



ROTARIANS



AGAINST CHILD SLAVERY

Injustice Anywhere Is A Threat To Justice Everywhere (Dr.Martin Luthar King) Our Website : www.racsrag.org

EDITOR

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Editorial

I was sorry that I could not make it to New Orleans for the RI Convention because I did want to attract more members to our proposed Rotarian Action Group. However, I shall strive to obtain a stand for the Action Group at RI President Kalyan Banerjee's Convention in Bangkok next year.

Notwithstanding our absence in New Orleans, membership is still growing. We currently have 415 members from 37 countries.

Recently I received a suggestion from Rotary International that the RI Board would be receptive to considering a RAG with a broader focus, ie one that would encourage projects which would address the general well being and

safety of children.

However, the consensus view amongst the existing Board members of the proposed Action Group against Child Slavery is that fighting to eradicate child slavery.

Because the subject of children's well being and safety covers so many different kinds of issues, the suggestion may not be a practical one.

Apart from child slavery, these would include issues such as child exploitation, child neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse, female genital cutting, foot binding, forced marriages, female infanticide et al. Each topic necessitates a different strategy and tactics to overcome the specific problem, just as various illnesses require different medical solutions

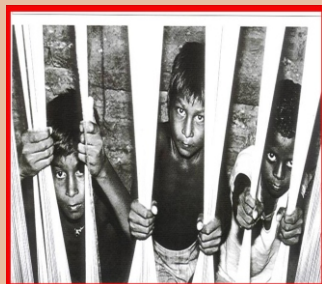
So, unless we hear views to the contrary, we will continue to press for

Rotarian Action Group status and to keep our Group focussed solely on the slavery.

"Child slavery" is often confused with "child exploitation". It is a fact of life that there are millions of children all over the world who are working in places like food stalls, hotels and restaurants or as domestic servants because they may be the only bread winner in the family. But for these unfortunates at least they have a choice, albeit a very difficult one, to work or not to work, to leave or not to leave. A child who is a slave has no choice. A slave is someone who "is unpaid, unable to leave and is controlled by violence or the threat of violence"

Our Action Group is focussing its attention solely on this group of the world's disadvantaged.

To help or not to help



We Rotarians have two choices on the issue of "child slavery". We can either despair that exploitation is an age old problem, that human nature never changes, that in any

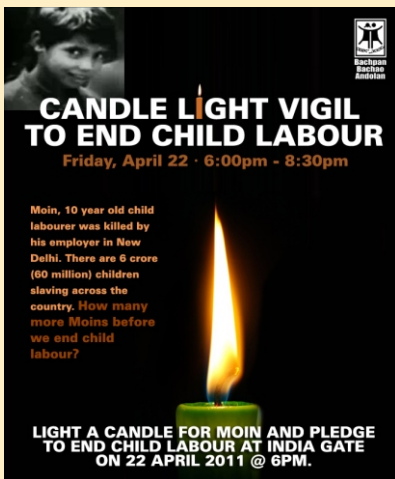
case, slavery is a problem for government and then do nothing. Or we can remember the tenets of the 4-Way Test, Part 2 of the Objects of Rotary and Rotary's Code of Policies in relation to the rights of children (see page 2) and then do our utmost to help eradicate this evil practice.

One way of helping is to encourage your club to get involved with some of the child slavery projects

which are mooted from time to time in this Newsletter. Another way is to find out if there is an anti-slavery organization in your area which needs help with funding.



Candle Light Vigil in New Delhi, India



Moin, 10 year old child labourer was killed by his employer in New Delhi. There are 6 crore (60 million) children slaving across the country. How many more Moins before we end child labour?

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR MOIN AND PLEDGE TO END CHILD LABOUR AT INDIA GATE ON 22 APRIL 2011 @ 6PM.

“In a world where most people loath slavery, awakening their awareness will unleash great power. When we come to know that we are living in a world with slaves, that their stolen labour and lives feed into our shops, businesses and homes, the urge to act will become irrepressible. When that urge, that desire that all should be free, sweeps across our world, the end of slavery will be near”

(Kevin Bales)

Last April I received notification of an event which was to take place at India Gate, New Delhi on 22 April 2011. This was a Candle Light Vigil to honour the memory of a child labourer and to try to end the exploitation of children.

Below is a report of the outcome of that event from Rtn Sanjiv Saran of the Rotary Club of Delhi Megapolis. He writes:-

“ Six days after a 10 year old child labourer had been beaten to death in Bharat Nagar, a candle-light vigil was held at India Gate in his memory. Scores of people flocked to the place to show solidarity with the movement against child labour. The victim's mother Naziya lit the first candle.

The Vigil, titled “No More Moins” is part of a campaign to urge both the administration & common people to end the exploitation of young children.

“The laws are not enough to clamp down on child labour. It is the people's fight; their active participation and aware-ness can help in eradicating the malaise. People need to speak up when they see children working as domestic helps as well as in factories, dhabas and other such units, so that these are not

hidden from the police and administrative machinery. We also need to boycott goods and services offered by these children”, explained Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson for Global March Against Child Labour.

People from different walks of life, including activists as well as the public, joined the march on Friday around 6pm.

“Pop singer Jasbir was also present on the occasion and has promised to write a song on child labour and send it to all radio channels to increase awareness. We want to send stickers to homes which say, “My home is child labour free”. We need to spread the message as fighting the menace of child labour requires concerted effort. Everyone needs to be aware of their responsibility” said Rakesh Senegar, National Secretary for Bachpan Bachao Andolan”.



Editorial Comment

What happened in New Delhi was a momentous event and gives hope to those who believe that protecting the basic human rights of children is essential in a civilized society. It was Dr Martin Luther King who said “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” Rakesh Senegar's statement above that “we need to spread the message as fighting the menace of child labour requires concerted effort. Everyone needs to be aware of their responsibility” could easily be applied to Rotarians. Rotary International's Code of Policies in relation to the Rights of Children (Article 42) states:-

“Rotary International recognizing that

- 1) children, because of their vulnerability, need special care and attention;*
- 2) in all countries of the world there are children who are living in exceptionally difficult conditions;*
- 3) all children should be able to grow into adulthood in an environment of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom and equality;*

endorses and supports the rights of children to food, shelter, healthcare, education and freedom from abuse, violence and slavery. Rotary clubs around the world are committed to protecting these rights for all children, regardless of race, creed or nationality”.

Rotarians are very good at ensuring the rights of children to food, shelter, healthcare and education because we have efficient and enthusiastic Rotarian Action Groups in place to deal with those areas of concern. But we are not very good when it comes to protecting children from abuse, violence and slavery (added only in 2009 after the Norwich Memorial request to the RI Board) because there has not been any encouragement from our Rotary leaders to offer our help on these difficult issues. The proposed Action Group against Child Slavery aims to fill that gap in Rotary service action

Trafficking

The next two pages are devoted to “Trafficking” and will, inter alia, highlight the part which will shortly be played by a Rotarian in England to combat trafficking in his County of Kent. Also attached as an Annex to this Newsletter is an article entitled “Growing Concerns: Child Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation”. The article is compiled jointly by Rtn Carol Metzker, a member of the Action Group and of the Rotary Club of West Chester Downtown in Pennsylvania, USA and Mark Rodgers, a former Rotarian and now Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois. Mark is a member of the Chicago-based Taskforce on Human Trafficking, PROMISE. He has worked with slavery/trafficking survivors and has helped form anti-trafficking programmes, policies and organizations in Latvia and Ecuador. The information contained in the article is based on a presentation given at West Chester University in Pennsylvania in March 2011.

Is it a form of slavery ?

Some people mistakenly believe that “Trafficking” is a form of slavery. It is not. It is merely a mechanism or a conduit that brings people into slavery. According to Anti-Slavery International “Trafficking” involves transporting people away from the communities in which they live, through the use of violence, deception or coercion., for the purpose of their exploitation. When children are trafficked, no violence, deception or coercion needs to be involved. Simply transporting them into exploitative conditions constitutes “trafficking” or “the slave trade” as we used to call the crime.

It is estimated that there are approximately two and a half million people who are in slavery through trafficking. This is slightly under 10% of the total number of people who are estimated to be in slavery worldwide. The other 90% have been enslaved without having being moved from one country to another. Usually they have been enslaved by their own people. The classic example here is India, but there are many other countries which follow India's example, like Ghana, Thailand, China and Myanmar.

Nevertheless trafficking is a global problem. It affects every continent and most countries. The continents/regions from which the victims are usually trafficked from (ie originate) are Africa, Asia, Latin America and Central and South Eastern Europe, The regions which usually are the destinations of the trafficked victims are North America, the Middle East, Western Europe and some parts of Asia, eg Japan for the sex industry.

Trafficking in the UK

The stories of the scores of Chinese cockle pickers who died in Morecombe Bay in England in 2004 and other similar accounts began to awaken the UK media and the public to the fact that the slave trade or trafficking still takes place in the UK. Although the UK had signed up to all of the Articles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including Article 4 which states that “*no one shall be held in slavery or servitude. Slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms*”, “trafficking” did not become a criminal offence in the UK until 2004. Many countries may sign a convention, but it has no effect until they write the principles into their own laws and then enforce them. In the UK this was done with the passing of the Asylum & Immigration Act in 2004

There are other examples to show that the UK which once led the world towards the abolition of the slave trade, does from time to time lag behind many of its European neighbours where trafficking legislation is concerned. A recent example was in 2007. After 34 other countries in the European Union had already signed the European Convention on the Trafficking of Human Beings, the British Government refused to sign the Convention and only did so in 2009 after pressure was brought to bear on the Government by Anti-Slavery International and the human rights lobby.

The UK Government estimates that there are approx 5,000 people trafficked at any one time in the UK. Most of these victims are female and come from Eastern European countries. They are usually traded on what is called the female used body market as sex slaves. Many of these victims enter the UK through the County of Kent, which is where a new initiative has been launched this year under the direction of Rtn Clifford Grieve, who is a Rotarian and a member of our Action Group.

Cliff Grieve & KCAT

Cliff Grieve is a member of the Rotary Club of Ashford in District 1120 in England. For the last 6 years he has been acting as the Youth Officer of the Club. He retired in 1999 at the rank of Detective Superintendent from the Kent Police Force following 30 years of service. During his police service he was at different times an area commander, the head of Special Branch and the head of professional standards. He was responsible for designing with other agencies in the UK, France and Belgium the safety and security regimes for the Channel Tunnel.

In January 2011 Cliff was the driving force in the launch of the Kent Community against Human Trafficking (KCAT) in the presence of the Minister of Immigration, Damien Green MP. The Committee includes Rotarians, Soroptimists, University academics and MA students and undergraduates from both the University of Kent and Christchurch University. KCAT is affiliated to Anti-Slavery International and Stop the Traffik, two anti-slavery organizations based in the UK. At the inaugural meeting of KCAT, Cliff was elected the Committee's first Chairman. We look forward to hearing more about the work of KCAT in the near future.

Helping a Trafficking Shelter in Bihar, India

Project Help Needed: Funds for a Roof

By Carol Metzker – RC of West Chester Downtown, Pennsylvania, USA

Will your club help provide funds for a pavilion-type roof for Punarnawa Shelter?

Punaranawa Shelter in Bihar, India, provides treatment, rehabilitation, food and shelter, education and vocational training for girls who are survivors of trafficking and sex slavery. The shelter is in need of a covered outdoor space where the girls can gather to learn or work, protected from monsoon rains and extreme sunlight. Total cost (in U.S. dollars) is \$3,700. Total cost in Indian Rupees is Rs 167,000. Total cost in British Pounds is £2,240.

Balance needed: \$1700. Rotary Clubs of Norwich St. Edmund (England) and West Chester Downtown (U.S.) have committed \$1000 each.

Please contact Carol Metzker, RC of WC Downtown (echmetzker@aol.com) or Mark Little, RC of Norwich St.E (Mark.Little@btinternet.com).

An open letter from Canada

Hello Fellow Rotarians,

I am happy to announce that TRF approved funding for a Global Grant #25382.

The initial entitlement for the project is Education/support for children freed from enslavement in fishing (Ghana). When approval was sent by RI, the summary response was Host sponsor club Tema and international sponsor club Scarborough for funding to provide rehabilitation through basic education and recreation for 100 survivors of child trafficking near the city of Winneba, Ghana, has been approved by The Rotary Foundation (TRF). RI's description is more thorough and exact.

The focus group is children presently or previously enslaved. The focus objective is one of the six projected from RI. – education & literacy - and thus falls within the mandate of acceptable projects. The project is constructed with sustainability built-in as otherwise the funds are expended at the end of the project period with no continuing returns.

Initially the project was outlined to be a matching grant project as outlined below but our district proposed that it would be better to apply for a Global Grant.

Background: Children are trafficked into commercial exploitation – domestic servitude, open market and fishing, etc. Most of these children are constantly abused, have no access to education, or medical care.

Project goal: To provide basic support through an NGO called Challenging Heights for the needs of children affected by child trafficking in order to improve literacy- by providing educational and material assistance to enhance work/teaching/learning to victims of such abuse; to provide food/food supplement for children who come to school without eating; to improve health and sanitation for the children and recreational tools for them to improve their mental readiness to teaching and learning.

The total amount for the project is \$36,522, a small amount for a Global Grant. There are 12 Rotary clubs involved, 11 of which are part of Future Vision districts.

The money is being used for uniforms, computers, exercise books, desks, medical supplements, part of a bus, playground and play equipment. Field staff are from Challenging Heights and Challenging Heights receives donations and finances from a variety of sources. The Apple group in Ghana mainly distributes material speaking to the harm and illegality of trafficking. Poverty continues to feed the frequency of enslavement although the government continues to develop and put in place barriers to the continuation of the slave trade.

You can view James Kofi Annan on www.challengingheights.com in a CNN video.

If you wish to be forwarded an attachment of the application, I would be happy to forward it to interested parties. This is my first Grant proposal so others would be more sophisticated perhaps in their presentations.

Yours in Rotary

Shirley Zinman, Rotary Club of Scarborough, District 7070, Ontario, Canada

Email address: shi.zin@symaptico.ca

Current Membership



PLEASE ENCOURAGE FELLOW ROTARIANS TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND SIGN ON AS A MEMBER. THE WEBSITE IS: www.racsrag.org.

Web Master: Stephen Sypula, RC of Stevenage Grange, England

Growing Concerns: Child Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation

By Mark E. Rodgers, DSW, and Carol Metzker, RC of West Chester Downtown, USA

When Latvia became a member of the European Union in 2004, it entered a sophisticated modern economy and provided citizens with opportunities for prosperity, justice and democracy. Simultaneously, its entrance enabled traffickers with 13-year-old Latvian girls to pass the borders of Germany, the Netherlands and other European nations as easily as vacation travelers cross U.S. state lines from Pennsylvania to New York.

Latvia is just one nation of many where children are at risk and the need to stop trafficking is huge and urgent. Like many other nations, it was classified by the U.S. States Department as a recruitment, transit and destination nation, for human trafficking victims.

Growing Problems

- Profits from *human* trafficking, second only to *drug* trafficking, are expected to surpass that of the drug trade within a few years.
- Child trafficking and sexual exploitation are on the rise.
- Victims of the forced sex trade are becoming younger because offending “consumers” believe their risk for HIV/AIDS is lower with youngsters, and because child pornography and sex tourism are expanding. A recent law enforcement study in Chicago found that the average age of entry into the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is 13 ½-14.
- International children who are trafficked into the United States and other developed nations often progress from forced labor to the forced sex trade. They are bought and sold several times, viewed as a cheap and disposable commodity. Hundreds of thousands of American children are bought and sold, forced to trade sex with numerous men each night, beaten and humiliated and sometimes killed, according to End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA).

Solutions

Three areas address these problems:

1. Prosecution – Within the legal system, parties work to strengthen laws and policies, and apply these laws to bring offenders to justice.
2. Protection/Rehabilitation – Workers in the social services and law enforcement fields aim to help rescued survivors heal physically and psychologically and to lead new lives.
3. Prevention – Through educational programs, people susceptible to trafficking and slavery learn about rights, awareness and vigilance, and skills such as reading, writing and vocational activities that make them less vulnerable to slavery's root causes. Through education, consumers of slave produced goods, or people in areas where trafficking victims work, become aware of the plight of victims.

Rotarians can play a crucial role in the second and third areas outlined above, Protection and Prevention. Lead or join a project to improve educational and awareness programs in schools and thereby reduce children's risk of becoming victims of trafficking/slavery. Raise awareness of the growing demand for child pornography, children in the sex industry, and the increasing use of the Internet for such illegal activity; demand an end to it. Develop relationships with the local Salvation Army, local law enforcement and other organizations that conduct programs to help victims and alert communities to local dangers.