

Rotarians against Child Slavery

(A Newsletter for the proposed Rotarian Action Group - See website www.racsrag.org)

Issue No 10

"In a world where most people loath slavery, awakening their awareness would unleash great power"
(Kevin Bales)



An annual event - Anti-Slavery Day in GB

I had not expected to produce another Newsletter so quickly after the previous one, but I learnt something two days ago which thrilled me so much that I had to share the news with members of the Action Group against Child Slavery as soon as possible.

As a result of what happened in the British Parliament two days ago, it looks almost certain now that each year in Great Britain there will be an Anti-Slavery Day to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of modern day slavery and human trafficking.

We have to thank Mr Anthony Steen, the MP for Totnes for this significant step in the

fight to eradicate slavery, at least in Great Britain. On Friday 5th February, his Anti-Slavery Day Bill was given an unopposed second reading and completed its remaining Commons stages and now goes to the House of Lords.

In a passionate speech last Friday, Mr Steen explained that despite the abolition of slavery in 1933, there are hundreds of thousands of people trafficked around the world for sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic slavery or organised crime and he highlighted some of the distressing cases which had reached his attention.

He concluded by

saying "*The important thing is to let men and women know that modern day slavery exists here in Britain and needs to be stamped out. We must reinforce the focus and understanding of the public. Slavery did not disappear when Wilberforce passed his legislation through this House. That is why we need an annual anti-slavery day*"

Of course we are not the first country to establish a day of awareness of human trafficking and modern day slavery. The United States has already achieved this. In June 2007, the US Senate passed a resolution establishing a national day of human trafficking awareness on 11 January.

Wouldn't it be great if Rotary followed suit !

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Action Group's Website: www.racsrag.org.