

**Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**- Loreto Generalate**  
**CSocD60\* Side Event on the Priority Theme**  
**Concept Note**

**"Poverty, Hunger and Human Trafficking in Person;  
Interventions and Good practices from Faith-based  
Organizations"**

*\*60th Session of the Commission for Social Development 2022 (CSocD60)*

*Priority theme: Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda*

Multidimensional poverty encompasses the various deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives – such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards, decent work, conducive environment to live a dignified life, etc. Covid19 aggravated conditions of poverty around the world, and according to the United Nations 2021 Sustainable Development Goals Report, poverty rates increased for the first time in a generation. As a result, it is expected that Southern Asia will add 32 million and sub-Saharan Africa 26 million people to the current number of individuals living below the poverty line. The pandemic has exposed harsh and profound inequalities in our societies and further exacerbated existing disparities within and among countries. Women and children bear the brunt of this crisis.

The situation created larger pools of vulnerable persons who, due to their worsened economic situation, were recruited for labor or sexual exploitation. Women, children, and migrants are especially vulnerable to recruitment and exploitation. Children's schooling has been interrupted by the pandemic, and, because of precarious family financial situations, children are increasingly targeted by traffickers (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2021 Report).

Faith-based organizations (FBOs) are actively responding to the needs of those affected by poverty and hunger due to the pandemic. We strongly believe that the eradication of poverty is only possible if we pay attention to the processes of transformation and the resilience of excluded communities in our society.

In this CSocD event, we will hear from FBOs as they share stories of:

- Engagement in confronting poverty and human trafficking especially during COVID-19
- Resilience of women/girls affected by multidimensional poverty that made them victims of human trafficking/forced labor
- Good practices from the ground on addressing poverty and stopping human trafficking in person.

**Speakers:**

1. Keynote address: Prof. Michel Veuthey, Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Geneva
2. Sr. Imelda Poole ibvm, President of RENATE - European network of religious committed to work together against human trafficking and exploitation (TBC)
3. A human trafficking survivor (TBC)
4. Nabanita Shome, Coordinator of Red-light Project Sonagachi-Kolkata, India