



Chairman's Report to RAG Board

This brief report covers the period from 23rd January (the approval date of this RAG) to the current date. It covers the progress which has been made on the RAG's two main objectives, ie a) raising awareness and b) taking action. I have deliberately excluded other issues, eg membership, finance, communications, logos, etc as hopefully these issues will be reported by other Board members.

Raising awareness

Production of Newsletters.....Since the announcement of our RAG's approval we have issued 4 Newsletters to well over 700 supporters/members in 47 countries. Newsletters have also been received by other Rotarians, eg current and past RI Directors, past RIBI Presidents, etc

There is currently only one member from Ireland, but I hope to solve this shortage as I have a meeting with the Incoming DG, Verity Swann scheduled for 12th May in Dublin.

I continue to have a busy schedule to speak to Clubs inside and outside of my own District. I am also scheduled to speak at future District Conferences and Charter nights next Rotary year.

Where I am not able to speak at District Conferences, I have succeeded in persuading Incoming District Governors to appoint substitute speakers like Professor Kevin Bales (Free the Slaves) and Aidan McQuade (Anti-Slavery International) in lieu.

To spread the word Coordinators have been appointed to cover the Americas, Oceania and SE Asia, Africa and the Indian Sub-Continent.

With the help of other Board members, a RAG leaflet has now been produced as a hand out at the RAG stand in the House of Friendship at the Lisbon RI Convention. Work continues on exhibits for the RI stand.

A RAG meeting has been arranged for 26th June 2013 at the RI Convention. This meeting will include presentations by Rotarian members on their work against human trafficking.

Articles on child slavery and our RAG's website links have been included in several District Newsletters in England and elsewhere.

I am currently working with anti-slavery organizations to produce wish lists of their project requirements for publication in the Newsletter and also on RAG's website. Some of these wish lists are already included on the website, showing costs in dollars, sterling, euros and local currency.

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:

Asha Nepal – a trafficking Shelter near Kathmandu,

- Purchase of a scooter for female staff
- Purchase of kitchen utensils

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

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.

Secretary report to Board of Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery End of January beginning May 2013

When the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery received recognition, there came with it a joint responsibility shared with all Board Members and Co-ordinators. As a 'proposed' action group we had previously a tendency to operate with a reasonably free hand. We are now required to conduct our business in line with Rotary thinking and within a designated set of guidelines.

Communication with each other is an area that is still 'work in progress'. Not made any easier with our global locations and the subsequent variation in International Time Zones. That apart, initially sheer volume caused concern, this has since abated. Although less frenetic the effectiveness will show in time.

Secretary, whoever takes this position, I feel, needs to be kept abreast of any developments, not necessarily in a participation role, but certainly for recording, archiving, information and reporting. Please keep secretary posted with any developments carried out in the name of our group.

Database I maintain the RAG Database on 'Membership'. This includes those signed up prior to recognition. Since recognition and a formalising of a fee structure, the original signed up group are referred to as 'supporters'. The database is developing into a Paid Up Members and a Supporters List. However every name and contact is important to the RAG. Mark uses the same list for Newsletter distribution. We have among our 'paid up' membership a number of people who expressed the desire to be involved, beyond that of 'just standing up to be counted'. My feeling is we could develop a programme to make use of their expressed willingness, it is needed soon, to utilise their enthusiasm!

Communicating One of my initial actions was to write to, first DG's, then subsequently DGE's, seeking their permission to contact Clubs in their Districts. This is a Rotary International dictate they are quite strong on. They hold the Club contact details and without sight of a DG's express permission, they will not release them. My perception was we would be flooded with approvals. I have to say I am quite disappointed with the response so far. We had more replying no than we had approvals. I will write again, but only if you ask me to write to a District. It would seem a different approach is needed possibly through the members/supporters Database. Even with its shortcomings I urge you to observe this RI preferred route of communication, if there is an infringement and a complaint to RI, they reserve the right to close down recognition for two years.

Social Media, love it or hate it, it cannot be ignored. We have a facebook page which is updated almost daily with slave related postings. We have links with other NGO's. It certainly enables us to 'create an awareness of Child Slavery' across a wider front. We still need to build up on the Page Likes but it is growing.

Harry Payne

Director of Communication's Report to RACSRAG Board January 23 - May 6, 2013

By Carol Metzker

The following activities and results have occurred between January 23 and May 6, 2013:

Internal Communication

Communication plan - developed and sent to board members (attached as Appendix A)

Logo House (logo in 22 formats) developed and sent to the board and coordinators; now appears on the action group's website, leaflet to distribute at the RI convention in Lisbon, and letterhead.

Raising Awareness and Building Support for Projects

Members of the board and coordinators are creating additional leaflets and collateral as needed, newsletter articles, and Facebook entries (under the purview of Sec. Harry Payne). 25 speeches have been given by CM to faith-based, medical professional and political organizations; high school and college students; the general public and Rotary Clubs. Rotary club members are invited to join RACSRAG; other groups are introduced to the action group and/or invited to support Rotary projects for survivors.

Articles about ending human trafficking/modern slavery—including notices for Rotary anti-slavery fundraisers, articles speeches and fair trade—by (or about) CM have appeared in several regional newspapers and District 7450 newsletter.

Sec. Harry Payne has (graciously) undertaken the responsibility for writing to District Governors about establishing communication within their districts.

Maintaining Links with Anti-Slavery Organizations

Connections established and maintained with:

Free the Slaves,

Polaris Project (US),

Salvation Army (Dick Eisenach is also working with other representatives),

PA/US county anti-human trafficking coalitions and survivor centers (including monthly visits to Dawn's Place to work with survivors),

Media Fair Trade Committee,

several college groups and

Divine Chocolate (a fair trade chocolate company working with small farmers in a cocoa cooperative in Ghana, headquartered in US)

Note: Mark Little and others are also making/maintaining links with other groups (see other board member reports).

Report of Dorothy Pulsford-Harris. Legal Adviser and Director.
E mail: www.racsrag.org

REPORT FOR BOARD MEETING:

Since the inception of the Action Group and its final approval on the 23rd January 2013 by Rotary International, I have taken the following action:

- 1) A draft Articles of Association; (this for discussion with other Rotarian Action Group Chairs).
- 2) A draft disclaimer; (this for discussion with other Rotarian Action Group Chairs)

In other words, do we as an action group actually need them?

- 3) Checked the Data Protection Act (which applies to England and Wales only unless information is to be passed abroad in which case it may not be as safe as it would be in the UK). It appears that as our membership list is only to be used for our use and we are a “not for profit” organization, there is no need to register with the Office of the Information Commissioner. I will keep this under review.
- 4) The legal status of Rotarian Action Groups and its Directors is uncertain and untested in the courts according to Rotarian International hence the need for some sort of protective disclaimer.
- 5) The Rotarian Action Groups are unable to obtain charitable status according to Rotarian Action Group Rules. (Rotary International itself being a charity). It would seem that all groups therefore operate in limbo and unable to claim relief on any donations made.

Dorothy Pulsford-Harris,
Legal Adviser,
8th May 2013.

First Report by, Coordinator for the Americas:

I) Our Goal: Develop a model which can be replicated, with modifications where necessary, across the Americas. To accomplish this we must first:

- A) Settle on a definition of success for this RAG in the Americas:
- B) Then develop a model.

II) Definition of Success:

- A) When we have made Child Slavery and Human Trafficking a nightly news item in every media!

III) Model Components:

A) Substantially raise awareness; not only among Rotarians, but with the general population. Since the Americas is a lot of real estate, we have begun by

- 1) Identifying the Rotary Zones here.
- 2) We are also in the process of identifying Rotarians in these Zones who are willing and able to act as Zone Coordinators., who will then appoint District Coordinators. To date we have two Zone coordinators.
- 3) We are identifying other stakeholders who are already engaged in Child Slavery and Human Trafficking and educating ourselves on the content of their programs.
- 4) Make presentations to non-Rotarian groups.

B) Encourage Rotarian involvement:

- 1) Make the above information available to all Rotarians through Zone and District Coordinators as well as through Club Chairman and encourage members and clubs to become engaged with an organization of their choice, too lend their support, both human and financial, as well as to seek a leadership position.
- 2) Make group presentations at Rotary Clubs, District Conferences and Zone Meetings.

C) Create enough critical mass:

- 1) Through public awareness and Rotarian involvement to be able to influence needed legislation in every sector.
- 2) Through collaborations with other national and international organization which have a national and global reach. Here are just a few that we have engaged:
 - The Salvation Army. Lisa Thompson www.salvationarmyusa.org/trafficking
 - Shared Hope International. Linda Smith www.savelives@sharedhope.org
 - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Ernie Allen www.missingkids.com
 - Polaris Project. Bradley Myles www.polarisproject.org

I have had, or will have within the next 10 days, a private meeting with each of the CEOs of these organizations, and I anticipate that our RAG will develop meaningful collaborations with all of them.

IV) General Activities:

- A) We have made multiple contacts with DGs in a number of Zones from Canada to Argentina. From the West Coast to the East Coast. We have not yet reached out to the Dominican Republic or Hawaii.
- B) We have met privately with 8 organization heads currently delivering services to victims.
- C) We are collaborating with Ltd. Gallagher head of Vice for the Phoenix police department & Dominique Roe PhD at Arizona State University in doing group presentations on trafficking.
- D) We have met with the leadership of the Girl Scouts (Az.) of America which has a very active program.
- E) We published an article in the 5490 district newsletter.
- F) I have been invited and have accepted an invitation to serve on a Trafficking Taskforce organized by Cindy McCain, wife of US Senator John McCain.

Dick Eisenach

Report for First Annual General Meeting of RACSRAG
Oceania Regional Co-ordinator

Since the RI Board formally approved the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery, there has been progress towards obtaining the permission of the District Governor and District Governor Elects in the countries within the region.

The first positive response came from the current District Governor of D3360, in Thailand. Through his recognition of our objectives, we can now establish contact with the sixty clubs within D3360. We already share a synergy with this District, as it is within the District, in Mae Suai, where the Rescue Mission for Children project is based.

This project has been established for twenty years, as has focused on both rescuing vulnerable children of the Akha hill tribes from abduction into child sex slavery, and more recently, on providing a long term strategy for providing education that will provide both citizenship and skills to enable the children to create sustainable futures for themselves.

The citizenship these children will gain reduces their risk of enslavement as they have legal rights that other children have born with.

We shall be working with the clubs in D3360 in the hopes of encouraging them to engage in this anti-slavery project and also to identify other project opportunities to help children in their region who languish in other forms of slavery.

Australian District Governors have also started to respond to our request to contact clubs. We have received permission to contact clubs in the following districts:

District 9455 (45 clubs), District 9685 (58 clubs), district 9780 (57 clubs), District 9800 (67 clubs) and District 9810 (48 clubs).

New Zealand has also responded to our call for support, and we have received permission from District Governor Elects in District 9920 (53 clubs) and District 9980 (31 clubs). It should be noted that District 9920 is the largest maritime Rotary District in the world and encompasses the Pacific Islands as far North as Christmas Island.

District 9980 is the last District in the Rotary Directory.

Over the next few months, it is my objective to engage as many Rotary clubs in the Districts where we have been granted permission to contact clubs, in order to create awareness of our work and the opportunities that exist for Rotarians to active engage in projects that are focused on addressing the issues that enslave our children and deny them the basic human rights that we all enjoy.

David Black
Oceania Regional Co-ordinator
RACSRAG