

Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery

(This RAG is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International)

(See Website www.racsrag.org – Web Master, Stephen Sypula, RC of Stevenage Grange, England)

4 June 2013

Issue No 40



Contents

	page
Delhi Court charges Delhi Government	1
Lincoln inspires ASI Director to win Quiz	1
Playing Fair in Pennsylvania, USA	2
Forced labour in Uzbek Cotton industry	2
RACSRAG will support ASI's Cotton campaign	2
Editorial	3
Destiny Rescue	3&4
Conference on Human Trafficking in Georgia	4&5
RACSRAG website needs An overhaul	5
Money Matters	6&7

Photo Below

AidanMcQuade(right) with BBC Presenter, John Humphrys



Editor: Mark Little – Rotary Club of Norwich St Edmund, England

“Our struggle is easier than the one facing the 19th century abolitionists. We do not have to violate laws to help the victims as the early abolitionists did”

(John Miller – Director US State Dept)



Delhi High Court action against Delhi Govt

Last month, the High Court of Delhi imposed a charge of 10,000 Rupees on the Government of NCT DELHI for its inaction on the issue of child labour. This action arose as a result of a petition filed by Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), otherwise known as Save the Children Foundation.

In 2009 the High Court defined the roles and responsibilities for all Delhi Government Departments in relation to the correct procedures for

rescuing child labourers and filing adequate status reports. However, It would appear that these procedures were not being followed by the relevant government departments and it was claimed that if the Court's 2009 Directives had been followed more than 18,000 children would have been rescued in the last three and a half years.

According to a spokesperson for BBA “Delhi has become one of the most unsafe cities in the world

for children. The worst part is that despite having the laws and policies in place and repeated directions of the High Court and Supreme Court the Government authorities continue to violate the law by taking little or no action for the protection of children. It is high time that the responsibilities of law enforcement agencies are also ascertained and we hope that this direction by the High Court is the first step in fixing the accountability of the authorities in protecting our children from trafficking, slavery and bonded labour”

Lincoln inspires ASI Director to win Mastermind

Anti-Slavery International's Director Aidan McQuade, has won this year's UK edition of BBC's Mastermind with the specialist subject of “Abraham Lincoln” in the final. Aidan said: “I chose the subject of Abraham Lincoln because his long moral journey and successful fight to abolish slavery always fascinated me and inspires my work. He showed the possibilities of politics when coupled with moral courage in obtaining advances in human rights”

Editor's note: **Anti-Slavery International** (ASI) is an international non-governmental organization, registered charity and a lobby group, based in the United Kingdom. An example of its lobbying is featured on page 2 of this Newsletter. Founded in 1839, ASI is the world's oldest international human rights organization and the only charity in the United Kingdom to work exclusively against slavery and related abuses. ASI's website is www.antislavery.org.



Playing Fair in Pennsylvania, USA



On 3 May 2013, the Rotaract Club of West Chester University (PA, USA) held a Fair Trade Café. The event featured musical performances, sale of fairly traded goods and snacks including fair trade chocolate. Activities also included a violin performance by Janice Mahan (RC of Kennett Square), *Facing the Monster* book signing by

Carol Metzker (RC of West Chester Downtown and volunteer support by Annalie Korengel Lorgus (RC of West Chester Downtown).

Proceeds from the event were donated to Free the Slaves, a worldwide organization with the mission to end slavery, and Dawn's Place, a PA

residence for female survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

Photo: *Left to Right: Hannah Peters, Rotaractor, and Rotarians Annalie Korengel Lorgus and Janice Mahan, at the Fair Trade Café held by the Rotaract Club of West Chester University.*

Forced labour in Uzbek cotton industry

"Uzbek children can be left exhausted and suffering from ill health and malnutrition after weeks of arduous labour. Those who run away from the cotton fields, or who refuse to work, face expulsion from school"



Each September schools are closed down across Uzbekistan for the duration of the cotton harvest. Children, some as young as ten years old, are sent to the fields to pick cotton by hand for up to three months without pay.

Human rights groups estimate that up to 200,000 children are forced by the Uzbekistan Government to pick cotton each season.

Students who fail to meet

their targets, or who pick a low quality crop, are reportedly punished with detention, told that their grades will suffer and are even beaten. Children who run away from the cotton fields, or who refuse to take part, can face expulsion from school.

The single biggest destination for Uzbek cotton is the European market, though some retailers like Tesco, Wal-Mart and Marks

and Spencers have taken action to ban Uzbek cotton from their products.

In September 2008, the Prime Minister signed two ILO Conventions which outlawed such a practice, yet the schools continue to close in the autumn and the children continue to work picking cotton in spite of the efforts of human rights campaigners to end the use of this slave labour.

RACSRAG will support ASI's Uzbek cotton campaign

Anti-Slavery International (ASI) has been battling for some years now to end the practice described above and its efforts are slowly bearing fruit. For example, ASI has been influential in persuading Europe's MEPs not to extend the EU-Uzbekistan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement to contain the trade in textiles, including those made with cotton, from the former soviet republic.

ASI has also had success in persuading retailers to undertake due diligence in their own supply chains to

ensure that they are not complicit in human rights violations arising from the situation in the Uzbek cotton industry. The campaign's latest success arises from H & M's (the clothing store) action to take steps to limit the risk of its products being linked to Uzbek's use of child slaves.

ASI is now turning its attention to other major clothing brands like Nike, which, refuses to cut ties with one of the major processing companies in Uzbekistan, ie Daewoo Inter-national which

is appears to be profiting from forced labour in the Uzbek cotton industry.

RACSRAG is hoping to support ASI's campaign by issuing pro forma postcards to delegates at the RI Convention and asking them to submit the card and its message to relevant clothing retailers indicating their concern about the situation in Uzbekistan and asking the retailer not to do business with companies like Daewoo.



Editorial

I heard on the grapevine that a number of Rotary Clubs in Australia were supporting an anti-slavery organization called "Destiny Rescue".

So being curious and also mindful that our RAG needs to publicize the work of such organizations in order to encourage greater participation within Rotarian circles, I contacted one of my information sources to find out a bit more about the organization. The result is an article below, written by Susanne Rea who is a member of the RC of Cairns Sunrise in District 9550 in Australia.

Also included on the next

page is an article written by one of the Managers of Destiny Rescue telling us where the organization operates.

On page 5 you will see a plea for someone to help redesign our RACSRAG website. If you know of someone who would be willing to help, please would ask that person to contact the current Webmaster, Stephen Sypula, who also doubles up as our Treasurer.

On pages 6 and 7 are some suggestions about the

benefits of sponsorship and also information about a new category of membership which has just been agreed by the RAG Board.

The photo on the right shows the club members of the RC of West Chester Downtown in District 7450, USA, presenting RACSRAG (in the shape of Director Carol Metzker) with a logo banner which we shall use at the Lisbon Convention. Is it a coincidence that the colour of Director Carol's dress matches the colour in the banner?



Destiny Rescue

(by Susanne Rea, RC of Cairns Sunrise, District 9550, Australia)

Every year 1.2 million children are sold into slavery worldwide for the first time (UNICEF). This means that one child is sold every 26 seconds. Many today would be blissfully unaware of this astonishing statistic. Living in the relative comfort of our western lives we would also be unlikely to know that there are 27 million people that the United Nations reports are already in slavery across the globe. Many of these people are children sold into slavery, forced to work in brothels, 'servicing' up to 15 men a night in this horrific and illicit trade worth \$32 billion worldwide. These are staggering facts that are lived out in the lives of children each night.

DESTINY RESCUE is a not-for-profit organisation making

a world of difference for children who are victims of sex trafficking and slavery. As you visit some of their forty Rescue and Rehabilitation homes throughout the world you can't help but be amazed at the work being done to help these precious children. As the children learn, play and are cared for by the loving staff, it is inconceivable to imagine that only months before they were working in brothels forced to do what children should not even know exists.

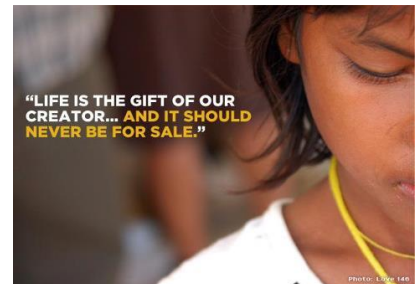
Every night Destiny Rescue sends undercover teams into the clubs, bars and brothels to identify and rescue the innocent children who have no hope of saving themselves. In addition to already rescuing 126 children

this year Destiny Rescue has partnered with anti-trafficking police to ensure numerous individuals guilty of trafficking and abusing children are prosecuted and kept away from innocent children.

Destiny Rescue has rescue and prevention programs in Thailand, Cambodia, Mozambique, India, Laos and Myanmar and is committed to creating new destinies for children who are victims of sex trafficking and slavery.

Supported by individuals, business and community groups such as Rotary clubs, Destiny Rescue is committed to ending child sexual slavery in our lifetime. For more information or to assist Destiny Rescue in its mission visit

www.destinyrescue.org



Destiny Rescue's fields of operation

by Michael Keffe, Destiny Rescue

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

(Dr Martin Luther King)



INDIA.....In India we currently have a children's prevention home in Vijayawada, in the province of Andhra Pradesh.

Vijayawada is the third largest city in the province and has a population of just over 1 million people. We have future plans to expand into further cities in India and begin conducting rescues as the need is great. We are currently searching for a country manager to oversee projects in India before we expand further.

LAOS.....In Laos we currently have a rescue home and vocational training centre in Luang Prabang which has a population of around 50 000 people. We conduct rescues there and work with local police to assist in the rescue of children and prosecution of traffickers.

BURMA.....In Burma we have prevention and rescue homes along with vocational training programs in the town of Tachileik which is on the border of Burma and Thailand. It is only a short distance from Chiang Rai in Thailand where our international headquarters are based.

CAMBODIA.....Cambodia houses a number of rescue and prevention homes now housing hundreds of children and teenagers along with various vocational training programs including café and restaurant, jewellery production and sewing businesses. Our homes are located in Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham and Siem Reap. Due to assisting police with the prosecutions of traffickers we have high security homes located throughout

Cambodia to ensure the girls rescued are protected at all times. Our number of rescues in Cambodia are rapidly expanding at the moment.

THAILAND.....Thailand is our international headquarters and has by far our largest operations across the country particularly in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Sai and Bangkok. We have numerous rescue and prevention homes, and work with the anti-trafficking police on a regular basis. We have vocational training programs including jewellery and clothing production, restaurants and café's and hair dressing school and salon.

Conference on Human Trafficking, Atlanta Georgia – 13/14 May

a report by PDG Barry Smith, RC of Sandy Springs, District 6900, 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. (cont'd on next page)

"To see but not to see

To see but to deny

To see but not to act

Is a crime against a child

We can all do something"

(Queen Silvia of Sweden)



Conference on Human Trafficking, Atlanta Georgia (Cont'd)

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 all going to New York. Then a man stood and claimed that he was in charge and said that 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.

PDG Barry Smith
RC of Sandy Springs, USA

A plea for help: RACSRAG Website overhaul

Originally designed in 2009 as a simple, temporary site to promote the Action Group's child slavery campaign, www.racsrag.org now needs renovating.

Can you, or can another volunteer you know, design and create a website:

- Attractive, effective, sophisticated yet easy for viewers to use
- Uses free open software tools to keep costs down
- Can be maintained by a volunteer who is willing to learn necessary skills but is not a web technologist by profession.
- Retains the valuable substance of the current web site, but updates it technologically and visually.



Your gift of this website creation will go a long way to helping our Action Group further our mission to protect children from slavery and its consequences.

We will also include attribution on the site for the designer or company.

To lend a hand, please contact the RAG's Webmaster, Stephen Sypula at the address below.

Email: stephen@racsrag.org

Video / Voice: **Skype:** stephen.sypula or **Gmail:** astimann@gmail.com

Money Matters

Promote Your Business Through RACS Sponsorship

Whether a multi-national concern, or a small to medium-sized enterprise (SME), your business can benefit by your association with RACSRAG. The Action Group includes members/supporters from 47 countries. A variety of opportunities for sponsorship can provide you with the means to present your business, its products and services to a global, influential, informed audience.

Benefits for international and domestic businesses associating with RACSRAG:

- **Accreditation:** Your customers know you support Rotarians, and related organisations, in their quest to combat slavery and its consequences.
- **A public statement:** Demonstrated encouragement for a humanitarian cause that supports your corporate social responsibility policies.
- **Visibility:** For your products and services to a potential audience of 1.2 million Rotarians ... plus their family members, friends and contacts.
- **Tax benefits:** Corporate giving to charitable causes can be tax efficient. Goods or services provided may be regarded as a deductible expenditure for sales tax / VAT purposes. Similarly costs incurred, sponsorship and donations may be allowable as a deduction against business profits.

Contact [Stephen Sypula](mailto:stephen@racsrag.org) (stephen@racsrag.org), RACS Treasurer, to find a vehicle—RACSRAG communication or operations or a project for victims or survivors—that best suits your business needs or to be connected with our Regional Coordinators in Europe, Asia, the Americas or Oceania for a regional interest.

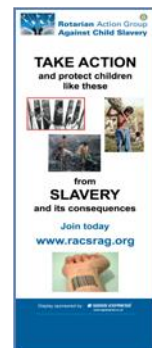
Support RACSRAG's operations

Spread the word of your business through RACSRAG—its website, regular newsletters and signage opportunities—to reach a wide audience.



Two businesses recently sponsored action group publicity and reaped the benefit of the outreach. [NASA Marine Ltd.](#), a UK-based SME producing marine instruments worldwide, and Rotarian Alan Mulley, sponsored 2,000 [leaflets](#) and business cards for use at RACS' booth at the RI Convention in Lisbon, with some 20,000 plus delegates, for £250 before tax deduction.

Frank Eliel, RACS Member and FD of www.signsexpress.com, a UK-centred company with more than 70 franchise sign production centres across the UK and Ireland, sponsored two roll-up banners for use in the company's operating territories and at the 2013 Rotary International convention for £120 (US \$230).



What you can do

If you know a corporation or SME who would benefit from association with this anti-child-slavery movement, please provide Stephen Sypula with their contact information. Better still, talk with your contacts and invite them to contact him to discuss business or social opportunities to suit their needs.

In the next Newsletter, learn about the benefits of contributing to RACS supported projects, and the match-funding and tax opportunities of creating a RF Donor Advised Fund.

Money Matters (Cont'd)

An Action Group is Born: A peek into RACS' early financials

As many parents and grandparents will know, a child at four months is beginning to cut its first teeth and focus its sight. RACSAG, which arrived a little unexpectedly on 23rd January 2013 is now four months old and is equally showing early signs of development. It has attracted 67 paid members who have invested £5,000 (\$7,500) in its future. It will shortly exhibit itself at the Rotary International Convention and has already completed several child slavery projects. It has a Board of Guardians to protect its future and territorial Coordinators to help turn its vision to reality.

The Arrival of Gifts

With news of the arrival, businesses, Rotary Clubs and Rotarians have sent gifts to give it an early development boost. Two business interests have helped promote RACSAG on both global and UK domestic stages (see previous page).

The Rotary Club of Stevenage Grange, D1260 donated £400 (\$600) towards RACSAG unspecified projects to mark its birth. Similarly, President Vivien Beal of RC Croydon South, D1140, has pledged £500 (\$750) from her President's Charity fundraising evening towards child slavery projects. RC Mumbai Borivali East, D3140, funded the cost of 1,000 information leaflets that were distributed by RACS Director Girish Mittal and Past President Mark Barnes at their recent District Conference. The Rotary Club of West Chester Downtown, PA, USA, D7450, has donated a banner with the action group's logo for use at the 2013 RI convention and other gatherings.

Individual Rotarians have also been moved to give this newcomer a good start. Rotarian Roger Brunt (RC Accrington, D1190) donated £50 to RACS' project fund, Malcolm Baird (RC Hampton, D9810) and Frank Eliel (RC Blackfriars, D1080) donated £175 to directly support RACS operating costs

So far this Rotary year RACSAG will receive £990 (\$1,485) in unsolicited gifts. This may not sound a lot, but it is nearly three times the level of subscription income available to RACSAG at the moment. What's most encouraging is that the gifts have arrived from locations around the world and will make a global impact. Thank you to all from RACSAG and, ultimately, from the children who will benefit from the action group's work.

Listening and Learning: RACSAG's new subscription rate

Some Rotarian Action Groups are concerned that subscription designs will not provide a sustainable base for long term operations. The Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Action Group (WASAG) has acknowledged this and introduced a five year membership option.

RACSAG Board Members recognize the concern and have introduced a Charter Membership option for those joining after the first 100 Life Members have been approved. Existing Life Members will now be referred to as Centennial Members. The Charter levy covers Membership for five years from the date of application. Set at £50, the Charter rate offers an intermediate entry level to a life-long relationship between RACS members and those we aim to help. It costs about two-thirds of the comparable WASAG option, and is the cost of two or three glasses of wine each year from my Rotary Club's hotel bar.

[Join Now](#) Become a Charter Member of RACSAG and help end child slavery.

NB. If you are coming to the RI Convention in Lisbon, don't forget to attend the first meeting of RACSAG on 26th June.

Mark Little, RC of Norwich St Edmund
District 1080, England
4 June 2013

Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or the RACSAG Board.