



# ANNUAL REPORT 2013



## Executive Summary

When non-profit NGOs such as Mary Ward Loreto, partner to tackle urgent issues in Albania, they can achieve tremendous success – especially when they use cross-sectoral cooperation to provide a systemic impact and engage affected constituencies directly in the problem-solving process. Pressing problems, including poverty and stark gender disparities, threaten the economic health of the country and its residents. For instance “Albania still ranks as one of the poorest countries in Europe facing issues with high unemployment, widespread corruption, a dilapidated physical infrastructure, powerful organized crime networks, and combative political opponents. The agricultural sector which accounts for almost half of employment but only about one-fifth of GDP; is limited primarily to small family operations and subsistence farming because of lack of modern equipment, unclear property rights, and the prevalence of small, inefficient plots of land. Albania continues to be an import-oriented economy and, despite reforms, its export base remains small, narrow, and undiversified.” UNESCO 2013.

Despite this reality Mary Ward Loreto has moved into the mission to effect systemic and cultural change. The NGO has initiated and developed well thought through projects and partnerships which tackle major issues, at grass roots level, in the rural and in the informal areas of the cities. The problems in Albania which Mary Ward Loreto is confronting are gender inequality and exclusion, the trafficking in human persons, exclusion and poverty of the ethnic minorities, youth unemployment and the systemic change needed in education. This latter issue effects and impacts on all other problems.

The following are some of the measured results which Mary Ward Loreto is proud to share in this reporting period:

- The Foundation of the NGO Mary Ward Loreto is constitutionally legalized within the Albanian law.
- 300 women are being trained in human development, health and business, and 4 social businesses: growing sage, embroidering cards, tailoring clothes, and the making of artisan products, are not only functioning well but the market is assured in Albania, the UK and Italy, to guarantee sustainability.
- An education and awareness training project against trafficking has been founded, and will work in 40 regions of Albania. The project URAT has an experienced social worker in the field of anti-trafficking, employed by MWL, and is working in partnership with Peace Corps and D&E.
- Many victims of trafficking have been rescued, referred to D&E, and follow-up support is being given in the rehabilitation process. These young people have been discovered through contact being made via the websites coordinated by MWL.
- The Roma Project, ‘Little Angels’, monitored and funded through MWL, has moved to new premises to educate 50 children from the ethnic minority communities and their families. One young boy who has been with the project for five years is now a peer teacher at the centre.
- RENATE now has 400 members from 19 European countries and all work tirelessly in the field of anti-trafficking. A new and dynamic website has been launched – [www.renate-europe.net](http://www.renate-europe.net)
- The new group, Think Tank Education in Albania (TTEA), is ready and prepared to conduct a research in Tirana, in two schools and one University college. This will be a pilot scheme, a model to be used to impact systemic change in the field of education.

We know that Foundations can make a measurable difference by partnering with effective grassroots and country wide non-profits and statutory systems, to advocate and organize for long-term, meaningful change. MWL is part of this process and is having a positive impact on the lives of individuals, communities, institutions and policies as well as on attitudes and norms. MWL wants to renew the culture of social responsibility in Albania

## Background

Mary Ward Loreto (MWL), founded under the Albanian law, as an NGO on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2013, is a non-profit organization providing development programs for vulnerable communities in Albania. This organization has as its inspiration the charism of Mary Ward, who was the Foundress of a Religious Congregation in England. The fundamental values of this charism are: **FREEDOM, JUSTICE** and **SINCERITY**. The organization forms partnerships and works with 6 main groups; women in rural and informal regions of Albania, victims of trafficking, groups from all over Albania raising awareness with those who are vulnerable to being trafficked, children from the ethnic minority in Albania called Roma and a group working for systemic change in Albania. In the future it is intended that Mary Ward Loreto will develop work with men and youth from the informal and rural regions of Albania. MWL donates funds towards the pastoral support of Fr Marjan Lumci who is the prison chaplain in the Tirana/Durres diocese and serves 9 prisons in this area.

The Mission, Vision and Value statements of Mary Ward Loreto are:

### Mission

To enhance personal development and a better quality of life for members of local communities, notably vulnerable populations, to be empowered to claim their right to human dignity. The aspiration of MWL is to significantly reduce the vulnerability for exploitation and the crime of modern day slavery. There is also the call to enable the victims of human trafficking to develop new lives with greater security, hope and love. The main strategic goal of the project is to join forces with many partners, and to increase local impact under common ethical and quality standards of governance. MWL is poised to provide a prophetic and indispensable future, full of hope, for the most vulnerable in the context of exploitation and modern day slavery in Albania.

### Vision

Mary Ward Loreto will be nationally recognized as the main organization in support of freedom, justice and hope in Albania. It will be known for strong advocacy, operational excellence and will take the initiative to add value to vulnerable populations through customized products produced by the local population and services. The mission of Mary Ward Loreto is forwarded by professional Albanian men and women. All will be helped to understand the charism of Mary Ward and will be trained in leadership according to modern methodology. There will be an understanding of the philosophy of respect for each one and the need for leadership/managerial qualities in all staff. MWL will sustain its operations through working partnerships with all organizations, projects and working Boards who will be part of this loose structure or synergy. Funding will be achieved through partnerships and Mary Ward Loreto will have a working Board who will ensure the sustainability of the Foundation. It can be seen from the above that cross-sectoral cooperation is the essential means for success. This will direct our way forward into the future.

### Values

As an organization, Mary Ward Loreto will achieve its vision through steadfast adherence to its core values of **FREEDOM, JUSTICE** and **SINCERITY**.

### Critical Success Factors

- Maintaining and building strong relationships with all partners, including a strong working board and extended network.
- Continued support and participation with vulnerable communities
- Continued delivery of services and programs according to the plan of action
- Engaging broad community support to forward the Mary Ward Loreto objectives.

The programs and major activities which have met the core expectations of the Mary Ward Loreto organization in 2013 are:

- The NGO, Mary Ward Loreto, is established with a Board of Directors which is ensuring the future of MWL according to its vision, mission and values. It is making important inroads in making a systemic impact on the culture and structure
- The women's project Mary Ward's Women (MWW) managed by MWL, has social workers in place and has completed nearly all aspects of their Plan of Action for 2013
- United Religious Against Trafficking, (URAT), managed by Mary Ward's Women MWL, with a working Board made up of Religious and co-workers from Albania, has been launched. The preparatory work for raising awareness of the phenomena of trafficking in the villages and informal regions of Albania has begun.
- In 2013 a group of volunteers wrote all the founding documents for the MWL project Youth Education for Prosperity (YEP). This project will begin in March 2014
- A project managed by MWL, called Think Tank Education in Albania (TTEA), has begun its work of addressing systemic change. A group of intellectuals work in a voluntary capacity to forward this project.
- Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation (RENATE), has an office in the centre called Mary Ward Loreto and is coordinated and financially managed from this base. The members of the working board are from 20 European countries.
- The prison project in Albania is established under the pastoral care of Mary Ward Loreto
- The education centre, established for the victims of trafficking under the management of Different and Equal, has continued to be funded and financially monitored by Mary Ward Loreto. The partnership between the two NGO's is constantly strengthened and developed through shared activities.
- In 2013 the Roma Project 'Little Angels, managed by the NGO, Education for Life (SHKEJ), and founded in partnership with IBVM three years ago, has been financially monitored by Mary Ward Loreto. MWL has offered training provision for the staff throughout this year.
- The Friends of Mary Ward met regularly to deepen their spiritual lives and to act as advisors and participators in the development of the new NGO.

## **History of Mary Ward Loreto**

This new NGO, MWL, has as its inspiration the charism of Mary Ward. The essence of this charism is to respond to the greatest needs in today's world through education and any other means. In 1609, this young Yorkshire woman left England to follow God's call. She broke

new ground in her service to those who would otherwise lack sufficient care and nurture, especially in the education of women. She gathered a growing number of young women who shared her vision and commitment for a ministry “in the world”. They took the same constitutions as The Society of Jesus, supported by a spirituality that sought freedom, justice and sincerity in all things. This way of life emphasizes both reflection and action to serve “wherever the need is greatest”. Her journey to this end was difficult and painful and she died seeing little fruit for her toil. Despite all of this she referred all to God and encouraged all to be of good cheer. Her gravestone reads: “To love the poor, persevere in the same, live, die, and rise with them, was all the aim of Mary Ward...” Her example and writings have much to teach us. These are the origins of IBVM (UK) who founded the mission in Albania in 2005. The Bishop of Tirana, H.M. Mons Rrok Mirdita, proposed that IBVM work in anti-trafficking in all of its forms. This was a growing and serious concern for the country and therefore the church in Albania. The mission has been developed in the light of this invitation and responds to the following needs:

- Prevention Against Trafficking
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy
- Direct action with the victims of trafficking

### **The Beginnings of Mary Ward Loreto**

After three years of working in partnership with many NGOs in the field of anti-trafficking, it was felt in 2012 that the time had come to open a new Foundation. The desire was to open an NGO following the inspiration of Mary Ward and in the light of the original mission given to IBVM, to combat human trafficking. After fulfilling all the juridical processes of the law in Albania, which included the setting up of a Board of Directors, writing a constitution and a business plan, the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation was launched in January 2013. The Foundation opened with some operational difficulties whilst suitable premises were found for the work. The house of Imelda Poole IBVM, was used as the main offices for the first six months of 2013 whilst another small office in Tirana was rented for Mary Ward’s Women and for the logistics. The finance officer worked from another base. All meetings of MWL were held at the central base which was Imelda Poole IBVM’s home. There were many difficulties and challenges to be faced for all of the first workers at MWL. Whilst the team of staff worked in different locations many difficulties had to be overcome to ensure good communication. It is to the staff’s great credit that so much energy, enthusiasm and extra time was given during these first months to establish a good working relationship within the team and to ensure that the work was forwarded and targets reached. During this period good guidelines for ethical working practice were established, new premises were found for MWL, and a reconstruction of these premises was accomplished to serve the needs of the Foundation. Simultaneously, whilst this work was taking place, project development continued with exceptional results. All the staff of MWL need to be congratulated for sustaining this high level of professionalism during a time when conditions were difficult and very challenging.

By June, 2013, the new premises were ready. This was all due to the wonderful cooperation between the builders and the logistics officer for MWL, who conducted the work with patience and great competence. MWL staff moved to the one suite of offices in Tirana, later in June, for the administration and development of the work. Fr Marjan Lumci, the prison chaplain for Tiran/Durres, came to



bless the premises and a deserved celebration followed this special day. MWL has 11 staff members working in different projects to forward the mission of the Foundation.

### **Development of MWL Mission 2013:**

#### **MWW (Mary Ward's Women**

'Mary Ward's Women' is a continuation of the project begun 2 years before under the name of "Women's Right in Albania for Freedom, Justice and to seek their Truth" (WRAJFT). It was launched in response to the crying needs of women in Albania who live in the rural and informal regions of the country. The project is now under the management of Mary Ward Loreto. The work of MWW is divided between the social/psychologist worker in Shkoder who coordinates the northern regions, and the project manager who coordinates the women's groups of the central and southern regions of Albania and operates as the overall manager of the project. This is felt to be a certain way of ensuring better and more effective results according to the action plan of the project and the human resources available. A third member of staff works in the informal regions in Tirana.

A teaser for a potential documentary film was made during this reporting period by MWW with the help of a leading film company in Albania. This teaser was shown on International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup> at prime time on national TV's and through Satellite, on national TV with an international range. In this very short film the women have shown their reality within the local communities and expressed the need for human rights and their dreams for the future. The film may be viewed on either MWW Facebook page or MWL Facebook page.



A pilot approach was developed during 2013 in the area of Hot i Ri. This process consisted in supporting women to establish work which would provide a regular income while supporting them in their human development. Women have become members of the working group and they have begun to generate incomes. During this time they have strengthened and understood the importance of good collaboration. This they know will achieve the best results. Individual meetings with women and

girls have been organised to offer psychological and emotional support. Women have become more aware of the fact that they need support and sometimes good counselling sessions. Stress, depression, couple relationship and domestic violence are the most common problems.

The literacy programme for Roma women in Shkoza has been followed up this year from April to June. The lessons with 7 women and girls, began at home in the women's natural environment, but as soon as summer approached they returned to the streets to beg or to sell second hand clothes. Only three women finished the training programme. In an agreement made with MWL and SHKEJ, these lessons are being continued with the NGO SHKEJ, whose direct focus is with the Roma community. We are very happy that this important work will be continued.



Mary Ward Loreto/ Mary Ward Women is now part of a networking group with other organizations and institutions. On the International Water Day a successful collaboration was made between non profit organisations in Shkodra. This was an important network for our future development.

In 2013 two sessions of trainings were organised with the leaders of the women's groups. The first training was in leadership skills for group animation

and dynamics. The second training was in advocacy, lobbying and campaigning for human rights. 25 women leaders were trained. Other trainings were developed in Saranda, Fier, Kelmend, Dushaj and Hot i Ri, for economic and human empowerment of the already established women's groups in these areas.

During the final three months of 2013 the activities were focused on economic empowerment, health care, psychological support, empowerment and strengthening of new groups, and establishing new partnerships. As a result of this excellent work 62 women are now engaged in economic activities and more than 300 women are regular participants in the human development trainings.

Psychological support is given to the women who are suffering from depression, traumas and problems with self-esteem. It is a growing sign of achievement when women are so empowered that they are able to face their difficulties and overcome them with courage.

Networking is one of the important aims for MWW. Due to this a workshop in Shkodra of NGOs operating in Northern Albania, called NGOs Alliance, was facilitated by Sally Keeley, from Australia, (Past Pupil of Loreto, Adelaide). The workshop allowed NGOs to explore common goals within the Vision and Mission statements of each organization, and to indicate what kind of collaboration could be developed between the NGOs in the future.

Consequent to a partnership, in the process of being formed between Mary Ward Loreto and the Medaille Trust in the UK, staff from the Medaille Trust visited MWW and its projects. MWW staff accompanied the staff of the Medaille Trust to Hot I Ri, and Kallmet in the north and Saranda and Shendelli in the south. During these visits the staff evaluated the possibilities for building a joint project based on the MWW strategy. Later in the year, the Project Manager of Mary Ward Women and the Social/Psychologist and Coordinator in the north, travelled to the UK for an exchange experience. In this visit, besides visiting the Medaille shelters for trafficked victims they also had the chance to meet and share with the Special Envoy of the Home Office for anti-trafficking in persons. A link was forged for the future when a visit is planned with the Special Envoy and an M.P. from the UK, who will visit Albania in 2014.

In 2014 new social workers will be employed to further develop the work in Fier, Shendilli and Kallmet. A 30 minute film which is to be a development of "The Teaser" produced for Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup> in 2013, will be completed and a research project on how the women perceive the men in their life will be accomplished with the women. This will form a basis for a further research project conducted by the first workers in the project for men.

The present staff of MWW work closely as a team and this year they have laid a strong foundation and constructed principles of work which will guide all future developments of the

project. MWW project has being thoroughly consolidated and has a strong base for all creative work which may spring up from these firm foundations.

### Think Tank Education in Albania

In 2013, the new group, Think Tank Education in Albania, was formed to address systemic change. A group of intellectuals have come together as volunteers and have worked tirelessly for 6 months, to discern their way forward and to develop all the documents necessary to begin the research. The system which the group have decided to research is



Education. By the end of 2013 the group had written a concept note, gained the necessary funding for the beginning of this work, produced a leaflet to use for communication purposes, opened an email address and written three questionnaires necessary for the pilot research. This will take place in two high schools and a university college. A meeting with the minister of education is intended early in 2014 and a specialist team will be employed to conduct the research in these three education establishments. The group is to be commended for their commitment to this task which has taken many

hours of their time on top of a full working days. MWL would like to thank them for this dedication and commitment to the task. In 2014 all of this research will be completed as a pilot scheme and the results of this first stage of the programme will direct the next steps of the project. Albania is trapped by so much corruption and the lack of funding and passion to ensure that the statutory systems function at the highest ethical level. This Think Tank has taken on the challenge to make a difference and to confront the systems which block change.

URAT (United Religious Against Trafficking), received the necessary funding through MWL in 2013, to launch a two year project of education and awareness raising against trafficking in the rural and informal regions of Albania. MWL has employed one of the group, Sr Mirjam Beike (Good Shepherd), part time, to coordinate this project. Sr Mirjam works in partnership with MWW, Different and Equal (D & E), an NGO established for the rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking, and Peace Corps. These will all work together in the development of the project. MWW and Peace Corps have helped in the naming of venues where they will be able to gather groups for the training and D & E have provided an Albanian social worker to work with Sr Mirjam in the training programmes throughout Albania. The group working board of URAT are involved in this initiative through



monthly meetings and through communication with the major religious superior conference in Albania. The members of URAT are also opening their places of mission for the training against trafficking organised by the working team. This project opened in September 2013 and the plan of action for the four months remaining of this year was focused on producing the necessary marketing and education materials needed before the working team could move into the field of action in 2014. D & E also offered the use of a foto novello and Peace

Corps produced an excellent Power Point presentation as an education tool. By the end of 2013 a clear and insightful body of materials has been produced by the coordinator. The part time marketing design worker for MWL assisted in the designs of these materials. All was ready by the end of the year for the programme to be launched in 2014. This project has already shown the value of establishing a network to forward the work and the riches which can be gained when a group, dedicated to the task, share their resources. These are already being outsourced to a wider audience through Facebook, website and other uses of the social media. It is felt that during this process the trainers can challenge the young people and parents to look at the value systems which are held and why these values or lack of them leave people vulnerable to being trafficked. The training is looking at the best in the culture but challenging the values in the culture such as deceit and gender control which disempowers young people from being people of integrity and free to make their own decisions.

### **YEP (Youth Education for Prosperity)**

During this calendar year the dream of opening a MWL youth project was explored. In the latter part of the year a voluntary group came together to work on the foundation documents for this project. A concept note and a budget was produced with clearly mapped out goals and objectives. A necessary research will be conducted in the future to understand the essentials needs of youth and particularly in the rural and informal regions. The task is also to address the scourge of youth unemployment in Albania. This project will work in partnership with URAT and MWW, and YEP will benefit from being able to work with groups already gathered by these projects to conduct the youth research. Alternatively the new coordinator of youth, will use his skills to support URAT and MWW with animation exercises. This project will develop into 2015 according to the findings of the research.

### **RENATE (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation)**

RENATE is an NGO founded under the Dutch law in 2009. The president of RENATE is Imelda Poole IBVM who works in the management of the NGO with a core group and working board, consisting of members from all over Europe, West, Central and East. The office base for RENATE is at Mary Ward Loreto, Albania, and the finance officer for RENATE is also based and employed for one day a week for the work of RENATE at MWL. The secretary and website manager for RENATE is based in an office in Poland. The main funding for this NGO is provided through MWL. The manager of MWW is also a member of the RENATE working board and is the key worker for the establishment and the development of the RENATE Facebook site. RENATE is important because its many members are active in the field of working against human trafficking across Europe and inform on many levels the issues arising, feeding back to the NGO's the latest trends of the traffickers and keeping in touch with the strategies to be implemented by the European Union against this modern day slavery. This task of forwarding the work of RENATE from the base in Albania has proved to be very challenging due to the need to transfer money for the work across borders. We have been very grateful to our bank in Albania who has patiently advised us as we approach each new task and who have been generous with their time in the implementation of these tasks. The work of RENATE includes rapid response emergency care for those in the field of direct action, care of the members working at the coal face, training of the members, research and advocacy and cross culture opportunity in the field of anti-trafficking. All aspects of this work have been accomplished during the year 2013. Trainings, meetings and cross cultural experiences have taken place in Croatia, Slovakia, and Romania. Over the



past year the President of RENATE and two members of the core group participated in a work shop organised at the Vatican, and initiated by Pope Francis, on the combatting of human trafficking in today's world. This has led to a growing network with the leader of the unit for anti-trafficking in the EU and has enabled MWL/RENAME to become a member of the European Civil Society Platform and be represented by another of the members at the second meeting of this platform in Brussels, in November, 2013. (RENAME Annual Report available on request).

### **D&E (Different and Equal)**

MWL sustains through donation, the education and administration centre for the NGO, D&E, which is dedicated to the rehabilitation of trafficked victims. MWL and D&E work in partnership in many fields to support one another in this joint focus for the eradication of the trafficking in human persons. Joint ventures include volunteering work with the victims in the centre, and the referral of Albanian rescued victims who come to the attention of MWL and RENAME, through their websites, and who need to be supported once they are deported back to Albania. This demands a great deal of discreet communication and follow up work between the person referring from either the UK or another European country, and with the contact person at MWL or RENAME. This is followed up immediately with the CEO of D&E who does the follow up work in Albania with the police and border control. This work has proved to be most successful and is one way of protecting the victims through a carefully controlled and confidential network. D&E are highly professional specialists in this field, and we at MWL feel supported by this NGO in our work against trafficking in human persons. MWL and D&E also collaborate in the development of the work of URAT and the CEO of D&E is on the Board of MWL. She is also on the advisory board of MWW. MWL and D&E collaborate in round tables to help donors and other statutory bodies understand the work of anti-trafficking. This has led to joint action in the field. (D&E Annual Report available on request)



### **Little Angels**

The project, Little Angels, was founded in partnership with SHKEJ, and runs a centre for the well-being and reintegration into school of ethnic minority children including Roma and Egyptian. It also out reaches to two Roma camps where the original families served by this project, were scattered due to a violent attack on their camp two years ago. MWL, through

funding received, donates the total funding resources for this project and oversees its welfare and development. The project is managed by the NGO SHKEJ who work in partnership with MWL. MWL is committed to this work into the future more particularly because the ethnic minority communities in Albania have the highest percentage of trafficked victims coming



from these communities. This is particularly so in the area of trafficked children sold for begging, and with vulnerable young girls who are trafficked into the sex tourism industry. Little Angels is part of a wider network called BKTF whose focus is 'Children at Risk in Albania'. The project offers teaching support, medical, psychology and social support both in the centre and in out-reach to the camps where the children live. There is also a feeding programme to ensure the children are nourished with two meals a day to keep them healthy and fit for school. In 2013 the project moved to new and larger premises thus providing a better environment for the work and to increase the numbers of children who can avail of this service. The staff of the project has reported a very successful year of work with nearly all of the children now integrated into the public school and there is real hope for these children into the future. The work is very challenging and difficult because the children come from an environment of extreme poverty where there is little food, poor, unacceptable shelter with no electricity or running water and tents which are very cold in the winter leading to many serious infections throughout the year. The other grave disadvantage is that the children are expected to work and gain an income from the earliest age of three and four years. To sustain this momentum of daily education is almost a superhuman challenge. Nearly all the children face this and somehow cope from day to day. The manager, staff and children, participating in this project, are all to be congratulated for continuing, with patience, to work together to achieve their goals. (Little Angels annual report available on request)

### Visitors:

Part of the work of MWL is to welcome visitors from abroad who are able to support the work of MWL in its development. During the year 2013 MWL welcomed five visitors who spent time at MWL offering various opportunities and trainings. At the beginning of the year Hilary Cashman and Shelia Briggs visited Albania and continue to work with MWW and D&E opening a market in the UK for the hand-made cards and gifts produced by MWW and D&E. These crafts are not only being sold but Hilary is in constant touch with the workers advising them on the ethics of selling abroad and the best variety of products which can be sold. We are grateful to Hilary, in particular, for this major piece of work. Sheila is a professor of Theology in California and continues to support the work from afar. Grainne O'Hagan and Cheryl Miller, teachers from Loreto Grammar School, Altrincham, came later in the year and have remained in contact supporting the work with fund raising and constant interest and



care for the mission in Albania, for this we are very grateful. The secretary for RENATE who is Polish and lives in Warsaw, visited in the early summer to meet the staff of MWL and in particular to meet the finance officer of RENATE. It was good that these different workers from RENATE were enabled to meet each other physically as well as through the constant contact on SKYPE. Finally we received a welcome visitor for six weeks from Australia. Sally Keeley is a past pupil of the Loreto School in Adelaide and has professional training and management experience with the government in

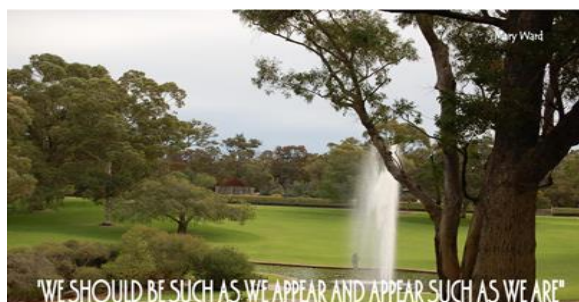
Australia in project management. She gave us invaluable time training all groups of staff, leaders in the women's groups and a network of NGO's in Shkoder, in a variety of topics such as strategic planning, monitoring and assessment, project report writing, risk management, capacity building and project management. Sally worked tirelessly for months before she came to Albania, on SKYPE, with all the managers of the projects/NGO's to ensure the training programmes were in tune with the needs of the workers. We will be for ever grateful to Sally for all of this expert training and for making herself available throughout this time for the staff of MWL, D&E and Little Angels. We were also surprised at the end of the year with a visit from the British Ambassador who was interested in the work of MWL and wanted to come to meet us in the offices and to learn more about this work. A follow up visit

is being organised by the embassy for a contingent from the UK government to come in early 2014 to discuss the work of anti-trafficking. A round table will be organised for this purpose, at MWL.

## Conclusion

The year 2013 has been a year of new beginnings whilst at the same time it has been a year of consolidating and developing work already begun. All six monthly and final reports have been presented by each of the projects and members of staff are to be recommended for their accurate accounting of the year's actions. New Plans of Action and budgets have been produced for the year 2014.

This report has highlighted in brief much of the work accomplished so fruitfully by the staff. Throughout, they have been dedicated and passionate with a real focus on work for justice. During the year, in the midst of new beginnings, monthly trainings have taken place to ensure that all of the staff are empowered and exposed to a new understanding of the charism, and the values and ethic of Mary Ward. The values of truth, sincerity and justice, at the heart of this charism, have demanded a counter culture transformation, little by little, for all of us. There is real joy in knowing that all desire this and love the culture and atmosphere being slowly established within the team. We are very aware of the positive impact on the lives of the individuals, communities, institutions and policies as well as on attitudes and norms. We are learning to work together for the unfolding of the vision. There has been major work in cross-sectoral cooperation, in which there is not only a joined-up approach for all of the projects/NGOs working within MWL, but also in essential cross-sectoral cooperation with ministries in the government and across borders. Slowly, this is leading to a new culture of social responsibility for the beneficiaries of the projects. Recently, the head of the IMF, Christine Lagarde, spoke at the Guild Hall in London of our moving into a new global reality where economic growth can only come from a stance of inclusivity and where the rich need to include the poor and offer openings for a renewed role for women at every level of society and especially in the levels of decision making. Growth does not come from exclusion. She also said that, "Right now, the young countries are seeing a "youth bulge", with almost three billion people—half the global population—under 25. This could prove a boon or a bane, a demographic dividend or a demographic time bomb. A youthful population is certainly fertile ground for innovation, dynamism, and creativity. Yet everything will depend on generating enough jobs to satisfy the aspirations of the rising generation. This calls for a single-minded focus on improving education—and, in particular, on the potentially massive effects of technological change on employment.' (Richard Dimbleby lecture, Guild hall, January, 2014.). We know that these words if heeded, would lead to huge change in Albania. The new Youth Project YEP will listen to these words. The corporate impact is beginning to show in the MWL strategies and this gives us the confidence to continue in our way of proceeding, yet stay open to change when this seems necessary. We have much to be grateful for and much to dream about into the future.



Mary Ward 1585 -1645

Signed: Imelda Poole IBVM (Loreto), President Mary Ward Loreto

We would like to thank all of our donors for their generous and unfailing support of Mary Ward Loreto in 2013. In particular we thank our European donors, OneMenMiva, the Conrad Hilton Foundation for Religious, USA, our many donors from the UK and Loreto School, Altrincham. Without their continued support the mission of MWL would be impossible