Even in the midst of a social context marked by migratory crises, inequalities, new forms of human exploitation, and challenges — social, economic, and political — that continue to impact human mobility in our region, both the National Office and the Diocesan Offices remained faithful to their mission to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants and refugees, especially the most vulnerable.

Throughout this year, we strengthened our collaboration with dioceses, religious congregations, and community leaders, promoting spaces for listening, formation, and pastoral action. Through workshops, diocesan visits, and capacity-building sessions, we sought to offer concrete tools for local communities to become ever more places of hospitality and hope.

Inspired by the theme of the 2025 World Day of Migrants and Refugees — “Migrants, Missionaries of Hope” — we reflected on the transformative role of migrants and refugees as bearers of new life, faith, and solidarity. Each encounter, each training, and each gesture of care became an opportunity to recognize in them not only people seeking a home but also missionaries who invite us to renew our own hope and Gospel commitment.

With heartfelt gratitude to all who have journeyed with us — dioceses, partner organizations, volunteers, and communities — we present this annual report as a testimony of a joint effort that continues to build bridges, break down walls, and sow the hope of the Kingdom of God.

Sr. Neide Lamperti, mscs
Coordinator of SACBC Migrants, Refugees, and
Human Trafficking Office

Introduction

This report presents the activities carried out throughout the year by the SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office, as well as the work undertaken by the various dioceses. It reflects not only the coordinated efforts of the department but also the local commitment of communities in welcoming and supporting people on the move.

This was truly a year of hope, clearly reflected in the reports submitted by animators and leaders from each diocese. Every activity, meeting, conference and training session demonstrates the care and dedication of all involved in bringing this hope to life for migrants and refugees.

It was a year of grace and diligent work, with a special emphasis on leadership formation. These initiatives not only strengthened pastoral work with migrants and refugees but also made a significant contribution to human trafficking prevention and the establishment of networks of protection and support.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the service of welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating people on the move, as well as to the prevention of human trafficking. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the diocesan leaders, whose dedication and active involvement were essential to the success of this pastoral year. Without the commitment and efforts of each person, the achievements of this year would not have been possible.

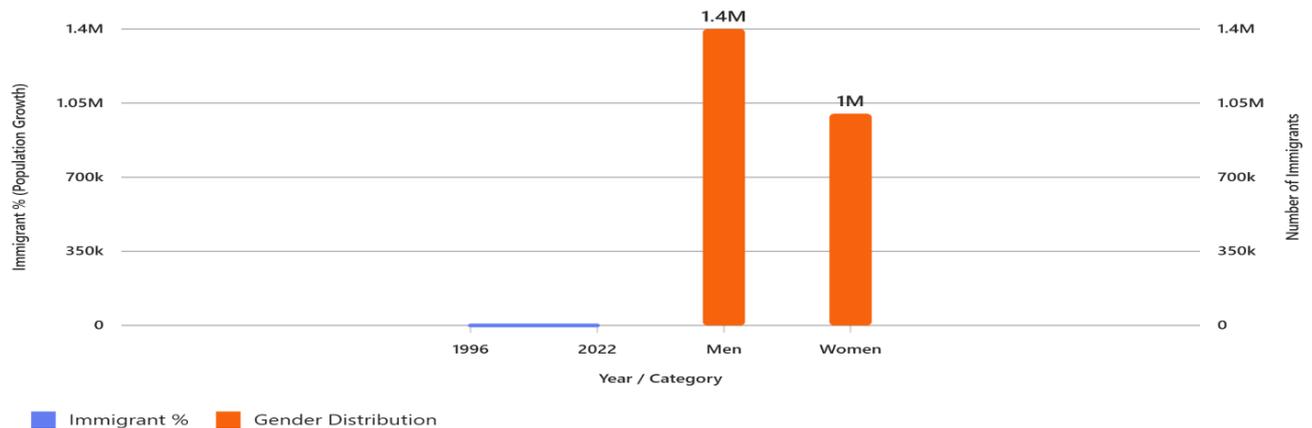


Migration reality of Southern Africa

1. About the Number and Profile of Migrants

The migration reality in South Africa reflects a profound transformation in the country’s social and economic fabric. According to the report Understanding South Africa’s Immigrant and Internal Migration Stats (Statistics South Africa, 2024, p. 8), the immigrant population increased from 2.1% in 1996 to 3.9% in 2022, totalling 2.4 million people, of whom over 1 million are women. ¹

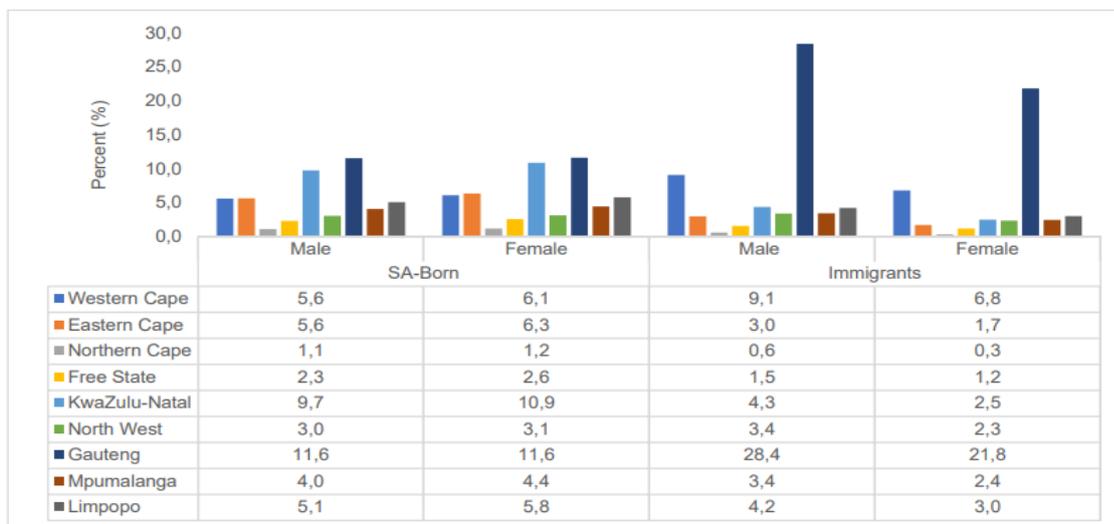
Figure 1. Immigrant Population Growth and Gender Distribution



According to the UNHCR report for South Africa, as of 31 March 2024, there were 167,495 forcibly displaced persons in the nine countries under this office, of whom 92,258 were asylum seekers and 75,093 were refugees. ²

Most of these migrants come from the SADC (Southern African Development Community) region, highlighting the intra-regional nature of African migration. Gauteng is the main destination, hosting 28.4% of male and 21.8% of female migrants, followed by Western Cape, with 9.1% and 6.8%, respectively. ³

Figure 2 - Percentage distribution of province of usual residence by sex and migratory status, Census 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2022

Below, the table shows that “among the top ten, Zimbabwe,

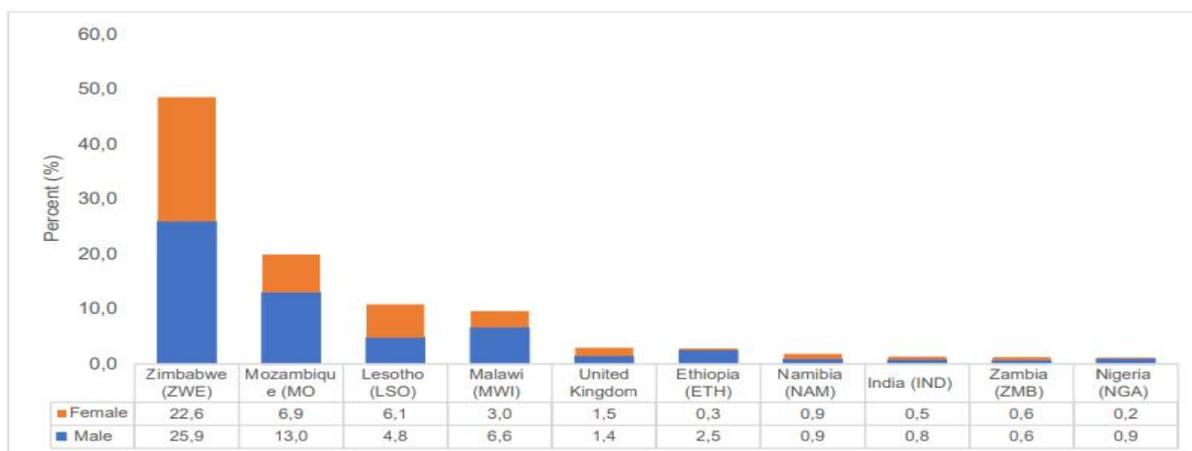
¹ Statistics South Africa. (2025). Report on migration statistics based on various data sources including Census 2022. Statistics South Africa. <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/03-04-04/03-04-042022.pdf>

² Multi-year Strategy 2025 – 2028, South Africa MCO, https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/South%20Africa%20Multi-Country%20Office%20-%20Strategy%202025%20E2%80%932028_0.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

³ Statistics South Africa, 2024, pg 9

Mozambique, and Lesotho were the top three sending countries of immigrants to South Africa. The results further show that of the top ten immigrant populations, male immigrants from Zimbabwe contribute the most at 25,9% and females contribute 22,6%. Of the top ten migrant population, males from Mozambique constitute 13,0%, whilst their female counterparts account for 6,9% of the top ten migrant population. Notably female immigrants from Lesotho were 6,1% of immigrants from Lesotho as compared to 4,8% of male compatriots.”⁴

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of top ten sending countries to South Africa by sex, Census 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa, Census 2022

2. Labor Market Integration

The same report highlights labour market integration marked by significant inequality: 45.8% of male immigrants are employed, compared to only 18.2% of female immigrants, with over 280,000 immigrant women remaining economically inactive. Foreign men are primarily employed in trade (24.2%) and construction (14.8%), while women mainly work in domestic services (9.4%), reflecting gender segregation in the labour market.

The report also indicates that job-seeking was the main factor driving internal mobility (13.7% of men and 9.4% of women), although family and marital reunification were more significant motivators for female migrants. Despite facing language barriers, discrimination, precarious working conditions, and legal insecurity, migrants and refugees continue to play an essential role in the country’s economic growth and social diversity, demonstrating resilience and contributing to the vitality of South African communities (Statistics South Africa, *Report on Migration Statistics based on Census 2022, 2024*).⁵

3. Migration Governance in South Africa

Migration governance in South Africa is often described as fragmented, reactive, and insufficiently integrated into national development strategies, as its migration management structures have not kept pace with the increasing complexity of these movements.

The country has migration legislation and policies that do not always align, and there is a lack of a clear coordination mechanism among ministries (Home Affairs, Labour, Social Development, Education, etc.), leading to overlaps, gaps, and inconsistent responses.

⁴ Statistics South Africa, 2024, pg 10

⁵ Statistics South Africa, 2024, pg 15

An article by Peter Mudungwe (2025), published in the *African Human Mobility Review* (Vol. 11, n.º 1)⁶, it analyzes the landscape of migration governance in Africa, noting that despite the growing importance of migration—with approximately 47.5 million African migrants in 2025 (UNDESA, 2016)⁷, the continent’s political and institutional structures remain fragile. Most migration flows are intra-continental, occurring primarily among the ECOWAS, EAC, and SADC regions, with Southern Africa being one of the main hubs of attraction.

Weak migration governance limits the ability of African governments to manage and harness the benefits of human mobility. In South Africa, migration policies remain fragmented and poorly integrated into national development plans. Furthermore, the lack of up-to-date data, inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, and sustainable funding exacerbates the problem, making the country, like other SADC states, dependent on foreign donors, whose focus tends to prioritize border control over human development.

The context of recurring xenophobia, associated with perceptions of competition for jobs and public services, pressures the government to adopt restrictive measures, hindering the creation of a coherent migration policy based on rights and reducing its effectiveness in promoting social integration of migrants.

Regarding brain drain, Mudungwe (2025) states that it is one of the most serious challenges associated with migration in the South African context. According to the author, this phenomenon, along with de-skilling and other social tensions, further weakens the labour market and social cohesion in the country (Mudungwe, 2014; AUC, 2020).

Among the social tensions is Operation Dudula, a South African anti-immigration movement that has evolved into a political party, with the stated goal of forcing the expulsion of immigrants, both documented and undocumented, from the country. The group accuses migrants of causing social and economic problems such as unemployment and crime. Its name, which means “force the expulsion” in isiZulu, gained notoriety for illegal patrolling and screening activities, including blocking immigrants’ access to essential public services, such as hospitals and clinics. These actions, widely condemned as xenophobic by human rights organizations and the government, have resulted in confrontations and arrests. A Johannesburg court recently ordered the group to stop harassing foreign nationals. Despite criticism and judicial rulings, Operation Dudula insists that it is not xenophobic and plans to intensify its activities and run in elections, hoping that its anti-immigration rhetoric will resonate with frustrated South African citizens.

4. Challenges and Strategies for Pastoral and Institutional Action

The growing complexity of human mobility in South Africa—characterized by internal and international migration flows, structural challenges in migration governance, and persistent social tensions—requires civil society organizations and Churches to take an increasingly strategic role in the welcoming, protection, and integration of people on the move. To respond effectively to this scenario, it is essential to understand the main challenges affecting migrants, refugees, and host communities, as well as to identify practical and pastoral strategies that can strengthen migration governance and promote more humane, just, and inclusive coexistence.

The main challenges of human mobility in South Africa include: difficulties in accessing documentation and socio-economic integration; specific vulnerabilities of women, children, and potential victims of human trafficking; social tensions and recurring episodes of xenophobia fuelled by negative perceptions of migrants; additional pressures caused by internal and urban movements; complexity and weaknesses in migration legislation and policies; lack of institutional coordination, up-to-date data, and sustainable funding; and the limited participation of migrants themselves in decision-making and community integration processes.

⁶ Mudungwe, P. (2025). *Migration Governance in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities*. *African Human Mobility Review*, 11(1), 13–34.

⁷ UNDESA (2016); World Bank (2023); African Union Commission (2020); IOM (2021); Le Coz & Pietropolli (2020).

To address these challenges, it is crucial that organizations and Churches adopt integrated, person-centered strategies. Priority actions include providing support with documentation and legal guidance, ensuring that migrants and refugees can fully exercise their legal rights. At the same time, it is essential to promote socio-economic integration programs, including professional training, job orientation, and language courses, enabling migrants to contribute economically and integrate into society.

Protecting the most vulnerable groups, especially women, children, and potential victims of human trafficking, must be a priority, through the creation of safe spaces and referral protocols, as well as the training of community leaders to identify and prevent risky situations. Another key focus is combating xenophobia and promoting social cohesion, through educational campaigns, community dialogues, and pastoral actions that foster solidarity and intercultural understanding.

It is equally important to strengthen institutional coordination and cooperation networks among dioceses, congregations, NGOs, and international organizations, as well as to develop local monitoring and data collection systems that complement national statistics and guide more effective interventions. Empowering migrants as active participants, encouraging their involvement in community and pastoral decision-making, is a transformative strategy that reinforces integration and inclusive development.

Finally, initiatives for inclusive and intercultural pastoral care, combined with educational actions on human trafficking and emergency social support programs, are essential for host communities to provide a humane, just, and sustainable response to the complexity of migration in South Africa.

Activities Carried out in 2025

I

1. Institutional development and capacity building – Teaching - Training/Facilitation)



1.1 Training for Diocesan Leaders on Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking

Date: 17th to 20th February 2025

Venue: Diocese of Witbank – City of Elukwatini and Badplass –

Participation: 62 people and 200 students

Background: Holy Trinity Parish in Elukwatini, part of the Diocese of Witbank and located near the borders of Eswatini and Mozambique, hosts migrants and refugees from Eswatini, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Pakistan, and other countries. Access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, and birth registration remains a major challenge, particularly for undocumented children or those born to migrant parents. Local communities live alongside these groups, sometimes providing land for businesses run by migrants, but tensions exist due to scarce job opportunities, limited livelihoods, and concerns over social issues such as drug exposure and unsafe goods. During a two-day SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking training seminar, diocesan and community leaders engaged enthusiastically despite reservations, expressing interest in forming a Steering Committee to address migration, refugee protection, and human trafficking. On day one, Sr. Neide Lamperti welcomed participants, reflecting on the realities faced by displaced persons and emphasizing the Church's mission to be a beacon of hope, defend human

rights, promote justice, and act as agents of transformation through knowledge, empathy, and concrete action.

Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees – Fr Rampe Hlobo

Fr. Rampe Hlobo highlighted the Church’s biblical mandate to welcome strangers and emphasized the four pillars articulated by Pope Francis: Welcome, Protect, Promote, and Integrate, encouraging communities to raise awareness, advocate for rights, and support migrants’ integration. Using the story of Dr. Emmanuel Taban, a refugee who contributed significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, Fr. Rampe illustrated how migrants, when empowered, positively impact their host communities.

Human Rights in the context of human mobility – Ms Lusungu Kanyama Phiri

Ms. Lusungu Kanyama Phiri clarified migrant categories, refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented, and irregular migrants, and introduced key regional and international legal frameworks, including the OAU Convention. She emphasized migrants’ access to education, healthcare, and legal protection. Participants highlighted challenges such as barriers to birth registration, employment, and education, as well as concerns about crime and xenophobia, prompting proposals for advocacy, awareness campaigns, and community empowerment programs to foster inclusion and reduce tensions.

Prevention of human trafficking – Fr Rampe Hlobo

Sessions on human trafficking addressed its definition, legal frameworks, and vulnerabilities, particularly for women and girls. Fr. Rampe and facilitators stressed prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships, while engaging participants in practical strategies to identify and respond to trafficking risks. Community members shared concerns about corruption, unsafe workplaces, and limited support from



authorities. Legal procedures for victims, including South Africa’s Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (2013) and National Policy Framework, were explained, alongside the importance of reporting mechanisms and referral pathways to accredited organizations.

Day 2: Outreach – Formation with learners at Sunduza Primary School, Badplaas

Training events also included outreach to learners at Sunduza Primary School, Badplaas, where 150 children received age-appropriate information on human trafficking and safety measures. In Pretoria, 54 migrants and refugees participated in sessions on accessing asylum processes, rights, and protection, emphasizing the need for skills development, legal assistance, and community-based support. Across all sessions, the SACBC reinforced the Church’s role in advocacy, pastoral care, legal guidance, awareness-raising, and community mobilization, ensuring that migrants and refugees are protected, empowered, and integrated into society.

1. 2. Training for Migrants and Refugees about Human Trafficking

Date: 22th February 2025

Venue: Archdiocese of Pretoria

Participation: 54 migrants and refugees

Background: The Catholic Archdiocese of Pretoria caters to refugees and migrants from the surrounding areas. The main issues faced by these groups include access to the asylum process for newcomers; prolonged asylum applications spanning decades; failure to extend permits for those integrated resulting in failure to access basic human rights such as the right to both basic and tertiary education; health care; and social grants for eligible recognised refugees. Human trafficking targeting mainly women and girls is becoming a huge concern in the communities. Lack of awareness, and no real support from authorities who further victimise complainants, expecting a bribe for protection, or who in several cases work with the would-be traffickers, leaving victims without recourse.



Through their Pastoral Care Office, the Catholic Archdiocese of Pretoria provides services to migrants and refugees through screening and referrals to relevant stakeholders for further assistance be it legal, medical, psychosocial. In person consultations are held twice a week at St Martin Catholic Church in Sunnyside, Pretoria.

Half day event: Human Trafficking awareness and access to basic rights information session

The SACBC Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking Office held a seminar to raise awareness on human trafficking and equip communities with tools for prevention and protection. Sr. Neide Lamperti welcomed participants, highlighting migrants' vulnerability to exploitation due to language barriers and legal uncertainties. She emphasized the Church's role in defending human rights, promoting justice, and taking concrete action to support migrants and refugees, encouraging active engagement in discussions and initiatives.

Mr. Sello Mashaba and Ms. Enency Mbatha provided a detailed overview of human trafficking, describing it as "modern-day slavery" involving victims and perpetrators. They explained international frameworks, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol, to which South Africa is a signatory. Ms. Mbatha highlighted the 4 P's—Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership—and identified the heightened vulnerability of young women and girls to sexual exploitation, and of men and boys to forced labour. Participants were introduced to common indicators of trafficking, such as false job offers and unexplained transportation, and the importance of vigilance in communities.

During discussions, community members raised concerns about limited access to support, mistrust of authorities due to corruption and xenophobia, and restrictive asylum permits that push migrants into unsafe work conditions. The SACBC team provided guidance on accessing support services and encouraged reporting suspicious activities through the toll-free hotline (0800 222 777). Participants also requested Church assistance with job preparation, skills development, and integration initiatives to reduce exploitation risks.

Ms. Lusungu Kanyama Phiri presented South Africa's legal framework for combating human trafficking, including the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (2013) and the National Policy Framework (NPF), emphasizing victim protection, prosecution of traffickers, and prevention. She detailed procedures for victims, including temporary safe care and referral to accredited organizations, and highlighted the importance of legal awareness for migrants and refugees. The session concluded with commitments from the SACBC and partners to provide ongoing support through screening, referrals, and the establishment of dedicated legal and skills development offices, alongside calls for further informative sessions and the active involvement of affected persons in future initiatives.



1.3. Training for Diocesan Leaders on Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking

Date: 25th February 2025

Venue: Diocese of Kroonstad

Participation: 55 people

Background: *The Diocese of Kroonstad hosts migrants and refugees from all over the globe, including Africa and Pakistan. Though they have integrated locally, a majority still struggles to access basic rights and documentation. At times, tensions with local community's result in xenophobic incidents.*

Many Parishes do not have an active Migrant and Refugee Office, a situation which all participants committed to work on, in their respective parishes, and to this end requested follow up capacity building sessions offered by SACBC Migrant, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office, which will be extended to refugees and migrants so they too can engage on the issues that relate to them, and share their experience, in their own voice.

1Day event: Formation with priests, religious and various leaders

The one-day event focused on the pastoral care of migrants, refugees, and human trafficking, aiming to empower priests, religious leaders, and various stakeholders to support vulnerable groups. Sr. Neide Lamperti, the Coordinator for Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking at SACBC, opened the seminar by stressing the Church's responsibility to defend human rights, promote justice, and engage in transformative action. She encouraged active participation and concluded with a prayer asking for God's guidance throughout the day.



Fr. Michael Rasello, the Diocesan Administrator of Kroonstad, highlighted the importance of the seminar in equipping participants to advocate for migrants and refugees in their communities. He emphasized the need for collaboration, with Fr. Lucky Mvula committing to support the establishment of pastoral care offices in other parishes. Fr. Rampe Hlobo presented the Church's role in welcoming migrants and refugees, reflecting on biblical teachings and Pope Francis' four key verbs—Welcome, Protect, Promote, and Integrate—as essential to the Church's mission.

Fr. Rampe Hlobo elaborated on practical ways to implement pastoral care, including defending migrants' rights, fostering social integration, and providing psychological and spiritual support. He also emphasized the importance of raising awareness in local communities about migrants' needs and rights. Discussions during the session also reflected on the positive aspects of migration, such as migrants bringing valuable skills to host countries, and the need for tailored approaches based on local contexts.

The seminar also addressed legal issues affecting migrants and refugees, with Ms. Lusungu Kanyama Phiri providing an overview of the legal framework in South Africa. She discussed refugees' rights and the challenges they face in accessing basic services like healthcare and education. Participants shared concerns about the discriminatory practices of civil movements like Operation Dudula and highlighted the importance of law enforcement in protecting migrants' rights. There was a call for greater collaboration among various stakeholders to support migrants and refugees effectively.

In the final session, Fr. Rampe Hlobo discussed the prevention of human trafficking, explaining the distinction between trafficking and migrant smuggling, and sharing a survivor's story. He also highlighted indicators of trafficking, urging participants to contact relevant authorities rather than providing direct aid to suspected victims. The seminar concluded with Sr. Neide Lamperti thanking everyone for their contributions and urging them to use the knowledge gained to further support migrants, refugees, and fight human trafficking within their communities.



1.4. Training about Human Trafficking: Religious Life against Human Trafficking

Date: 6th March, 2025

Venue: Mother Assunta Training Center – Johannesburg

Participation: 24 people

The workshop “Religious Life Against Human Trafficking” took place on March 6, 2025, at the Mother Assunta Training Centre, Kensington in Johannesburg. Organized by the Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking Office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC), in partnership with LCCLSA and the Talitha Kum Network, the event brought together 24 participants. The aim was to engage religious life in addressing human trafficking, emphasizing concrete action and collaboration between religious institutions and other organizations.

The opening featured a warm welcome from Ms. Adilia De Sousa, who highlighted Bienvenu Shelter's work with vulnerable women and children. Sister Neide Lamperti led a prayer to Saint Josephine Bakhita, patroness of human trafficking victims, and stressed that trafficking is a grave human rights violation. Sister Phuthunywa Syali underscored the need for all religious leaders to actively confront this modern form of slavery, while Sister Jane Francis reflected on the significance of the event during the Jubilee Year.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Fritiana Nur from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), presented core concepts related to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. She emphasized the vulnerability of migrants—particularly women and children—and explained the key difference between trafficking and smuggling: trafficking involves exploitation, while smuggling refers only to the illegal border crossing with consent. Ms. Nur also highlighted the crucial role of religious communities in identifying and supporting victims in transit.

International laws, such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols, were discussed with particular focus on the Palermo Protocol. The essential elements of trafficking—act, means, and purpose - were clearly explained, along with practical examples involving both adults and minors. Three case studies were analysed by participants to distinguish between trafficking and smuggling, reinforcing the theoretical knowledge with real-world scenarios.

Finally, Ms. Nur stressed the importance of victim protection measures, such as safe shelter, psychological and legal support, and reintegration services. She emphasized that combating trafficking requires cooperation between governments and civil society, including religious institutions. The workshop

concluded with a reflection on indicators that can help identify potential trafficking victims, encouraging all to remain vigilant and actively involved in the fight against this severe human rights violation.

Sr. Jane Francis, representing the Talitha Kum Network, emphasized the vital role of consecrated life in the fight against human trafficking. She introduced the network's mission, rooted in the Gospel message "Talitha Kum," as a call to rise up and act against this modern-day slavery. Initially led by religious sisters and later joined by laypeople, Talitha Kum focuses on raising awareness, providing education, and empowering vulnerable communities. The network engages in advocacy to influence policy, offers direct support and rehabilitation for victims, and delivers spiritual and moral guidance to restore dignity to survivors.

Throughout her presentation, Sr. Jane Francis underlined the urgent need for collaboration and proactive engagement, especially in light of disturbing statistics and testimonies from victims. She shared a harrowing account of child trafficking and organ harvesting in South Africa, urging participants to pray not only for the victims but also for the traffickers, recognizing their humanity and potential for redemption. She encouraged religious leaders and laypeople alike to go to the margins of society, where traffickers often operate unnoticed, and to work closely with law enforcement and local communities to identify and address trafficking cases.

In the closing session, Sr. Neide Lamperti shared the successful prosecution of a trafficking case involving seven Chinese men exploiting migrant workers in Johannesburg, underscoring the importance of legal action and vigilance. She urged continued dedication to protecting victims and survivors, while Fr. Gabriel closed the event with a powerful prayer, calling all participants to actively serve and advocate within their church communities. The workshop concluded with a united call to uphold human dignity and combat trafficking through faith, solidarity, and action.





1. 5. Training for Diocesan Leaders on Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking

Date: 13th to 16th April 2025

Venue: Diocese of Bethlehem – City of Ficksburg (Border of Lesotho)

Municipality of Ficksburg

Participation: 39 leaders and 850 students: (two schools)

A pastoral and institutional visit was conducted in Ficksburg, with a four-member delegation from Lesotho, to raise awareness of migrants’ and refugees’ rights, discuss challenges affecting both migrant and local communities, and strengthen collaboration among the Catholic Church, faith-based organizations, government authorities, and civil society in the border region.

Day One – Workshop with Leaders, Clergy, Religious Groups, and Police

The visit opened with a workshop attended by municipal representatives, religious leaders, and security forces. Fr. Saki Mofokeng, parish priest, welcomed the participants, including Bishop Marie Kizito (Liaison Bishop for Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking) and Bishop Jan De Groef of Bethlehem Diocese. After a prayer led by an Anglican priest, Sr. Neide Lamperti (SACBC Coordinator for Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking) introduced the purpose of the meeting. Discussion began with key questions raised by Sello Mashaba on the presence and situation of migrants in Ficksburg. Bishop De Groef highlighted the need for cooperation between the Church, the government, and other faith communities.

Bishop Kizito stressed that pastoral care for migrants is rooted in Scripture and Church teaching, calling for action on four pillars—welcome, protect, promote, and integrate—and grounded in values such as



communion, interculturality, mission, and justice. This ministry includes legal support, social integration, education, and the empowerment of vulnerable groups, especially women, undocumented persons, and trafficking survivors.

Ms. Lusungu Kanyama Phiri presented the legal rights of migrants and refugees, clearly distinguishing between refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, and those with irregular status. She emphasized the relevance of regional instruments such as the OAU Convention, which recognises the broader causes of displacement in Africa. Her presentation reinforced the need to uphold dignity, provide access to basic services, and strengthen legal protection.

Ms. Jane-Frances Mohlala addressed the prevention of human trafficking through a pastoral and community-based approach rooted in prophetic hope and social justice. She underscored the importance of awareness campaigns, advocacy, support to victims, and collaboration among parishes, migration authorities, and human rights organizations. Real examples of trafficking cases were shared to illustrate the risks along irregular crossing points. The day concluded with networking and exchange of contacts among the participants.

Day Two – School Visits, Encounters with Migrants, and Visit to the Border

The second day focused on field activities. While attempts to meet migrants in municipal buildings faced limited participation—partly due to ongoing immigration operations—better engagement occurred in neutral, community-based spaces.

Awareness sessions on human trafficking were conducted in two schools. One school near the Lesotho border reported a high number of undocumented children, many facing obstacles in birth registration, especially due to the requirement of DNA testing, which restricts access to essential rights.

At dusk, the delegation visited the South Africa–Lesotho border, observing both regular crossings and irregular movements under the bridge, through fences, or across the river. Officials from the Border Management Authority and Home Affairs explained their roles in regulating and monitoring the border.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16Vxs5neM8/>

https://www.facebook.com/stories/679892514524061/?source=profile_highlight



1.6. Training for Diocesan Leaders on Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking

Date: 11th to 14th May 2025

Venue: - Diocese of Tzaneen - Musina - Volle Evangelie Kerk (V.E.K – Evangelical Church)

Participation: 50 leaders, 73 migrants and 1.600 students

Between May 11th and 13th, 2025, the SACBC Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking Office carried out a pastoral and institutional mission in the border region of Musina–Beitbridge, one of the most critical migration corridors between Zimbabwe and South Africa. The visit to the Beitbridge border on May 11th revealed the daily reality of intense migration flows, marked by irregular crossings, exploitation, and human trafficking. The team witnessed the vulnerability of migrants—especially women and children—who are often targeted by organized smuggling and trafficking networks. This first day served as an essential moment of observation and pastoral presence, strengthening preventive actions and reinforcing the Church’s commitment to protecting human dignity.

On May 12th, a full-day workshop was held in Musina, gathering priests, sisters, community leaders, and representatives of different organizations. The sessions included input from SACBC team members, the Diocese of Tzaneen, Talitha Kum South Africa, UNHCR, Lawyers for Human Rights, and the Department of Home Affairs.

Themes addressed included the pastoral care of migrants and refugees, the prevention of human trafficking, legal rights and protections, and challenges around migration governance. Testimonies, videos, and legal explanations highlighted the harsh realities at the border, the structures of trafficking networks, and the need for coordinated action among Church, civil society, and government institutions.

On May 13th, the team met with migrants and refugees at the Community Conference Centre and conducted an awareness session focusing on human trafficking, rights, and social cohesion. Presentations by SACBC, Talitha Kum, UNHCR, and Lawyers for Human Rights helped clarify the differences between migrants and refugees, access to education and healthcare, and legal protections. A special emphasis was placed on preventing trafficking along migration routes, supported by practical tools such as UNHCR’s route-based approach and a mobile app designed to enhance safety. Later in the day, an awareness programme was held with



approximately 1,600 learners at Renaissance Secondary School, empowering young people—among the most vulnerable to trafficking—with knowledge, vigilance, and protective strategies.

Throughout the mission, the team also visited shelters for men, women, and children, where many workshop participants were residing. These encounters enriched the formation sessions by bringing lived experiences to the forefront. The three-day programme highlighted the urgency of confronting human trafficking in the Musina–Beitbridge region and reaffirmed the Church’s role as a sign of hope, advocacy, and concrete service. The collaboration among religious, legal, humanitarian, and governmental sectors proved essential in promoting a culture of welcome, justice, and coordinated prevention for the protection of the most vulnerable.



1.7. Training for Diocesan Leaders on Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking - Diocese of Witbank – City of Lebombo (Border of Mozambique)

Date: 22th to 24th May 2025

Venue: Saint Kizito Parish - Lebombo

Participation: 38 leaders, 91 migrants and refugees and 1.765 students (two schools)

***Background:** A região fronteira de Lebombo, entre a África do Sul e Moçambique, é um ponto crítico de migração irregular e tráfico humano, com especial incidência sobre crianças. Em dezembro de 2024, autoridades sul-africanas interceptaram um minibus transportando 14 crianças moçambicanas indocumentadas, evidenciando a atuação de redes de tráfico que exploram a vulnerabilidade de menores. A localidade de Kamhlushwa, na província de Mpumalanga, enfrenta desafios semelhantes, agravados pela presença de migrantes, muitos deles crianças desacompanhadas. A instabilidade política e económica em Moçambique impulsiona a migração irregular, criando condições propícias para sequestros, extorsão e exploração laboral e sexual. O enfrentamento desta realidade exige maior cooperação regional, reforço da vigilância fronteira, campanhas de sensibilização, apoio às vítimas e políticas que ataquem as causas estruturais da migração irregular, como a pobreza e a falta de oportunidades.*

No dia 22 de maio realizou-se um workshop com líderes de diversas organizações, centrado na pastoral da mobilidade humana e no combate ao tráfico humano. A abertura foi feita por Sr. Neide Lamperti (SACBC), que destacou os quatro verbos do Papa Francisco — acolher, proteger, promover e integrar — como base concreta da resposta cristã à migração e ao tráfico humano. O pároco, Pe. Jeremy Dube, acolheu os participantes em nome do Bispo Diocesano, sublinhando o dever bíblico de acolher o estrangeiro. Jabulani Mthabela apresentou o trabalho pastoral com migrantes e refugiados, reforçando a universalidade da Igreja, a necessidade de ação conjunta com a sociedade civil e exemplos práticos de integração, como formação profissional e redes de solidariedade.

A segunda parte do workshop focou-se no tráfico humano. Enency Mbatha apresentou o fenómeno como uma forma de escravidão moderna, altamente organizada e subnotificada, destacando a importância de redes de colaboração e da proteção das crianças. Amy Arnold (National Freedom Network) aprofundou os processos de vulnerabilidade e “grooming”, explicando os elementos-chave do crime (Ato, Meios e Finalidade). À tarde, Carol Lemakwane (Lawyers for Human Rights) abordou os direitos e deveres de migrantes e refugiados na África do Sul, clarificando diferenças legais, acesso a serviços e a importância do conhecimento jurídico para a integração. O dia encerrou com um vídeo investigativo sobre tráfico em zonas fronteiriças, reflexão conjunta, distribuição de materiais de sensibilização e bênção final.

No dia 23 de maio, realizaram-se visitas de sensibilização em escolas. Na Matsafeni Primary School, a equipa abordou o tráfico humano de forma interativa, alertando as crianças para riscos comuns e medidas de autoproteção, deixando materiais educativos na escola. Em seguida, na Mtimandze Secondary School, cerca de 900 estudantes participaram numa sessão dinâmica com apresentações visuais e atividades interativas, focadas nos perigos do aliciamento, uso indevido de telemóveis e falsas oportunidades. As atividades fortaleceram a prevenção, a consciência crítica e a capacidade dos jovens se protegerem contra o tráfico humano.

The afternoon workshop on May 23 brought together migrants and refugees from various countries in Southern Africa and internally displaced communities in South Africa. Mr. Jabulani Mthabela welcomed participants and outlined the objectives of the session, before introducing Sr. Neide Lamperti, Coordinator of the SACBC Office for Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking. The main presentation, delivered online by Ms. Bridgite Khomotso Shikwambane from Lawyers for Human Rights, focused on human rights in the context of human mobility. It explained the legal distinctions between migration and asylum, relevant international and national legal frameworks, and the rights guaranteed to all people in South Africa, including undocumented children. The session also emphasized migrants' responsibilities and the importance of social cohesion, integration, and collaboration between civil society, churches, and local communities. Participants actively engaged, raising concerns particularly around documentation and child registration, prompting a commitment from Lawyers for Human Rights to provide further legal support in Mpumalanga.

The workshop further addressed human trafficking through a joint presentation by Enency Mabatha and Amy Arnold, who explained trafficking as a hidden and highly profitable crime often linked to irregular migration. They clarified the difference between trafficking and smuggling, outlined recruitment and control tactics used by traffickers, highlighted key legal instruments such as the Palermo Protocol and South Africa's anti-trafficking legislation, and stressed the severe impact on victims. The importance of awareness, community vigilance, and collaborative prevention and support efforts was strongly emphasized.

The session concluded with words of encouragement and gratitude from Sr. Neide Lamperti, who reaffirmed solidarity with migrants and refugees and expressed hope for safety, dignity, and renewed life opportunities. The workshop ended in a spirit of community with a group photo and a shared tea break.





1.8. Training Meeting Human Trafficking with Youth – La Rochelle

Date: June 7, 2025

Location: St. Patrick Parish, La Rochelle

Participants: 68 young people

Supported by: Living Waters International's St. Norbert Abbey Grant and Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians

Organized by: Talitha Kum Network, in partnership with the SACBC Office for Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking, and Fula Africa.

The meeting aimed to raise awareness among young people about human trafficking, with particular attention to the risks faced by young migrants and their communities. Sister Neide, representing the Talitha Kum Network, opened the session by highlighting the seriousness of human trafficking and its proximity to local realities, encouraging young people to remain vigilant, actively engage in prevention, and participate in the opening prayer against human trafficking.

The formation session was facilitated by Mr. Epfrain Luhanga, who presented key aspects of trafficking in persons, including its definition, forms of exploitation, vulnerability factors, grooming and manipulation processes, relevant legislation, and the distinction between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Practical and local case studies illustrated how trafficking can occur through seemingly legitimate offers, helping participants identify warning signs and risks.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion, where participants shared questions and experiences, followed by a community lunch that strengthened bonds among those present. Overall, the event



successfully empowered young people with knowledge and tools to recognize, prevent, and respond to human trafficking, while reaffirming the organizers' commitment to ongoing awareness and protection initiatives.

 **1.9. Formation on Human Trafficking with Youth - Dobsonville**

Date: June 15, 2025

Location: St. Angela Parish, Dobsonville (Soweto)

Participants: 38 young people

Supported by: Living Waters International's St. Norbert Abbey Grant and Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians

On June 15, 2025, a workshop on Human Trafficking was held at Santa Ângela Catholic Church in Dobsonville, bringing together 38 young people to deepen their understanding of this serious issue, which affects thousands of people worldwide and is increasingly prevalent in South Africa, particularly in the Gauteng region. The workshop aimed to inform participants about the forms and dangers of human trafficking, foster collective awareness and empathy, and provide practical tools to help identify and combat this inhumane practice.

The workshop was facilitated by advisors Efraín and Enency, who used interactive and innovative methodologies such as group discussions, simulation games, and role-playing activities. These approaches encouraged active participation and allowed the young people to place themselves in the position of victims, strengthening empathy and critical awareness. The participants showed strong interest and



commitment throughout the session, with dynamic engagement and meaningful discussions reflecting a high level of concern about the issue.

Despite its overall success, one challenge was the reduced attendance due to the extended duration of the Sunday Mass, which included unexpected Father’s Day tributes and lasted over four hours, causing many young people to leave before the workshop began. Given the positive impact of the activity, the youth coordination recommends expanding the initiative through a complementary workshop involving the wider community, especially parents and guardians, to strengthen prevention efforts, promote vigilance, and provide clear guidance on reporting mechanisms and access to support networks for victims.

 **1.10. Formation on Human Trafficking with Youth - Mamelodi**

Date: August 2nd, 2025

Location: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mamelodi West

Participants: 21 young people

Supported by: Living Waters International’s St. Norbert Abbey Grant and Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians

On August 2, 2025, a training workshop on human trafficking was held at Saint Mary’s Catholic Church in Mamelodi. The event brought together 21 young people from the local community with the aim of deepening their understanding of this serious violation of human rights, which continues to affect thousands of people worldwide and occurs weekly in various regions of South Africa. Mamelodi, a community marked by social and economic challenges, faces growing vulnerabilities, making initiatives

focused on youth awareness and empowerment particularly important.

The main objectives of the workshop were to raise awareness among young people about the forms, causes, and risks of human trafficking; to foster empathy and collective engagement in the prevention of this crime; and to provide practical tools to help participants identify recruitment tactics and respond appropriately to suspicious situations.

The workshop was facilitated by advisors Efraín Luhanga and Enency Mashaba, who used participatory and creative methods to ensure meaningful engagement.



The activities included simulations and group dynamics to demonstrate how trafficking networks operate, as well as role-playing exercises that allowed participants to experience the perspectives of victims, encouraging a deeper and more empathetic understanding of their realities.

Throughout the workshop, the young participants demonstrated strong interest and commitment. Their active participation and the depth of the discussions reflected a high level of awareness and a genuine willingness to become agents of change within their communities.

Overall, the workshop was evaluated as highly successful, having effectively achieved its educational and awareness-raising goals. Participants left feeling more informed, empowered, and better equipped to recognize and respond to potential human trafficking situations. Given the positive impact of the initiative and the strong engagement shown by the youth, it is recommended that a second phase of the workshop be organized and opened to the wider community. Involving parents and guardians will

be essential to strengthen preventive and protective actions, as well as to provide clear guidance on reporting cases and accessing available support networks for victims.

 **1.11. Formation on Human Trafficking with Youth – Archdiocese of Pretoria**

Date: August 8th, 2025

Location: Soshangaan Primary and Intermediate School

Participants: 500 students and 25 educators

On 8 August 2025, the Human Trafficking Team of the Archdiocese of Pretoria — Sr Aleghakaze, Ephraim Luhanga, and Enency Mbatha — visited Soshangaan Primary and Intermediate School to conduct an awareness session on human trafficking. The visit was coordinated through Mr Frank Mlombo from St Charles Lwanga Catholic Parish in Soshanguve, who introduced the team to the Acting Principal, Mr Maila. The principal warmly welcomed the team and expressed appreciation for the initiative to educate learners on this critical issue.



he programmes included two sessions: an assembly with 350 learners and 15 educators, followed by a focused session with 150 intermediate learners and 10 educators. Both sessions were well received, with high levels of engagement, curiosity, and maturity from the learners, supported by attentive and encouraging educators. The visit successfully raised awareness about the dangers of human trafficking, emphasized the value of life, dignity, and self-worth, and

empowered learners to protect themselves and others, reinforcing the importance of continuing this mission in other schools within the Archdiocese.



1.12. Intensive Human Trafficking Training

Venue: Padre Pio Retreat Centre, Rietvalleirand, Pretoria

Date: 16–20 June, 2025

Organized by: SACBC Office for Human Trafficking and Migrants

Partnership: Talitha Kum Network, International Organization for Migration and with Support with Conrad N. Hilton For Sisters.

Participants: 33 (including representatives from SACBC, Talitha Kum, IOM, NPA, Universities, Faith-Based Organizations, and Civil Society)



The four-day intensive training on Human Trafficking, held from 16 to 20 June 2025 at the Padre Pio Retreat Centre, aimed to strengthen participants' capacity to prevent and respond to human trafficking at global, regional, and national levels. The programme focused on raising awareness of trafficking methods, identifying and protecting victims, promoting inter-agency cooperation, and reinforcing spiritual, psychological, and legal support for survivors. Each day combined expert inputs, case studies, group work, and spiritual moments, creating a holistic learning environment rooted in solidarity with victims.



Day 1 laid the foundations by exploring the global, regional, and South African context of trafficking, legal frameworks, indicators of trafficking, and the 5 P's approach—Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Policy, and Partnership. Presentations from IOM and the National Prosecuting Authority emphasized the ACT, MEANS, and PURPOSE model, victim identification, and the challenges of prosecution. Interactive case studies enabled participants to apply theory to real-life scenarios, strengthening analytical and practical skills.



Days 2 and 3 focused on victim protection, case management, and ethical engagement with survivors. Participants explored screening processes, referral pathways, trauma-informed interviewing techniques, and the importance of confidentiality and informed consent, especially when working with children. The introduction of the P.E.A.C.E. interview model and simulated case exercises deepened participants' confidence and reinforced their role as advocates and protectors within their communities.

Day 4 highlighted leadership, faith-based engagement, and the way forward, emphasizing dignity, mission, and collective responsibility in combating human trafficking. Through reflections, role-play activities, and shared commitments, participants were reminded of the harsh realities faced by victims and the need for



sustained, coordinated action. The training concluded with the awarding of certificates to 33 participants and a renewed commitment to collaboration, awareness-raising, and victim-centered support across sectors.

1.13. Workshop on Human Trafficking in the Diocese of Kimberley

Date: 30.07.2025

Venue: St. Paul's Secondary School - Kimberly

Total Participants: 660 (Students, Teachers, and Support Staff)

Facilitator Mr Ephraim Charles and Sr Caroline Akot.

Organizer: Caritas Kimberley Diocese -Migrants and Refugees and Human Trafficking & SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

On 30 July 2025, St. Paul’s Secondary School hosted an impactful Human Trafficking awareness workshop under the theme “Human Trafficking – An Epidemic Crime That Has Paralyzed Our Societies.” The event gathered 660 participants, including students, teachers, and support staff, highlighting a strong collective commitment to addressing a crime that continues to destroy individuals, families, and communities while creating an atmosphere of fear and mistrust in society.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the realities and dangers of human trafficking, explain how traffickers operate, and promote preventive measures within the school community. Through interactive discussions, participants explored the forms of trafficking, personal and digital safety, and the responsibility of young people and communities in prevention. Special attention was given to the six grooming stages used by traffickers—targeting, friendship, fulfilling needs, isolation, sexualizing, and maintaining control—equipping participants to recognize warning signs and respond appropriately.

The session had a strong and lasting impact, with students and educators expressing appreciation for the open and informative approach to such a sensitive topic. The workshop encouraged participants to become agents of change by sharing accurate information with peers and families and applying what they learned in daily life.

Overall, the initiative successfully empowered the school community to remain vigilant, informed, and proactive, reinforcing the role of education as a key defense against human trafficking.



1.14 Stakeholder meeting on Statelessness, Migrants, and Refugees – Diocese of Aliwal North

Location: Aliwal North, Maletswai

Date: 10 April 2025

Participation: 28 people



The Stakeholder Meeting on Stateless Persons, Migrants, and Refugees was held on 10 April 2025 at the Caritas Office in Aliwal North, Maletswai. Facilitated by the Caritas Manager, Refiloe Mothabeng, the meeting opened with a prayer led by Father Alfred Chikabwereza and concluded with reflections from Bishop Joseph Mary Kizito. The gathering brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including government departments, the municipality, religious leaders, civil society organizations, and community representatives, demonstrating a strong commitment to dialogue and collaboration.

The meeting focused on sharing updates, challenges, and good practices in service delivery to stateless persons, migrants, and refugees. The Walter Sisulu Municipality and the Departments of Social Development and Education highlighted inclusive approaches, such as access to basic services and schooling for undocumented children. At the same time, limitations linked to documentation requirements, housing, social benefits, and higher education access were acknowledged, alongside challenges related to resources, discrimination, and family tracing processes.

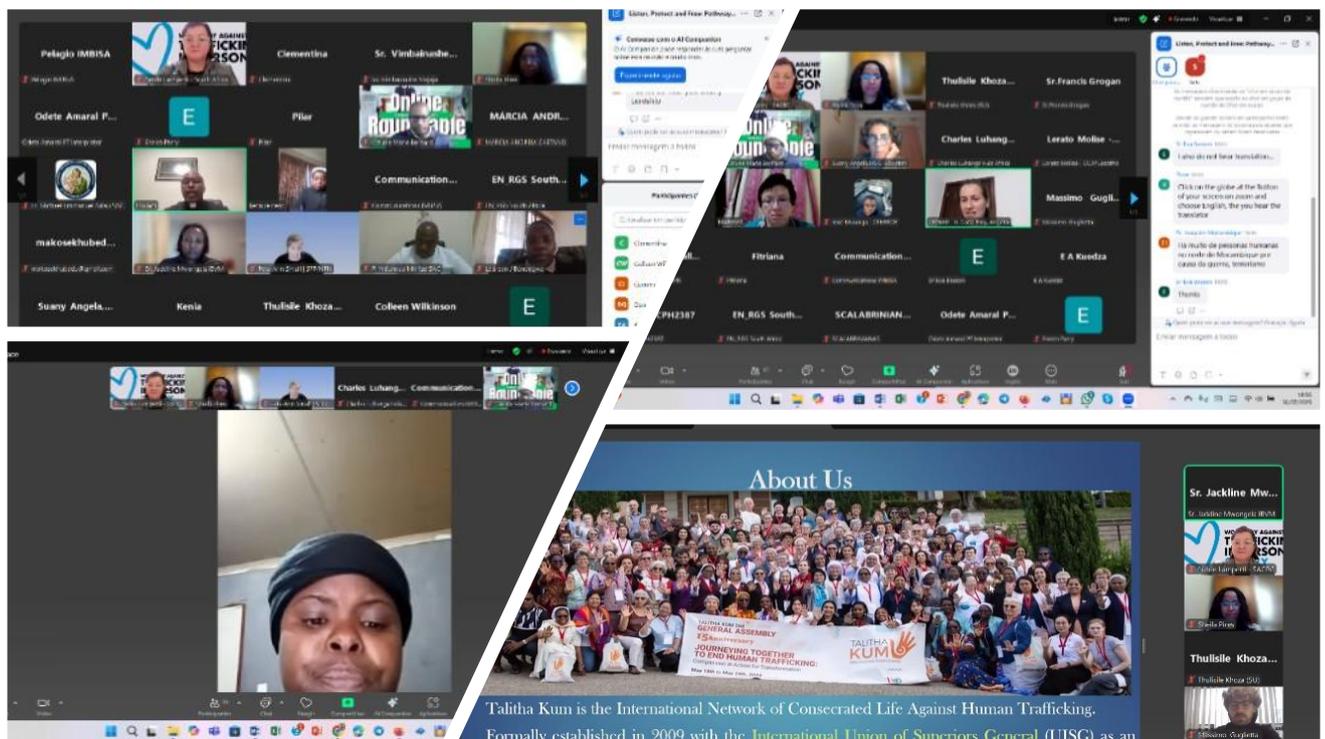
Civil society organizations and faith-based groups shared valuable contributions, including community-based child protection initiatives, referrals, mentorship, and skills training. Men Against Crime emphasized positive masculinity and abuse prevention, while Ministers Fraternal and Church representatives commended the progress made in education and integration efforts. The Diocese and partner institutions were recognized for providing critical support such as uniforms, DNA testing, and training for vulnerable children and families.

In closing, participants reflected on the need for compassion, justice, and coordinated action to promote protection and inclusion. Key challenges included the absence of some essential departments and gaps in

referral and follow-up systems. Agreed next steps focused on strengthening intersectoral collaboration through a working committee, inclusive future meetings, targeted training, improved case-tracking, and sustained partnerships. Appreciation was expressed to all stakeholders for their ongoing commitment to supporting stateless persons, migrants, and refugees.

1.15 International Workshop - Online

Organized by: SACBC and IMBISA
Participation: 71 people
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July 2025)
Partners: International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Talitha Kum Network, the National Freedom Network, and the Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life of Southern Africa (LCCLSA).
Theme: “Listen, Protect, and Set Free: Paths of Hope Against Human Trafficking”



On 30 July 2025, in commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking Department of the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference (SACBC), coordinated by Sr. Neide Lamperti, hosted an International Online Workshop via Zoom. The event gathered 71 participants from different countries and was organized in collaboration with IMBISA, with the support of partners such as IOM, the Talitha Kum Network, the National Freedom Network, and LCCLSA. The workshop aimed to raise awareness, educate, and mobilize faith leaders, civil society, and survivors toward concrete action against human trafficking.

The workshop opened with prayer and welcoming remarks from Bishop Thulani Mbuyisa, who described human trafficking as a modern form of slavery and called for collective responsibility and solidarity. Despite initial technical challenges with simultaneous translation, the session proceeded smoothly. IOM’s Fitriana Nur presented an overview of human trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting the exploitation of migrants along regional routes and stressing the importance of coordinated efforts among governments, communities, and civil society to identify, protect, and reintegrate victims.

A central and powerful moment of the workshop was the sharing of survivor testimonies. Lucille Cosa and Thulisile courageously recounted their experiences of exploitation, abuse, and manipulation, while also sharing their journeys toward healing and advocacy. Their testimonies emphasized that trafficking victims are not willing participants, but individuals trapped in coercive systems, and they called for policies, protection mechanisms, and survivor-centered support that restore dignity and freedom.

The workshop concluded with prophetic reflections from Sr. Jackline Mwikali Mwongela of Talitha Kum, alongside presentations from regional initiatives in Mozambique, Angola, and Lesotho, highlighting both progress and persistent challenges. Closing messages reaffirmed the Church's commitment to collaborative, network-based action. Overall, the event served as a strong continental call to action, underscoring the need to listen to survivors, protect the vulnerable, and work collectively for the liberation of all those affected by human trafficking.

 **1.16 Annual Meeting of Diocesan Leaders - SOUTH AFRICA – BOTSWANA - ESWATINI**

Date: August 25th – 28th, 2025

Venue: Padre Pio Retreat And Conference Centre

Participants: 46 people from 20 dioceses

Migrants, Missionaries of Hope



PRESENT: The following diocese was fully represented:

1. **Diocese of Aliwal North** - Bishop JM Kizito, Ms Refiloe Mothabeng and Fr Joseph
2. **Diocese of Bethlehem** – Mr Tabi Moloi
3. **Diocese of Francistown - Botswana** - Sr Cynthia Nwadike and Sr Agnes Adwoa Gyima
4. **Archdiocese of Cape Town** - Fr Fillipo Ferraro
5. **Diocese of De Aar** - Ms Jecinta Esteleen Michell Norman
6. **Diocese of Dundee** - Mr Nduza Shandu and Ms Simphiwe Zulu

7. **Archdiocese of Durban** - Ms Nonhlanhla Anna Maphumulo
8. **Diocese of Eswatini** - Sr Esther James
9. **Archdiocese of Johannesburg** - Sr Mary Joseph (Talitha Kum), Sr Maritete Garbin and Fr Jean Marie Did'do
10. **Diocese of Kimberley** – Sr Akot Caroline Opio, Ms Onema Jeanica and Ms Kgomotso Condolelence Gaonakala
11. **Diocese of Klerksdorp** -Rev Deacon Jackie Senyane, Ms Dineo Ralengoane and Ms Aretha Maphello Moremi
12. **Diocese of Kokstad** - Ms Nombino Mavango and Pulane Lebakeng
13. **Diocese of Kroonstad** - Mr Patrick Motejane and Fr Lucky Mvula
14. **Diocese of Polokwane** - Mr Ambrose Matsheta and Ms F Mashiane
15. **Diocese of Port Elizabeth** - Mr Michael Willaim Pillay and Mr Anyway Wilson
16. **Archdiocese of Pretoria** - Ms Enency Mbatha, Mr Sello Mashaba and Ephraim Charles Luhanga (Human Trafficking team) - Sr Marta Varga Hernandez, Sr Ghajeng Aleghakeze Noi (Migrant and Refugees Office)
17. **Diocese of Rustenburg** - Ms Sophy Chauke and Ms Andronica Masango
18. **Diocese of Tzaneen** - Ms Baphly Mashunu and Sr Francis Grogan
19. **Diocese of Umzimkulu** - Ms Nomanono Bawana and Nozipho Mngomeni
20. **Diocese of Witbank** – Fr Jeremy Butawo Dube CMM and Mr Jabulani Mathabala
21. **National Freedom Network** – Ms Amy Arnold
22. **Bienvenu Shelter** – Ms Lisa de Souza
23. **Nigerian Community** – Fr Yoseph Guduro (Pe. Pio Center)
24. **Coordinator SACBC** - Sr Neide Lamperti

The gathering began on August 25 with arrival and registration, bringing together representatives from 20 dioceses across Southern Africa, along with partner organizations working on migration, refugees, and human trafficking. The official opening on August 26 included a welcome from the SACBC coordination team and a reflection by Bishop Joseph Mary Kizito, who described migrants as “missionaries of hope” and challenged the Church to respond to their realities with dignity, solidarity, and closer accompaniment.





The keynote presentation by Fr. Jean Marie Did’do explored the pastoral and prophetic dimensions of human mobility, emphasizing that migration is a global phenomenon driven by both forced and voluntary factors. The Church was called to overcome fear, xenophobia, and prejudice, moving from a pastoral approach “for” migrants to one “with” migrants, and to speak prophetically against exclusionary policies and practices. The need for ecumenical and inter-institutional collaboration was also highlighted, especially given the gaps in public services such as health, education, justice, and documentation.

In the afternoon of the second day, the workshop addressed the reality of human trafficking and pastoral responses, with a presentation from the National Freedom Network. Key concepts such as vulnerability, exploitation, grooming, sextortion, and the trafficking framework (ACT + MEANS + PURPOSE) were



discussed, stressing the particular risks faced by undocumented migrants and young people online. A session on migration law in South Africa clarified the rights and responsibilities of asylum seekers and refugees, while also noting the collapse of the asylum system and the ongoing challenges for those without documentation. The day concluded with a Eucharistic celebration.

August 27 focused on strategic and pastoral planning using the Pastoral Cycle (see–judge–act), presented by Bishop Kizito. He emphasized the central role of faith, scripture, and community discernment in responding to issues such as xenophobia, gender-based violence, and human trafficking. Participants were introduced to practical tools, including SWOT analysis, and encouraged to integrate migrant pastoral care into parish and diocesan structures.

Diocesan reports for 2024–2025 highlighted the Church’s strong commitment to accompanying migrants and refugees, despite structural and resource limitations. The initiatives showcased progress in integration, formation, intercultural dialogue, and migrant leadership, while also identifying areas needing strengthening, such as establishing stable pastoral structures, improving data collection, expanding local leadership training, and deepening partnerships. The meeting concluded with a sense of renewed commitment, and participants departed on August 28.

[Bishop Kizito: “The Church Must Be a Prophetic Voice for Migrants and Refugees” - SACBC](#)

 **1.17 WORKSHOP RELIGIOUS LIFE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Date: 17th September 2025
Venue: Khanya House – Pretoria
Participants – 49 pessoas

On 17 September 2025, the workshop **“Religious Life Against Human Trafficking”** was held at Khanya House, the SACBC Headquarters in Pretoria. The event brought together consecrated men and women, clergy, parish leaders, students, and representatives of civil society organizations, reaffirming the Church’s urgent commitment to addressing human trafficking in Southern Africa. A total of 49 participants attended, including religious sisters and priests from various congregations, parish leaders engaged in social and pastoral ministries, students from a health and counselling school, and a representative from a shelter dedicated to the protection and reintegration of trafficked persons. This diversity enriched the dialogue and allowed for a broad exchange of pastoral, academic, and professional perspectives.



The workshop explored the complex reality of human trafficking through a comprehensive program. Participants reflected on the definition, identification, and assistance of victims, learning to recognize both visible and subtle indicators of trafficking, particularly in parish and community settings where pastoral agents are often first responders. Prevention and awareness were emphasized as key strategies, with practical tools shared for education campaigns in parishes, schools, and faith-based organizations. The program also addressed legislation and public policies, highlighting existing legal frameworks in South



Africa and the region, the challenges of implementation, and the relevance of the Palermo Protocol as a benchmark for international cooperation.

A strong focus was placed on cooperation, partnerships, and the prophetic role of consecrated life. The National Freedom Network shared strategies for building effective multi-stakeholder collaboration, underlining networking as essential for victim protection and policy advocacy. Ms Enency Mbatha from the Talitha Kum Network reminded participants

that consecrated life is called to be at the forefront of defending human dignity, offering safe spaces, accompaniment, and advocacy. One of the most powerful moments of the workshop was the sharing of testimonies, including experiences of sheltering women and children rescued from trafficking, pastoral accompaniment of survivors and their families, and student initiatives to integrate trafficking awareness into health and counselling practices.

1.18 TALITHA KUM NETWORK – LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
SOUTH AFRICA – BOTSWANA – ESWATINI - LESOTHO

Date: 12th – 17th October, 2025

Location: [Padre Pio Retreat And Conference Centre](#) - Pretoria

Participants: 43 religious sisters and priests from South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, and Lesotho

Organized by: *Talitha Kum South Africa and Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life South Africa (LCCLSA) in partnership SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office. Supported by Talitha Kum International*

Consecrated Leadership on Mission Against Human Trafficking



From 12 to 17 October 2025, the Padre Pio Retreat and Conference Centre in Pretoria hosted 43 religious sisters and priests from South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, and Lesotho for a week of formation and networking on human trafficking. The event, titled



“Consecrated Leadership on Mission Against Human Trafficking,” was organized by Talitha Kum International in collaboration with the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference (SACBC) Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office and the Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life South Africa (LCCLSA). The initiative aimed to strengthen the Talitha Kum South Africa Network and to support the establishment of national networks in Botswana, Eswatini, and Lesotho. The training was coordinated by Sr. Popina Mohala (Talitha Kum South Africa), Sr. Neide Lamperti (SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office), and Sr. Zelna Oosthuizen (LCCLSA). Accommodation and travel were covered by Talitha Kum International, while all other logistical and material costs were provided by the SACBC office.

The programme combined spirituality, formation, study, and group reflection. Each day began with Mass and concluded with prayer moments in solidarity with victims of human trafficking, guided by spiritual themes inspired by

different countries. Sr. Abby Avelino, MM, International Coordinator of Talitha Kum, reminded participants that human trafficking is “a painful wound in our societies” and emphasized the prophetic role of consecrated life in defending life, restoring dignity, and proclaiming freedom to the captives. This spiritual foundation sustained the intensive learning and exchange that characterized the week.

The training addressed the reality of human trafficking in Southern Africa through thematic sessions and facilitated discussions. On October 13, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) explored the geopolitical, social, and gender dimensions of trafficking, highlighting the Palermo Protocol, the invisibility of victims, and the structural causes of trafficking such as economic inequality and corruption. On October 14, Sr. Laura Llanes Palicte (Talitha Kum Malawi) led reflections on Talitha Kum spirituality, servant leadership, synodality, and prevention strategies at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, emphasizing intercongregational collaboration to reduce vulnerability and stigma.

Protection, advocacy, and networking were central themes in the final days. On October 15, the National Freedom Network (NFN) facilitated sessions on survivor-centered and trauma-informed approaches, burnout prevention, and rights-based advocacy inspired by Catholic social teaching, alongside a regional exchange of good practices, including shelters, legal assistance, and community awareness programmes. On October 16, Sr. Abby Avelino and Sr. Laura Llanes guided participants in exploring Talitha Kum’s global

and regional network structures. National delegations established local Talitha Kum hubs and developed strategic action plans for awareness, prevention, and survivor reintegration. The training concluded with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr Francis Katongo, followed by closing remarks from Sr. Jane Francis and Sr. Zelna Oosthuizen, and a festive dinner, reaffirming a shared commitment to collaboration, systemic change, and the promotion of human dignity across Southern Africa.

<https://www.talithakum.info/en/news/religious-sisters-in-southern-africa-unite-against-human-trafficking/>

2

Legal assistance - Various services provided

These activities were identified following the Capacity Building Workshop hosted by SACBC in (1) Ingwavuma 21 to 23 October; (2) Klerksdorp on 1 November 2024; and at Lumko in Benoni, from 12 to 15 November 2024 - referrals from (2) Kimberley Diocese; (3) Kroonstad Diocese and (4) Archdiocese of Pretoria.

Interventions include legal advice to clients; engagement with relevant government stakeholders namely Department of Home Affairs; Department of Social Services; Department of Basic Education; Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

Diocese of Ingwavuma: Consultation: The man attended is an asylum seeker from Burundi, who applied for asylum in Cape Town but is now based in Ingwavuma. Unable to travel all the way to Cape Town due to lack of finances. He would like to transfer his file to the Durban Refugee Reception Office and is seeking support in following up. The Durban RRO is willing to consider the transfer provided proof of residence in KZN is provided. I advised him to obtain proof that he is now based in Ingwavuma, he will share a letter from his child's school to confirm. Once received I will engage Durban RRO Centre Manager.

Group of learners unable to access education due to lack of documentation - children of undocumented migrants. School Principal referred 43 cases. The Lawyer engaged with the Department of Basic Education legal department to inform them of the challenge experienced in Ingwavuma and requested a high-level meeting with the Minister of Basic Education/ Director General with SACBC Liaison Bishop and team. Details have been provided.

Diocese of Kimberley: Following the workshop at Lumko in Benoni, Sr Caroline requested that I follow up on a case of an asylum seeker with a final rejection. The Lawyer consulted with the client over the telephone and advised him of rights and options at the final rejection stage of his asylum application process. She encouraged him to attend an in-person information session hosted by Lawyers for Human Rights on 20 November dealing with "Final Rejection Cases". Failing which the lawyer advised him to attend at LHR for a formal discussion of the merits of his case and whether they would be able to take his matter on judicial review. The client indicated that he did not feel comfortable to travel due to an expired permit, he feared arrest and detention.

Diocese of Klerksdorp: On Saturday, November 23, the lawyer received a call from a priest from the Diocese of Klerksdorp, who had received an email from a woman stating that her minor daughter was in the process of being trafficked. He requested my support in following up on the matter. The lawyer called you and also contacted Charles from Fula Africa for guidance. Charles provided the contact details of the Department of Police Special Investigation, which were shared with the woman. She did not contact the police, feeling unsafe, and called the priest again, who asked me to consult with her. She mentioned that her daughter

was in a place of safety by court order but feared she would be trafficked. We consulted the DSD for further clarification and discovered that the child was safe, but there were concerns about the woman's mental state.

Archdiocese of Pretoria: 1. Six cases of asylum seekers and refugees were referred, all with expired permits and difficulties accessing the Refugee Reception Office (RRO) in Marabastad. On November 21, the lawyer attended the RRO to discuss the cases with the operations manager, who requested the retrieval of each individual's files for assessment. She is monitoring the progress and will provide further feedback. On November 22, the lawyer provided telephonic guidance to an asylum seeker on how to open a bank account, explaining the necessary documents and advising them to follow up with the RRO regarding the extension of their asylum permit.

1. Mr P. M. is a national of DRC, and a recognised refugee in South Africa. I first consulted with him following the Human Trafficking Workshop held at the Parish in Sunnyside, Pretoria, in February. He has been unfairly dismissed from his position as a security guard and in need of guidance on how to secure compensation from his previous employer. As a follow up to the previous consultation; I have engaged with the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration to seek clarity on why they would not take his case. The CCMA confirmed that they do not have jurisdiction and referred me to the National Bargaining Council for the Private Security Sector. The National Bargaining Council for the Private Security Sector confirmed that they are the relevant body to assist. And provided me with guidance on the steps to be taken; forms to be filled out; email addresses of relevant persons to address the complaint to; and how to lodge a complaint. I then provided this feedback to the client and will assist him to download the forms and complete them. I aim to meet with him this week at the Parish in Sunnyside. (Attached to this email are some relevant documents pertaining to his matter) NEXT STEPS: There will be a need to engage the police to serve the notice on his former employer as the relationship has deteriorated. The former employer refuses to provide an email address to be served.

Diocese of Kroonstad: On December 23, a matter was referred involving a South African single mother stranded in Oman, who appears to be a victim of human trafficking. Immediate engagement was made with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in South Africa, and the South African missions in Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Arabia office is currently following up. Regular contact is maintained with the stranded individual to provide encouragement.

3

Outreach Programmes (National Prayer Day and Inter-religious dialogue)



1. Meeting with Multi-Religious Leaders from various denominations on Statelessness

Date: 17 March 2025 (8:30 to 15:30hs)

Venue: Nicol Hotel Bedfordview, Johannesburg

Participation: 30 people

On 17 March 2025 the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) in partnership with the Jesuit Province of Southern Africa (SAP), Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), and Southern Africa Nationality Network (SANN) hosted a strategic practical meeting on statelessness with multi religious leaders from various denominations in South Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to take concrete steps which outline the role of religious leaders and actors in the fight to end statelessness; adopt a joint resolution to

strategically guide initiatives, and a Road Map to implement activities aimed at ending the scourge of statelessness. The strategic meeting is a follow up to prior capacity building workshops aimed at raising awareness.

The discussions at the gathering highlighted the issue of statelessness in the region, placing lived experiences and advocacy at the centre, with a strong focus on solutions—particularly the prevention of childhood statelessness.

As a key outcome of the workshop, participants developed a resolution on statelessness tailored for multi-religious leaders, aimed at better guiding collective initiatives. They pledged to work collaboratively and take joint ownership of the responsibility to address statelessness in Southern Africa.

Together, they committed to: raising awareness across the region; addressing the legal and administrative gaps that lead to statelessness; collecting data on affected individuals; strengthening birth registration systems to prevent childhood statelessness; and, crucially, involving people with lived experience in the search for sustainable solutions.

These commitments aligned with the spirit and objectives of the UNHCR-led Global Alliance to End Statelessness, launched following the conclusion of the 10-year #Belong Campaign, which ended on 4 November 2024.



Resolution

We, the participants of the meeting on statelessness, multi-religious leaders in South Africa hereby resolve to:

1. ensure that data is collected of persons affected by statelessness in the region to better understand the magnitude and facilitate interventions.
2. ensure that the voices and experiences of people with lived experience of statelessness, including children, are central to the dialogue and solutions to address statelessness
3. intensify efforts to raise awareness about the plight of stateless people, particularly children, and protection of their rights including rights to education, health care, and social assistance

4. advocate for universal birth registration and access to legal identity for all children, regardless of their legal status or that of their parents
5. strengthen collaboration among people with lived experience of statelessness, religious leaders, faith based organisations, civil society organisations, government institutions, UN and AU agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to address the root causes of statelessness and accelerate efforts to eradicate statelessness
6. advocate for the ratification, domestication and implementation of the United Nations 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Prevention of Statelessness.

advocate for the prompt ratification, domestication, and implementation of the AU Protocol on the Right to a Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in all SADC member states.

https://scalabrinianas.org/lideres-religiosos-se-reunem-em-joanesburgo-para-combater-a-apatridia/?fbclid=IwY2xjawKG1yJleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHiMa0y20GvgRsisZtPE5qCpjhsNXIL-yxTZCWZ_ZegbUJ8LZi881T5NBiolO_aem_8sRV0ThMIWpYDmb0jm1zFw

[Religious... - Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference | Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17UJx8dguU/>



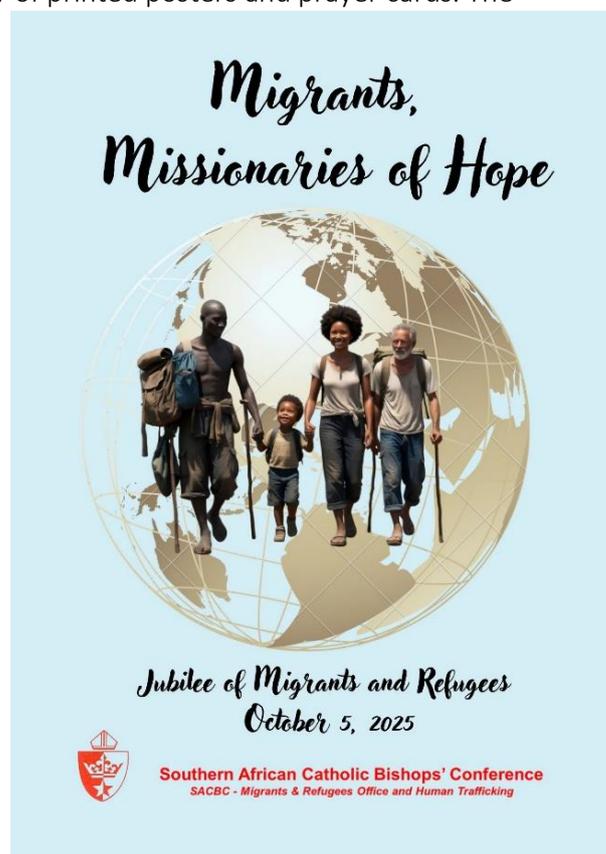
2. National Prayer Day

Celebration of the Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees

In preparation for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, materials were produced and sent to all dioceses in digital format, as well as a significant number of printed posters and prayer cards. The materials prepared included:

- Bishops Letter
- Suggested Homily
- Reflexion: Jubilee Of Migrants and Refugees
- Suggestion of Celebration (Booklet)
- Prayer card of the Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees
- Coordinator's Letter
- Posters to be printed and displayed in communities
- Webinar Celebrates World Day of Migrants and Refugees with the Theme: "Walking Together – Migrants and Refugees, Missionaries of Hope"

The central celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees was held in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg, with the presence of a delegation from the Episcopal Commission of Mozambique. The other dioceses also celebrated the occasion, and some shared images of their celebrations with us.





Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees

Migrants, Missionaries of Hope

5TH OCTOBER, 2025

Have courage, the Lord walks with you!

For all of those who have moved from your homeland for one reason or another seeking a better life, don't fear, the Lord Jesus Christ walk together with you.

According to the World Migration report of July 2024, it was reported that 2.86 million people were international migrants. There are a number of dangers that this people face on the road.

There are physically dangers, exploitation, sexually, and economically. The face, diseases accidents hunger, dehydration abandonment. Violence, torture, emotional, psychological abuses, the loss their properties money and the small goods that the carry and some end in deaths.

There is a lot of falls information that is given to the people about other countries that they have a lot of money and resources. On arriving in those countries, the situation is totally different from what they were promised.

That is why I am wishing you all the migrants and Refugees and those who have been traffic do not fear, have courage. I encourage you to keep away from the negative actions behaviors and keep on doing what is positive, socially, economically, and culturally. Those positive actions will be welcomed by your hosting communities and have a positive impact.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you who has been able to assist those who are migrants and refugees and those who have been trafficked, thanks for your dedication and compassionate service that you have offered.

Let us keep on the four verbs of the late Pope Francis, that is **Welcome, Protect, Promote** and **Integrate**. Pope Leo XIV has called for the world order of peace. Let us remember that lack political peace and economic prosperity are one of the most challenging causes of Migrants and Refugees with human trafficking.

May we continue to accompany and work together with those people on the move.

We are in the year of Jubilee of Hope may our hope not despair. Let the Synodal Church Communion Participation and Mission walk together with the migrants and Refugees as we build a better world. May our Mother Mary intercede for us all.

Bishop Joseph Mary Kizito

Diocese of Aliwal Noth
Liaison Bishop for
SACBC Migrants Refugees and Human Trafficking



Archdiocese of Johannesburg

28 September - We had the grace to celebrate the Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, in Khutsong – Carletonville, Archdiocese of Johannesburg.

The event was organized by the Pastoral Care of Johannesburg and was attended by the SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office, as well as a delegation from CEMIRDE of Mozambique.

The Holy Mass was filled with great joy, with the participation of numerous migrants from different places, who brought the richness of their cultures, wearing traditional outfits and celebrating together in faith.

After the celebration, everyone shared a festive lunch, followed by cultural performances that filled the day with color, music, and communion.

A true testimony of fraternity, hospitality, and hope!



St Patrick Parishes – La Rochelle (Johannesburg)

On 5 October, the Festival of Nations took place at La Rochelle Parish, in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg, under the coordination of the Scalabrinian Missionary Fathers, in observance of the celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The event was attended by Sr. Neide Lamperti, representing the SACBC Office for Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking.



Diocese of Kimberley



The Diocese of Kimberley joined the Universal Church in the celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, held on 5 October 2025 at Holy Cross Parish in Lokaleng, Taung Deanery, under the theme “Migrants and Refugees: Pilgrims of Hope.” The celebration was integrated with the Heritage Mass, creating an atmosphere marked by diversity, faith, and unity, with active participation from the community through traditional attire, songs, dances, and cultural expressions. A particularly meaningful moment took place during the Prayers of the Faithful, when representatives of different age groups lit candles in memory of migrants and refugees who lost their lives, those suffering at borders, and families separated by displacement, symbolizing God’s presence and the hope that accompanies every migratory journey.



The central reflection was reinforced by the Pope’s message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which invited the Church to enlarge the space of her heart and to recognize migrants and refugees as bearers of hope, with real faces and stories. In line with this message, Sr. Caroline, Coordinator of the Caritas, Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking Department of the Diocese of Kimberley, emphasized that migration is part of everyday human experience and that the Church is called to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate all people on the move. The celebration concluded with a strong pastoral appeal for Christian communities to become spaces of welcome, solidarity, and commitment, recognizing migrants not only as recipients of assistance but as protagonists and contributors in building a truly synodal Church and a pilgrim Church of hope.

Diocese of Rustenburg



DIocese OF RUSTENBURG

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE CELEBRATION



- **Diocese of Rustenburg celebrated the day of Refugees and migrant on the 05th of October 2025 @ St Francis Bapong Pastoral Area . We started with Mass by Rev Fr Wilfried Tagba SMA then 2 people came to share their stories about their stay in South Africa and the challenges they are facing day to day and how they wish the church can help them to overcome this .Mr Mogorosi came from the Caritas office ,Mrs Andronica Masango and Ms Sophy Chauke from Migrant and Refugee office.,**



Webinar Celebrates World Day of Migrants and Refugees with the Theme:

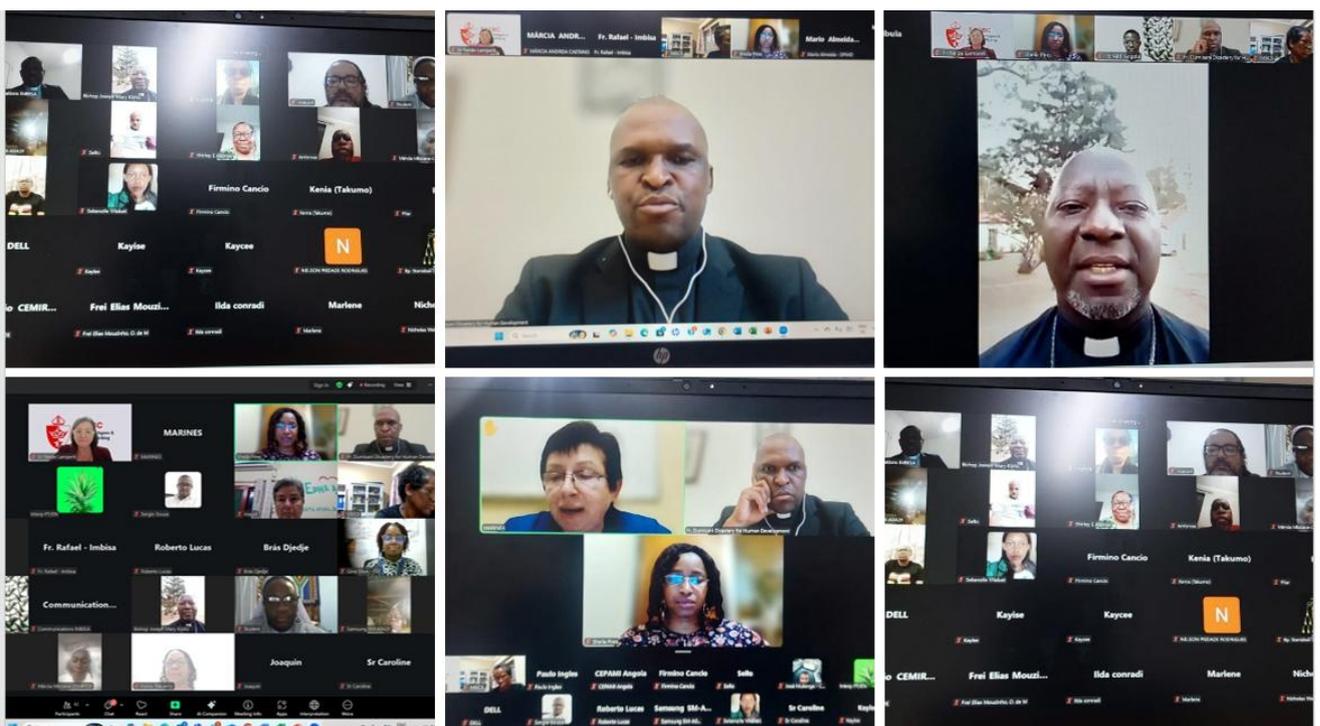
“Walking Together – Migrants and Refugees, Missionaries of Hope”

On October 9, 2025, the SACBC (Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference), CEMIRDE (Episcopal Commission for Migrants, Refugees and Displaced Persons of Mozambique), CEPAMI (Episcopal Pastoral Commission for Migrants and Itinerant People of Angola), and IMBISA (Inter-Regional Meeting of the Bishops of Southern Africa) held an important webinar to celebrate the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

The event was inspired by the theme “Walking Together – Migrants and Refugees, Missionaries of Hope”, in harmony with Pope Francis' message, and gathered a large number of participants from across Africa and other continents. Bishops, priests, religious men and women, lay people, Scalabrinian sisters, and representatives of civil society took part, making the virtual space a true experience of communion, listening, and pastoral commitment.

The opening reflection was offered by Sr. Neide Lamperti, representing the SACBC, who emphasized the Church's fundamental role in accompanying migrants and refugees and in promoting a culture of welcome lived through authentic synodality. This was followed by the official message from CEMIRDE Mozambique, presented by Sr. Marines Biasibetti, who highlighted the commitment of local ecclesial communities to create safe and supportive spaces, with particular attention to pastoral care and integration.

The main presentation was delivered by Fr. Dumisani Vilakati, Regional Coordinator for Africa at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. In his profound reflection, he underlined that the World Day of Migrants and Refugees is an opportunity to reaffirm key principles of the Church's Social Doctrine, including the dignity of the human person, rights and duties beyond borders, the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, solidarity, and the pursuit of the common good. Drawing on biblical



examples such as Abraham, and quoting Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIII, he affirmed that migrants and refugees are true missionaries of hope, bearing a living faith and a powerful witness of resilience.

The webinar concluded with a rich exchange of reflections and experiences from participants, who shared ongoing pastoral initiatives and challenges in their local contexts. The closing message was delivered by Mr. Cristóvão José, representing CEPAMI Angola, encouraging all to continue walking together and strengthening networks of welcome and inclusion. The final blessing was given by Bishop José Marie Kizito, the SACBC reference bishop for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees, who prayed that the Church may remain steadfast in its commitment to justice, solidarity, and mercy.

➔ 3. Celebration of Saint Josephine Bakhita Day

The Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of human trafficking was organised by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) and the Archdioceses of Johannesburg and Pretoria. The activities highlighted the importance of preventing human trafficking and the rights of migrants and refugees.

Archdiocese of Johannesburg

Celebration

Under the coordination of Sr Marizete Garbin, the Archdiocese of Johannesburg held a workshop on Saturday 8 February in the city of Soweto on the theme of Documentation, Health, Education and Integration. At the same time, it emphasised the Prevention of Human Trafficking and the story of St Bakhita overcoming it. The event was attended by 60 people from four parishes (St Anne's, St Angela's, Our Lady of Victories and Holy Spirit), who discussed and learned about prevention, protection and reception measures, regardless of colour, race, creed or nationality. At the same time, the life and story of St Bakhita enlightened many lives, awakening a deeper faith and hope and emphasising the importance of forgiveness. On Sunday, St Bakhita's Parish in the Archdiocese of Johannesburg was the scene of a large festive celebration attended by around 500 people. The Mass in honour of their patron saint, organised and motivated by Sr Marizete and the local community, was presided over by the parish priest, Fr Emanuel, who emphasised caring for life, protection, the prevention of human trafficking and the correct use of our hands: 'Hands are for helping and caring, not for destroying and killing lives,' he concluded. The migrants and refugees themselves, with their different cultural expressions, presented the life of St Bakhita. After the

Mass, the participants enjoyed a



time of fraternisation, strengthening community ties and celebrating the life and legacy of Saint Josephine Bakhita.

Pastoral Care formation for leaders of the St. Anne, St. Angela, Holy Spirit and Our Lady of Victory Parishes based in the Soweto Denary.

The Department of Pastoral Care held its first workshop of 2025 with the aim of forming and empowering new parish leaders to serve as points of contact for pastoral activities in their respective parishes. The session provided an overview of the department’s core pillars—education, socio-economic support, spirituality, social services, health, and legal assistance—and explained relevant laws, policies, and referral structures to support migrants, refugees, and vulnerable persons effectively.

The workshop also addressed the reality of human trafficking, highlighting Saint Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of trafficking, whose feast is celebrated on 8 February. Volunteers explained referral



protocols, emphasizing collaboration with priests, parish leadership, and partner organizations such as lawyers, shelters, and migrant support services. Through guided social exercises, participants openly shared their perceptions and challenges regarding migration, acknowledging existing tensions while recognizing the need to foster respectful and positive relationships.

Discussions further explored educational and socio-economic opportunities available at parish and community levels, including language, business, and computer skills training to support integration.

Participants raised concerns related to the care of minors, skills development, and access to services, particularly healthcare. The workshop concluded with practical guidance, the sharing of partner contacts, community support discussions, and fellowship over a shared meal at Our Lady of Victory Parish, with representatives from four parish communities in attendance.

Archdiocese of Pretoria

The Department of Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC), coordinated by Sister Neide Lamperti, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Pretoria, organised a large celebration at Sacred Heart Parish in Diepsloot, Pretoria. The event was attended by around 650 people.

Before the Mass, there was a striking procession with banners, posters, a painting of Saint Bakhita and people with their hands, mouths and ears covered, symbolising human trafficking that hurts and takes away people's freedom. The festive Mass was presided over by the Archbishop of Pretoria, Dabula Mbako, who urged everyone to care for life and protect themselves from human trafficking, described by Pope Francis as ‘an open wound in the body of Christ, in the body of humanity’. ‘Human trafficking is a profound



violence that affects everyone and demands social change and a commitment from all Christians,' said the Archbishop.

The celebration was marked by many dances, symbols and prayers to St Bakhita. At the end, there was a moment of reflection on what human trafficking really is, what the signs are and how to act if you know that someone may be a victim of this crime. The celebration ended with a sharing of food among those present, strengthening the community spirit.

Everyone received prayers of St Bakhita and a newsletter on preventing human trafficking in both Johannesburg and Pretoria.

In the days leading up to the celebration, Sr Neide Lamperti was interviewed by Radio Veritas and other SACBC communication channels, highlighting the importance of raising awareness and the fight against human trafficking. At the same time, in partnership with the National Board of Consecrated Life (LCCLSA) and the Talitha Kum Network, she sent a communication to all the bishops, diocesan leaders and consecrated life, motivating them to celebrate this day and awaken to the prevention of human trafficking, as ambassadors of hope. Marizete Garbin was also interviewed by various media on the same subject.



These activities reinforce the commitment of the archdioceses and the Bishops' Conference to combat human trafficking and support the rights of migrants and refugees, inspired by the example of St Bakhita.

<https://web.facebook.com/reel/1158663548987964>

Celebrações da Festa de Santa Josephina Bakhita na África do Sul

<https://scalabrinianas.org/celebracoes-da-festa-de-santa-josephina-bakhita-na-africa-do-sul/>
[Celebrações da Festa de Santa Josephina Bakhita na África do Sul – Scalabrinianas](#)

Summary – Celebration of Saint Bakita

Arch/diocese	Activity realized	N. people
Archdiocese of Johannesburg	Workshop with migrants and refugees	60
	Celebration with migrants, refugees and national people	500 (approximately)
	Lunch in both days	
Archdiocese of Pretoria	Celebration with migrants, refugees' community and national people	650 (approximately)
	Procession before mass	
2 Dioceses		1.300 people

4

Online Diploma in Pastoral Care of Human Mobility - SIMMI

The **Online Diploma in Pastoral Care of Human Mobility** is offered by **SIMI Education**, an initiative of the **Scalabrini International Migration Institute**. This single-cycle program consists of six courses, all taught in three languages: Italian, Spanish, and English. Each course includes ten virtual lessons, held biweekly, following a “reading course” format, in which students are required to submit summaries or answers to questions based on the study material. To obtain the diploma, students must pass all final exams of the courses.

Target Audience:

Religious men and women, priests, seminarians, and lay people who are already working or preparing to work in pastoral care for migrants, refugees, displaced persons, victims of human trafficking, seafarers, itinerants, and their families. The program is also open to anyone interested in working in this specific area of pastoral care.



We are pleased to confirm the enrolment of the following participants:

1. **Sr. Aleghakeze Noi Ghajeng** - Archdiocese of Pretoria
2. **Sr. Caroline Opio Akhot** - Diocese of Kimberley
3. **Deacon Paul Nthabiseng Sepheakhang** - Diocese of Klerksdorp
4. **Sr Agnes Gyma** - Botswana
5. **Sr Ester James Kiduguru** - Diocese of Manzini – Eswatini
6. **Bishop Joseph Marie Kizito** – Diocese of Aliwal North and Liaison Bishop of SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

[Diploma in Pastoral Care of Human Mobility – SIMI Education](#)

5

Network (Meetings, national and international conferences)

5.1 V Training Course for Talitha Kum Leaders

Title: *Prophetic Leadership in the Prevention of Human Trafficking: Experiences, Challenges, and Hope in Southern Africa*

Date: March 22-29, 2025

Location: Lima - Peru



The Fifth Talitha Kum Leadership Meeting, held in Lima, Peru, brought together leaders from different countries and continents committed to the prevention of human trafficking and the care of victims. The gathering was marked by a strong spirit of communion, intercultural exchange, and shared mission, offering a safe space for listening, reflection, and mutual strengthening. Participants shared the realities, challenges, and hopes emerging from their local contexts.

Throughout the meeting, key themes such as prophetic leadership, the prevention of human trafficking, accompaniment of victims, networking, and social and ecclesial advocacy were explored. Through conferences, group work, moments of prayerful reflection, and the sharing of experiences, participants critically examined situations of vulnerability that fuel human trafficking and identified good practices already underway in different regions. The intercontinental dialogue enriched discernment and reinforced the synodal dimension of Talitha Kum's mission.

The Fifth Meeting was also a time of renewed commitment and hope. Participants reaffirmed the importance of walking together, strengthening local and regional networks, and sustaining the prophetic voice of Talitha Kum in the face of new and emerging forms of exploitation and violence. The meeting in

Lima resulted in a renewed momentum to continue the mission with courage, creativity, and fidelity to the Gospel, always placing the dignity of every human person at the center.

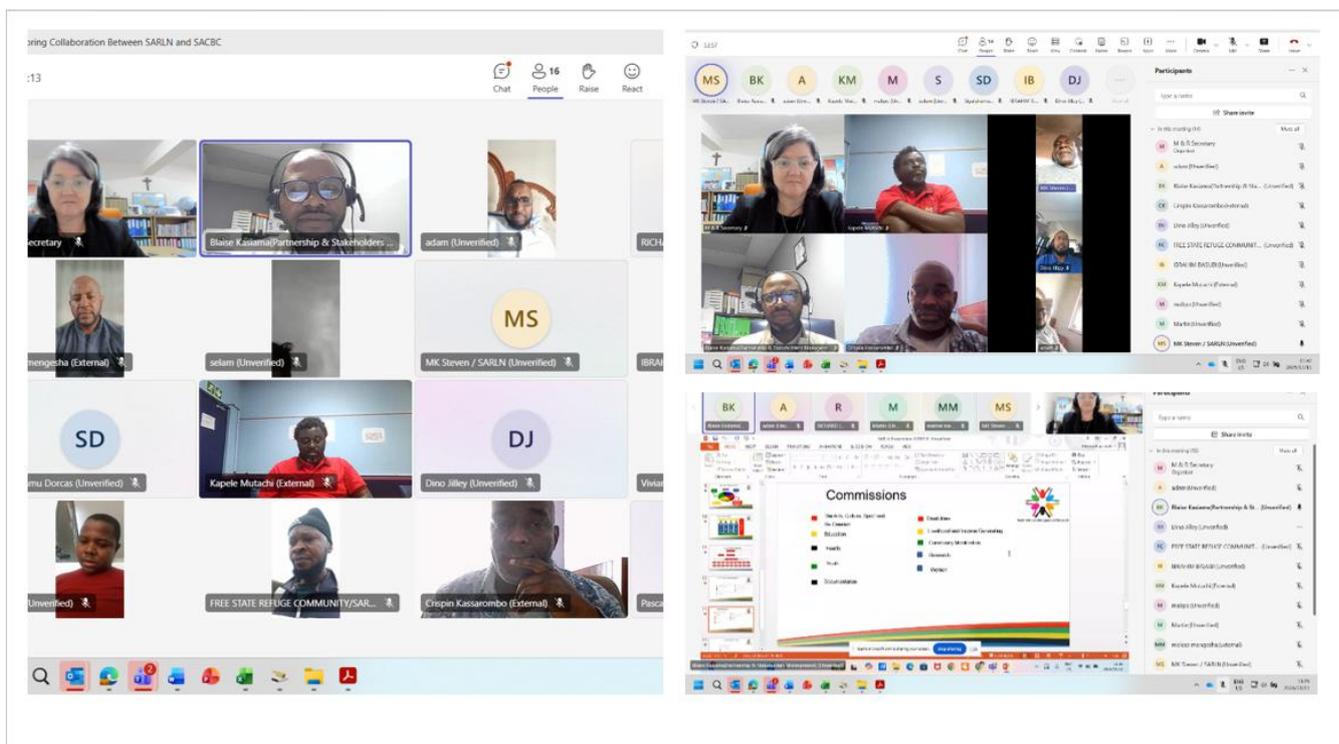
5.2 Online meeting with South Africa Refugee-Led Network (SARLN) & SACBC

Date: 11.11.2025
Participants: 16 people

The **South Africa Refugee-Led Network (SARLN)** is a coalition of refugee-led and community-based organizations working across the country to strengthen the leadership, participation, and visibility of refugees and asylum seekers. The network promotes the inclusion of refugee voices in policy-making and program implementation, focusing on empowerment, advocacy, and social cohesion. Through its initiatives, SARLN helps to build stronger, more resilient communities by supporting education, livelihoods, and protection for vulnerable migrants and displaced people.

Today, a meeting was held to learn more about the SARLN and to explore possible areas of collaboration and support across the provinces. A total of sixteen participants attended the session, which provided valuable insights into the network's structure, mission, and ongoing projects. The discussion highlighted the shared commitment to fostering partnerships that can create lasting impact within refugee and host communities.

The meeting concluded with a strong sense of unity and a shared promise to work together in promoting social cohesion, welcoming and supporting newcomers, improving access to documentation, and preventing human trafficking. Participants also emphasized the importance of joint efforts to respond effectively to other urgent needs faced by refugees and migrants in South Africa.



5.3 The 2nd General Assembly Of Talitha Kum Africa In Zambia

Date: 16–22 November 2025

Location: Kasisi Retreat Centre in Lusaka, Zambia.



The 2nd General Assembly of the Talitha Kum Africa Network was held from 16–22 November 2025 at the Kasisi Retreat Centre in Lusaka, Zambia. The gathering brought together 55 religious sisters, priests, and young ambassadors from 26 African countries, strengthening cooperation and joint commitment in the fight against human trafficking.

South Africa was represented by Sr. Neide Lamperti, a Scalabrinian Missionary, and Sr. Jane Frances. Sr. Abby Avelino, International Coordinator of the Talitha Kum Network based in Italy, was also present, along with members of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, Arise – The Frontline Abolitionists, among others.

The purpose of the assembly was to help promote dynamic networks and share good practices that contribute to sustainable progress in preventing and responding to human trafficking. Participants worked on developing recommendations for actions that support those most vulnerable to trafficking, especially survivors, in line with the 2nd General Assembly of Talitha Kum held in 2024. They also undertook the review and renewal of the Hubs and Teams (Hubs are geographic coordination units).

The program included moments of prayer, workshops, conferences, national network reports, exchanges of perspectives and experiences, and opportunities for fraternal interaction. The conferences covered the themes: *“Team Building, Collaboration, and Networked Work”* with a presentation by Ms. Susan Mwape, Director of Common Cause Zambia (CCZ), who spoke about collaboration, networking, and synodal practices; and *“Advocacy and Protection of People Most Vulnerable to Human Trafficking”*, featuring Ms. Mwangala from the Ministry of Community Development of Zambia. The assembly also heard the testimony of a survivor trafficked to Thailand, participated in group work, and attended the presentations of the Teams for Formation, Prevention, Communication, Youth Ambassadors, and Advocacy.

Throughout the assembly, participants focused on reviewing and renewing the Hubs and Teams, as well as developing the Strategic Action Plan for the Talitha Kum Africa Network. The day concluded with an intercultural evening, a celebration of the continent’s diversity.

The representative of the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters in Africa shared important information on the support the organization provides to religious sisters in the prevention of human trafficking. The delegations also worked on recording the official video for the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita, to be celebrated on 8 February.

The Assembly strengthened the commitment of African networks to act in an integrated, synodal, and strategic manner, especially in prevention, survivor accompaniment, and advocacy.

On the final day, after the closing Mass, participants visited the Anti-Trafficking Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, as well as the Ministries of Internal Affairs and National Security of Zambia.

On the evening of 21 November, the SATA Award Ceremony took place at the Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka, recognizing outstanding initiatives in the fight against human trafficking. The Sisters’ Anti-Trafficking

Awards (SATA), promoted by the Talitha Kum network in partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters and Arise – The Frontline Abolitionists, offer international recognition to Catholic sisters who demonstrate extraordinary dedication through courageous, creative, and collaborative action against human trafficking. During the ceremony, three sisters were honored for their leadership, courage, and tireless service. The Human Dignity Award was presented to Sr. Martha Pelloni, CMT (Argentina – absent), the Servant Leadership Award to Sr. Margaret Ng, RSJ (Australia), and the Common Good Award to Sr. Benjamine Nanga Kimala, SMC (Chad).



6TH SAMIN ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE 2025

Date: 21-22 October 2025

Location: Birchwood Hotel. Boksburg, Johannesburg, South Africa

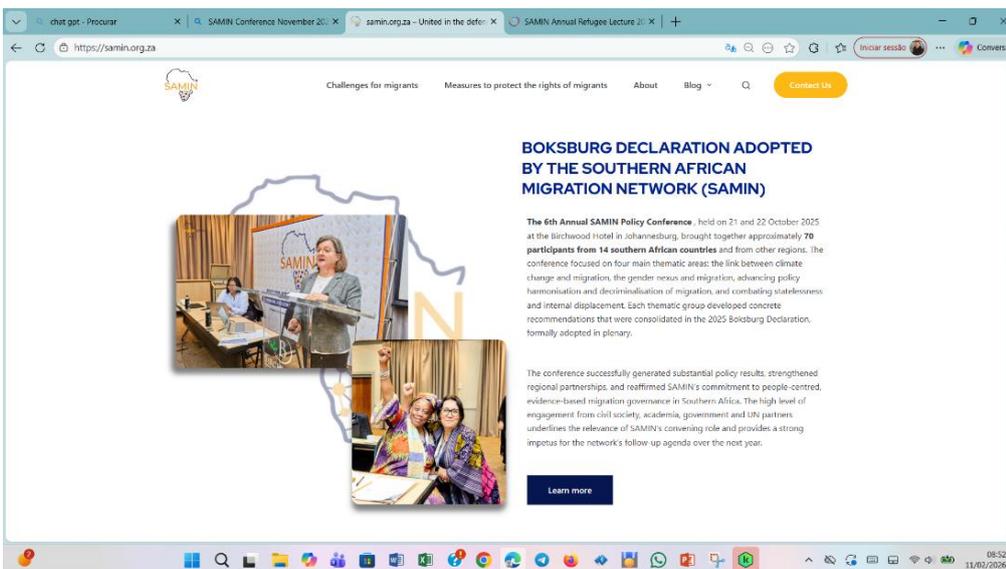
Theme *“Revisiting the Journey: Reflections, Realities, and Renewed Commitments for Migration Governance in Southern Africa (2019–2025)”*

The 6th Annual SAMIN Policy Conference, held on 21 and 22 October 2025 at the Birchwood Hotel in Johannesburg, brought together approximately 70 participants from 14 countries in Southern Africa and beyond. The conference focused on four main thematic areas: the link between climate change and migration; the gender–migration nexus; advancing policy harmonisation and the decriminalisation of migration; and addressing statelessness and internal displacement. Each thematic group developed concrete recommendations, which were subsequently consolidated into the 2025 Boksburg Declaration, formally adopted in plenary.

The conference achieved significant results in the field of public policy, strengthened regional partnerships, and reaffirmed SAMIN’s commitment to people-centred, evidence-based migration governance. The high level of engagement from civil society, academia, government representatives, and United Nations partners highlighted the relevance of SAMIN’s convening role and generated strong momentum for a consistent follow-up agenda in the year ahead.



On the second day of the conference, Sr. Neide Lamperti, representing the SACBC Department of Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking, was allocated a 35-minute session (09:35–10:10), including her keynote presentation and the screening of a five-minute case study video. Her intervention directly addressed the “Realities” component of the theme, giving a human face to the challenges faced by millions of displaced persons in the region, particularly in light of the high number of internally displaced persons in the DRC and the increasing restrictions on civic space. Drawing from her frontline experience with the SACBC, she highlighted the lived realities of stateless persons and internally displaced persons, underscoring the gap between existing legal frameworks—such as the Kampala Convention—and their often insufficient implementation in practice. She also presented best practices and community- and faith-based responses, emphasising initiatives that promote dignity, integration, and protection, inspired by African values of Ubuntu. She concluded with practical recommendations addressed to both civil society and policymakers, proposing concrete steps to strengthen the protection of internally displaced persons and to address statelessness in the region.



samin.org.za – Unidos na defesa das melhores práticas em migração

Second South-South Dialogue Conference on Access to Asylum and Enhancing Protection

Date: 28 and 29 October 2025

Place: Holiday Inn Sunnyside Park - Johannesburg

On 28 and 29 October 2025, the Second South-South Dialogue Conference on Access to Asylum and Enhancing Protection was held in Johannesburg at the Holiday Inn Sunnyside Park, as part of the “Enhance Protection and Asylum” (EPA) project under the Migration and Mobility Dialogue Support Programme (MMD), a joint Africa–EU initiative. Organised by the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town (SCCT) in partnership with JRS Uganda, SIHMA, CoRMSA, and CCLAS, the conference brought together approximately 80 participants, including representatives of civil society, refugee-led organisations, NGOs, government, and other relevant stakeholders. The event aimed to strengthen networks, promote knowledge-sharing, and advance joint recommendations to improve access to asylum in South Africa and Uganda.

The conference built on the dialogue initiated during the first gathering in Kampala in August 2025, fostering the exchange of best practices, comparative analysis of the legal frameworks of both countries, and the development of strategies to ensure better access to documentation, services, and rights, particularly for children on the move. Among the expected outcomes were stronger collaboration among organisations, the formulation of concrete recommendations to improve asylum processes, and the development of a roadmap to implement agreed initiatives, contributing to more effective and dignity-centred protection systems.



6

Some photos of the main activities we took part in

07 January 2025

Visit from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
The Department of Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking received a joyful visit from **Fr Dumisani Vilakati**, Official of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and **Coordinator for the Africa Region**.



23 January 2025

SACBC Bishops' Plenary Assembly
Participation in the **SACBC Bishops' Plenary**, held under the theme **Synodality**. A meaningful moment of learning, dialogue, and shared reflection on building a Church that walks together.

12 March 2025

Meeting with the Human Trafficking Team
Meeting with the **Human Trafficking Team** to reflect on ongoing initiatives and strengthen collaborative efforts in prevention, protection, and advocacy.



13 March 2025

Holy See National Day
Celebration of the **Holy See's National Day** and the **12th Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis**.

23–30 March 2025

5th Talitha Kum Leadership Training Course – Lima, Peru
Participation in the **5th Leadership Training Course of the Talitha Kum Network**, held in **Lima, Peru**, bringing together leaders committed to the global fight against human trafficking.



09 April 2025

SACBC Social Action Department – Quarterly Reports
The coordinators of the **eight commissions** that make up the SACBC Social Action Department presented their **quarterly reports** to the Chairperson, **Bishop Thulani Victor Mbuyisa**.



April 2025 – Rome

Funeral of Pope Francis
Participation in the **Funeral of Pope Francis** in Rome.





April 2025 – Rome

Meeting with Fr Dumisani Vilakati

Meeting with **Fr Dumisani Vilakati** during activities in Rome.



April 2025 – Rome

Meeting with Sr Abby Avelino

Meeting with **Sr Abby Avelino**, International Coordinator of **Talitha Kum International**.

April 2025 – Rome

Meeting with the Italian Episcopal Conference

Meeting with the **team from the Italian Episcopal Conference** to evaluate the ongoing project implemented within the SACBC.



April 2025

Visit of Caritas Japan

Visit from **Caritas Japan**, strengthening ties of solidarity and cooperation.

May 2025

Visit of Sr Simona Brambilla, MC

Visit of **Sr Simona Brambilla, MC**, Prefect of the **Dicastery for Consecrated Life**.



June–July 2025

Pilgrimage to Rome

Pilgrimage to **Rome**, including passage through the **Holy Doors of the four major basilicas** during the Jubilee Year.

2025 – Johannesburg

Visit of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Visit of **Cardinal Michael Czerny**, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, accompanied by his secretary **Fr Joseph Savarimuthu**, to the **Scalabrinian Sisters** in **Johannesburg**.



2025

Visit from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
 Visit of **Fr Dumisani Vilakati** and **Mr Mario Almeida** from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.



2025 – Archdiocese of Johannesburg

Meeting with Two Cardinals

Meeting with **Cardinal Stephen Brislin** and **Cardinal Michael Czerny** at the Archdiocese of Johannesburg.

Throughout the year, several meetings were held, both in person and online, with different national and international organizations. However, from January to March, there is no complete record of all the meetings that took place during this period, although several were held. Below are the most significant meetings: 55 in-person meetings, 24 online meetings, 21 workshops and webinars (online), 9 conferences national and international.

02.01.2025: **África do Sul: A SACBC assistiu mais de oito mil migrantes e refugiados em 2024**

[África do Sul: A SACBC assistiu mais de oito mil migrantes e refugiados em 2024 - Vatican News](#)

02.01.2025: **Scalabriniana é entrevistada pelo Vatican News - [Scalabriniana é entrevistada pelo Vatican News – Scalabrinianas](#)**

SUMMARY

Indicator	Total
Dioceses Visited	14
Workshops / Trainings / Meetings	32
Schools visit	11
Leaders attended	610
Students reached	6845
Migrants / Refugees reached	1.736
Youth (parishes & youth meetings)	254
Celebrations / Awareness Events (Talitha Kum & World Days)	1900

Report From The Dioceses

1. DIOCESE OF ALIWAL

1. Contextualization - The Diocese is located very close to the Lesotho border, which facilitates the movement of stateless persons from Lesotho into South Africa through Sterkspruit. Sterkspruit is the first town after Telle Bridge and falls within the Diocese's jurisdiction. Hundreds of people cross the border daily, and this movement remains largely uncontrollable.

With regard to migrants, they come to the Diocese for several reasons. The area is composed of small towns that are generally peaceful and have not experienced the xenophobic attacks reported in larger cities. Some migrants follow family members who have already settled in local communities. In addition, migrants find it relatively easy to attend Mass in parish communities and to participate in liturgical activities. Access to priests is also easier, particularly in situations where language barriers may exist.

Currently, the Diocese has just over 1,000 stateless persons recorded in its database, as well as approximately 55 migrants who have personally visited the office or participated in meetings.

In relation to human trafficking, the Diocese has an active desk in place. However, only a limited number of cases have been identified within the Diocese.

2. Objectives - The main objectives are to keep the office accessible and welcoming to migrants and stateless persons across all communities. On average, the office receives approximately 30–50 stateless persons per month. Migrants who visit the office remain a minority, as their cases are often complex and there are limited local offices equipped to address their specific challenges. In addition, some migrants are hesitant to come forward due to fear of deportation and issues of trust.

Another objective is to promote inclusion by facilitating the integration of migrants and stateless persons into community activities such as sports events, church services, funerals, and other social gatherings. Efforts are made to raise awareness within communities that not all migrants are present for negative reasons; many have migrated in good faith in search of better opportunities.



The office also aims to empower migrants and stateless persons by encouraging them to obtain accurate and relevant information regarding their challenges. This includes providing information available at the office and referring individuals to the appropriate government departments or service providers for further assistance and clarification. Participation in various workshops has strengthened the office’s capacity to share accurate and relevant information with migrants and stateless persons.

Close collaboration is maintained with several stakeholders, including the Department of Home Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Social Development, Legal Aid South Africa, the Department of Health, local NGOs, Ministers’ Fraternal groups, and Lawyers for Human Rights.

All the above objectives were successfully achieved.

3. Activities Planned and Carried Out

The following activities were planned and implemented during the reporting period:

- **Educational Support / Back-to-School Programme**
Dates: 05 March 2025, 07 March 2025, and 19 June 2025
- **Awareness Campaigns and Information-Sharing Sessions**
Dates: 10 April 2025, 05 August 2025, and 13 August 2025
- **Networking and Partnerships**
The office established new networks with the University of the Free State (Faculty of Law) and Caritas Japan from 20 to 22 August 2025, as well as with Caritas Bloemfontein on 04 December 2025.
- **Nutritional Support** - Nutritional support activities were carried out throughout the year, subject to the availability of funds.

4. Activities Not Realized and Reasons

Commemorative Event - This activity was not implemented during the reporting period due to unspecified constraints.

6. Statistics

Number of activities carried out in the Arch/dioceses	
Types of activities	
Outreach programs -	3 activities
Education initiatives -	3 activities
Collaboration/networking -	3 new networks
Empowerment programs -	2 activities
Commemorative event –	None
Others -	
Number of migrants assisted	4 were assisted with food parcels
Number of Statelessness assisted	3 blood test, 67 received school uniform and 41 were assisted to get access to school.
Number of internally displaced persons assisted	None
Nationalities and number of people served (in each nationality)	Lesotho (Stateless) – 107 Malawian – 1 Zimbabwe – 3
Partner organizations	Men against crime and Vuyo James Disability

	Lesotho justice and peace and Caritas Bloemfontein
Other important information	

2. ARCHDIOCESE OF PRETORIA

1. Introduction

Throughout the year 2025, the Pastoral Care for Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking of Caritas Pretoria carried out various pastoral, humanitarian and human dignity–promoting activities, responding in a concrete way to the growing needs of migrants and refugees served. The actions implemented included food and clothing distribution programs, Back to School support, a weekly Wednesday feeding program, emergency assistance, physical health support (screenings and consultations), mental health support (professional counselling), empowerment initiatives, and sensitization activities against human trafficking. In total, 2,055 people were reached through these programs, despite the challenges faced, such as insecurity limiting fieldwork, a significant increase in the demand for health services, and the complexity of the needs of the population served.

2. Statistics

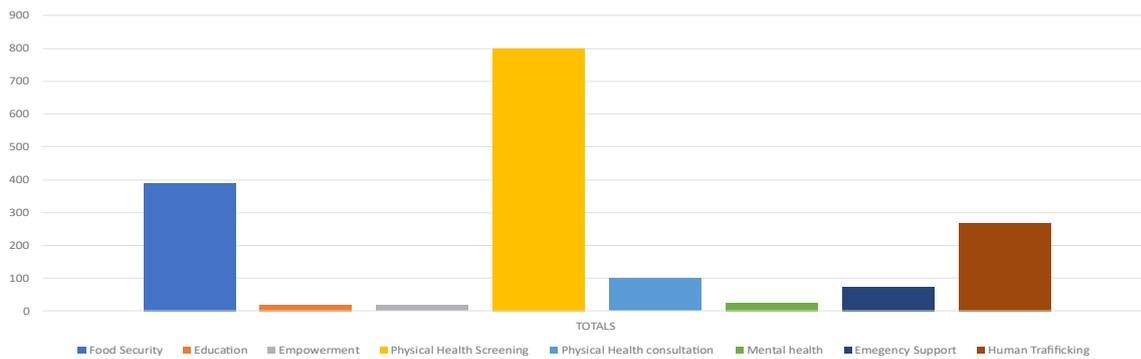
Number of activities carried out in the Arch/dioceses	
Types of activities Outreach programs - Education initiatives - Collaboration/networking - Empowerment programs - Commemorative event – Others -	<i>Food, clothes and blankets distribution</i> <i>Provision of Stationaries and school needs</i> <i>Mental health (counselling)</i> <i>Physical health (free screening and consultation)</i> <i>Empowerment of women with business skills</i> <i>Emergency support</i> <i>Collaboration with other organizations</i>
Number of migrants assisted	405
Number of refugees assisted	1492
Number of internally displaced persons assisted	158
Nationalities and number of people served (in each nationality)	<i>DRC, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mozambique, Nigeria, Kenya, and Cameroon</i>
Partner organisations	Outreach Foundation, Lawyers for Human Right, Jesuit Relief Service, Fuller Africa, Tswani Leadership Foundation and Unbound Chains
Other important information	Thank you for you support

STATISTICS

Food Security	300
Feeding Program	80 x week
Education	20
Health (Screening)	1127
Health (Consultation)	105
Mental Health	15
Empowerment	25
Emergency Support	131
Human Trafficking	270

Total: 2055

STATISTICS on Bar Chart





3. ARCHDIOCESE OF DURBAN

1. EDUCATION SUPPORT: SCHOOL UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION AND SCHOOL PLACEMENT

The distribution of school uniforms and the facilitation of access to public schools remain critical interventions in addressing social and economic barriers faced by refugee and asylum-seeking children. Refugee Pastoral Care (RPC) continued to play a central facilitating role in these efforts throughout 2025.

Through the School Uniform Programme, over 250 children from refugee and asylum-seeking families were supported, effectively removing a major financial obstacle to school attendance. In addition, more than 20 children who experienced significant challenges in securing school placements received direct assistance from RPC. This support included engagement with school management, guidance on admission requirements, and follow-up with relevant education authorities.

By combining material assistance with advocacy and placement support, RPC promoted social inclusion, restored dignity, and advanced equal access to education. This integrated approach contributed not only to improved immediate educational outcomes but also to longer-term social integration and economic participation for vulnerable children and their families, thereby addressing persistent social and economic inequalities.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY COMMEMORATION

Human Rights Day was commemorated in Durban in collaboration with network partners. The event brought together refugees, asylum seekers, civil society organisations, faith-based groups, and community stakeholders to reflect on human dignity, equality, and justice.

Through shared activities, dialogue, and cultural expression, the commemoration highlighted the lived experiences of displaced persons and reaffirmed a collective commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly for the most vulnerable. The collaborative nature of the event strengthened solidarity among network members and reinforced the importance of joint advocacy, awareness-raising, and community engagement within the Durban context.

3. WORLD REFUGEE DAY COMMEMORATION

World Refugee Day was commemorated in partnership with network members as a platform to raise awareness of the realities faced by refugees and asylum seekers, while celebrating their resilience, contributions, and cultural diversity.

The event promoted solidarity, inclusion, and shared responsibility in responding to forced displacement. It also created space for dialogue, advocacy, and community engagement, reinforcing a collective commitment to upholding the rights, dignity, and well-being of refugees within Durban and the surrounding areas.

4. HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION

The celebration of Heritage Day, organised in collaboration with network partners, served as an important platform for promoting social cohesion, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding among refugee, asylum-seeking, and host communities.

Through joint planning and participation, the event created a safe and inclusive environment in which diverse cultural identities were recognised and celebrated. Activities such as traditional music, food, and storytelling fostered dialogue, reduced social isolation, and strengthened relationships across communities. The collaboration also reinforced resource-sharing, collective action, and a unified response to social integration challenges.

5. FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMME

Food distribution was carried out with support from the Lenten Appeal Fund, the Spiritan Fathers, and an anonymous donor. Through this intervention, RPC reached and supported more than 2,000 vulnerable households, providing essential food assistance to refugees and asylum seekers experiencing severe economic hardship.

This support helped to address immediate food insecurity, restore dignity, and offer relief to families struggling to meet their basic nutritional needs.

6. PSYCHOSOCIAL AND PASTORAL SUPPORT: “HEALING TOUCH OF CHRIST” WORKSHOPS

The HEALING TOUCH OF CHRIST workshops were implemented as part of RPC’s psychosocial and pastoral support initiatives. Two workshops intentionally brought together participants from local communities, refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrant groups.

These sessions created safe and compassionate spaces for healing, reflection, and mutual understanding. Participants were supported in processing trauma, rebuilding trust, and fostering social cohesion. By engaging both host and migrant communities, the workshops promoted reconciliation, solidarity, and shared human dignity.

7. DOCUMENTATION AND LEGAL SUPPORT

RPC continued to provide ongoing assistance with the renewal of asylum-seeker visas, refugee identity documents, and family-joining applications. Due to the effectiveness of this support, the office has increasingly become known within migrant communities as a “little Home Affairs,” reflecting the trust placed in its services.

As a result of improved documentation outcomes, the number of individuals and families seeking assistance increased significantly during the reporting period. This growth highlights both the scale of need and the credibility of RPC’s intervention in supporting refugees and asylum seekers to secure legal status, stability, and protection.

Notably, one individual within the system was granted refugee status in 2025.

8. ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

RPC worked closely with the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CORMSA) on a range of advocacy initiatives aimed at promoting the rights, protection, and inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.

Through joint campaigns, strategic engagements, and participation in advocacy forums, this collaboration strengthened collective advocacy efforts, amplified migrant voices, and contributed to coordinated responses to policy and systemic challenges affecting displaced communities.

9. LANGUAGE AND INTEGRATION PROGRAMMES

Language training in English and isiZulu continued to play a vital role in promoting social integration, self-reliance, and access to essential services. Through structured language classes, participants developed practical communication skills that enabled them to navigate daily life, engage with local communities, and interact more effectively with employers, schools, and public institutions.

A total of 56 participants completed the programme, demonstrating improved language proficiency, increased confidence, and enhanced capacity to participate meaningfully in social and economic life.

10. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTION

Like many organisations working in the sector, RPC experienced a significant decline in available funding during 2025. This reduction placed increased pressure on programmes and staff capacity, even as demand for services continued to rise. Despite these constraints, priority was given to sustaining core interventions and providing essential support to the most vulnerable.

Looking ahead, RPC plans to consolidate and strengthen its core programmes while responding strategically to reduced funding. Priority will continue to be given to documentation support, food relief, psychosocial and pastoral care, and advocacy for the rights of refugees and migrants.

Efforts will be made to deepen collaboration with network partners, including CORMSA, to maximise impact through shared resources, joint advocacy, and coordinated service delivery. In addition, RPC will explore diversified funding opportunities, strengthen donor engagement, and improve monitoring and reporting systems to better demonstrate impact. Capacity-building initiatives, volunteer engagement, and

community-based approaches will be expanded to ensure sustainability, resilience, and continued accompaniment of vulnerable refugee, asylum-seeking, and migrant households.



4. DIOCESE OF WITBANK

1. INTRODUCTION

During the latter part of 2025, the Office of Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking of the Diocese of Witbank participated in and supported several activities related to migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking.

In the parish of Lebombo, the Coordinator, together with the Parish Priest, conducted a pastoral visit to a home that accommodates children with various vulnerabilities. During the same period, the office finalised awareness banners focusing on migration and human trafficking. In addition, initial steps were taken to support a family of five stateless children born in the Republic of South Africa to foreign parents.

2. THE GRACE HOME, MALELANE

The Grace Home in Malelane, located in the Nkomazi area, is a collaborative initiative between government and civil society that provides temporary care for children with diverse vulnerabilities. A significant number of the children housed at the centre have been rescued from trafficking situations, while others are survivors of domestic abuse. The centre also accommodates South African children, as well as young migrants from Mozambique and Lesotho who have come to South Africa in search of better opportunities.

The facility offers temporary care until children can be reunited with their families or formally adopted. The centre was visited by representatives of the Office together with members of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Malelane. Parish volunteers regularly support the children through Bible-sharing sessions, food provision, and other forms of assistance. During one of the visits, Bibles were distributed and moments of prayer and reflection were shared with the children.

3. AWARENESS BANNERS

Two awareness banners focusing on migrants and human trafficking were finalised during the reporting period. These materials could not be procured in time for the October workshop due to logistical constraints. Adjustments to printing quality were necessary as a result of limited budget availability for high-resolution materials. Despite these challenges, the banners were completed and are now available for use in awareness and advocacy activities.

4. STATELESS CHILDREN CASE

The office began accompanying a case involving five stateless siblings: Lucy Hlebeya and her four younger siblings. Lucy, the eldest, arrived in South Africa with her mother as an infant and has never been documented in either Mozambique or South Africa. The second child, Lindokuhle, born to a different Mozambican father, was born at Shongwe Hospital in South Africa, as were the younger siblings, Madeli, Lifa, and Okuhle.

In 2023, the children's mother was murdered by her partner, leaving the children without parental care. Since then, the Church has provided ongoing support for the family. All five children are actively involved in parish life and serve as altar servers.

In 2025, the office initiated efforts to explore possible pathways to documentation for the children. While there are particular concerns regarding Lucy, who turned 18 in August 2025, the office remains committed to pursuing all possible avenues and continues to seek external support and collaboration in this complex case.

5. FLOODS IN THE NKOMAZI REGION

The Nkomazi region in eastern Mpumalanga is frequently affected by floods during the peak of the rainy season. Many migrants and refugees living in rural areas are particularly vulnerable, as some have settled along riverbanks and flood-prone areas. These communities are often severely impacted by flooding and related disasters.

Currently, the disaster management structures at diocesan and deanery levels lack adequate resources to respond effectively to these emergencies, limiting the capacity to provide timely assistance to affected migrant and refugee families.

6. CONCLUSION

In 2025, the Office of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees in the Diocese of Witbank worked with commitment and dedication, achieving notable progress, particularly in awareness-raising initiatives. However, significant challenges remain, especially in the areas of advocacy, documentation, and emergency response. Continued efforts, strengthened partnerships, and increased resources are essential to address the growing needs of migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking within the Diocese.



5. DIOCESE OF POLOKWANE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of Polokwane is located in the province of Limpopo (RSA). The diocese is made up of fifteen (15) parishes. The diocese is bordered with the Diocese of Witbank to the South and South-East, Rustenburg in the South-west, Pretoria in the South and Tzaneen in the North and East as well as the republic of Botswana in the North-West.

Entry points of migrants is normally through Musina via Beit Bridge border post as well as Groblersburg.

Polokwane is the capital city as well as the economic and logistics hub of Limpopo province. As such the city is the main attraction to migrants and refugees as well as people from other parts of the province in an effort to improve their socio-economic conditions and livelihoods.

The city as well as other parishes in the Diocese, do experience the inflow of migrants especially from Zimbabwe and Mozambique, with some pockets from Somalia, Ethiopia and other parts of Africa, Europe and Asia coming mainly through Beit Bridge border post and Komatipoort in Mpumalanga. Some are coming illegally crossing Limpopo River, while others go through the Kruger National Park.

Human Trafficking on the other hand is infrequent, not only targeting migrants and refugees, but also local citizens organised by international and local crime syndicates. Some are thus transported to Gauteng, western Cape, other provinces as well as other international destinations with a false notion of better opportunities

1. Current State of the Diocese and Achievements

Evidence was found of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, sexual slavery, labour exploitation, sale of illegal substances and goods, forced criminal activity, extortion and other forms of exploitation

While many migrants are at risk of being trafficked because they are trying to escape from dire socio-economic circumstances and political violence, or are inexperienced and not informed of immigration procedures and the dangers of travelling through non-border post crossings,

victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) those who have been stranded, robbed and subjected to other forms of violence; women and girls involved in prostitution and transactional sexual behaviour; and “unaccompanied” minors travelling alone

suspected trafficked persons are vulnerable to the following health related concerns: sexual and reproductive health problems, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unwanted pregnancies and psychological trauma and mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.

In a successful operation on the N11 road near Mahwelereng, Limpopo province in South Africa (SA), police have arrested 20 foreign nationals who were reportedly being smuggled through the country. March 2025.

The protection system is in place to support undocumented Zimbabwean adults and children in terms of shelter, food and health assistance shows a number of weaknesses and gaps

The phenomenon of Stateless people was also raised and as such the churches were urged to play an active and prominent role in protecting and accommodating these vulnerable groups of people

The Awareness Campaign also targeted schools in the Diocese, covering Capricorn and Waterberg Districts for the period 5 – 9 February 2018. The aim of the schools’ campaign was to bring awareness closer to schools.

The church partnered with NGOs that deal with Human Trafficking awareness as well as survivors. The main targets of Human Trafficking are the poor and vulnerable, who at times may not even be aware that they are victims of Human Trafficking

The Polokwane Diocese emphasised that the task of Christians should not only be praying but actively fighting and campaigning against Human Trafficking.

Human Trafficking can take place in a family perpetrated by parents or relatives.

Parish co-coordinators for all the fifteen parishes have been appointed but others are not active as expected.

The Diocese also managed to celebrate the Migrants and Refugees Day on 5 October 2025 in different parishes.

St Gregory Parish in Mankweng has got a Justice and Peace Drop-In Centre helping local needy children most of whom are children of migrants.

Most of the parishes in the Diocese have got Migrant in their areas of residence, where there is relatively positive and cordial interaction within all the communities. The highest concentration is observed in cities, townships and cosmopolitan areas

The Diocese indeed does welcome the Migrants, protects them, accommodates them, promotes their wellbeing and smoothly integrates with the migrants.

2. CHALLENGES

The Diocese currently does not have the Chaplain in charge of the Office of Migrants and Refugees.

Not all coordinators in the parishes are active in running the programmes of Migrants and Refugees as well as victims of Human Trafficking.

One weakness observed especially in rural areas is that some of the migrants who are there for different work engagements and activities including the House Keepers are normally not given the opportunity or time to go to churches for worship.

Newborn babies of the migrants are facing the challenge of being registered and getting birth certificates.

3. Way Forward and conclusion

The Diocese is planning to establish the office to look after the affairs of Migrants, Refugees and victims of Human Trafficking, which will include the Priests as well as members of the Laity.

The Diocese will continue to interact with government Departments, Traditional Leaders and organs of state like Police, Social Development, Health, Human Rights Commission, Gender Commission, NGOs, CBOs as well as other Christian denominations in the spirit of Ecumenism and Synodality.

The Parish coordinators will be encouraged to be active in the responsibilities assigned to them.

6. DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY

1. Introduction

In 2025, guided by the mission of Caritas South Africa and the global call to uphold human dignity, the Diocese of Kimberley implemented a series of awareness, formation, and outreach initiatives. These activities addressed human trafficking, gender-based violence, and substance abuse, while fostering peace, solidarity, and hope among communities, migrants, and refugees.

Rooted in the Gospel call to “WELCOME THE STRANGER”, the Diocese sought to heal wounds, strengthen communities, and bear witness to Christ’s love. Despite the challenges facing our society, Caritas Kimberley remained committed to accompanying schools, parishes, and local communities, making each activity a living testimony to our diocesan motto: “PILGRIMS OF HOPE, WALKING TOGETHER IN LOVE.”

2. Summary of Activities Undertaken

2. Highlights of Diocesan Activities

2.1. February 8, 2025 – Youth Awareness Workshop on Substance Abuse

Venue: Manthe/Molelema Pastoral District

Theme: “Your Life is a Gift – Guard It Well.”

Partners: Taung District Hospital Medical Team

The year began with a strong focus on our young people — the heartbeat of our future. On 8 February, over 150 youth gathered at Manthe/Molelema Pastoral District for a day of reflection and empowerment. In collaboration with the medical team from Taung District Hospital, Caritas Kimberley organized a dynamic awareness workshop on substance abuse, exploring the link between addiction and vulnerability to human trafficking.

The day was filled with real-life testimonies, medical insights, and prayer. One volunteer remarked, *“When young people discover their value, they no longer seek escape in substances — they find purpose.”*

Through open dialogue and music, the youth were reminded that their lives are sacred gifts. The message was clear: freedom begins with choosing life.

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you?” (1 Cor 6:19)

2.2. March 8, 2025 – International Women’s Day Celebration

Theme: *“A Mother as a Source of Hope – Women Standing Against Human Trafficking.”*

In March, we turned our attention to the women of our Diocese — mothers, sisters, daughters — the silent heroes of faith and resilience.

To mark International Women’s Day, Caritas hosted an awareness session focusing on women’s role in combating human trafficking and nurturing hope in families.

Over 200 participants gathered for a morning of prayer, reflection, and dialogue. Stories of courage were shared — women who overcame abuse, mothers who became protectors of other children, and communities uniting to watch over one another.

The highlight of the day was a moving moment of blessing for all mothers, accompanied by this prayer:

“May every woman become a light of hope — in her home, in her church, and in her community.”

Participants committed themselves to raise their voices against exploitation, pledging to be “mothers of freedom” in their parishes and schools.



2.3. May 2–3, 2025 – Volunteers’ Workshop and Recollection

Theme: *“Pilgrims of Hope Among Migrants, Refugees, and Victims of Trafficking.”*

Caritas volunteers are the hands and hearts of our mission. Over two days, from 2–3 May, 45 volunteers from different parishes gathered for a spiritual recollection and training session aimed at deepening their understanding of migration and human trafficking.

The recollection combined prayer, formation, and personal sharing. Volunteers reflected on the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan, identifying themselves as modern-day Samaritans called to serve those wounded by injustice and displacement.

Moments of silence and adoration reminded everyone that service begins at the altar of the heart.

“Hope is born when compassion moves us to action.”

By the end of the recollection, volunteers renewed their commitment to be “messengers of mercy”, accompanying the marginalized with patience, prayer, and professionalism.

2.4. July 30, 2025 – World Day Against Human Trafficking

Venue: St. Paul’s High School

In collaboration with: National Caritas Team

This day marked one of the largest awareness events of the year. Together with the National Caritas South Africa team, the Diocese of Kimberley held a powerful awareness campaign at St. Paul’s High School.

Over 600 students, 60 teachers, and support staff gathered in the school hall for a full-day program under the global theme:

“Leave No One Behind: End Human Trafficking.”

Through plays, videos, and testimonies, the youth learned about the reality of trafficking in South Africa — and how education, faith, and community vigilance can protect lives.

The presence of the national team gave the students a wider perspective: that this is not just a local issue, but a global wound that requires each of us to act.

At the end of the day, students raised blue ribbons and recited together:

“We choose freedom. We choose dignity. We stand against human trafficking.”

2.5. September 8, 2025 – Walk for Peace and Zero Tolerance to GBV

Venue: Mafikeng

On the occasion of National Women’s Day, Caritas Kimberley joined forces with community members, parish groups, and men’s organizations in Mafikeng for a Walk for Peace.

Over 200 people — men, women, and youth — walked side by side, holding banners reading:

“Peace Begins at Home” and *“Men and Women United Against GBV and Trafficking.”*

The event symbolized unity and a public commitment to break the silence around violence and exploitation. A short prayer service concluded the walk, where participants released white balloons symbolizing forgiveness, healing, and new beginnings.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” (Mt 5:9)

2.6. September 24, 2025 – Heritage Day Celebration

Venue: Kimberley Diocese

Heritage Day was a joyful celebration of unity in diversity. Over 300 people attended the diocesan event, each dressed in their traditional attire — from Setswana to Zulu, Sotho to Shona, and beyond.

Songs, dances, and storytelling expressed the beauty of cultural heritage and the shared humanity that transcends borders. It was a vivid expression of the message that God’s kingdom knows no division.

The event inspired reflection on cultural respect and hospitality, especially toward migrants and refugees.

“We are many cultures, but one people in Christ.”

2.7. October 5, 2025 – International Migrants and Refugees Day

Theme: *“Migrants, Pilgrims of Hope.”*

Venue: Holy Cross Parish, Lokaleng

The climax of the year was the celebration of the International Day for Migrants and Refugees, held at Holy Cross Parish, Lokaleng.

The Eucharist was vibrant — filled with traditional songs, readings in multiple languages, and people wearing cultural attire.

During the candle-light ceremony, representatives of different nations and parishes lit candles in remembrance of all migrants and refugees who have perished on their journeys, those separated from their families, and those living in isolation and fear.

Tears mingled with hope as the congregation prayed together:

“May the Lord walk beside all who journey in search of peace, safety, and dignity.”

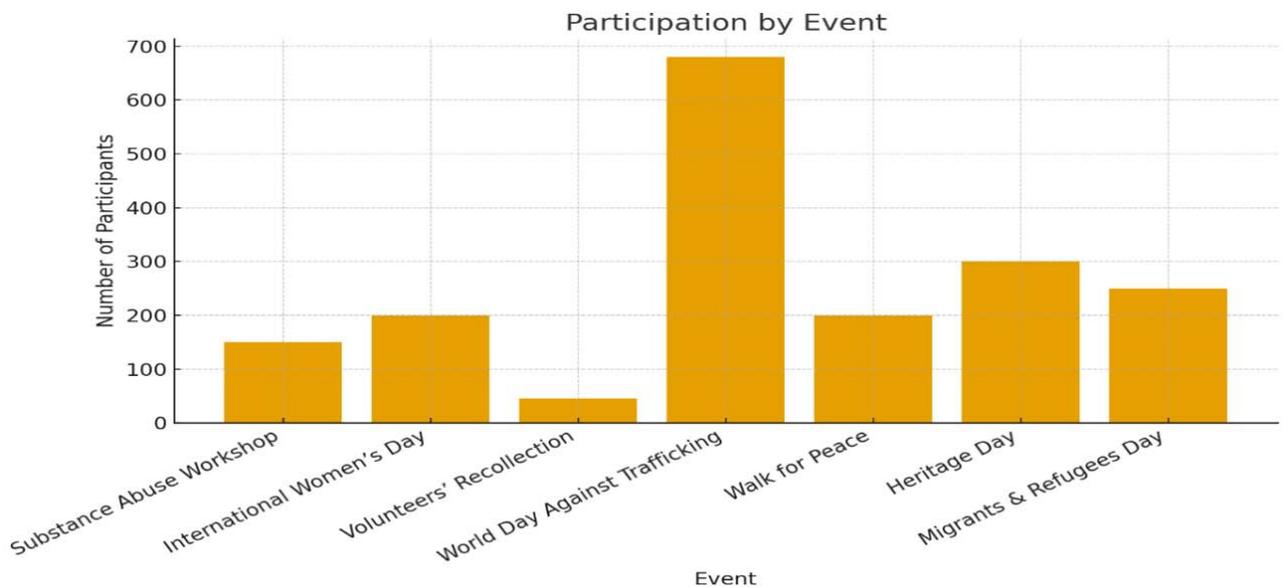
The event reminded us that migration is not only a social issue, but also a spiritual pilgrimage — one that calls the Church to walk with the displaced and offer them the warmth of belonging.



Summary

Activity	Date	Venue	Participants	Collaborators
Youth Workshop on Substance Abuse	8 Feb 2025	Manthe/Molelema	150	Taung District Hospital
International Women’s Day	8 Mar 2025	Diocesan	200	Caritas Team
Volunteers’ Recollection	2–3 May 2025	Diocesan	45	Missionaries of Christ Sisters, Diocesan Caritas Office
World Day Against Human Trafficking	30 Jul 2025	St. Paul’s High School	680	National Caritas Team
Walk for Peace & GBV Awareness	8 Sep 2025	St. Anthony parish Mafikeng	200	Local Parishes
Heritage Day Celebration	24 Sep 2025	St. Paul’s Mission Hall	300	Cultural leaders, municipality council, local parishes
Migrants and Refugees Day	5 Oct 2025	Holy Cross Parish-Lokaleng	250	Parish Groups
Total Estimated Reach (2025)			1,825 people	

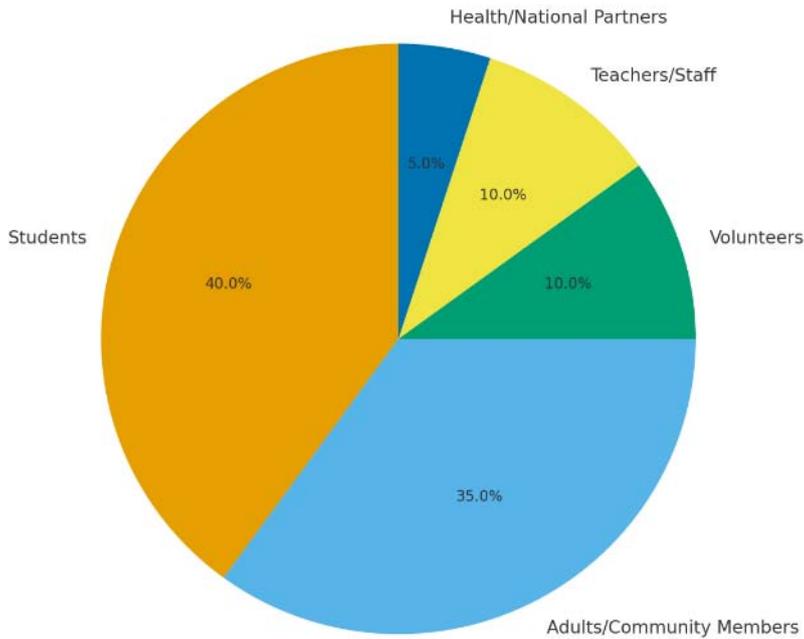
4. Visual Representation of Activities



B. Graph 2 – Category of Participants

A pie chart showing approximate distribution:

Category of Participants



Achievements and Challenges in 2025

In 2025, the Diocese of Kimberley implemented several initiatives to support migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking. Key achievements included assisting two asylum-seeker families in establishing small hair salon businesses, enabling them to generate income and support their households, and helping one migrant family obtain official ownership documentation for land purchased through a local chief. These initiatives promoted dignity, self-reliance, and community integration. However, the Diocese faced challenges such as limited financial resources, bureaucratic obstacles in

accessing formal employment and social services, the need for continuous awareness-raising in remote areas, and occasional security concerns and social resistance.

During the year, an asylum seeker supported by the Diocese was detained in Musina while attempting to regularize his documentation, creating significant hardship for him and his family. The department worked closely with the National Office and the Scalabrini Centre in Cape Town to advocate for his release and seek a sustainable solution. Despite these challenges, Caritas Kimberley Diocese reached over 1,800 people through partnerships with schools, health institutions, parishes, and the national Caritas team, promoting awareness, solidarity, and hope, while reaffirming its commitment to dignity, justice, and protection for the most vulnerable.

7. ARCHDIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

Synthesis of Annual Activities

1. Reception and Direct Assistance

The Department provided reception and direct assistance to 3,436 migrants and refugees from 15 nationalities. Support included guidance, referrals, food assistance, clothing, healthcare access, and emergency financial help. Particular attention was given to vulnerable individuals, including families, women, children, and persons facing crisis situations.

2. Legal and Documentation Support

A total of 405 migrants and refugees were referred to partner organisations such as Section 27, Lawyers for Human Rights, and ProBono.Org. Legal support focused on documentation, access to asylum procedures, healthcare rights, education, and protection from arrest and detention.

3. Accommodation and Protection

The Department facilitated temporary accommodation for 27 migrant and refugee women and their children, prioritising cases of extreme vulnerability. Additional protection support included counselling, referrals to shelters, and rehabilitation services for individuals facing substance abuse and trauma.

4. Prayer with migrants and refugee women

Every Friday throughout the year, the Department leads a prayer with migrant and refugee women at Bienvenu Shelter to help them keep their faith despite difficult situations they faced before being admitted to Bienvenu Shelter. The Department is helping them to have a positive mind and hope for the future in the midst of despair.

5. Language, Computer skills and Business management classes

Language classes (English and Isizulu), Computer skills and Business management courses were provided to migrants and refugees throughout the year and most of those who followed the courses graduated and are able to communicate in English and or Isizulu. Others got jobs some started their own small businesses. The third and final term of the language and business management courses were concluded on the 30th of November with graduation ceremonies held on the 09 December 2025. A total of **351** Migrant and Refugee students successfully graduated from the programs offered through the Department of Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees. Which in the 1st term **108** graduated in April 2025, **106** graduated in the 2nd term in August and **137** graduated in December 2025.

5. Micro-Credit and Livelihoods Support

The Department supported over 35 women entrepreneurs through a micro-credit programme. Assistance included seed funding, monitoring visits, financial guidance, and business evaluations. Follow-up visits ensured accountability, sustainability, and continued growth of income-generating activities.

7. Outreach and Humanitarian Assistance

Through outreach initiatives in collaboration with shelters and parishes, the Department reached 13,892 people directly and an estimated 64,689 indirectly. Support included food parcels, toiletries, sanitary items, clothing, and emergency relief, especially during festive periods and times of crisis.

8. Pastoral Care and Psychosocial Support

The Department offered continuous pastoral accompaniment, including weekly prayer sessions with migrant and refugee women, counselling, emotional support, and spiritual guidance. These activities fostered resilience, hope, and a sense of belonging within faith communities.

9. Advocacy, Awareness, and Capacity Building

Advocacy activities included workshops on documentation, healthcare access, statelessness, social cohesion, and human trafficking. Engagements were conducted with migrants, refugees, parish representatives, community leaders, and partner organisations to strengthen awareness and rights realisation.

10. Community Engagement and Church Celebrations

The Department actively participated in World Refugee Day, Jubilee celebrations, and cultural events across 22 parishes. These celebrations promoted inclusion, solidarity, and recognition of migrants and refugees as active contributors to Church and society.

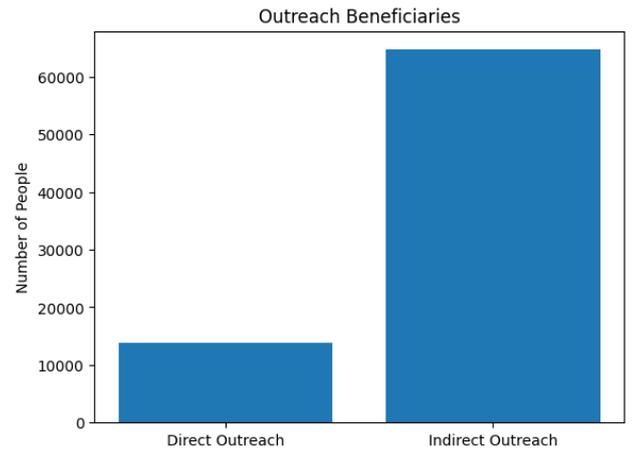
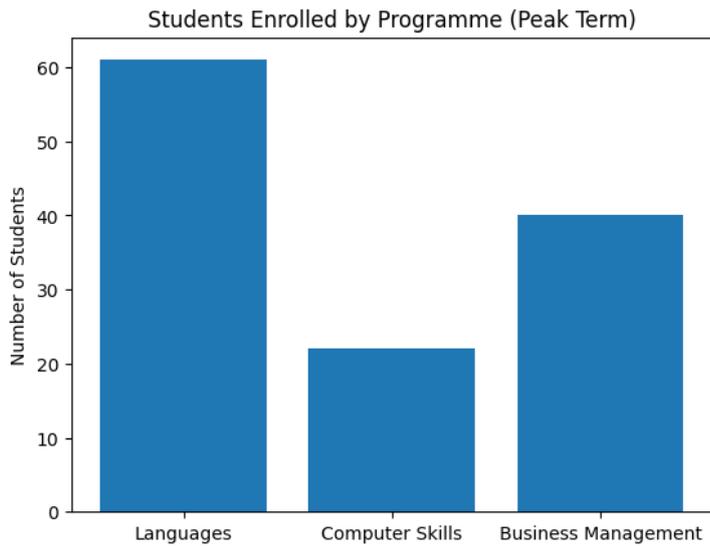
11. Celebration of the 111 World Day of Migrants and Refugees within the Archdiocese

22 parishes participated in the celebration across the archdiocese of Johannesburg during 2025.



Summary Table – Key Activities by Thematic Area

THEMATIC AREA	KEY OUTPUTS
Reception & Direct Assistance	3,436 people assisted
Legal & Documentation Support	405 referrals
Accommodation & Protection	27 women & children sheltered
Education & Skills Training	351 graduates
Micro-Credit & Livelihoods	35+ women supported
Outreach & Humanitarian Aid	13,892 direct / 64,689 indirect
Pastoral Care	Weekly prayer & counselling
Advocacy & Awareness	Rights & documentation workshops
Community & Church Events	22 parishes engaged





BIENVENU SHELTER AND MOTHER ASSUNTA TRAINING CENTER



Bienvenu Shelter, run by the Scalabrinian Missionary Sisters, first opened its doors in 2001 with the mission of ‘Assisting Migrant and Refugee Women and Their Children to better their lives’ and to provide holistic support to facilitate their self-sustainability and integration into the local welcoming community. The Shelter itself caters to vulnerable migrant and refugee women and their children, some of whom have found themselves homeless, survivors of GBV in need of a safe space, and in other situations of vulnerability.

The shelter is located in Bertrams, a district in the inner city of Johannesburg. It is a community composed of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers mired in poverty and deprivation, where human trafficking is rife and there is a culture of violence and drug abuse.

We provide **safe and secure accommodation** for a maximum of 45 women and children at any given time, ensuring their basic needs are met, including access to health care, psychosocial support, emotional healing and empowerment. We promote social, cultural diversity and social cohesion.



We have a **Baby room and Creche** on site working according to the Early Childhood Development Programme, priority being given to the mothers residing at the shelter. Children are cared for in a loving and safe environment, enabling mothers to achieve self-sustainability by seeking forms of income and training opportunities.

The **Outreach programme** is also an integral part of Bienvenu Shelter’s methodology of action as is an essential service which provides sustenance to all residents upon exiting the shelter and also supports families in the local community who are in great need. We support with food parcels, blankets, daily bread to mention but a few. Through this we also support women who left the shelter with long term psychosocial support.

Empowerment programme at the Mother Assunta Training Centre, an extension of the Bienvenu Shelter, we offer women from the Shelter and from the local community livelihood courses in baking, beauty – nails and make up, sewing, beading and hairdressing as well as business management training and skills development. Thus, creating job opportunities to generate income for themselves and their families.

Number of Beneficiaries assisted during 2025

Programme	Number of beneficiaries	Total
Safe and secure accommodation	95 women and 110 children from 16 nationalities	205
Empowerment	261 women participated in various training sessions offered during 2025. 193 graduated in the livelihood courses	261
Baby Room and Creche	42 children were enrolled in the Baby Room 43 children were enrolled in the Creche. From 12 nationalities 12 children graduated and were placed in primary schools.	85
Outreach	17.505 families were assisted, totaling 79.542 people assisted indirectly in collaboration with Pastoral Care for Migrants & Refugees Department of the Archdiocese of Johannesburg.	17 505
	Total	18.056

8. DIOCESE OF RUSTENBURG

1. Contextualization

Rustenburg context with regards to migrants and refugee is nothing short of the situation in the country. Many of the undocumented foreign workers end up in low-paid jobs. There are local Migrant and refugee NGOs assisting the migrants and refugees to navigate acquiring of document, appeals and access to basic services, but the capacity is stretched, and xenophobic tension remains a challenge.

Migrant's children are faced with the challenge to access education. Discrimination and social exclusion are common affecting their emotional well-being. Adult migrants many times are unable to return to their home of origin due to the documentation expiry dates. Families are unable to access basic services such health and education.

2. Objectives

The office objectives were achieved. We managed to foster a working relationship with the local migrants and refugee office in Rustenburg. We have established a circle of care in different pastoral areas of the diocese. We assisted a Mozambican family with their 14-year-old child admission in the local secondary school we are in the process to assist her to get the birth certificate as they have been using clinic card to enroll her at her previous school (primary) they were stuck when she was supposed to get enrolled in the secondary school this year.

We are also in the process with assisting two couples one from Lesotho and one from Malawian who are legally married to south african spouses but cant get the permanent residents and they have been married for over 10 years the other one has been staying in south africa for 25 years now they have been struggling with getting relevent documents whereas they have to go back home and again to renew and both their children were born here and have South African birth certificates and IDs.

Another one we have been struggling to assist is a 17-year-old Lesotho girl without notification of birth but she was born in South Africa the mother is from Lesotho she came to South Africa years ago without returning back home she doesn't have any paperwork she lost her passport.

3. Activities planned and carried out

Meeting with Caritas Rustenburg office and Vigar General – Date: 12 September 2025 Venue: Chancery
Celebration of World Migrants and refugee day – Date: 05 October 2025
Venue: Majakaneng (St Francis Catholic Church)

Human trafficking Awareness campaign -10th October 2025
Venue: Buffelsfontein, Rustenburg

Meeting with the local Migrant and Refugee office – Date: 11 November 2025
Venue: Rustenburg North West House of Refuge offices
Name of the organization: NW House of Refuge

4. Statistics

Number of activities carried out in the dioceses	3
Types of activities Collaboration/networking -	Local Migrants and Refugees office (NW House of Refuge)
Empowerment programs –	Meeting with Vigar General and Caritas Rustenburg coordinator

Commemorative event –	World Migrants and Refugees Day
Number of migrants assisted	2
Number of refugees assisted	2
Number of internally displaced persons assisted	-
Nationalities and number of people served (in each nationality)	-
Partner organisations	NW House of Refuge



DIOCESE OF RUSTENBURG

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS



Rustenburg Diocese held Human Trafficking awareness on the 10th of October 2025 at Bapong Pastoral Area under Rev Fr Wilfried Tagba, the day was graced with 35 kids between the age of 10-18 and 4 supporting Adults and it was facilitated by Mr Paul Mogorosi ,it was a wonderful day indeed kids participated very well and wanted to learn more on the topic .Kids were happy to receive jubilee blankets after the event from their parish Priest Fr Wilfried.



9. DIOCESE OF DUNDEE

Introduction: During the reporting period, the Diocese of Dundee continued to accompany migrants and refugees within its pastoral territory, responding to their spiritual, social, and humanitarian needs. The diocesan work focused on pastoral care, emergency assistance, advocacy, and collaboration with local stakeholders, in line with the mission of the Catholic Church to uphold human dignity and promote solidarity.

Pastoral Accompaniment and Support: The Diocese provided ongoing pastoral accompaniment to migrants and refugees through parish-based initiatives and direct engagement. This included spiritual support, counselling, prayer services, and referrals to appropriate services. Particular attention was given to vulnerable individuals and families, ensuring they felt welcomed, listened to, and supported within church communities.

Humanitarian Assistance: In response to the immediate needs of migrants and refugees, the Diocese facilitated humanitarian support such as food parcels, clothing, and basic necessities. Assistance was offered according to available resources, with priority given to those in situations of heightened vulnerability, including undocumented migrants, asylum seekers, and families with children.

Awareness and Advocacy: The Diocese actively promoted awareness on migration-related issues, including the protection of migrants' rights, human dignity, and the risks associated with irregular migration. Through community engagement and collaboration with church structures, efforts were made to encourage compassion, reduce discrimination, and foster a culture of welcome within parishes.

Collaboration and Networking: The diocesan work was carried out in collaboration with other dioceses, church-based organisations, and local partners involved in migration and refugee response. This networking strengthened referral pathways and ensured a more coordinated approach to addressing the needs of migrants and refugees at local level.

Challenges and Observations:

Key challenges included limited financial resources, increasing numbers of people seeking assistance, and the complex legal and social realities faced by migrants and refugees. Despite these constraints, the Diocese remained committed to responding with compassion and creativity, relying on cooperation and shared responsibility.

Conclusion: The Diocese of Dundee remains committed to its mission of accompanying migrants and refugees, guided by the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church. Through pastoral care, humanitarian assistance, advocacy, and collaboration, the Diocese continues to contribute to the protection and integration of migrants and refugees, while advocating for more just and humane responses to migration at all levels.

10. ARCHDIOCESE OF CAPE TOWN

1. The situation

The number of migrants and refugees in Cape Town is increasing, while their condition is always not easy. There is a mixed population of forced migrants (asylum seekers and refugees from different nationalities, mostly DRC), economic migrants (many low skills workers from Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique), students and mixed categories.

Unfortunately, we don't have updated statistics, especially concerning Catholic migrants, as well as the areas where they are located (also because of their high level of mobility) and this should be a necessary assessment to understand better the situation and their needs.

Many come to Cape Town searching for opportunities because they already have a connection (family network) and they rely on their support. Their main difficulties are related to documentation (no new application, issues in renewal, undocumented), employment, security.

2. There is not an official designated Desk for Pastoral Care of migrants and Refugees of the Archdiocese of Cape Town, and the process has slowed down with the moving of the Cardinal to Johannesburg. Currently, there is a Coordinator for the Pastoral care of migrants and refugees (Fr Filippo Ferraro, CS) who oversees the main areas of intervention:

A) The Group of ethnic and linguistic Chaplains

It's a well-established group that include the chaplains of the different Catholic groups present in the archdiocese from several African and extracontinental countries: Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Malawi, French-speaking countries (including DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Cameroun, Gabon and other francophone ones), Burundi, Zambia, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Poland, and India.

This group has regular meetings and discuss about topics related to the life of the communities (liturgical, catechetical, documentation, welfare, education, discrimination). The group interacts also with some South African parish priest interested in the conversation and usually ministering in area with a high density of people on the move.

- The main activity since 2016 is the Festival of Nations, that gathers all communities for a cultural Mass in different languages and the sharing of traditional food and attires. In 2025 we had a very well attended event and the Mass was presided by Bishop Kizito.
- We prepare and integrate also the material of SACBC for the Sunday for M&R to be used in the Parishes.
- The chaplains discuss also about the integration of their groups in local parishes and how to interact with the local clergy and religious at different levels.

B) The Migrant Leadership Group

It started in 2024 initially to involve new people in organizing our events, it is growing in presence, including new nationalities and more people, and it's moving from being just an operational support group to a space where migrants themselves can make their voice heard. It aims at enhancing participation and synodal discernment among migrants and refugees on topics related to their life and challenges and opportunities.

Moving from the concept of migrants as beneficiaries of charitable interventions to subjects protagonist in the Church and in the society, this group wants to empower their members and contribute to the orientations and decisions of the pastoral care of migrants and refugees.

They are planned to have a meeting to organize better their structure (roles and responsibilities) that will be then discussed and approved, once there is a more defined Desk.

C) Interaction with Diocesan offices and local communities/parishes

This is probably one of the most urgent and difficult goal for the Archdiocese of Cape Town, i.e. approaching and reaching the catholic communities, especially where their a is a strong component of non-nationals, in order to create an environment conducive for their interaction and integration (avoiding the risks of ghettos, exclusion, parallel communities, abandonment of catholic faith and practice).

In general, there is a huge need for awareness, dialogue and mutual understanding and empathy that can lead to a change of narrative on migration and a consequent uplifting of the conditions.

- The parishes in the Archdiocese are currently busy renewing their PPCs. The newly adopted guidelines and organigram for the Parish Pastoral Council asks to appoint members in charge of specific “portfolios” (liturgy, youth, faith...etc).

One of these is called Community Engagement Portfolio and it is intended to deal with specific thematic areas:

- o Support for the poor and vulnerable (Caritas)
- o Justice and peace
- o Care for creation and the environment
- o Care for migrants and refugees

Every Parish is supposed to appoint in the team of Community Engagement a representative for Migrants and Refugees, in order help the PPC and the entire community to:

- Grow awareness about the presence of non-nationals
- Elaborate strategies to welcome them and make them active members
- Understand their culture and tradition in celebrating their faith
- Map the existing gaps concerning people on the move (documentation, language barrier, welfare, access to health or education)
- Plan some interventions to move forward on the way to integration

The Pastoral care for Migrants and Refugees follows the guidelines of the Department of Pastoral Development of the archdiocese and its programme “Parish Alive!” Caritas cape Town.

An interesting conversion should be: how can migrants and refugees contribute to the renewal and growth of catholic communities?

The different pastoral issues or opportunities should be more discussed and managed in collaboration with the other department of the archdiocese (Chancery, Evangelisation, Pastoral development, Youth,...).

D) Network with other organisations

There is a need to have a more regular and structured interaction with the other organisations working with M&R (Scalabrini Centre, SIHMA, LHR,...) to share more information and access to the services and opportunities that they offer (training, employment, education,...)

3. Activities done:

- o 28 September Festival of Nations (Athlone Civic Centre, even if there’s need for a bigger venue since last year the crowd was more than 1,000 people, including more South African parishes and friends).
- o On the 5th of October all migrants celebrate in their own Parishes, with locals.
- o Activity for the Year of Jubilee in collaboration with SIHMA: screening in the parishes/communities of the movies prepared by STEPS “Generation Africa” (<https://www.generationafrica.co.za/>) followed by a conversations with both, migrants and locals on the specific topic of the movie (with the help of a professional facilitator). This has been already done in several parish and it’s intended not as a once-off activity but like an opportunity to start a dialogue.
- o The group would like to organise some training session in the archdiocese for:
 - priests and religious on the topic of human mobility
 - representatives of the Leadership group
 - members of PPCs, especially representatives of the CE portfolio
 - parish secretaries, catechists, couple engaged in marriage preparation courses
 - youth groups

SCALABRINI CENTER

The Scalabrini Centre, situated in Cape Town, coordinated by Scalabrinians Missionaries Priest is a diverse and dynamic group of staff and volunteers, all dedicated to our **mission** “to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate people on the move into local communities” in pursuit of our **vision** of “a welcoming South Africa, where the rights of people on the move are realised”.

The Scalabrini Centre promotes the rights of people on the move, and does so by providing holistic services alongside a robust rights advocacy agenda. Our programmes offer services that support the integration journey of people on the move who are settling in South Africa.

We strive to be welcoming to all and to acknowledge each individual through a trauma-informed lens.

Guided by our commitment to advancing the realisation of the rights of people on the move, our advocacy work delivered the following key achievements:

- Substantial improvement in awareness and understanding of rights and recourse to documentation pathways for people on the move including children was achieved through advocacy tools and material awareness raising and training shared by extensive communication including on our website (47000 new users in the year and over 360,000 visits by users) and through social media channels (eg 676000 views and 11200 interactions on facebook).
- Successful asylum access litigation protecting new asylum applicants seeking asylum from arrest detention and deportation through an interim order not to deport those who indicate an intention to apply for asylum, followed by a full bench high court order finding the provisions barring access to asylum to be unconstitutional which is to be escalated to the Constitutional Court for confirmation of unconstitutionally decision argument in early 2026.
- Extensive client and refugee and migrant leader engagements, workshops and consultations ensuring direct assistance with rights realisation and documentation pathways. Holding over 9600 client consultations, involving legal advice, assistance, drafting and/or accompaniment.

Looking ahead we remain concerned about the following trends which will inform our programming for 2026

- A further shrinking protection space with legislative and policy reform and harmful practice increasing securitization, criminalisation of migration and reducing rights realisation and access to documentation and services. The highest levels of deportation in the last 5 years with substantial numbers of asylum seekers unable to apply for asylum and facing arrest.
- Systemic barriers, implementation challenges particularly given the corruption, inefficiency, capacity constraints, and a lack of political will at refugee reception offices and other Home Affairs offices.
- The risk in xenophobic sentiment and violence in an already reduced protection. This includes the growth in anti-migrant movement and presence and the targeting of people on the move, refugee and migrant leaders and civil society organisations working with people on the move impacting safety and wellbeing of those in the sector.



11. DIOCESE OF TZANEEN

1. Contextualization:

Musina is a border town situated 18 Kms from the Beitbridge Border and as such there is a constant inflow of Migrants, Refugees and People on the Move.

Many of these people are undocumented which means they are frequently exploited in terms of work (if they manage to get piece jobs) and they have no redress whereby to have their issues resolved.

At the Roman Catholic Shelter for Women and Children in Musina we are currently experiencing the effects of the government policy of no health care provision for those who are undocumented. This is having a very serious impact on the work of the Shelter especially when it comes to our residents who have serious mental issues and are at times a threat both to our residents and staff. It is also affecting those who are on anti-retroviral treatment and children who are in need of immunization.

2. Objectives

As I am writing in terms of the services offered by the Roman Catholic Shelter for Women and Children in Musina it is from this context which I will speak but also including the broader objectives of community engagement.

3. Specific Objectives of the Shelter:

1. To promote the restoration of human dignity among Refugee and Migrant women and their minor children who are forced to leave their countries of origin due to political and economic insecurity.
2. To provide a place of Safety and refuge for these women and children.
3. To reduce the incidence of Gender based violence in Musina and the surrounding area.
4. To assist our residents to apply for temporary Asylum where applicable.
5. To enable our residents to re-assess their lives and make realistic plans for their future and that of their children.
6. To engage our residents in Trauma counselling where necessary.
7. To enable our residents to gain access to services in the local community, i.e. medical assistance, (this is now a great challenge), psychological support and legal advice.
8. To promote school readiness among the children and facilitate their admission to school where possible.
9. To conduct positive parenting workshops
- 10.10. To inform residents of their rights as people on the move.

4. Broader objectives in the Community:

- 1) To be an instrument of social cohesion.
- 2) To engage with other stake holders in the community in promoting the rights of Migrants and Refugees.
- 3) To promote awareness of the reality of Human Trafficking
- 4) To influence where possible Government policy regarding migration.

We were able to meet all the objectives of the Shelter itself except for successful referrals for healthcare facilities (due to Government policy)

In terms of the broader objectives, we had three hugely successful training workshops which were funded by the SACBC Office for Migrants, Refugees and Human trafficking.

The 1st workshop was held on 12 May for Stakeholders, Community leaders, NGOs, and service providers in the Community. This was facilitated by the SACBC office, 46 participants attended.

The 2nd workshop was on the 13th of May, the participants were the Migrants and Refugees, 67 people attended. That afternoon the SACBC team addressed over 1000 learners at Renaissance Secondary School on the topic of Human Trafficking.

The 3rd workshop on the topic of Documentation, Birth Registration, Statelessness and Health Issues was held on 16 October 2025. It was facilitated by a Human Right’s Lawyer and a Health Specialist attached to IOM. 71 participants attended.

With regard to influencing Government policy we participated in Research projects conducted by both the university of Oxford U.K and Wits university.

5) All the planned activities were realized.

6)Statistics

Number of Activities carried out	
Outreach Programmes	The above workshops Attendance at Cultural day in Musina
Education Initiatives	Human Trafficking workshop at Renaissance High School. Residents of Shelter attended workshops on Rights of People on the Move.
Collaborative working	We work with UNHCR, Musina legal Advice Office, Future Families, Outreach Foundation Red Cross, Save the Children, Kurisanani, NoRSA and various Government Departments Catholic Parish of Musina
Commemorative Events	Women’s Day Celebration World Refugees Day
Number of Migrants Assisted	300 +
Number of Refugees Assisted	40
Number of internally displaced persons assisted	10
Nationalities	Zimbabweans 200+ DRC 20 Malawian 8 Burundi 3 Cameroon 1 Kenyan 1
Partner organizations	We work with UNHCR, Musina legal Advice Office, Future Families, Outreach Foundation Red Cross, Save the Children, and various Government Departments. Wits University Oxford University Kurisanai, NoRSA , Catholic Parish of Musina



12. DIOCESE OF KROONSTADT

During the period under review, the Diocese of Kroonstad carried out various pastoral and awareness-raising activities aimed at promoting the rights and dignity of migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking. Among the main initiatives was the visit of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC), which included the organization of a workshop with the participation of priests and parish representatives, thereby strengthening formation and pastoral commitment in this area. Several human trafficking awareness initiatives were also promoted, with the objective of informing, preventing, and mobilizing local communities.

The Diocese also celebrated the World Day of Migrants and Refugees in various parishes, reinforcing integration, solidarity, and the welcoming of people on the move. In the area of networking, visits and collaborations were carried out with different institutions, including a visit to Aliwal and cooperation with Lawyers for Human Rights and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), particularly in the follow-up of specific cases such as the Oman case. These partnerships contributed to strengthening the pastoral and institutional response to the complex situations faced by migrants and refugees.

Despite the progress made, several challenges marked the period, notably the need for relocation due to the situation of SEDE VECANTE, which limited people's access to support services, as well as restrictions that hindered the freedom of migrants and refugees to seek assistance. In response, the Diocese has defined future plans that include strengthening awareness-raising actions regarding fraudulent practices

and exploitation by opportunists, as well as promoting greater openness and hospitality among local communities towards refugees, thereby fostering a culture of hospitality, justice, and protection.

13. DIOCESE DE AAR



The Diocese of De Aar, located in the Northern Cape Province, through Caritas De Aar, continued during the period under review its commitment to mitigating the effects of poverty, promoting social justice, and upholding the dignity of the most vulnerable communities. This work is carried out through strong partnerships and collaborative networks involving parishes, non-governmental organizations, community agencies, and government departments. Although there are currently no formal records of refugees in the diocese, the presence of migrants is acknowledged, and the Diocese reaffirms its openness and readiness to welcome and assist refugees should they be present in the future.



Key pastoral and social activities included Early Childhood Development (ECD) initiatives through St John's Pre-Primary School, which provides educational programs for orphaned and vulnerable children from poor local communities. During the year, 80 children graduated and will proceed to primary school. In addition, the Nightingale Hospice continued to provide sub-acute palliative care to terminally ill patients through both step-down inpatient care and community-based home care services. Psychosocial interventions strengthened community resilience through health education, HIV testing, and screening for non-communicable diseases. The pastoral

work was further strengthened by the dedicated service of the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary from Poland, who supported children's programs, catechesis, and a sewing project aimed at skills development and income generation.

In the area of human mobility and human trafficking prevention, awareness campaigns were conducted among youth and in educational institutions, fostering increased interest and understanding of the risks and prevention of human trafficking. Despite these efforts, the Diocese continues to face significant challenges, particularly limited financial resources that affect mobility, training, and the sustainability of Caritas activities, which rely heavily on volunteers. In response, strategic priorities for the coming year include strengthening partnerships, capacitating Parish Pastoral Councils, mobilizing additional funding, and seeking ongoing support from the National Caritas Office to ensure the continuity and expansion of services in a spirit of solidarity, care, and human dignity.

Talk to the youth in our diocese about Human Trafficking, since our youth in our diocese. It was so good to hear the youth asking question and wanting to know more about Human Trafficking and if whether they are safe or not

Human Trafficking campaign at one of our local primary schools, St John's Primary School where I addressed the students and their parents

14. DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM

The annual report of the Diocese of Bethlehem, located in the Free State Province, highlights its pastoral commitment to migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking, under the coordination of Tabi Moloji. The diocesan context is marked by several challenges, particularly the presence of undocumented migrants and refugees, including children in the same situation. In response to this reality, the Diocese has defined as its central objectives walking alongside migrants and refugees in the search for solutions to the difficulties they face on a daily basis, and promoting stronger and more harmonious relationships between migrants and the South African population.

Among the planned and implemented activities, special mention is made of the celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees in all parishes and the presentation of this theme to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC). Training workshops were also planned for the parishes of Makeneng and Fouriesburg; however, these activities were not carried out within the expected timeframe and were postponed to 2026. The report also refers to awareness-raising, educational, and collaborative actions, although without detailed statistical data on the number of people assisted, nationalities reached, or partnerships established, pointing to the need to strengthen record-keeping and systematization of information in the coming years.

15. DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

During the reporting period, the Diocese of Klerksdorp, through the Pastoral Care for Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking, implemented pastoral, humanitarian and advocacy activities aimed at supporting migrants, refugees and communities affected by human trafficking and illegal mining activities, particularly in Klerksdorp, Schweizer-Reneke and Stilfontein.

Support to Migrants and Refugees - The Diocese provided assistance to migrants and refugees through emergency humanitarian support, including food, clothing, shoes and blankets, as well as support with legal documentation and home visits. These activities were coordinated with diocesan structures such as Justice and Peace and Caritas, with the objective of promoting human dignity, access to basic services and legal protection. Additional interventions included health assistance, limited educational support for children, and referrals for documentation-related matters.

Human Trafficking Awareness and Pastoral Outreach - Although human trafficking awareness activities were planned, they could not be fully implemented during the period due to limited financial resources. Nevertheless, pastoral engagement and accompaniment remained central, fostering trust and offering moral and spiritual support to migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations.

Stilfontein Mining Crisis Response - The Diocese actively engaged in the Stilfontein Vala-Mkoti Operation (Shafts 10 and 11), which focused on surfacing illegal miners (Zama-Zamas) from underground operations. The intervention aimed to support rescue efforts, facilitate access to health services, and advocate for the repatriation of deceased miners and the documentation and deportation of survivors. Approximately 50 volunteers from church structures and local communities participated in the response, in collaboration with organisations such as MACAU, Benchmark, North West Council of Churches, Matlhasedi Foundation, the Department of Minerals and Energy, SAPS, Home Affairs, and the Health Department.

Achievements and Positive Outcomes - Key achievements included assistance with documentation for some migrants, provision of humanitarian relief, and meaningful participation in rescue and surface operations at Stilfontein. The collaboration between Church structures, civil society organisations and volunteers demonstrated strong solidarity and commitment to protecting human life.

Challenges and Limitations - The main challenges encountered were lack of funding, limited cooperation from certain government departments, restricted access to surfaced miners by law enforcement agencies, and insufficient information sharing regarding foreign nationals. Several planned activities—such as skills training programmes, education support for children, and broader human trafficking awareness—could not be fully realised due to resource constraints.

Conclusion - Despite significant challenges, the Diocese of Klerksdorp remained steadfast in its commitment to accompanying migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking. Through humanitarian assistance, advocacy and collaboration, the Diocese continues to respond to urgent needs while calling for stronger partnerships, improved coordination and increased resources to enhance future interventions.

16. DIOCESE OF PORT ELIZABETH

1. Overview: This report summarizes planned and implemented activities related to Human Trafficking Awareness, Migrant Support, and Refugee & Asylum Seeker Outreach within the Diocese. The objective is to promote awareness, foster inclusion, and provide basic assistance where possible, despite resource constraints.

2. Planned Activities: Human Trafficking Awareness Workshops

Goal: Conduct awareness sessions in all Catholic schools across the Diocese.

Status: Not yet implemented due to lack of funds. Awaiting financial support and resource allocation.

3. Activities Implemented

⇒ ***Clinic Visits***

Conducted monthly visits to local clinics.

⇒ ***Observed isolated tensions between South African citizens and Somali community members in 1–2 cases.***

Intervention: Ensured equal treatment by clinic staff for all patients regardless of nationality.

⇒ ***School Engagement***

Visited three schools: GJ Louw, St Theresa and Frank Joubert

Findings: No incidents of discrimination or trafficking cases reported.

Distributed information and awareness material where possible.

Community & Faith Outreach

Mosques: Shared personal contact details with all mosques in the area. Explained representation from the Catholic Church to foster interfaith collaboration.

4. Challenges

⇒ Financial Constraints

⇒ Lack of funds delayed the implementation of key activities, particularly Human Trafficking Awareness Workshops.

⇒ Resource Shortages

⇒ Insufficient materials and logistical support for awareness campaigns.

⇒ Limited Human Capacity

⇒ Outreach dependent on a small volunteer base.

5. Observations & Notes

Positive reception from schools and mosques during engagement.

Community relations mostly stable, except for minor tension incidents at clinics, which were addressed promptly.

Growing need for structured awareness programs and ongoing interfaith collaboration to prevent future conflicts and improve understanding.

6. Next Steps / Recommendations

1. Secure Funding

Submit funding proposals for Human Trafficking Awareness Workshops.

Engage Catholic development agencies and local donors for sponsorship.

2. Expand Partnerships

Collaborate with NGOs working on migration and anti-trafficking issues.

Strengthen ties with schools, mosques, and clinics for proactive interventions.

3. Capacity Building

Train volunteers to support clinic visits, school programs, and community dialogue initiatives.

4. Monitoring and Reporting

Establish simple tracking systems for incidents, outreach visits, and outcomes

17. DIOCESE OF MTHATHA

1. General Information:

The Migrant and Refugee Program continue to be housed at Caritas Mthatha/ Catholic Development Centre.

Due to financial constraints this program does not have a person nor a volunteer to carry out its main activities. Most of the work reported below is done as part of the Risiha program. Risiha is a Community-Based Prevention and Early Intervention Services to Children program funded by the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development in partnership with Caritas Mthatha/Catholic Development Centre.

Due to the challenge noted above, the activities were done on ad-hoc basis.

2. The current situation:

The Diocese of Mthatha is currently experiencing a growing number of undocumented people from Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Malawi. These foreign people have children who are not in school due to lack of identity document.

Secondly the Diocese is seeing a growing trend of people from Lesotho accused of serious atrocities such as committing murder and stock theft.

The Diocese is pleased to note the intervention of police specialized units in Bityi, Qumbu, Mthatha and Majola has resulted in reduced conflicts, stock theft and extortion resulting an reduced numbers of internally displaced people.

3. What is the Diocese Doing:

1. The Diocese continues to provide food and clothes to people from Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Some of these families were affected by the disaster in Mthatha. They, too lost belongings during the 2025 floods. The Caritas Mthatha/Catholic Development Centre office prioritised donating to these people as most of them are undocumented.

2. Four families from Zimbabwe and two from Lesotho were identified during Risiha home visits that the children did not attend school nor receive any grants from government. The reason for this was that their parents who were no local are undocumented and so their children. The cases were referred to the Department of Home Affairs. No further update has been received to date.

4. What will happen next:

The is need to solicit funding or volunteers for the program. The challenge of volunteers is made worse as it has high staff turnover. Efforts will be made.

The Diocese requires the services of the National Office to animate Priests and Religious into the program.

18. DIOCESE OF FRANCISTOWN - BOTSWANA

The 2025 report, with a plan for 2026, is presented by the Association of Women Religious of Botswana, in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Francistown, Botswana, within the ministry to People on the Move, including migrants in transit, temporary and settled migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and victims of human trafficking. The mission is carried out by the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles, with a focus on promoting human dignity and offering hope, particularly in the Dukwi Refugee Camp.

Due to government protocols, direct access to the Dukwi Refugee Camp was limited. Nevertheless, it was possible to send supplies through a group of women aged 40 years and above, who are in the process of registering a cooperative society known as “Basadi Phakama.” These women were grouped according to age in order to facilitate the skills empowerment program and to encourage them to take ownership of the opportunity while looking out for one another, in the spirit of “Sister to Sister, no one left behind.” All items sent were distributed according to identified needs.



Support activities included the distribution of food, clothing, and hygiene items, as well as listening and psychosocial support. This accompaniment was mainly carried out through WhatsApp and, in some cases, through individual phone calls, providing spaces for sharing and dialogue.

Motivational conversations, messages, and short life-giving clips were shared regularly to offer emotional support and strengthen hope. The craft empowerment program is currently on hold; however, participants continue to teach others. Whenever small resources were available, the necessary materials were sent to enable them to continue their activities.

The primary focus of the work has been to ensure that these women do not feel abandoned or forgotten, reaffirming that their lives matter regardless of existing protocols. The initiatives also aim to strengthen resilience and encourage the search for sustainable ways to overcome daily challenges, promoting a lived experience of the African value of “Botho”, facing life “one day at a time.”

Among the challenges encountered is the distance to the refugee camp, which is approximately a four-hour drive from Francistown, where the religious community is based. Additional challenges include the lack of a dedicated diocesan vehicle for transport, limited funding for various activities, limited personnel, and restricted marketing avenues for the crafts produced. There is a need for support to access international markets, while local and regional opportunities continue to be explored, alongside the ongoing constraints imposed by official protocols.

In the context of the Jubilee of Hope, posters and materials were sent to all parishes and convents within the diocese. At the parish level, activities included prayers, animation on the theme of journeying together, and the decoration of altars with symbols of migration. Some participants attended dressed in various traditional attires, highlighting the richness and diversity of humanity. Activities also took place in some schools. Jubilee materials were likewise sent to the Dukwi Refugee Camp. Although the camp was unable to send photographs of the celebrations, a few images of their craftwork were shared.

Regarding the Campaign against Human Trafficking, most activities in 2025 focused on awareness-raising campaigns in preparation for February 8, 2026. Materials such as posters and prayer cards were distributed to all parishes in the diocese and to some offices. The plan for 2026 includes the celebration of February 8, World Refugee Day on June 20, and other dates related to human mobility. It also envisages the creation of a network bringing together all stakeholders, including government institutions, non-governmental organizations, schools, and other partners.

The coordination of the Migrants, Refugees, and Human Trafficking Department in Francistown, Botswana, is carried out by Sr. Cynthia Nwadike, OLA, who serves as the focal point for all these pastoral and social initiatives.



19. DIOCESE OF MANZINI - ESWATINI

1. Activities planned and carried out

a. Assistance to displaced refugees from Mozambique

The Diocese, through Caritas visited the Refugee Registration Centre in January during the period of unrest in Mozambique. The Centre is mainly for registration of refugees, and it has a capacity of 250 individuals but has 430 resident refugees. By that time, there were refugees arriving every day in large numbers (all in all about 1108 individuals arrived between December 2024 and January 2025). These were mainly people who were refugees in Mozambique from DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, and about 32 were Mozambican nationals. The Camp manager reported that there was dire need of bedding (mattresses and blankets) as individuals were sleeping in their cars (those who had) and on the floor using mere newspapers on the ground. The Bishop through Caritas was able to put together R100k (with the help of SACBC) and 100 mattresses and 100 blankets were quickly sourced and delivered at the camp. During the visit, it was also reported that the refugees were only provided with soft porridge in the morning and lunch made of bean and rice, which had been kindly donated by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). The Bishop made a plea to all 17 parishes to donate toys for the children and tinned fish. Diapers for babies were also donated. The faithful responded positively to the call by the Bishop. Food stuff, toys and where clothes were quickly collected by every parish and Caritas quickly organized transport to take it to the camp.

b. International Day of the Sick

The Catholic Nurses Guild always celebrates this day in one of the Parishes, whereby the community is treated for free on that day. This year, because of the high influx of refugees, this day was commemorated at the Camp so that the Refugees together with neighbouring communities could receive free treatment. Both Catholic and government nurses and some catholic doctors attended to the people (Photo 7).



c. World Refugee Day

The Diocese celebrates this day every year at the Refugee camp. Although the day may not necessarily be the internationally recognized day of refugees, the Catholic Women in the country (ECCW), in consultation with the Bishop always organize for its celebration. This is preceded by a call to all parishes (by the Executive committee of ECCW) for collection of food stuff, toys, toiletries and clothing for the refugees. The day starts with Holy Mass led by the Bishop, and entertainment by children at the camp, then distribution of the stuff brought by ECCW.



d. Assistance in school fees

Although some of the over 1100 refugees did return to Mozambique when the unrest ended, about 405 of them decided to return to Mozambique and these added to the 430 who were staying at the camp. There were some children who could not attend school due to lack of funds. Caritas with the help of Caritas Cape Town manage to pay about 80% (R20k) of five secondary school going children. These were teenagers who were bored and some were angry with their parents for the displacement. Their not going to school could have brought problems to the camp.

2. Which of the planned activities were not realized and why?

The Diocese was working on implementing a project of financial assistance to the refugees so that they could start a business to sustain their families. The Diocese was going to start with a small number and when funds permit, extend to all refugees (the resident refugees=430). However, this project was suspended in order to assist the displaced persons from Mozambique.

3. Challenges

Finances are a big challenge to do any activity.

SACBC Human Trafficking Committee

The SACBC Human Trafficking Committee is composed of a group of approximately ten members, of whom five are the most actively involved in the work. They come from different organizations, including Efraim Luhanga (Fula Africa), Enency Mbatha (Field Focus Research), Sello Mashaba (Without Chains), Lavita (Lutheran Church), and Lizzy Msindo-Mayene (Health and Counselling School). All are engaged in diverse initiatives and work collaboratively in prevention, awareness-raising, and direct support efforts in the fight against human trafficking. In 2025, the team was involved in activities across different dioceses, provinces,



borders, and schools, focusing on prevention and the accompaniment of victims, and developing strategic and coordinated actions to address Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in an integrated and effective manner.

In the area of community prevention, activities focused on vulnerable groups, especially youth, children, educators, and migrant families. Workshops were conducted with young people in Mamelodi, awareness campaigns were held at Soshangane Primary School, and outreach initiatives were carried out with migrant families in informal settlements and in Bronkhorstspuit. These initiatives provided practical information on risks, warning signs, rights, and safe reporting channels, reinforcing the idea that informed communities are the first line of defense against human trafficking.

At the same time, Fula Africa invested strongly in public awareness and advocacy, using both community and national media platforms. Notable engagements included a live interview on Alex FM radio and, most significantly, participation in a high-profile interview on SABC News following the historic conviction of seven individuals for human trafficking, child labour, and human rights violations. This appearance acknowledged the crucial role played by Fula Africa in a case followed for more than six years, in collaboration with government authorities, including support for the repatriation of 91 Malawian nationals who were victims of trafficking.



It is important to highlight the organizations’ shared commitment to holistic care for victims, demonstrated through the sensitive accompaniment of a case involving a Malawian survivor of labour trafficking. In particular, Fula Africa supported the provision of a dignified burial for the victim’s newborn, respecting her religious rites, and ensured her safe repatriation to her country of origin. These actions reinforce Fula Africa’s holistic model: preventing trafficking, raising awareness, building institutional partnerships, and offering humane and dignified support to those affected. All the organizations are vital to this collaborative work and to the support they provide to the SACBC’s mission within the Human Trafficking Department.

8

Strategic Plan

In 2025, the First Strategic Plan of the SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office was officially launched as a key milestone in strengthening and structuring the pastoral response to human mobility in Southern Africa. This Strategic Plan is rooted in a clear understanding of strategic planning as a management and pastoral process that defines goals, analyses the context, identifies opportunities and challenges, and establishes concrete strategies with mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. Within the framework of the Episcopal Conference of Southern Africa, the Plan provides a common vision and direction, enabling dioceses and parishes

to work in a coordinated manner, respond effectively to emerging migratory and humanitarian crises, and strengthen advocacy for just public policies and the prevention of human trafficking.

The Strategic Plan was formally presented to the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops in January 2026, reaffirming its ecclesial importance and collective ownership. It serves as an invitation to all lay faithful and pastoral leaders to assume shared responsibility for welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking. Inspired by the experience of the Holy Family of Nazareth and grounded in the Pastoral Circle methodology (see, judge, act, and celebrate/evaluate), the Plan promotes a faith-based, participatory, and transformative pastoral approach. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that migration is recognized not only as a challenge, but also as a call to build the Kingdom of God through justice, dignity, solidarity, and hope.



Caritas Africa Project

Project: Migration and Statelessness in Southern Africa

Donors: Caritas Japan & Caritas Africa

Location: South Africa

Period: July 2025 to April 2026

Target Beneficiaries: Migrants, refugees, undocumented persons and stateless persons

Project Components: Research and policy brief; IEC materials; workshops and awareness; capacity building; documentation facilitation; advocacy and communication

This is a partial report describing the implementation of the project *Migration and Statelessness in Southern Africa* during the period from July to October–December 2025, funded by Caritas Japan and Caritas Africa, implemented in South Africa between July 2025 and April 2026, focusing on migrants, refugees, undocumented persons and stateless individuals.

The project combines research and public policy analysis, production of informational materials, community awareness actions, leadership capacity building, and practical support for access to legal documentation. The research for the policy brief has already been submitted to the University of Pretoria and is in its final phase, with the objective of supporting evidence-based advocacy and practical recommendations for civil society organizations.

Under the information and capacity-building component, an explanatory graphic material on statelessness and documentation was developed for distribution to dioceses for use in pastoral and training activities.

Information-sharing and registration facilitation actions were carried out in an integrated manner by the dioceses, combining workshops, legal guidance, referrals, and the creation of local support networks. Activities involved parishes, Church bodies, legal services, government departments, and partner organizations, strengthening community capacity to identify cases, guide beneficiaries, and refer situations of vulnerability, including in border areas and human trafficking corridors.





In total, 598 people directly participated in the reported activities, with a strong female presence and a predominance of adults between 18 and 55 years old. The main results include increased knowledge of rights and documentation pathways, referral of cases to public and legal services, strengthened institutional partnerships, and contributions to public policy advocacy. However, structural challenges in access to documentation in South Africa persist due to administrative barriers and legal gaps, making the continuation of advocacy actions, pastoral accompaniment, and cooperation with legal partners essential.

Summary Table of Key Report Data – Participation by Diocese / Activity

<i>Diocese / Area</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Age Range</i>	<i>Key Results</i>
<i>Aliwal North</i>	2 workshops on statelessness and documentation	86	72	14	18–45	Awareness raised, local capacity strengthened, 7 cases referred to public services
<i>Johannesburg</i>	Orientation workshop on statelessness	195	155	40	20–55	Partnership with Section 27, increased knowledge of rights
<i>Johannesburg</i>	Legal advisory workshop	172	137	35	20–55	Capacity building of leaders and pastoral agents, strengthened legal network
<i>Tzaneen / Musina</i>	Workshop on migration and statelessness	71	49	22	18–45	Partnership with IOM and lawyers, focus on documentation and health
<i>Witbank – Lebombo</i>	Workshop on human trafficking and prevention	74	53	7 (+14 youth)	Adults + youth	Prevention in border area, reporting and referral mechanisms
Total	—	598	466	118	—	

Printed materials

Throughout the year, various advocacy materials were produced and distributed with the aim of raising awareness about human trafficking and prevention mechanisms. The materials included informational cards, posters, banners, stickers, strategic plan, 2024 reports, t-shirts, materials of WMRD (posters and prayer card) and themed signage — covering topics such as statelessness, welcome messages, and alerts on human trafficking, among others.

A prayer for the end of Human Trafficking

God of freedom, beauty and truth we believe that your deepest desire, your most powerful energy, is that all creation might know abundant life.

We raise our voices in anguished prayer for our sisters and brothers, women and girls, men and boys, who are modern day slaves. They are your beloved daughters and sons, exploited sexually or forced to work because of human violence and greed.

Fill us with your holy anger and your sacred passion that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice, that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion, that all of us might live in such a way that others are not made to pay the price for our comfort and convenience.

Hasten the coming of the day when all people and our precious earth itself will be treated, not as a commodity, but as radiant images of your freedom, beauty and truth. Amen.

Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office
E-mail: mrcsecretary@sacbc.org.za

"It's for freedom that Christ hasset us free."
(Gal 5:1)

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It takes place in different ways and situations:
sexual exploitation • forced marriage • slave labor • servitude
forced begging • organ-harvesting • reproductive exploitation
other forms of abuse and exploitation.

Toll Free: 0800 222 777

Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

It takes place in different ways and situations:
sexual exploitation • forced marriage • slave labor • servitude
forced begging • organ-harvesting • reproductive exploitation
other forms of abuse and exploitation.

LIVES ARE NOT MERCHANDISE!

Saint Josephine Bakhita

National Migrations

Itinerant: a person who moves for work or cultural or religious reasons: drivers, amusement park workers, circus performers, tourists, pilgrims, nomads – they can be internal or international.

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Individuals who have been forced to leave their homes due to persecution, being direct or indirect victims of internal wars, violence, natural disasters, or to improve living conditions but remain within the borders of their own country.
- Rural-Urban Exodus:** the movement of the rural population to the city.
- Urban-Rural Migration:** the movement of people from the city to the countryside.
- Urban-Urban Migration:** the movement of individuals from one city to another.
- Commuter Migration:** typical of large cities, where hundreds of people leave their city to work in another, returning at the end of the day.
- Seasonal Migration:** linked to the seasons, where the migrant leaves their city at a certain time of the year, returning later. An example is workers who leave dry regions in search of work in other areas.
- Nomadism:** when people move between different points, not having a fixed place of residence.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRATION

- Compulsory:** When a person is forced to change residence for any reason beyond their will and initiative.
- Individual:** When the act of migrating is carried out by one person or a single family.
- Collective:** When migration is carried out by several families or groups of people at the same time.
- Organized:** When migration is planned and organized by governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, companies, etc.
- Unorganized:** When migration happens without any planning: each person leaves and arrives according to the circumstances of the moment.
- Regular:** When a person enters the country with valid documentation (with a visa).
- Irregular:** When a person enters the country clandestinely (without a visa).
- Conducted:** Migration that certain groups promote in a covert manner to exploit migrants for profit, such as in the case of Human Trafficking.

"Emigration opens new paths for commerce, facilitates the diffusion of scientific and industrial discoveries, merges and perfects civilizations, and broadens the concept of homeland beyond material boundaries, giving humanity the world as its homeland. And there is another reason, which is the main one: just as the ancient greatness of the Roman Empire was prepared by heaven to make the diffusion of Christianity easier and faster, emigration admirably leads itself to the propagation of the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ everywhere." [Saint John Baptist Scalabrini – Apostle of Migrants].

CONTACT:
Call: +27 49 4333378
mrcsecretary@sacbc.org.za
www.sacbc.org.za

Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

People on the move

How to recognize signs of Human Trafficking?

- A person who appears disoriented, unaware of their location or situation.
- Individuals who are fearful of speaking, show excessive anxiety, or do not speak the local language.
- The victim may not have access to personal documents (such as passports, identity cards, etc.). If these documents may be held by someone else.
- Signs of malnutrition, physical abuse, and psychological trauma.
- The individual is not allowed to make decisions, such as talking on the phone, accessing their documents, or communicating with others.
- Fulfilling submissive behavior or signs of fear of punishment, constantly under surveillance.
- Forced to work in inhumane conditions, with long hours, no rest, or in unhealthy environments.
- Living in social isolation, unable to leave or communicate with others, including friends or family.
- Frequent changes in work or living locations.

A prayer for the end of Human Trafficking

God of freedom, beauty and truth we believe that your deepest desire, your most powerful energy, is that all creation might know abundant life. We raise our voices in anguished prayer for our sisters and brothers, women and girls, men and boys, who are modern day slaves. They are your beloved daughters and sons, exploited sexually or forced to work because of human violence and greed. Fill us with your holy anger and your sacred passion that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice, that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion, that all of us might live in such a way that others are not made to pay the price for our comfort and convenience. Hasten the coming of the day when all people and our precious earth itself will be treated, not as a commodity, but as radiant images of your freedom, beauty and truth. Amen.

Don't be indifferent: Join us in the fight against Human Trafficking

A REALITY THAT MUST BE COMBATED

How to act if you identify signs of Human Trafficking?

- Report it: If you suspect human trafficking, report it immediately by calling the emergency number 0800 222 777 (toll free).
- Avoid direct confrontation: Do not confront the suspected trafficker or exploiter directly, as this could put the victim in greater danger.
- Offer support without pressure: If possible, try to provide a safe way for the victim to communicate without the trafficker's supervision.
- Get informed: Learn about prevention methods and educate others about this crime.
- Support organizations: Collaborate with institutions that fight human trafficking.

SACBC
Migrants, Refugees & Human Trafficking Office

Contact: mrcsecretary@sacbc.org.za
080 742 2278

Learn how to identify and fight against it

TALITHA KUM

END HUMAN TRAFFICKING


Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
SACBC

**Migrants, Refugees and
Human Trafficking Office**

**2025
-
2029**

STRATEGIC PLAN

*"I was a migrant, and you welcomed me."
(Matt 25:35)*

About us

The SACBC Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking of the SACBC is the office of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference responsible for coordinating the Church's action in favour of migrants, refugees, and victims of human trafficking in South Africa, Botswana, and Eswatini.

Inspired by the Social Doctrine of the Church and Pope Francis's call to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate, the department works to provide pastoral, social, and legal assistance, offer training to pastoral agents, advocate for policy change, and prevent human trafficking. It operates in collaboration with dioceses, religious congregations, and civil society organizations, promoting human dignity above any documentation and upholding justice, solidarity, and respect for the rights of all.

No One Invisible

Combating statelessness is a matter of justice and humanity. Every person in South Africa deserves dignity, rights, protection, and the chance to live recognized and with hope.

**SACBC Migrants, Refugees and
Human Trafficking Office**
Tel: +27 (12) 323 6458 - 069 743 3378
E-mail: mrsecretary@sacbc.org.za

Key Statelessness partners

Free Legal Services
Equal Education Law Centre
3rd Floor, Livonia Centre, 8 Masabo Street, Mayethiha, 7784
Postnet Suite #147 Private Bag X15 Somerset West 7129
+27 21 461 1421 / 0800 110 752 (Toll free)

Legal Aid South Africa
Tel: 0800 110 110 (Toll Free) - www.legal-aid.co.za

Outreach foundation
30 Edin Cavell St, Hillrow, Johannesburg, 2001
011 720 7011

Probono.org
JOHANNESBURG, 1st Floor West Wing, Women's Jail
Constitution Hill, 1 Katze Street, Broomfontein
Phone: 011 339 6080 | Fax: 086 512 2222
Email: info@probono.org.za - www.probono.org.za

Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town
47 Commercial Street, Cape Town
021 465 6433 | info@scalabrini.org.za
www.scalabrini.org.za

Section 27
1st Floor, South Point Building, 87 De Korte St,
Broomfontein, Johannesburg, 2001
Phone: 011 356 4100
info@section27.org.za www.section27.org.za

OTHER CONTACTS

Amnesty International - www.amnesty.org
UNHCR - www.unhcr.org - 08000 10300
South African Human Rights Commission
Sentinel House, Sunnyside Office Park, 32 Princess of Wales
Terrace, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2001
Telephone: (011) 877 3650 (Switchboard)

Department of Social Development
124 Pretorius Street, HSRC Building, Pretoria
0123127272 Customercare@dsd.gov.za

Department of Home Affairs - www.dha.gov.za


Southern African Catholic
Bishops' Conference
Statelessness
The Human face of invisibility




SACBC
Migrants, Refugees &
Human Trafficking
Office


Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
SACBC

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
OFFICE**

And I will come to gather people from every nation and language; all will come and see my glory.
(Isaiah 66:18)


CONFERÊNCIA DOS BISPOS CATÓLICOS DA
ÁFRICA AUSTRAL - SACBC

RELATÓRIO ANUAL 2024
(Versão Língua Portuguesa)



**DEPARTAMENTO DE
MIGRANTES, REFUGIADOS E
TRÁFICO HUMANO**

África do Sul, Eswatini, Botswana e Lesotho

"Eu virei para reunir todos os povos e línguas. Eles virão para admirar a minha glória"
(Is 66,18).



**TALITHA
KUM**
SOUTH AFRICA
END HUMAN TRAFFICKING


 Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

Multi-religious Meeting
Responding to:

- Undocumented
- Statelessness
- Migrants
- Refugees
- Human Trafficking



for peace and solidarity


 Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

Hope has no borders...
TOGETHER
we work for
WELCOME
PROTECT
PROMOTE
INTEGRATE



Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office


 Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

Welcome!

Because **TOGETHER** we can
break down barriers and
BUILD UP BRIDGES.



Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office


 Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

Hope has no borders...
TOGETHER we work for
WELCOME
PROTECT
PROMOTE
INTEGRATE



Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office


 Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees
 Catholic Archdiocese of Johannesburg

"I have indeed seen the misery of my people, I have heard their crying out because of the harshness of those in charge. I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them." Ex. 3:7-8

Archdiocese of Johannesburg



Migrants, Missionaries of Hope



Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees
October 5, 2025


 Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
 Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

Migrants, Missionaries of Hope



Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees
October 5, 2025


 Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
 Migrants, Refugees and Human Trafficking Office

Prayer for the Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees

Lord of life and hope, look with tenderness upon migrants and refugees: your sons and daughters in search of peace, dignity, and a new beginning.

Grant them strength to carry on, faith to never give up, and communities that welcome them with love. May every migrant be a living sign of hope for the world, a messenger of your Kingdom, a missionary of fraternity.

And may we, as Church, always know how to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate, seeing in the other the face of Christ the pilgrim. Amen.

© 2024 by the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. All rights reserved. Printed in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Table of Activities

<i>January</i>			
<i>7th January</i>	Presential	Visit of Fr Dumisani Vilakati – Official of Dicastery for Promoting Integral Development – Co-ordinator for Africa	Get to know the office and find out how work is progressing
<i>8th January</i>	Presential	Meeting with Consulting	Organizing the 2025 activities in the dioceses
<i>10th January</i>	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking
<i>11th January</i>	Presential	Mass in Johannesburg - Cathedral of Christ the King	Archbishop Buti's thanksgiving
<i>14th January</i>	Online	SACBC Team: Bishop Kizito, Sr Neide, Ms Lusungu and Sheila	UNHCR - PRM Funding opportunity
<i>15th January</i>	Online	Meeting with JRS, LHR, SACBC, Liaison Bishop and consulting	Preparation for multi-religious meeting
<i>15th January</i>	Presential	SACBC Staff – Mass, tea and social gathering	Re-opening SACBC
<i>20th January</i>	Presential	Meeting with LaVita Van Rooyea – Ortodox Church	Volunteer for SACBC's Human Trafficking Team
<i>21st January</i>	Presential	Mass in the Major Seminary	Opening of the Bishops' Plenary Session
<i>23rd January</i>	Presential	Meeting with Bishop's Plenary	Group discussion about Sinodo
<i>23rd January</i>	Presential	Meeting with Liaison Bishop's	Offices activities
<i>24th January</i>	Presential	Bishop's Plenary – Liaison Bishop	Presented the office's report
<i>24th January</i>	Presential	Meeting with SANIR – Southern Africa Network for Immigrants and Refugees (Liaison Bishop and office's Co-ordinator)	Presentation of the network and interest in partnerships with SACBC
<i>24th January</i>	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking
<i>25th January</i>	Presential	Mass in Bedfordview (Sisters's School)	Presentation and installation of the new Archbishop of Johannesburg Cardinal Stephen Brislin
<i>27th January</i>	Presential	Meeting with International Organization of Migration - IOM	Collaboration on human trafficking activities
<i>28th January</i>	Online	Meeting with Coordination of Bethlehem Diocese	Organization of the workshop in Ficksburg
<i>30th January</i>	Online	Meeting with CEMIRDE - Mozambique	Visit in South Africa miners
<i>30th January</i>	Presential	Meeting with Consulting	Project for Legal advice

February

3rd February	Online	Meeting with JRS, LHR, SACBC, Laison Bishop and consulting	Preparation for multi-religious meeting
3rd February	Presential	Meeting with member of Human Trafficking Team	Preparation of Saint Bakita Feast in Diepsloot - Pretoria
4th February	Online	SACBC and Caritas Africa	Migration and Statelessness in Southern Africa Project
6th February	Presential	Fr Francis – SACBC Staff	Blessing on the office
6th February	Presential	Meeting With Sr Alegha – Pretoria - M&R Office	Preparation of Saint Bakita Feast in Diepsloot - Pretoria
6th February	Presential	Meeting with consulting	Preparation of Cross Border Project – Caritas Africa
6th February	Online	Meeting with JRS, LHR, SACBC, Laison Bishop and consulting	Preparation for multi-religious meeting
7th February	Live interview	Live interview for Radio Veritas -	Feast of St Bakita and the reality of human trafficking in SA
9th February	Presential	Sacred Heart - Diepsloot Archbishop of Pretoria	Santa Bakhita Celebration with procession
12th February	Presential	Meeting with consulting	Preparation of Cross Border Project – Caritas Africa
14th February	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking
17th February to 19 February	Presential	Witbank Diocese – Elukwatini and Badplass	Workshop and School’s visit (Migration, Human Rights and Human Trafficking)
22th February	Presential	Archdiocese of Pretoria	Workshop on Human Trafficking with Migrants and Refugees
24th February	Presential	Diocese of Kroonstad	Workshop on Human Trafficking with leaders
26th February	Presential	Meeting with refugee	Asked for help to resettle in Ireland
27th February	Presential	Board of Bienvenu Shelter	Ordinary Meeting
28th February	Online	SACBC Team of Human Trafficking	Organization of the activities
28th February	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking

March

3rd March	Presential	Meeting with Fr Rafael – Combonian Missionary	Collaborating on texts for a Worldwide Magazine
5th March	Presential	Ash Wednesday – SACBC Staff	Recollection day for SACBC Staff Members
6th March	Presential	Workshop in Mother Assunta Training Center – Johannesburg	Religious Life Against Human Trafficking – SACBC in partnership with LCCLSA and Talitha Kum Network.
6th March	Online	Ramya Ramanath - Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) of	Interview on the reality of migration in South Africa and the actions of the Catholic Church.

		De Paul University's School of Public Service - Chicago	
7th March	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking
11th March	Online	Meeting with JRS, LHR, SACBC and consulting	Preparation for multi-religious meeting
11th March	Online	Meeting with National Freedom Network	Report of Human Trafficking in South Africa
11th March	Online	Webinar with Foundation Collège Universitaire Henry Dunant - Geneva, Switzerland	Launch of the Mission 89 Global Thematic Report on Trafficking in Sport
12th March	Presential	SACBC Team of Human Trafficking	Organization of the activities
13th March	Presential	Apostolic Nunciature – Pretoria. Holy Mass at the Seminary and reception at Nunciature	Holy See's National Day and 12 th Anniversary of the election of Pope Francis
14th March	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking
17th March	Presential	Hotel Nicol – Bedfordview, Johannesburg	Multi religious meeting on Statelessness
22nd March to 31st March	Presential	Lima - Peru	V Leadership Course on Human Trafficking – Talitha Kum Network

April

2nd April	Online	UNHCR - Global Alliance Members	Addressing Discrimination in Nationality Laws & Policies
2nd April	Presential	Catechists from CEMIRDE, Mozambique	share the month-long mission among Mozambican migrants
8^h April	Presential	SACBC Meeting/ Staff	Formation with Fr Jerry - POM
9th April	Presential	Social Action	Ordinary Meeting
13 - 16th April	Presential	Diocese of Bethlehem Ficksburg	Workshop with Leaders and School's visit (Migration, Human Rights and Human Trafficking)
22th April	Presential	Praying alongside the dead Pope Francis	Saint Peter's Basilica – Vatican
27th April	Presential	Participation in Pope Francis' funeral Mass	Saint Peter's Square - Vatican
28th April	Presential	Meeting with Fr Dumisani Vilakati	Dicastery for Integral Human Development – Palazzo San Calisto, Rome/Italy
28th April	Presential	Meeting with Sr Abby Avelino	Talitha Kum Network – UISG (Unione Internazionale delle Superiore Generale – Rome/Italy
29th April	Presential	Meeting with CEI Staff – Project N. 407/2019	Italian Episcopal Conferenze – CEI – Rome/Italy
29th April	Webinar	Workshop with Talitha Kum Network	Digital Safety: Understanding Online Exploitation and How to Prevent the New Forms of Human Trafficking

May

5th May	Webinar	SAMIN	Seminar on Nation States and Anti-Immigrant Sentiments
11th – 14th May	Presential	Diocese of Tzaneen - Musina	Workshop with Leaders, migrants/refugees and School's visit (Migration, Human Rights and Human Trafficking)
16th May	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking
21th – 24th May	Presential	Diocese of Witbank - Lebombo	Workshop with Leaders, migrants/refugees and School's visit (Migration, Human Rights and Human Trafficking)
29st May	Presential	Bienvenu Shelter Board - Johannesburg	Ordinary Board meeting
30th May	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking

June

2nd June	Online	Regional Meeting with Scalabrinian Sisters	Study and sharing of the mission.
7th June	Presential	St Patrick Catholic Church - La Rochelle	Workshop on Human Trafficking with Youth
13th June	Online	Formation with Talitha Kum Network	Leadership in preventing human trafficking
15th June	Presential	St Angela Parish - Dobsonville	Workshop on Human Trafficking with Youth
16th - 20th June	Presential	Padre Pio Conference Centre - Pretoria	Intensive formation on Human Trafficking
27th June	Presential	Rome - Italy	Meeting with Fr Avelino Chico, Office Head at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
28th June – 20 July	Presential	Italy	Ongoing formation course of the congregation, celebration of the Jubilee Year, passage through the Holy Door, and visits to the historical sites of the congregation.

July

28nd July	Online	Regional Meeting with Scalabrinian Sisters	Study and sharing of the mission.
28th July	Presential	Embassy of Brazil	Documents
29th July	Online	Talitha Kum International	Presentation of the Global Report
30th July	Online	Organized by SACBC, in partnership with IMBISA, IOM, Talitha Kum Africa, National Freedom Network, and LCCLSA.	Workshop on Human Trafficking – Day Against Human Trafficking

31st July	Online	National Freedom Network	Exploring the nexus between Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
August			
2nd August	Presential	Mamelodi	Workshop on Human Trafficking with youth
4th August	Online	Meeting With Scalabrinian Sisters - Africa Region.	Study and share activities
4th August	Presential	Archdiocese of Johannesburg	Meeting with Pastoral Care
6th August	Presential	Bishop Joseph Kizito	Organization of the activities
7th August	Presential	Bishop Joseph Kizito	Organization of the activities
18th August	Presential	SACBC – Caritas Japan	Monitoring the Project about Migration and Statelessness
19th August	Presential	Archdiocese of Johannesburg Mother Assunta Training Centre Bienvenu Shelter	Visit the place here the project is implemented and to know the work with migrants and refugees
25th – 28th August	Presential	Pe. Pio Conference Center	Annual Meeting with Diocesan leaders
September			
2nd September	Online	Sr Jane Francis – Talitha Kum South Africa	Organization of activities
4th September	Online	Caritas Africa	Project: Migration and Statelessness
8th September	Presential	Fr Hugh – Sr Domenica - Geraldine	Project: Migration and Statelessness
8th September	Online	Rede Clamor	Organization of activities
8th September	Online	Talitha Kum – Group 5	Project awareness with youth – Human Trafficking
10th September	Webinar	UNHCR – Global Alliance	Resolving Statelessness together
10th September	Online	Sr Abby Avelino – Coordinator Talitha Kum International	Preparation of Talitha Kum Course – October – South Africa
11th September	Webinar	National Freedom Network	S-Cape on Repatriation of TIP survivors and immigration related aspects
12th September	Online	Talitha Kum International	Final presentation of the project Prevention on Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa among vulnerable youth
17th September	Presential	Workshop in Khanya House - Pretoria	Religious Life Against Human Trafficking
18th September	Online	Sr Jane Francis, Sr Aby Avelino e Sr Laura – Coordinator of Talitha Kum South Africa	Organization of the October course – Talitha Kum
20th September	Presential	Cathedral King of Christ – Archdiocese of Johannesburg	Celebration of anniversary: 65 years of Cathedral 30 year of Pope St John Paul II visit
21st September	Presential	Pe. Pio Conference Centre	Pe. Pio celebration

22nd September	Online	Caritas Africa	Organization of Project Migration and Statelessness
23 September	Online	UNHCR - Geneve	2nd Townhall meeting : Global Alliance at Statelessness
25th September	Presential	Lawyers For Human Rights	Launch the Lawyers for Human Rights refugee guide
26th September	Online	Talitha Kum International	Closure Ceremony of the Course
28th September	Presential	St Gabriel Catholic Church – Khutsong – Carletonville – Archdiocese of Johannesburg	Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees Day Celebration
29th September	Presential	Johannesburg - Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Cardinal Michael Czerny, Fr Joseph Savarimuthu Fr Dumisani Vilakati, Mr Mario Almeida	Visit in Bienvenu Shelter by Prefect of the Dicastery Cardinal Czerny – visit to the Scalabrinian mission in South Africa. Mario and Fr Vilakati Conversations and sharing about the mission by the SACBC
30th September	Online	Talitha Kum International	Call to Action: How Climate Change Drives Human Trafficking
30th September	Online	MSCS Regional Africa	Meeting and sharing activities

October

4th October	Online	Social Action MSCS	Online Formation
6th October	Presential	President of Caritas Africa	Project on Migration and Statelessness
7th October	Presential/ Online	Coordination of Caritas Africa	Project on Migration and Statelessness
8th October	Presential	Social Action	Ordinary Meeting
8th October	Online	Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development	Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees
9th October	Presential	Archdiocese of Johannesburg	Jubilee of Religious Life
9th October	Online	SACBC, IMBISA, CEMIRDE, CEPAMI and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development	Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees
12 – 17th October	Presential	SACBC, Talitha Kum Network, LCCLSA in Pe. Pio Conference Center	Talitha Kum Course – Religious Life on Mission Against Human Trafficking
17th October	Online	Talitha Kum International	
18th October	Presential	Archdiocese of Johannesburg	Leadership Conference
19th October	Online	Talitha Kum International	Meeting Africa General Assembly
20th October	Presential	Lance Tomas – University of Pretoria	Policy Brief consultancy – Statelessness/Migration
21st – 22nd October	Presential	SAMIN	Annual Police Conference 2025

23rd October	Presential	University of Pretoria	“Seeking Refuge: an Information Sharing Workshop for Community-Based Leaders
24th October	Online	Talitha Kum International	Project Management Formation
28th – 29th October	Presential	Johannesburg – Comrsa, Scalabrini Center Cap Town, JRS, Catholic Centre for Legal Aid Services	South-South Dialogue Conference on Accessing Asylum and Enhancing Protection
30th – 31st October	Presential	Caritas Africa – Wesley Chibamba and Inocente Nama	Visit of Migration/Statelessness Project Meeting with Lance Tomas – University of Pretoria, visit Archdiocese of Pretoria and Johannesburg

November

4th November	Online	National Freedom Network	Building Relationships: Connecting African and Global Anti-Trafficking Efforts
5th November	Presential	Lance Tomas – University of Pretoria	Policy Brief consultancy – Statelessness/Migration (Research)
11th November	Online	South Africa Refugee-Led Network (SARLN)	Partnership in the work with migrants, refugees and Human Trafficking
16th – 22nd November	Presential	Talitha Kum Africa – Zambia	General Assembly Talitha Kum Continental
25th November	Online	National Freedom Network	The Ethics of Human Trafficking Narratives
25th November	Online	Talitha Kum International	The Impact of War and Conflict on Human Trafficking and Vulnerable Lives
26th November	Online	UISG	
27th November	Presential	Bienvenu Shelter	Quarterly Board Meeting

December

8th December	Online	Social Action MSCS	Online Formation
------------------------------------	--------	--------------------	------------------

Summary Table of Activities

Category of Activities	Total Activities	Presential	Online	Hybrid	Main Organizations Involved
Meetings & Coordination	86	46	38	2	SACBC, Caritas Africa, UNHCR, IOM, Talitha Kum, Bishops, Universities, NGOs
Workshops & Conferences	32	29	2	1	Dioceses, Talitha Kum, LCCLSA, Universities, SAMIN, NGOs

Formations & Training Courses	34	18	16	0	Talitha Kum Network, UISG, MSCS, Social Action
Webinars & Online Seminars	21	0	21	0	UNHCR, National Freedom Network, Talitha Kum International, SAMIN
Liturgical Celebrations & Church Events	19	19	0	0	SACBC, Dioceses, Vatican, Parishes
Visits & Institutional Engagements	18	18	0	0	Dicastery for Integral Human Development, Embassies, Shelters, Dioceses
Media & Public Awareness (Interview / Campaign Days)	5	1	4	0	Radio Veritas, SACBC Communication Office, Partner Networks
Governance & Board Meetings	8	6	2	0	Bienvenu Shelter, Social Action, Project Boards
Total	223	137	83	3	

List of acronyms

AGM	Annual General Meeting
BDS	Beautiful Dream Society
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCJP	Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace
CEI	Conferenza Episcopale Italiana
CELAM	Latin American Episcopal Council
CEM	Conference Episcopal Mozambique
CS	Congregatio Scalabriniana
CTIP	Counter Trafficking in Persons Office
CWS	Church World Service
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid (Hereditary Materials)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECCW	Eswatini Council of Catholic Women
FCII	Francistown Centre for Illegal Immigrants
GCM	Global Compact on Migration
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICMC	International Catholic Migration Commission
IDPs	Internal Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization

IMBISA	Inter-Regional Meeting of the Bishops of Southern Africa
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IT	Information Technology
JRS	Jesuit Refugee Service
LCBC	Lesotho Catholic Bishops' Conference
LCCLSA	Leadership Conference of Consecrated Life South Africa
LHR	Lawyers for Human Rights
LMPS	Lesotho Mounted Police Service
M&R	Migrants and Refugees
MIGRARED	International Meeting on Migration and Asylum
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs (Lesotho)
MRCL	Multi-Religious Council of Leaders
MSCS	Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo – Scalabrinians
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHLS	National Health Laboratory Services
NSS	National Security Services
OMI	Oblates of Mary Immaculate
PPC	Parish Pastoral Council
PWG	Protection Working Group
RAEMH	Africa-Europe Network for Human Mobility
RFP	Religions for Peace
RPC	Refugee Pastoral Care
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SA	South Africa
SACBC	Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAMIN	Southern Africa Migration Network
SECAM	Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar
SIHMA	Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa
SJ	Jesuit Society
SJTI	St. Joseph's Theological Institute
TKN	Talitha Kum Network
TLF	Tshwane Leadership Foundation
UISG	Union of International Superiors General
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UP	University of Pretoria
WDMR	World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Conclusion

As we conclude this year of mission, we reaffirm our commitment to be a Church that lives as Missionaries of Hope, walking side by side with those seeking a new home, dignity, and protection. Guided by the pillars of welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating, we turn challenges into opportunities for evangelical renewal, recognizing in every migrant, refugee, and victim of human trafficking the face of Christ on pilgrimage.

We are aware that not all dioceses were able to submit their reports; nevertheless, it is equally true that many were a welcoming and supportive presence in their communities, bearing witness through concrete actions to the Church's closeness to the most vulnerable.

We express our deepest gratitude to our benefactors and partners, whose support made this mission possible. The Italian Episcopal Conference (8xmille), the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, Living Waters International, and Weltkirche Stuttgart, which generously provided a vehicle for diocesan service, were essential instruments in this journey. From legal assistance and emergency support to training, capacity-building, and prevention initiatives, everything achieved was made possible through the trust, solidarity, and providence that sustained this pastoral service. Your contributions were seeds of hope sown in soil often marked by suffering, yet also by resilience.

Finally, we joyfully recognize the fundamental role of diocesan leadership — bishops, clergy, religious, and laypeople — who embraced this cause with pastoral care and social commitment. The active participation of the dioceses and the dedication of local coordinators strengthened the network of care, protection, and reporting against all forms of human exploitation. Together, we reaffirm that the Church in Southern Africa remains steadfast in its prophetic mission: to be a voice for the voiceless, a sign of hope amid vulnerability, and a safe haven for God's children on the move.



Migrants, Missionaries of Hope



*Jubilee of Migrants and Refugees
October 5, 2025*



Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference
SACBC - Migrants & Refugees Office and Human Trafficking

Khanya House, 129 Main Street, Waterkloof, 0181 Pretoria; P.O. Box 941, Pretoria 0001, South Africa. Tel: +27 69 743 3378, Fax: +27 (12) 326 6218 E-mail: mrsecretary@sacbc.org.za