

## 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

- a) 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
- b) 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 12<sup>th</sup> May in Dublin.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.
- e) To spread the word Coordinators have been appointed to cover the Americas, Oceania and SE Asia, Africa and the Indian Sub-Continent.
- f) 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.
- g) A RAG meeting has been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at the RI Convention. This meeting will include presentations by Rotarian members on their work against human trafficking.
- h) Articles on child slavery and our RAG's website links have been included in several District Newsletters in England and elsewhere.
- i) 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:

- a) Asha Nepal –a trafficking Shelter near Kathmandu,
  - Purchase of a scooter for female staff
  - Purchase of kitchen utensils
- 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
- 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.

Mark Little

6<sup>th</sup> May 2013