



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

“Slavery is a crime in every country; governments have already taken the collective decision to stop it. Now it is just a matter of bringing political will and resources to bear”

(Kevin Bales)



PRIP John Kenny to attend London Conference

The UK Government is to host a Conference on Modern Slavery in London on 5th and 6th December 2014. It will be attended by Past RI President John Kenny.

The Conference is a by-product of the “Santa Marta” Conference held last April in which law enforcement officers from around the world made a declaration of commitment to bring an end to human trafficking.

The April Conference derived its name from the house in the Vatican where the signatories stayed during the two day conference, which was organized by the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, chaired by Cardinal Vincent Nichols,

represented by Past RI Archbishop of Westminster and addressed by Pope Francis.

The London Conference is also to be a two day event and will be hosted by the Rt Hon Theresa May, the UK Home Secretary.

The Conference’s participants will include law enforcement officers, politicians, ambassadors, NGO and charity representatives, the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England and Rotary International.

Rotary International will be

represented by Past RI President John Kenny who has been invited to make a presentation.

The Rt Hon Theresa May will deliver the opening address. Other speakers making presentations will include Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Alastair Redfern, the Bishop of Derby, who will be representing the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Also attending the Conference will be Judith Diment, RI Representative to the Commonwealth of Nations and representatives of Rotary International’s Rotarian Action Group



Santa Marta Conference
April 2014



RACSrag Coordinator
Dave McCleary organizes
Summit on Human Trafficking
with former US
President Jimmy Carter

US RACSrag Coordinator organizes World Summit on Human Trafficking

RACSrag Board member and Coordinator for the USA, Dave McCleary (RC of Roswell in District 6900) is organizing a World Summit to End Human Trafficking in Georgia, USA on 10th and 11th May 2015. It will be held at the Carter Centre in Atlanta and will be hosted by President Jimmy Carter. The purpose of this summit is to create action steps to solutions so communities around the world can begin to end human trafficking.

The Conference will be attended by several anti-slavery organizations, eg Polaris, International Justice Mission, UNICEF, Shared Hope International and on the evening of 12th May, there will be a candle lit vigil in Centennial Park, Atlanta for the world to honour the 30 million slaves around the world. Further details of this Conference will be provided in later editions of this Newsletter.



Fund raising event in Adelaide, South Australia



RACSRAG Coordinator Teresa Evans and her band of willing volunteers are organizing a concert to raise funds for an anti-slavery project in India.

The Concert is to be held in the afternoon of the 30th November in the Greenville Community Connection Hub, Elizabeth, which is a suburb of Adelaide in S. Australia.

RACSRAG, Rotary Clubs and individual Rotarians are raising funds to build a *School4Freedom* in India.

In a village held by debt bondage and other forms of modern slavery, starting by building a school with a roof and a solar street-lamp, and providing children with hot lunches and schools supplies, RACSRAG's supported

project in India will provide the means for a village of 100 people to gain their sustainable freedom. Will you help ?

To find out more about the event or the anti-slavery project contact Rotarian Teresa Evans at teresa@racsrag.com

“Human Trafficking is smuggling plus coercion or deception at the beginning of the process and enslavement at the end”

(Kevin Bales)

Human Slavery Forum in Melbourne, Australia

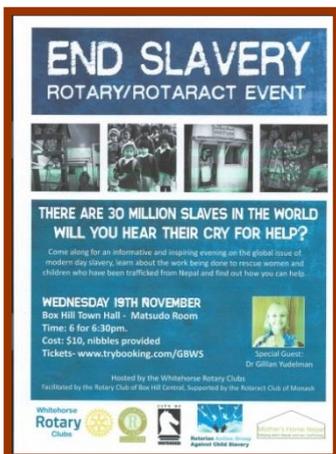
RACSRAG Coordinator Tony Stokes and his group of supporters are organizing a “Human Slavery Forum” on 19th November at the Town Hall in BoxHill which is a suburb of Melbourne Victoria, Australia.

RACSRAG Coordinator Gillian Yudelman from

Western Australia, is the main speaker. Gillian is the Charter President of the Rotary Club of Bay View Claremont. She is the representative for Maiti Nepal in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific and is a public speaker who raises awareness in the community about slavery

and human trafficking.

Gillian will be talking about the Maiti Nepal project , as well as global issues on slavery and human trafficking, about the Rotarian Action Group and about trafficking in Australia.



Human Trafficking in Australia

Australia is a destination country for trafficked victims who are from South East Asia, Eastern Europe, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand. There are several reports of migrants, particularly from India, the People's Republic of China, and South Korea, who voluntarily migrate to work in Australia but are later coerced into exploitative conditions.

The Australian Crime Commission reports that deceptive practices in contract terms and conditions appeared to be increasing among women in prostitution, while deceptive recruiting practices appeared to be decreasing. There are no reliable estimates on the number of trafficking victims in Australia. However, the Australian NGO [Project Respect](#) estimates up to 1,000 victims are currently under debt bondage.

Source: HumanTrafficking.org



Editorial

The main thrust of the two conferences mentioned on the first page of this Newsletter is the elimination of “human trafficking”, a term which used to be known as the “slave trade”. This was a trade which most people mistakenly believed ended in the 19th century when Britain ruled the waves and tried, through her navy, to implement the UK Parliament’s Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.

So what does “human trafficking” really mean ? The most internationally accepted comprehensive definition is to be found in Article 3 of the UN’s Palermo Protocol. However, it is 107 words long. I like the simple definition in Steve Chalke’s book (Stop the Traffik). Steve defines “Human Trafficking” as *“the dislocation of someone by deception or coercion for exploitation, through forced prostitution, forced labour, or other forms of slavery”*.

Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states *“no one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms”*. Yet in spite of the efforts of governments, the illegal practice is on the increase and there are no boundaries. Almost every country in the world is affected, either as a source, transit or destination for victims. At any one time, it is estimated that over 2.5 million (mostly children) are recruited, entrapped, transported and exploited to work in a wide range of industries, crafts and “entertainments”, which according to UNICEF generates between 10 and 12 billion US dollars each year.

Most people believe that trafficking is a foreign problem. This is not true. The USA, UK and Europe are hotspots of trafficking activity. The US State Department estimates that between 14,500 to 17,500 foreign nationals (mostly children) are trafficked each year into the United States from at least 35 countries.

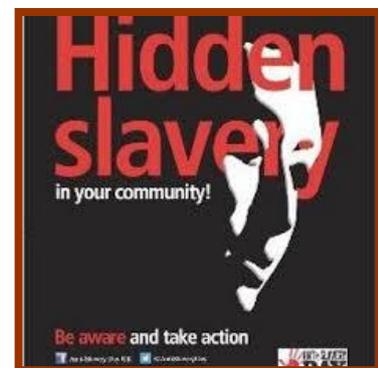
In the UK according to the National Crime Agency (NCA) the numbers trafficked for slavery is rising rapidly. In 2013 the known number trafficked was a little over 2,700 - an increase of 22% over 2012. These figures, which include over 600 children, are thought to be just the tip of the iceberg. The NCA says there has been a surge in reports of sexually exploited children - from 38 to 128 - in the wake of high-profile abuses cases in Rochdale, Rotherham and elsewhere.

In Europe, over 30,000 people were registered as victims of human trafficking across the 28 nation EU in the three years to 2013. Although country by country statistics for the three years have not been made available to your editor, a study by Save the Children Italy, indicated that Italy had the highest number of victims of human trafficking and exploitation in all of Europe in 2010.. On page 4 of the Newsletter, our RACSRAG Coordinator in Italy, Laura Dryjanska provides a glimpse of some of the child slavery problems besetting Italy and shares some of RACSRAG’s proposals to help alleviate the situation in that country.

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 continually seeking a cheap deal, and we boast about it when we find one. Frugality is a virtue, especially in a world of rampant consumerism, but sometimes we sacrifice more than we bargain for in a transaction. Very often we do not want to know why we are able to get such bargains. The problem is, slavery in all its forms thrives on our bargain shopping. It is the cheap labour provided by slaves that makes it possible for us to purchase many everyday goods at low prices.

Today Rotarians have a choice. We can 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 basic human rights of each individual - and then do our utmost to undermine this evil practice. We can do this not only because we are Rotarians but also because we are consumers and as such have considerable power. If we choose to, we can use that power to end slavery in all its forms.

In a previous edition of this Newsletter we listed the different ways that we Rotarians can help to end child slavery. I make no apology for reproducing this list because so many readers ask me *“how can I help as an individual. My club isn’t interested in the fight against slavery ?”* That list is reproduced on page 5 of this Newsletter. The principles apply to all forms of slavery and human trafficking.



News from Italy

by Laura Dryjanska, RACSRAG Coordinator, Italy
Rotary Club of Roma Centenario, D2080



"You may never know what results come from our action, but if you do nothing, there will be no result"

(Gandhi)



Laura being greeted by Pope Francis at the Vatican Workshop on Human Trafficking in Nov 2013

The number of members of the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery in Italy is slowly but surely growing. We are definitely investing in quality, not quantity at the moment. I am thrilled to see among us Valeria Galletti, Past President of the Rotary Club Roma Cassia. Together with Roberto Giua, she has been fighting child slavery by helping street children in different corners of the world for a number of years now.

As a former manager of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, perfectly fluent in Spanish, Valeria has been very active in helping street children in Latin America. Right now, she is in constant contact with a shelter for street children in Puyo, Ecuador. Rescued from slavery in an Ecuadorian jungle, the children at the *Centro Encuentro* (Encounter Center) receive room and board, as well as education, training and healthcare. As the situation in Italy is getting harder due to economic reasons, bringing the Encounter Center under the umbrella of the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery allows Valeria to reach out to more people than the Rotarians in Rome. A win-win situation: on the one hand, it will hopefully be a way to receive more support and visibility for the project in Ecuador, while on the other hand it strengthens the presence of our RAG in Latin America.

Why is it so much harder to raise funds for a project like that in Italy? The financial crisis has really hit the country. Italian Rotary clubs are much more willing to help locally, in the face of poverty knocking at our doors. The government is not able to provide all the necessary funding, infrastructure, manpower and assistance to help victims of child slavery present in our country.

The time has come for the Rotarian Action Group to develop a project in Italy. So far, one of our main efforts has been to demonstrate that slavery exists everywhere, including Europe. What else can we do to fight child slavery here and now apart from raising awareness?

Reaching Italy in horrible, inhumane conditions of human trafficking, in packed wooden boats, North African children are almost daily rescued by the Marine. But what happens next? In the situation of extreme vulnerability, they are an easy prey for child slavery again. Shelters for refugees are overcrowded and the situation is getting out of control, Italian news broadcasts keep talking about emergency, although this situation has been going on for years now.

In Rome, there is a center for unaccompanied minors who reach our country without parents or relatives. Run by Save the Children Italy, it fills the gap where the Italian government is not able to provide sufficient assistance. Currently, we are working on some concrete proposals of how Rotarians both from Italy and abroad could get involved in helping these children.

Sometimes we hear the criticism: fine, but what are you doing for the Italian children? Roberto, on behalf of our Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery in Italy, has developed some contacts with hospitals in Rome, as well as national associations of lawyers, pharmacists (*parafarmacie*) and volunteers (*Salvabebe/Salvamamme*). Behind the closed doors of both rich and poor Italian houses, child slavery often takes a form of abuse and violence. Tackling this problem requires cooperation of different institutions and individuals, for example our member Marzia Giua as a court expert is able to accompany the victims while they report the abuse.

By signing protocols with hospitals and associations, our Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery in Italy is mapping the territory in order to first of all get to know and understand the problem and then to act in the most appropriate way, contacting the right persons and institutions.

It is just the beginning, but having among us experienced Rotarians, such as Valeria and Roberto, as well as young professionals, especially Nicolò Berghinz and Marzia Giua, I believe that we are on the right track to fight child slavery in Italy.



Italy's long coastline makes it an easy target for human traffickers.



What you can do to help in the fight against 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) 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.

RACSRAG Board

Chairman: Mark Little, RC of Norwich St Edmund (D1080), England. mark@racstrag.org
 Vice Chairman: Mark Doyle, RC of Pretoria West (9400), South Africa. mpdoyle@mweb.co.za
 Vice Chairman: Stephen Sypula, RC of Stevenage Grange (D1260), England. stephen@racstrag.org
 Secretary: Harry Payne, RC of Burnham on Crouch (D1240), England. harry@racstrag.org
 Treasurer and
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Board Member: Dave McCleary, RC of Roswell (D6900), USA dmccleary@fms-inc.us
 Board Member: Dorothy Pulsford-Harris, RC of Swaffham (D1080), England. dorothy@racstrag.org.
 Board Member: Girish Mittal, RC of Mumbai Boravali East (D3140), India 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
 Oceania and parts of SE Asia: David Black, RC of Dunedin Central (D9980), New Zealand
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

Australian States

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

NB There is vacancy for a Coordinator to cover Queensland.