



Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery

With thanks to RACS newest Member Barry Smith, PDG D6900, President RC of Sandy Springs & Treasurer Rotarian Action Group for Literacy, for this succinct report on an inspiring Conference on Human Trafficking which concluded just yesterday.

MAY 13 - 14, 2013: A CONFERENCE ON "HUMAN TRAFFICKING", Atlanta, USA

We heard from many NGO's, Corporate Leaders, Educators, Attorneys and Police Officers.

The emphasis of many of the speakers was Prevention through education in our schools and our communities - especially in the area of predators on the Internet.

The other side of the coin was in the area of Rescue with many organizations helping with the healing of these young victims by supplying safe housing, medical care and psychological treatment.

Many of the statistics were astounding, such as the fact that 22,000 children worldwide are reported missing every day and 5,000 are victims of sexual exploitation.

The emphasis was placed on the fact that this sexual exploitation is an EVIL which must be attacked by each one of us ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

The NGO, [Innocents at Risk](#), explained the training of Flight Attendants- particularly on International Flights to report to authorities any suspect circumstances. For example, one incident which occurred when there were 32 children flying from Geneva, Switzerland to the U.S., There was no apparent adult supervision. When questioned, a woman with a baby claimed to be in the group and she stated that they were going to New York. Then a man stood and claimed he was in charge and they were going to Boston. The Flight Attendant alerted the authorities and their papers were all in order so they were free to continue their journey. However the authorities followed the vehicles to Boston and discovered a house where there were 180 children being used for sexual activities. So 180 plus 32 children were saved from a life of slavery.

A quote from a Rotary Peace Scholar sums up the goal we should all strive to meet.

"Little by little I believe we can get to a point where all children of the world will be able to be just that: children. Not toys in the hands of adults, not mini-workers not victims: just children, with their full array of rights guaranteed" Katia de Mello Dantas

A motto for us all, "If you see SOMETHING, say SOMETHING" This is aimed at cities where NO criminal feels safe and thus we can protect all of our children from becoming victims of sexual exploitation.

Finally a quote from Queen Silvia of Sweden:

***"To see but not see,
To see but to deny,
To see but not to act is a crime against a child.
You can all do something.
Save a child."***

Barry Smith 15th May 2013