

# Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery

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

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To contact a RAG Board Member or Coordinator, please see relevant email addresses on page 8 of this Newsletter



Malala speaks at the UN in New York on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2013



Editor: Mark Little – Rotary Club of Norwich St Edmund, England

“It is not easy to crush a human mind, but with enough brutality, time and indifference to suffering it can be done. Around the world it **IS** being done”

(Kevin Bales)



## Nobel Peace Prize winners

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani teenage education campaigner shot on a school bus in 2012 by a Taliban gunman, has won the 2014 Nobel peace prize, along with Kailash Satarthi, an Indian children’s rights activists.

The announcement was made by Norway’s former

prime minister Thorbjørn Jagland on the 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Speaking after finishing school at Edgbaston High School for Girls in Birmingham, Malala said: “My message to children all around the world is that they should stand up for their rights.”

Kailash Satyarthi has headed various forms of protests and demonstrations in India, all peaceful, focussing on the exploitation of children for financial gain. He has also contributed to the development of important international conventions on human rights

## Anti-slavery Day in the UK

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, the UK will be observing Anti-Slavery Day for the 4<sup>th</sup> time. The Day was sanctioned by Parliament in 2010 with the objective of raising awareness of the dangers and consequences of modern day slavery and human trafficking. Several events are scheduled in towns and cities in the UK such as London, Manchester, Liverpool, Maidstone, Cirencester and Nottingham. For information on some events please see page 7 of the Newsletter.

## Arizona goes on the offensive against traffickers

A new State website was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 by Governor Jan Brewer (see photo on the left) and the Arizona Human Trafficking Council (see photo over page) to combat Human Trafficking in the State.

The initiative was preceded by the establishment in 2013 of a State Task Force on Human Trafficking. The members of the Task Force were charged with the objectives of a) strengthening current laws and practices, b) improving victim assistance and c) reducing the crime in Arizona. The Task Force subsequently came up with two key recommendations, ie the implementation of a statewide public awareness campaign to educate the general public on sex trafficking and secondly the establishment of a comprehensive training programme on sex trafficking as a fundamental requirement for all new Arizona law enforcement recruits.

The new website [EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov](http://EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov) is intended to be an important tool to inform and encourage Arizonans to be a voice in the fight against this heinous crime. Prominently displayed on the website is a new PSA featuring Governor Brewer and Council Co-Chairs Cindy McCain and Gil Orrantia as well as the National Human Trafficking Hotline Number, 1-888-373-7888. Other information on human trafficking, Arizona laws, recent news, training and other resources are also included on this excellent website.



## Editorial

The Arizona State website on Sex Trafficking is a model website for other local and regional governments to study not only in the USA but elsewhere in the world.

In introducing the website Arizona State Governor Jan Brewer stated that *"It is a moral imperative that we do everything in our power to protect our state and our citizens from this horrendous crime against humanity. Public awareness and law enforcement training are vital components in addressing the scourge of human trafficking"*

What better way to raise public awareness than through the local and regional authorities which govern us. I wonder how many other local authorities around the globe have a website which provides information about modern slavery, how to spot potential victims, who to contact when

a victim is identified, etc

Thanks to the Local Government Association in the UK, I have found three excellent relevant websites in Bristol, Harlow and Oxford and two others in Salford and Islington. However, I would be interested to find out from RIBI supporters of our RAG, what other relevant websites exist in the UK. This is with a view to persuading other local authorities to follow suit.

Anyone interested in doing the necessary research for RACSRAG for onward transmission to the Local Government Association ?

The Government's Modern Slavery Bill meets many of the criticisms voiced about the current system of managing, detecting and deterring modern slavery in the United Kingdom. However, as the Bill stands there is a perception that there is too narrow a focus

on trafficking and forced labour in the UK as evidenced by the absence of the much expected "supply chain" clause which many anti-slavery activists believe would help to solve the problem of goods produced through slavery abroad.

Acknowledging that the Government will not budge from its current view that a "supply chain" clause is not appropriate now, RACSRAG has submitted a Paper to the Public Bill Committee of the UK Parliament offering an alternative solution which should satisfy the Government's wish not to impose too much of a burden on companies, which is their main fear.

The issue of "Supply Chain Audits" is explained below.



*Human Trafficking is a despicable activity, a disgrace for our societies" (Pope Francis)*

## Audit of Supply Chains

What is this "supply chain" clause all about ? Well the idea originally came to the fore in California, USA four years ago.

The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010 requires each large company (bringing in gross receipts of \$100 million plus) to disclose publically its efforts to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking from its supply chains.

When the Centre for Social Justice and the Evidence Review Team (set up by the Government to gather intelligence for the proposed legislation on human trafficking and slavery) suggested a

similar clause in the Modern Slavery Bill, the Government's response was that supply chain auditing would remain voluntary, because mandatory requirements would be an "additional burden" on businesses.

The Home Office also pointed out that since the European Union was likely to enact new laws in 2016 forcing companies to report on human rights in their "business relationships", it would not be sensible to introduce legislation which may need to be amended to conform to any new EU requirements.

Ideally the Government

should reconsider its view and include a supply chain clause in the Modern Slavery Bill. However, as the Government is likely to stand firm on its belief that a mandatory supply chain clause will not be included in the Bill, there is an alternative course of action which could be built on existing reporting requirements, result in minimum legislative disruption and does not impose an additional level of burden on companies.

Such an objective could be achieved by an amendment to Section 414 C (7) of the Companies Act 2006.



## Supply Chain Auditing (Continued)

Under the Companies Act and its 2013 Strategic Report and Directors' Report Regulations, the directors of a company must prepare a strategic report for each financial year of the company. The regulations specifically require the strategic report of quoted companies to include information about "social", "community" and "human rights" issues. If any of these issues are excluded from the report, its absence must be explained. There is a strong case to argue that "modern slavery" should be added to this list.

It could be argued that "modern slavery" is already included because it is an element of the "human rights" issue. Yet the latter includes a whole range of issues (eg prisoners voting rights, right to privacy, health care, democracy etc) and by including "modern slavery" within the broad heading of human rights, relegates its importance and focus for action.

Modern slavery should be treated separately, because unlike other abuses of human rights, it is a global problem and the numbers of people enslaved is significant. According to Walk Free's Global Slavery Index, there are an estimated 30 million people held in servitude in every country in the world (with the exception of Antarctica), generating \$150 billion in illegal profits each year.

Increasingly, this globalized slavery has been found running through the supply chains which lead directly to our high streets and supermarkets. Including the term "modern slavery" separately, focusses the mind specifically on the crime and will inform companies, their consumers and the general public that slavery does exist, is not an evil of the past or restricted to certain countries in the developing world. The inclusion of "modern slavery" in the reporting regulations would also give a tremendous boost to anti-slavery activists. Anti-slavery bodies are few in number. They are like mice fighting a herd of elephants. They need the support of businesses and their customers to eradicate this most disgracefully overlooked crime against humanity.

**Note:** If you would like a copy of RACSRA's submission to the Public Bill Committee, please contact the Editor or RAG Secretary Harry Payne

## How to spot a trafficked victim

Signs of modern slavery can be difficult to detect, with victims remaining hidden for years. But you can be aware of the situations below.

**Physical appearance**...victims may show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt or appear withdrawn.

**Isolation**...Victims may rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control or influenced by others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.

**Poor living conditions**...Victims may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address.

**Few or no personal effects**...Victims may have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes – day in, day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.

**Restricted freedom of movement**...Victims have little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents such as passports, retained.





## How to spot a trafficked victim (Cont'd)

**Unusual travel times**...They may be regularly dropped off/collected for work very early in the morning or very late at night.

**Reluctant to seek help**...Victims may avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing whom to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation or fear of violence to them or their family.

(Source: Daily Telegraph in association with Home Office Modern Slavery Unit)

*Human Trafficking can be defined as the movement of people by means such as force, fraud or deception with the aim of exploiting them.*

## The mindset of a trafficked victim

Why doesn't a trafficking victim just leave?

- Traffickers teach victims to distrust outsiders, especially law enforcement officers.
- Foreign victims are afraid of the government and police because they believe they will be deported (whether they are in a country legally or not).
- Victims often feel it's their own fault that they have been trafficked.
- They develop loyalty to their captor as a coping or survival skill. Sometimes they even protect them from authorities.
- Even if they are being raped for profit night after night, it may still be better than what they came from (unbelievable but true).
- Victims, whether domestic or foreign, probably don't know their rights.
- Their captors have lied to them about their rights.
- They don't see themselves as victims or trafficked.
- They don't have a cell phone, and their captors took away their ID, visas, and passport
- They never heard of calling or even knowing the number of a helpline and they distrust police anyway.
- Their captors may threaten their families, and say if they try to escape, their families will pay the price.



## The value of a School4Freedom

(by Carol Metzker, One World Rotary w-Club)

This past May I interviewed a former child slave—a women rescued from Haiti’s heinous *restavek* system. I asked her, “If you could say anything you wanted to the woman who enslaved you, and she would hear it, what would that be?” Her reply was:

*“The worst thing she did was not send me to school...Even if she tortured me—and she did—but still sent me to school, because I love poetry I could be a writer of poems. So I could have felt happy if I had the chance to go to school. That’s why I’m working to break these chains so this form of modern slavery ends. For it to end, we can’t sit here with our arms crossed; we must put our hands together to make it work.”* (Alina, a former child slave in Haiti’s *restavek* system)

Schools—where people can learn reading, writing, arithmetic, skills for employment and skills for life—are the centers for creating freedom. An education provides options for a brighter future.

RACSRAG, Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians are raising funds to build a School4Freedom in India. In a village held by debt bondage or other form of modern slavery, starting by building a school with a roof and a solar streetlamp, and providing children with hot lunches and school supplies, we will provide the means for a village of 100 people to gain their sustainable freedom. Will you help?

The cost amounts to \$360 per person freed; the process takes three years but the impact remains for future generations of families. To learn more or to donate, please contact Mark Little, or Carol Metzker, [echmetzker@aol.com](mailto:echmetzker@aol.com).

Thanks to our most recent donors: Allan Pacela from One World Rotary e-Club; Carol Freethy for El Cerrito Rotary Club and Dick Strayer from One World Rotary e-Club



### Progress Toward Funds to Free a Village – We’re Up to 23

Each figure represents \$360 – the equivalent of freedom for one person in our School4Freedom project. When we have 100 figures, we’ve made our goal and the project can begin!

## Wanted Active RAG Members

Are you an active member, the kind who would be missed  
Or are you just content to be on our supporters’ list  
Will you be involved with projects or work in selfless mode  
Or do you intend to opt out...and let others bear the load  
Will you take an active part to free each child from pain  
Or are you one of those.... to whom we plead in vain  
Think it over members, think just how you’d feel  
To be a **paid up member** who turns that Rotary wheel.

Sign up [Here](#). Your commitment may be the one that turns the tide

**Subscription levies:** Lifetime £80 ; Charter (5 years) £50; Annual £20; Rotaractors £10

**How to pay:** Pay by bank transfer or through RACSRAG’s PayPal account. Full details can be found [Here](#).

## What **you** can do to help end Child Slavery

- **Join with others who have the same aim:** A good start would be to enrol in the Action Group of Rotarians against Child Slavery. You will learn about the issues of slavery and trafficking and how to help contribute towards its extinction. Encourage others to join the Group. Alternatively join one of the other anti-slavery or anti-trafficking organizations in your area.
- **Persuade your club to participate in a project:** Projects can be found either via the Group's website ([www.racsrag.org](http://www.racsrag.org)) or through its regular Newsletter.
- **Give a personal donation:** This is an option if your club shows no interest. The donation can be made to help fund one of the Action Group projects or to generally support the work of an anti-slavery organization.
- **Visit a rehabilitation centre:** You will learn why slavery exists in a particular district, how children become enslaved and what is required to effect a successful rehabilitation. Then share your experiences, knowledge and subsequent actions with others.
- **Raise awareness in others:** Tell club members, friends or business colleague about the existence of modern slavery, the use of children as slaves and the numbers involved.
- **Obtain support at District Level:** Promote the work of the Action Group and anti-slavery organizations within the District through the District International Committee. Encourage your District Governor or District Executive to include the topic at a future District Conference or Council or Assembly.
- **Give or organize presentations:** This could be to your Rotary Club, other clubs or District Assembly/Conference. If you are not able to do it yourself find someone who can.
- **Visit local schools:** Inform them about modern day slavery and offer to provide a presentation on the subject.

NB. In the United Kingdom, "citizenship" is now an imperative subject in a school's key stage curriculum. The subject addresses issues relating to social justice and human rights and encourages pupils to challenge injustice, inequalities and discrimination. When school children learn about modern slavery, they become unstoppable in their determination to end it. Give them the opportunity to join the anti-slavery movement by sharing with them, and letting their teacher know about teaching packs which are available from some of the anti-slavery organizations

- **Write to your local political representative(s):** Ask him/her/them to prioritise ending all forms of slavery.
- **Contact your fund managers:** This could include your mutual, savings and retirement fund. Ask how is the investment of your money screened to exclude any profit from slavery.
- **Contact your local administrative authority:** Find out if they have a website which raises awareness of human trafficking and slavery. If not, encourage the authority to establish a website which includes information similar to the information included in this Newsletter, eg how to spot victims, information on the mindset of victims, information on help lines, etc.
- **Write to local retailers:** Ask them about their current purchasing policies, eg do they conduct social and ethical audits on their suppliers to weed out cases of child slave produced goods ?
- **Try to purchase only fair trade goods:** This is the best way to ensure that we are not contributing to the funds of the slavers. Fair traded goods empower vulnerable people, advance social justice, guarantee a fair wage and safe working conditions and ensures no child or sweatshop labour was used to make the item.
- **Widen your knowledge about child slavery:** There are some excellent books, films, DVDs and anti-slavery websites that do spell out the full extent and horrors of modern slavery. If you cannot find any, ask your RACSRAAG officers and Coordinators.

**NB: Information on events taking place on 18<sup>th</sup> October to observe Anti-Slavery Day in the UK is included overleaf.**

## What's On – Anti-Slavery Day – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**A21 Campaign – 27for27 WALK FOR FREEDOM, 18 October, 10am meeting time at Old Palace Yard, Westminster, and then on to a designated borough.** The 27FOR27-WALK FOR FREEDOM will aim to see the people of London made AWARE of the reality of human trafficking today. In each borough of London, volunteers will hand out flyers while their mouths are taped shut, symbolizing the millions of slaves worldwide deprived of a voice, rights and freedom. *Contact if you want to join: [info.uk@thea21campaign.org](mailto:info.uk@thea21campaign.org)*

**Arcadia Reign Ltd – Art exhibition against modern day slavery, 18 October, 2-5 pm,** Tower Gallery, Memorial Community Church, Plaistow, E13 8AL. Art exhibition on the theme of modern day slavery supported by local community & notable artists in partnership with [Rosetta Arts Centre](#). Thereafter the exhibition open from 2-5 pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday till 6 November. *Contact: Genevieve and Steven at [outofthebox2010ltd@gmail.com](mailto:outofthebox2010ltd@gmail.com)*

**City Hearts – Key to Freedom, 18 October, 10am – 4 pm, Museum of Liverpool.** The public will be asked to design their own KEY TO FREEDOM. Design and draw on a key template what freedom means to you and hang it around the atrium spiral stairs. So that by the end of the day we have hundreds of freedom keys hanging around the museum. This event is organised in partnership with the Mayor of Liverpool and the North West Stop the Traffick ACT group. *Contact: Phil Clayton at [Phill.Clayton@city-hearts.co.uk](mailto:Phill.Clayton@city-hearts.co.uk)*

**Junction Church – Music event and fundraising auction, 18 October, 7:30pm – 10pm, Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 4HN.** A showcase of musical talent from the local area with a focus on anti-slavery and freedom, along with an auction of donations from local businesses and individuals to raise money for anti-slavery charities. *Contact: Lydia Edwards & Elaine Kemp [ek.clara@googlemail.com](mailto:ek.clara@googlemail.com)*

**New Manchester Walks – “Manchester & Slavery” Guided Walk 11am, 18 October. Meet Victoria Station Wallmap, Manchester.** Walking tour to outline Manchester's crucial role in the abolition of slavery. The tour cuts straight through to the heart of one of the most controversial and disturbing social systems ever devised. We hear how Manchester families such as the Heywoods and Greys who benefited from slavery became its biggest opponents, the key turning point being the meeting at the Manchester Collegiate Church in 1787 led by the abolitionist Thomas Clarkson. We explain how the “Slavery Triangle” kept the system going, relate the stories of the escaped slaves that visited Manchester, and discuss how leading 19th century local Liberals kept the anti-slavery campaign flourishing, finishing the tour at the Abraham Lincoln statue. *Contact: Ed Glinert at [edglinert@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edglinert@yahoo.co.uk) or 07769 29 8068*

**Soroptimist International of Cirencester & District - Anti Slavery Day Stall, 18 October, 10am to 4pm, the Market Place in Cirencester.** The event aims at raising awareness about modern-day slavery at the local level and encourage people to take an action. *Contact: Shirley Alexander, Coordinator, [shirley.alexander@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shirley.alexander@yahoo.co.uk)*

**Soroptimist International Kingston Purple Teardrop Campaign stand 18 October, 11am to 4pm Terminal 5 Heathrow.** Members of SI Kingston will have Purple Teardrop Campaign hand-outs, posters and pins available as part of the ASD initiative at Heathrow in partnership with the Border Force. *Contact: Kay Hurrell [Kayhurrell@aol.com](mailto:Kayhurrell@aol.com)*

**Soroptimist International Nottingham – a Vigil and Freedom Wall event, 18 October, from 9.30 to 12.00, outside Arnold Methodist Church in the Market Place in Arnold Nottinghamshire** with the support of Vernon Coker MP and the Mayor of Gedling. The event aims to raise public awareness about modern day slavery and the Anti-Slavery Day. *Contact: Wendy Nicolle [wendy.sorop@ntlworld.com](mailto:wendy.sorop@ntlworld.com)*

**Sport for Freedom - Cycle for Freedom,** Grand Finale with 300-500 cyclists to Westminster Olympic Route. Core team to come out of Parliament with Frank Field MP and Fiona MacTaggart MP. **Cycle for Freedom - 5 cities, 5 days, 5 events.** A core team of 16 will cycle from Liverpool to London, riding the Olympic cycling route for the grand finale on Anti-Slavery Day, 18th October. Cycle for Freedom will raise awareness and funds to combat human trafficking in the UK. **Sport for Freedom invite you to join us to ride the Olympic cycling route for the grand finale on Anti Slavery Day, 18th October.** *Contact: Jane Overnell at [jane.o@sportforfreedom.org](mailto:jane.o@sportforfreedom.org)*

**NB Details of the above events (which is only a sample of the many events due to take place next Saturday) have been gleaned from the website of [Anti-Slavery International](#)**

RACSRAG Board

Chairman: Mark Little, RC of Norwich St Edmund (D1080), England. [mark@racstrag.org](mailto:mark@racstrag.org)  
 Vice Chairman: Mark Doyle, RC of Pretoria West (9400), South Africa. [mpdoyle@mweb.co.za](mailto:mpdoyle@mweb.co.za)  
 Vice Chairman: Stephen Sypula, RC of Stevenage Grange (D1260), England. [stephen@racstrag.org](mailto:stephen@racstrag.org)  
 Secretary: Harry Payne, RC of Burnham on Crouch (D1240), England. [harry@racstrag.org](mailto:harry@racstrag.org)  
 Treasurer and  
 Webmaster: Stephen Sypula, RC of Stevenage Grange (D1260), England. [stephen@racstrag.org](mailto:stephen@racstrag.org)  
 Board Member: Bob Christie, RC of Dalkeith (D1020), Scotland. [bob@racstrag.org](mailto:bob@racstrag.org)

Board Member: Dave McCleary, RC of Roswell (D6900), USA [dmcleary@fms-inc.us](mailto:dmcleary@fms-inc.us)  
 Board Member: Dorothy Pulsford-Harris, RC of Swaffham (D1080), England. [dorothy@racstrag.org](mailto:dorothy@racstrag.org).  
 Board Member: Girish Mittal, RC of Mumbai Boravali East (D3140), India [girish@racstrag.org](mailto:girish@racstrag.org)

RACSRAG Coordinators

Americas: Dave McCleary (For contact details see above)  
 Africa: Mark Doyle, RC of Pretoria West (D9400), South Africa. [mpdoyle@mweb.co.za](mailto:mpdoyle@mweb.co.za)  
 Oceania and parts of SE Asia: David Black, RC of Dunedin Central (D9980), New Zealand  
[dblack@mainlandpoultry.co.nz](mailto:dblack@mainlandpoultry.co.nz)  
 India: Girish Mittal (For contact details see above)  
 Italy: Laura Dryjanska, RC of Roma Centenario (D2080), Italy.  
[Laura.dry@windowslive.com](mailto:Laura.dry@windowslive.com)

Australian States

Victoria: Tony Stokes, RC of Box Hill (D9810) [stokes9@optusnet.com.au](mailto:stokes9@optusnet.com.au)  
 Western: Gillian Yudelman, RC of Bay View Claremont (D9455) [yudelman@westnet.com.au](mailto:yudelman@westnet.com.au)  
 NSW: John Roberson, RC of Wagga Wagga, (D9700) [johnroberson@bigpond.com](mailto:johnroberson@bigpond.com)  
 Tasmania: Chris Love, RC of Salamanca, (D9830) [chrislove@internode.on.net](mailto:chrislove@internode.on.net)  
 South: Teresa Evans, RC of Adelaide, EDGE, (D9500) [teresa1407@hotmail.com](mailto:teresa1407@hotmail.com)

**NB** There is vacancy for a Coordinator to cover Queensland.