

The SRTV has at the moment 25 members, including religious sisters and fathers from 15 different congregations, and both Protestant and Catholic lay people. A number of them have been active in different developing countries. Their multi cultural experience and their contacts are very valuable. Religious sisters have always had a worldwide network, and this network is being informed about and activated to assist in the fight against trafficking in women.

Since it was founded, the SRTV has done a lot of work and realised many different plans. A network has been developed both in the Netherlands and abroad. All members of the Foundation have worked to bring the issue of trafficking into the public eye, both nationally and internationally.

As well as working on prevention and dissemination of information, the members of the group offer practical help to the victims of trafficking in the Netherlands. The SRTV believes that preventative measures taken in the countries where the women victims come from should have top priority. That is why the Foundation contacts organisations and women's groups in the different countries to intensify the network. The Foundation also occasionally offers help and shelter to the victims, and uses the network to ensure the women of a safe return to their homeland.

### **Dutch Foundation of Religious against Trafficking in Women**

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**ENGLISH**

## **Dutch Foundation of Religious Against Trafficking in Women**

(Stichting Religieuzen Tegen Vrouwenhandel – SRTV)



*'It's not only the dreams we share that are important  
But especially the work we do together.'*

**The Eternal One said:**

**'I have seen the tribulations of the women  
and heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers  
Yes, I am well aware of their suffering.**

**I have truly noted their oppression by the pimps  
and their cries have reached me.**

**Now then, go and work for the liberation of these women.'**

**[Based on Exodus 3]**

**Jesus said: 'Don't be afraid, I am with you.'**

## Dutch Foundation of Religious Against Trafficking in Women

Stichting Religieuzen Tegen Vrouwenhandel (SRTV)

Sister Michel Keesen heard a voice reverberate in her head:

*Voice that calls me:*

*Who are you?*

*Sister, where is your sister?*

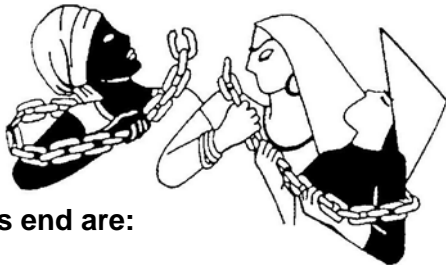
*What has happened to her?*

*Can she grow up to be what she is meant to be?*

*Are you not your sister's keeper?*

In 1991, as a result of this calling to actively show solidarity with oppressed women, the initiative was taken to form a national network of the religious against trafficking in women. This group became the SRTV.

The Foundation SRTV is set up to combat the growing traffic in women and the corresponding forced prostitution. Its first objective is to work on prevention and information dissemination. It is also the foundation's intention to contribute to the creation of a respectable future for the victims of this trade.



### The means used to this end are:

- \* Raising public awareness of the issue by disseminating information;
- \* Raising awareness of Religious organisations and institutions (in particular Christian organisations)
- \* Information dissemination by spreading warning leaflets and videotapes to prevent women and girls from becoming victims;
- \* Supporting prevention projects and projects to help women return to their home country;
- \* Forming an international network;
- \* Offering practical support to victims in the Netherlands;
- \* Lobbying for political support where possible.

The SRTV attempts to warn women about the dangers of trafficking via a leaflet that is now translated into 49 different languages, and distributed in over 80 different countries. The SRTV is convinced that it is more effective to help prevent women from falling victim to trafficking, on the basis that prevention is always better than cure.

The SRTV supports victims of trafficking when they have been through the traumatic experience in the Netherlands and want to be repatriated. They mediate in finding safe shelter for victims in Holland, and co-operate with women's projects in the Ukraine, Chilli, Ghana, Lithuania, Nigeria, Brazil, Kenya, Thailand, Malawi and the Dominican Republic.

The members of the SRTV also inform the public in the Netherlands about trafficking. They speak at conferences, give workshops, and are part of an international network against trafficking in women and lobby for policy changes at national and international level.



The SRTV is a non-profit organisation. The money required to achieve their aims comes from congregations, gifts, charitable funds and other sources.

The Foundation's magazine "*Trans actions*" [Verhandelingen] is translated into English twice a year and is distributed for free.

The SRTV is available to speak about trafficking in women to women's groups, churches, cultural organisations, youth groups, schools, etc.

Every year the SRTV takes part in a number of national and international meetings and congresses.