**THE NATURE OF CHALLENGE**

**TO A PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS TRADITION OVER TIME**

**Area of Study 4.1**

**Outcome:** To discuss, analyse and compare stances and supporting responses

taken by religions as they are challenged

The second part of this Area of Study requires the analysis and comparison of 4 examples of challenges over time to theology, ethics and continued existence of a particular Religious Tradition/Denomination. In order to demonstrate this second part of the Area of Study, the following knowledge and skills need to be developed.

**For a Particular Religious Tradition/Denomination over time - Analyse and Compare**

An Overview of Challenges (minimum 4) involving theology, ethics and continued existence for at least one Religious Tradition/Denomination.

* the sources of the challenges the aspects of religion which are involved
* when and where the challenges occurred/are occurring
* the aspects of religion which are involved
* what makes the challenges significant
* the stances adopted in the face of challenges
* the responses supporting the stances

**Interpret, Synthesise and Apply**

Reference to a variety of both Primary and Secondary Resources is helpful in order to support the above analysis, explanation and comparison.

**Religious Tradition - Roman Catholicism**

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| **Category of Challenge** | **Continued Existence or Ethics or Theology or Mixture**  **This challenge is primarily ethical, but also has theological significance as it about the nature of the human person.** |
| Identification | The trafficking of women into Australia for the purpose of sex slavery |
| Sources | The source of the challenge leads to a discussion of values in a modern, materialistic, capitalist society; multiculturalism as a facilitator of the challenge; of poverty in South east Asia as the region from which most of the women are trafficked; and also of criminal syndicates in Australia and globally who organise this challenge. |
| When | This is a contemporary challenge |
| Where | The focus of the study is Australia – but the broader context of the Australian challenge is the global trafficking industry which must be introduced in order for the context to make sense. |
| Aspects Involved | Ethics, texts, social structures |
| Significance | The Papal Statements from Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis I all state that this is a major contemporary challenge. Pope Francis dedicated a year of prayer to the need to eliminate this abuse of the human person. |
| Stances | There is the institutional responses made through speeches given by the Popes which all argue for the total elimination of this industry. There is the stance of ACRATH – the body set up by Australian Religious to work to end this challenge through a range of stances – praying for those in this situation; advocating for an end to this through legislation by lobbying politicians; a pastoral stance – supporting the victims of this industry. |
| Supporting Responses | The major response has been the setting up of, and subsequent work of, the organisation ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans). |