

## Chairman's Report to RAG Board

This brief report covers the period from 23rd January 2013 (the approval date of this RAG) to the current date. It covers the progress which has been made by the Action Group on the RAG's two main objectives, ie a) raising awareness and b) taking action. Other issues eg finance, subscriptions, are highlighted elsewhere by relevant RAG Directors and office holders.

### Raising awareness

- a) **Production of Newsletters**.....Since our RAG's approval by the RI Board on 23 January 2013, 11 Newsletters have been issued, providing up-to-date information on the activities of the Group and other anti-slavery organizations, global child slavery issues and project opportunities for Clubs and Districts to consider. These Newsletters are currently being issued to over 950 supporters and members in 58 countries. Newsletters are also issued to other prominent Rotarians, eg current and past RI Directors, past RIBI Presidents, etc
- b) **RAG Booth at Rotary Convention**....The RAG will once again have a booth in the House of Friendship at the RI Convention in Sydney in June 2014. The objective of the booth is to meet with delegates, to tell them about the global enslavement of children and to encourage them to take action by joining the Action Group. This will be the Action Group's fifth booth at a Convention since 2009.
- c) **Breakout Session at RI Convention**.....The first ever Breakout Session on Child Slavery at an RI Convention will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 in Sydney. At the end of the Session, participants will know, what is child slavery and human trafficking, where it occurs, the extent of the problem and its root causes, the solutions to help protect children from slavery and its consequences, how Rotary projects have helped and where to find opportunities to participate in further projects.
- d) **Personal presentations** on Child Slavery have been made all over the UK at Club meetings, at District Conferences and to school groups. In April 2013 a presentation was made to the Rotary Club of Mainz in Germany. Further presentations have been scheduled in 2014 and 2015 at Club meetings and Charter Nights as well as at non-Rotary organizations.
- e) **Heads of Anti-Slavery Bodies**....Meetings have been arranged (via Skype and personal visits) with the leaders of anti-slavery organizations to discuss the possibilities of joint working partnerships on anti-slavery issues. Presentations have also been made by some of these leaders at UK Rotary District Conferences.
- f) **RAG Coordinators**.....An additional RAG Coordinator ( Laura Dryjanska), was appointed after the Lisbon Convention to raise awareness in Italy. Laura was personally invited to participate in the Vatican Conference on Human Trafficking in November 2013.
- g) **Child Slavery leaflets** were produced and used as publicity at the 2013 Rotary Institute & Foundation Seminar in England, at the Joint RAG stand at the RI Assembly at San Diego in January 2014. They will also be used as hand outs at the RI Convention in Sydney.
- h) **Articles on child slavery** have been written for several club and District magazines and our RAG's website links have been included in several District Newsletters in England and elsewhere.

## **Taking Action**

Since the ratification of the RAG by the RI Board in January 2013, the following anti-slavery projects have been completed and funded by Rotary Clubs, individual Rotarians and organizations working with Rotary Clubs:

- a) **Asha Nepal –a trafficking Shelter near Kathmandu,**
  - Purchase of a scooter for female staff
  - Purchase of kitchen utensils
  - Purchase of new curtains and household equipment
  - Purchase of new bikes, basket ball hoops and balls
- b) **Punarnawa Ashram - a trafficking shelter near Purnea, Bihar, India**
  - New soak pits
  - Safety grills for the dormitories
  - Repairs to water supplies
  - Purchase of sewing machines (4) and a computer
  - Water Purification Plant
  - Heightening of Boundary Wall
- c) **Schools' provision in Niger, Africa**
  - Purchase of food and classroom equipment
- d) **Dawn's Place – a trafficking shelter in Pennsylvania, USA**
  - Provision of transportation passes and educational facilities for survivors.
  - Cooking utensils
  - Funds for educational purposes, text books, tutors etc
- e) **Maiti Nepal – a trafficking shelter in Nepal**
  - Vocational Training Equipment
- f) **Kalimpong Project, West Bengal, India**
  - Global Grant application has been submitted to Rotary Foundation to complete a Vocational Training Centre
- g) **Miscellaneous Donations to:**
  - Anti-Slavery International
  - Mekong Club (a Movement fighting the business of slavery in the Mekong Region of South East Asia)
  - Local organizations in Pennsylvania, USA, helping survivors

Mark Little  
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