

# Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery

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Website [www.racsrag.org](http://www.racsrag.org)

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"If we are going to stop slavery, we must convince the world that human rights need even more protection than property rights"  
(Kevin Bales)



## UK Govt to introduce Modern Day Slavery Bill

In March this Newsletter commented on a report of the Centre for Social Justice.(CSJ). According to the CSJ findings, the efforts to tackle human trafficking in the UK are in a state of crisis and Ministers are clueless about the scale of slavery within the country.

UK's trafficking laws are so fragmented, its victims fall between the gaps. Social workers often have no idea how to recognize, let alone treat, modern day slavery. Local authorities lose track of three in every five who go into their care. The police, the lawyers and the Crown Prosecution Service seem utterly bamboozled.

The CSJ indictment appears

to have galvanized the UK Government into Action and the Prime Minister has now agreed to pass a Modern Day Slavery Bill, which aims to extinguish today's slave trade as surely as William Wilberforce's Bill extinguished the old one. Its premise is that his Party, which led that fight two centuries ago, has some unfinished business.

It is understood that the Bill, which will be supervised by Home Secretary, Theresa May, will bring all the existing laws together, and ensure that the issue is a top priority for her proposed National Crime Agency.

At the moment "human trafficking" is not a perform-

ance indicator for the police. So consequently there is more incentive to investigate a shed burglar, than there is a human trafficker.

From now onwards, catching a human trafficker will be as important as catching an arms dealer, and police will be given clear instructions that the victims are not to be prosecuted.

Mrs May is even considering one of the CSJ's proposals which is the creation of a Commissioner for Modern Day Slavery to make sure her proposals are carried out.

She is also considering a system for companies to declare their goods free of all slave labour.

## Warner Bros under fire for their chocolate frogs

When Warner Bros announced it was bringing Harry Potter's favourite chocolate treat to life, muggles throughout the world rejoiced. The only problem is that outside of the wizarding world, Chocolate Frogs have a sinister side.....they could be a product of modern slavery.

In the Ivory Coast of Africa

there is a strong association between chocolate and child slavery. Young boys whose ages range from 10 to 16 have been sold into slave labour and forced to work in cocoa farms in order to harvest the beans, from which chocolate is made, under inhumane conditions and extreme abuse. This West African country is the

leading exporter of cocoa beans to the world market. Thus the existence of slave labour is relevant to the entire international economic community.

Whilst many chocolate brands have made public commitments, Warner Bros is reported to be lagging behind. An independent



## Warner Bros and their chocolate frogs (Cont'd)

investigation into their supplier (Behr's Chocolates) led to a failing grade in 47 of 48 categories. Behr, which is based in Orlando, Florida, gets its cocoa supply from West Africa.

Warner Bros dismissed the findings of the investigation, simply stating that they were "satisfied" that fair labour practices were being used in the production of their chocolates. Given the conflicting information,

outraged consumers asked Warner Bros. what steps were being taken to ensure there was no slavery in Harry Potter Chocolates. Warner Bros. refused to respond.

Warner Bros. is heading into one of the busiest times of the year for their theme parks. Children excited to experience the world of Harry Potter will be asking their parents to buy these chocolates.

**Taking a stand right now will make a big impact – will you help?**

[Ask Warner Bros. what steps they're taking to ensure Harry Potter chocolates are free of slavery](#)



***Human Trafficking is the process by which a person enters into slavery – there may be many entry points and approaches"***

*(Matt Friedman, Technical Advisor, to The Mekong Club)*



## Editorial

It is to be hoped that Theresa May's Modern Day Slavery Bill will deal effectively with all of the issues relating to "human trafficking" as well as "slavery". The two are separate sides of the same coin although many are under the misapprehension that modern day slavery is human trafficking.

"**Slavery**" is a system under which people are bound in servitude, forced to work for no pay, controlled by violence or the threat of violence and treated as property to be bought and sold.

"**Human Trafficking**" is simply a mechanism or conduit which brings people into slavery. It is one process of enslavement itself, not a condition or result of that process. Put another way, human trafficking is smuggling plus coercion or deception at the beginning of the process and enslavement at the end.

Human Trafficking used to be called the "slave trade". I wonder why someone decided to change the name

of the crime? was it perhaps an attempt to diminish the seriousness of the offence?

If Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson had spent the 1780s mumbling about "human trafficking", it is unlikely that anyone would have paid any attention. Wasn't it Barack Obama who intimated last year that it was time to stop using the term "trafficking" and instead talk about its true name "slavery and the slave trade". I agree with those sentiments.

Thanks to the efforts of Board member, Dick Eisenach (RC of Phoenix 100, Arizona, USA) we have established a link with the Polaris Project. As you will read from Audrey Roofeh's article on the next page, Polaris operates the national hotline (888-373-7888) in the USA. The intention is to extend this hotline internationally and they need our RAG's help.

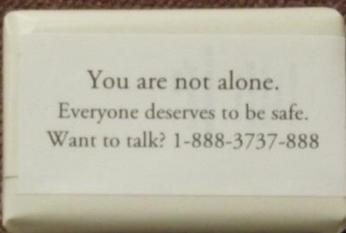
Audrey has written to say *"We're excited that you're looking to get this information out to the public, and we very much encourage people to let us know*

*when they hear of a hotline outside the US that addresses human trafficking, as well as contacting our US hotline when they have a tip to report or if they need resources."*

So dear reader please let me know if you have any information about hotlines which are available or which operate in your country, region or area. That information will then be passed on to the Polaris Project.

On page 3 and 4 are details of a project opportunity to help a trafficking shelter in Bihar, India to protect its resident survivors from the clutches of their former slave masters. We need to get this project under way as soon as possible.

Governments can legislate against traffickers, anti-slavery activists can thwart the activities of the traffickers, we consumers can use our power to damage their lucrative businesses. Some examples of such power are discussed on page 5 of this Newsletter.



## Polaris Project and the Global Human Trafficking Hotlines Network

by Audrey Roofeh, Polaris Project

Since December 2007, Polaris Project has operated the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, a 24/7 crisis, tip, and referral hotline for the United States. In that time, the hotline has responded to over 85,000 calls, answered thousands of emails, webforms and text messages, and connected over 9,000 victims of human trafficking to immediate assistance. Through these efforts, we have learned that hotlines are tremendous sources of data on trends in human trafficking, data that can be leveraged to understand where and how trafficking occurs and who is vulnerable.

Thanks to modern communications technology and the spread of mobile devices, every victim can be just one signal away from help. Our Global Hotlines Program aims to make that vision a reality.

Polaris Project's Global Hotlines Program aims to build anti-trafficking hotline coverage for every part of the world. By collaborating with other human trafficking hotlines, we can offer improved resources to vulnerable communities, share data to reveal insights about how and where trafficking is occurring, and ultimately reach more survivors. The project includes the following activities:

- Identify and map every existing anti-trafficking hotline worldwide
- Connect with individual hotlines to foster peer-to-peer learning and share best practices
- Offer training and technical assistance to support the creation and expansion of local hotlines
- Grow the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network - a formal alliance of anti-trafficking hotlines that will develop a more coordinated and data-driven response to modern-day slavery

For more information, please contact the Global Hotlines Program at [globalhotlines@polarisproject.org](mailto:globalhotlines@polarisproject.org).

## Give the gift of Safety and Security

(by Carol Metzker – One World Rotary e-Club)

Will you or your club help raise a wall at Punarnawa Ashram, a center in India for girls rescued from sex slavery?

When a paved road recently replaced the dirt lane that went past Punarnawa Ashram, the build-up of earth, gravel and pavement effectively "lowered" the security wall surrounding the center by five feet (1.5 meters). The brick wall must now be built higher to keep out intruders—for example, from former traffickers who want to recapture their "investments."

**Total Project Cost** (exchange rate as of Aug. 2013) - \$18,100 US

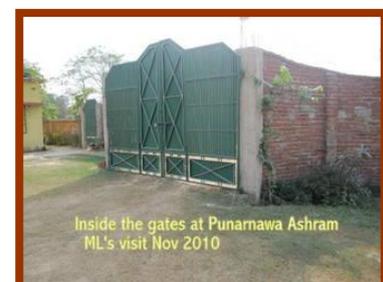
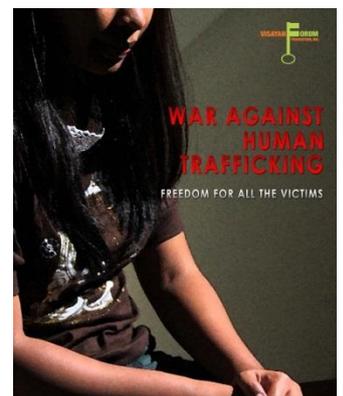
**Total wall length:** 1,800 feet

**Wall height increase:** 5 feet

Details on cost estimate are below

Punarnawa Ashram is a center in India for girls rescued from sex slavery. While recovering at the shelter, girls gain an education, vocational skills (when old enough to work), knowledge about their human rights, and confidence in a loving atmosphere of freedom, respect and dignity. Rotarians Mark Little, Mike Korengl and Carol Metzker have visited the center. Previous Rotary projects there include: purchase of cows and bio-gas system, solar panels and solar lamps, a brick building for teaching etc, dormitory safety grills and new toilet soak pits.

To donate or for more information, please contact Mark Little ([mark.little@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.little@btinternet.com)) or Carol Metzker in the US ([echmetzker@aol.com](mailto:echmetzker@aol.com)).



## Estimated cost of increase the Boundary wall

### On the east side

Total length of the wall – 950 feet. Extra height – 5 feet

S.No.	Particulars	Rate	Quantity	Amount (Rs.)
1	Brick	Rs.7000 per 1000	30000 pcs.	210000.00
2	Sand	Rs.3000 per 100 cft.	2500 cft.	75000.00
3	Cement	Rs.500 per beg.	200 beg	100000.00
4	Concert 5/8 down	Rs.7500 per 100 cft.	100 cft.	7500.00
5	Iron Rod 6m.m.	Rs. 5500 per Kwt.	2 Kwt.	11000.00
6	Iron Rod 10m.m.	Rs.5000 per Kwt.	4 Kwt.	20000.00
7	Labour cost	Rs. 200 per labour	400 labours	80000.00
8	Mason( Mistry)	Rs. 400 per	200 per	80000.00
9	Santrian material	Rs.20000		20000.00
10	Tranportation	Rs.10000		10000.00
<b>Total Rs.</b>				<b>613500.00</b>

### On the west side

Total length of the wall – 850 feet. Extra height – 5 feet

S.No.	Particulars	Rate	Quantity	Amount (Rs.)
1	Brick	Rs.7000 per 1000	25000 pcs.	175000.00
2	Sand	Rs.3000 per 100 cft.	2200 cft.	66000.00
3	Cement	Rs.500 per beg.	180 beg	90000.00
4	Concert 5/8 down	Rs.7500 per 100 cft.	90 cft.	6750.00
5	Iron Rod 6m.m.	Rs. 5500 per Kwt.	180 Kg.	10000.00
6	Iron Rod 10m.m.	Rs.5000 per Kwt.	350 Kg.	17500.00
7	Labour cost	Rs. 200 per labour	350 labours	70000.00
8	Mason( Mistry)	Rs. 400 per	180 mistry	72000.00
9	Santrian material	Rs.15000		15000.00
10	Tranportation	Rs.8000		8000.00
<b>Total Rs.</b>				<b>530250.00</b>

Rotaractor Kathryn Metzker and the milkman's bicycle stand in the dirt lane outside of Punarnawa's walls before the new road was built.



## Curtailing the activities of the Traffickers

**We are complicit in this trade**.....most of us unknowingly support slavery. Our purchases feed the black market of human trafficking. We buy a wide range of goods, from chocolate bars, to cars, that include ingredients or components from the hands of slave labour and we do it in the proud name of frugality. We are constantly seeking a cheap deal, and we boast about it when we find one.

**Can we stop the practice ?**.....today Rotarians have a choice. We can either accept that exploitation and slavery is an age-old practice, that human nature will never change and that in any case slavery is a problem for governments –and then do nothing. Or we can remember the tenets of the 4-Way Test, Part 2 of the Object of Rotary and RI's Code of Policies in relation to the freedom of the individual – and then do our utmost to undermine the practice of "human trafficking and enslavement. We can do this because we are consumers and as such we have considerable power. But to achieve this objective, we need to understand the prime motive of the slaver.

**The main aim of the traffickers**...is to make a profit in whatever ventures they are involved in. To achieve their aims, they will use any means whatsoever to protect their lucrative businesses. However, they will walk away if the venture stops making money. So putting pressure on these profits is a key strategy in the fight to eliminate trafficking.

**Putting pressure on slavers' profits**....We can do this individually, but our efforts will be more effective if we act together as a Rotary Club or District. Below are a few suggestions as to how we can use our consumer power to advantage:-

a) Only buy commodities which you know have not been made by slave labour. For most products it is very difficult to tell whether or not slavery has been involved somewhere along the production process. However, for certain goods, their origins are comparatively easy to trace. This would apply to certain types of cigarettes (beedies), jewellery, fireworks, carpets and rugs. Here we can take direct action. For example when buying a carpet or rug, we need to look out for the Rugmark label. Rugmark is an international charity which inspects and licenses carpet looms in India, Nepal and Pakistan. When carpet makers apply for a Rugmark licence, they promise not to employ children under 14 years, undertake to pay adult weavers a minimum wage and promise to allow inspection at any time. Companies that import Rugmark carpets in Europe and America, pay at least 1% of the wholesale price of the carpet to Rugmark. This money pays for the inspection process, schools and rehabilitation programmes for children who have been freed from slavery in the carpet industry.

b) When shopping first always consider purchasing fair trade certified goods. This is the best way to ensure that we are not contributing to the funds of the slavers. Consumer pressure for more fairly traded goods means that their availability increases each year. Fair traded goods empower vulnerable people, advance social justice, guarantee a fair wage and safe working conditions to producers and ensures no child or sweatshop labour has been used to make the items. Fair trade sales catalogues will usually give us information about the source of the goods offered.

c) Rotary Clubs could adopt the practice of writing to retailers to asking them for a copy of their purchasing policy. This should, for example, indicate whether or not a company conducts social or ethical audits of their suppliers to highlight cases of unethical practices. The simple act of writing a letter of enquiry is a signal to the retailers that local Rotarian members do care about the sources of their products.

d) As an indication of your club's support for anti-slavery measures, ask your venue's proprietors to serve only fair trade food and drinks. Such a request could be the catalyst for an overall change of purchasing policy by your venue's owners.

e) Consider investing monies in funding organizations like "Shared Interest" which specializes in helping to finance fair trade cooperatives in the developing world. This financial help is particularly important because it ensures that family based cooperatives are kept at arms-length from unscrupulous slavers disguised as benevolent benefactors.

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the RACSRAG Board.