

First..... Our Mission Statement

First, to create awareness in Rotarian circles and within its wider public influence of the plight of many millions of children who are physically and mentally held captive for commercial gain; and

Second, to take action by encouraging Rotarians to support, promote & work with anti-slave bodies worldwide in developing programmes, campaigns & projects which protect children from slavery and its consequences

Second..... Responsibilities for Regional Coordinators

Helping Clubs

Respond to the enquiries of members and supporters etc. Where possible or requested, help Clubs to identify suitable, effective and sustainable projects.

Advise Clubs on suitable contacts, funding possibilities and working (eg NGO) partners, refer back to Board for advice if needed.

Publicize and record Clubs' new and existing anti-slavery initiatives, maintain a continuous interest in the initiative. NB This may not only help Clubs to acquire new partners but may also provide an impetus for others to participate in similar schemes.

Maintain a database if possible, of relevant contacts and suitable speakers for Club or District use. We have been asked if we can provide speakers.

Offer Clubs moral support when or if difficulties arise on projects, advise Board early.

Help Clubs which initiate large scale projects to find Rotary partners.

Provide Clubs (via a regional Newsletter/bulletin if you are able) with up-to-date information on anti-slavery news, initiatives and further project opportunities.

Keep the Board members informed of salient issues.

Provide copy (articles, news clips of interest etc) for inclusion in the RAG Newsletter when possible.

Promote the RAG's aims and membership through Rotarian and other networks

Develop good working relationships with NGOs, Government Agencies and other outside bodies. (Ambassadorial role)

Liase with DGs and, when granted permission by the DGs, with *Rotary Clubs.

Encourage members and supporters of the RAG to support, promote and work with anti-slavery bodies.

Encourage members to take an active part in the operation of the RAG, e.g. volunteer to man the booth at RI Conventions, visit trafficking shelters both at home or abroad, design and produce leaflets and posters, provide print outs of leaflets or hand outs.

Provide reports to the Board from time to time on positive action taken.

Facilitate the connection of Rotarians and Clubs with other Rotarians and Clubs, be aware of benefits of Clubs working with anti-slavery organizations and visa versa.

Action Advice and Guidance notes for Coordinators of RACSRAG

Third.....Things to know

Perhaps one of the first things to note we are a **Rotarian Action Group** NOT a Rotary Action Group. Rotarian Action Groups are a resource to Rotary Clubs and Districts in their area of speciality. Rotarian Action Group activities must be in harmony with Rotary International policy. Importantly, recognition of a Rotarian Action Group by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any District or Club. A Rotarian Action Group must not act on behalf of RI, nor represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. Sometimes it is best to make it clear at the outset A Rotarian Action Group is not an agency of RI. Rotarian Action Groups must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. On an important point, please be aware, individual Rotarian Action Groups, are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate. Our assessment thus far, is that our RAG cannot offer insurance cover for any issue, you must make your own arrangements. Speak with either Mark D, Stephen or Harry if you have a question.

***Contact with Clubs and Districts.**

This can be a sensitive issue, mostly the sensitivity sadly coming from Clubs or District Governors. RI's insistence is, Rotarian Action Groups may contact District Governors but NOT District Governors Elect. Rotarian Action Groups may contact Clubs only when a District Governor grants express permission. This permission must be renewed annually with the change in district leadership. I (RAG Secretary) have all 530+ DG contact addresses. Tell me the District number you wish to contact, I will do all the necessary for you. I will obtain Club President contact details and let you have them. If the DG gives his or her permission, that has to be lodged first with RI, who will then supply contact information. Strangely many DG's are refusing to agree contact permission, they do this by insisting every contact goes through them and they will decide whether to pass it on?? If the DG is known to you, it might be more beneficial to speak to them first, before asking me to write. If they agree, get their written permission, I can lodge that. This has worked quite successfully. If there is a refusal, and there has been, they **MUST NOT** be approached again. Be aware if there are complaints from Clubs or Governors regarding this permission procedure, we can have our RI Recognition removed if we have not complied.

Compliance with Rotary Marks Policies

Rotarian Action Groups' communications must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language. Such is the language it is better to exclude the use of the Rotary Roundel, other than how it appears on our stationery design. Use of our Doves Logo is okay, RACSRAG is okay, Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery with our Logo or describing who we are is okay. If you have any query please ask us for clarification.

The RI General Secretary or the RI Board may terminate a Group's recognition by RI, with or without the consent of the Group's officers or members for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. Groups that are terminated may not reapply for recognition for a period of two years from the date of termination.