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FREEDOM Ministry Director Fr. Peter Spiro Conducts Human Trafficking Awareness and Mitigation Conference in Nassau, Bahamas



The FREEDOM Ministry's Director, Rev. Protopresbyter Dr. Peter Spiro conducted a Human Trafficking Awareness and Mitigation Conference in Nassau, Bahamas from September 13-15. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Nassau coordinated and hosted the 3 day conference in efforts to learn about Human Trafficking and to develop the Orthodox Church's presence in the arena to combat human trafficking within the Bahamas.

Those in attendance at the conference to listen to Father Peter's presentations and offer local information to the parish included: Annunciation Nassau's clergy, Parish Council members and parishioners; A.S.P. Indirah Belle – Ministry of National Security; the Human Trafficking Taskforce; the Royal Bahamas Domestic Violence Task Force; members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force; the Bahamas Union of Teachers; the Ministry of Education; the Bahamas Crisis Centre; Immigrations; Crime Stoppers Bahamas; and Kiwanis Club Bahamas.

Father Peter presented on a range of topics including: the differences between smuggling and trafficking; the history and types of Human Trafficking throughout the world; the vulnerabilities that can lead to persons becoming trafficked; as well

as ethical and theological issues for consideration. Father Peter also taught the pastors and parish leaders best practices in combatting Human Trafficking as well as mitigation techniques.

Father Peter was also able to speak in depth with representatives from the different governmental agencies and organizations within the context of conference, and also in separate meetings. His visit launched a partnership between Nassau's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church together with the Bahamian governmental agencies that focus on Human Trafficking. Father Peter will continue to guide the very inspired and motivated Annunciation parish leaders to lead the charge for other Churches in the Bahamas in the fight against "Modern Day Slavery." Plans for next steps with the Bahamian representatives and the parish community were discussed. Forthcoming plans are now underway as the Annunciation Parish's new efforts come under the wings and guidance of the FREEDOM Ministry for the Bahamas.

If you have questions about Human Trafficking or would like to schedule a FREEDOM Ministry training for you parish community, please email Father Peter at .

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