



Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery

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

Website www.racsrag.org

19 Aug 2015

Issue No 58



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

“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable” (Christopher Reeve)



Trafficking in Persons Report 2015 under fire

On 27 July 2015 the US Department of State released its annual report on human trafficking ie the 2015 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report which determines the compliance of countries to combat the evil practice.

The report analyzes the efforts of 188 countries to comply with minimum standards required to eliminate human trafficking for sexual exploitation or

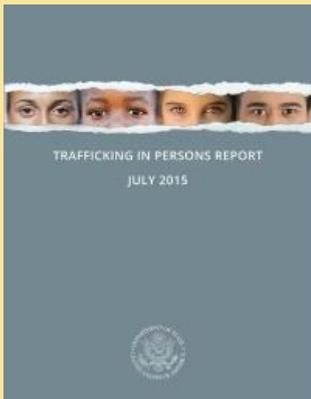
forced labour.

The Report has come under fire from anti-slavery advocates who claim that the US State Department's senior political staff has overruled its human rights experts in order to inflate the ratings of countries considered to be strategically important to Washington.

For example, Cuba which has been listed as a Tier 3

country since 2003, has been upgraded to Tier 2. However, human rights activists have warned that the upgrade is premature and would be seen as political favouritism and could damage efforts to hold the Cuban Government accountable for its human rights abuses.

Editor's Note: The latest Report is discussed further in the editorial and on page 4



UN goals target modern slavery

On Sunday 2 August, the 193 member states of the United Nations, reached agreement on 17 new development goals with 169 specific targets to be achieved by 2030. Included amongst those targets, under goals 5,8 and 16, are the following objectives which are relevant to RACSRAG's aims.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and, by 2025, end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Editor's Note: World leaders will formally adopt the goals at a summit meeting in late September, just before their annual meeting at the UN General Assembly. The new goals will replace the eight Millenium Development Goals which were adopted at a summit in 2000 and are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.



Editorial

The announcement that the 17 new UN development goals are going to include targets relating to the elimination of all forms of child labour, trafficking and exploitation, is a massive boost for all anti-slavery activists, seeking to end these obnoxious of crimes against humanity.

At long last, these most basic of human rights, have been given the importance they deserve and will be addressed collectively by all 193 member nations.

But is the time frame realistic for the 169 targets to be achieved? After all, some of the previous 8 goals and 18 targets are unlikely to be achieved by the end of 2015 and there does not appear to be any real pressure or sanctions for countries to conform to the new sustainable goals and targets.

It is easy for member countries to sign up for universally agreed development goals, targets or anti-slavery covenants, but these agreements have no effect until the accepted principles are written into the relevant country's own laws and then enforced.

Sadly many countries renege or stall on their promises to act. For example, the UK Government signed up to Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 (*slavery and the slavery trade shall be prohibited in all its forms*). Yet, it was not until 2004 under the Asylum and Immigration Act, ie 56 years

later, that trafficking for all forms of labour exploitation was made a criminal offence in the UK. The UK Government also signed up for Article 4 of the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights (*No one should be required to perform forced or compulsory labour*), but it was not until 2009, under the Coroners and Justice Act, that forced labour was made a criminal offence in the UK.

Pressure of some kind therefore is needed to ensure that goals and targets are met. As far as anti-slavery issues are concerned, the UN is the most appropriate organization to combat this crime against humanity, but it needs the backing of the Security Council as well as the General Assembly. The latter is a good talking shop which can make recommendations but it cannot make any decisions. That is the sole prerogative of the Security Council.

Yet sadly, the Security Council has only considered the issue of "slavery" once. That was in 2005, when it passed a resolution condemning the recruitment and use of child soldiers by parties to armed conflict.

The Council at that time, established a Working Group to monitor and report back on future situations but made no serious recommendations on any action to be taken if countries continued using children as soldiers in national conflicts.

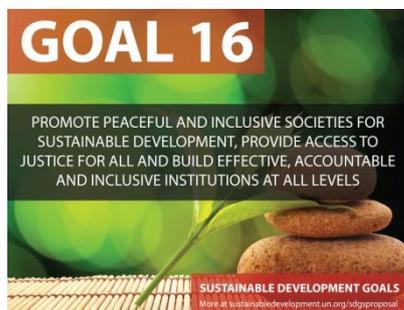
As Professor Kevin Bales points out "*If we really want to eradicate slavery, the Security Council has to take slavery as seriously as it does a threat like nuclear proliferation and go beyond just observing and reporting on the problem*"

His suggestions are that the Security Council appoints a) a Special Representative for Slavery and Human Trafficking, b) a committee of experts to review the existing conventions on slavery and recommend how to unify and clarify them, and c) slavery inspectors who would operate on the same basis as the nuclear weapons inspectors.

The issue of the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report of the US State Department is always awaited with a great deal of interest but sadly with an increasing degree of skepticism amongst anti-slavery advocates.

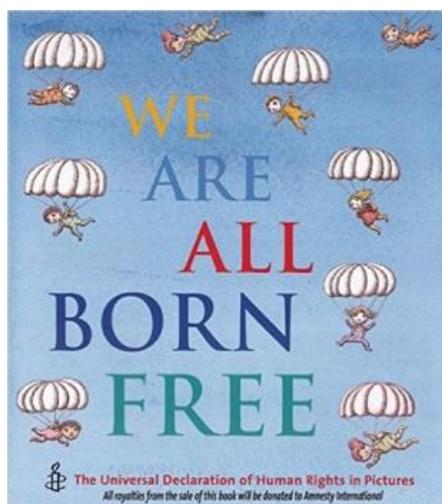
Commentators have already pointed out that a certain amount of politics appears to take place into the listing each year and that countries which are "friends" of the United States tend not to end up in Tier 3. The 2015 Report has attracted a greater amount of criticism than ever before.

In the weeks leading up to the publication of the Report on 27 July, human rights experts in the "Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in



"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude. Slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms"

(Article 4: Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948)



Editorial (continued)

Persons”, conclude that trafficking conditions had not improved in Malaysia, Cuba or China. Yet inexplicably the State Department’s senior political staff saw it differently and their view prevailed and those three countries are now upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List.

Indeed there were disagreements of views between the Department’s human rights analysts and the diplomatic staff on the ratings of 17 countries. The analysts, who are specialists in assessing efforts to combat modern slavery, won only three of those 17 disputes, the worst ratio in the 15 year history of the TIP process. As a result, not only Malaysia, Cuba and China, but countries such as India, Uzbekistan and Mexico, ended up with better grades than the State Department’s human rights experts wanted to bestow upon them.

A snapshot of the TIP Report is included on page 4 of the Newsletter.

A few days ago, I received a letter in my postbag from Rtn Munir Ahmed Tanoli, a RACSRAG supporter and friend from the Rotary Club of Rawalpindi, Pakistan. He writes about what is happening in one of the districts in his homeland. His letter underlines the desperate need for the new UN target 16.2 (see front page) to be achieved.

If we wish to end the” *abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children*”, we need to ensure that all corruption, especially police corruption, is stamped out everywhere. When governments fail to protect their citizens and to maintain the rule of law, those citizens are vulnerable and can be more easily exploited into slavery and servitude.

Munir Ahmed’s letter is reproduced in full on Page 5

Matt Friedman’s TEDX talk

Last month RACSRAG received Matt Friedman’s latest TEDX talk on the issue of “Modern Slavery”. The link was included in the July Newsletter but unfortunately we received several emails pointing out that the link was non- functional. So, we are reproducing the link again (see below) so that our readers can experience an inspirational presentation, which tells the story of Gita, a young Nepalese girl who was trafficked into India and forced to work in a brothel. In her interview upon release, her anger is directed, not at her traffickers or slave masters, but at the people who were interviewing her. She asked the basic question “where were **you** when I needed you” ?

[Matt Friedman’s TEDX Talk](#)

In a recent email to RACSRAG, Matt states “*As an activist, I want to get my message out to as many people as I can. I really do hope we can bring about a “second generation abolitionist movement”. Working together, this would be possible”.*

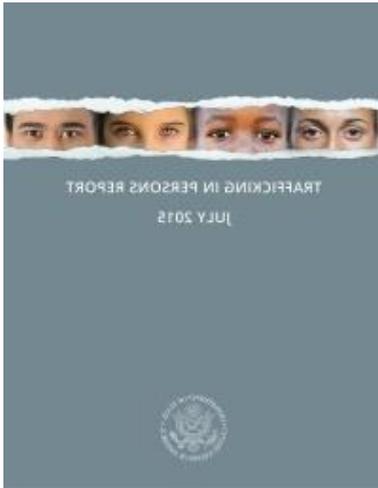
Editor’s Note: Matt_Friedman is the CEO and co-founder of the Mekong Club, which is an organization made up of Hong Kong based private sector business leaders who have joined forces to help fight slavery in Asia. Previously Matt was the Regional Project Manager of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in South East Asia.



A school girl picking cotton in Uzbekistan



TIP Report 2015 – A snapshot



"If we are going to stop slavery, we must first convince the world that human rights need even more protection than property rights"

(Kevin Bales)



As noted on the front page, the TIP Report analyzes the efforts of 188 countries to comply with minimum standards required to eliminate human trafficking for sexual exploitation or forced labor.

Countries are ranked into three groups, or "tiers". Tier 1 countries are doing a good job of responding to trafficking and slavery; Tier 2 countries are trying but not doing enough; and Tier 3 countries have serious trafficking problems and are not doing anything about them, or are making matters even worse. There is also a special "Tier 2 Watch List" for countries that need a warning to get their act together. Being on the Watch List means that a country is in danger of being relegated to Tier 3.

Tier 1: 31 countries are listed. These include Australia, Belgium, France, Israel, Italy, Sweden, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Tier 2 : 89 countries are listed. These include Afghanistan, Argentina, Brazil, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal , Morocco, Nigeria, Serbia, Zambia.

Tier 2 Watch List: 44 countries are listed. These include China, Cuba, Democratic Rep of Congo, Ghana, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uzbekistan

Tier 3: 23 countries are listed. These are Algeria, Belarus, Belize, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Korea North, Kuwait, Libya, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Russia, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Yemen, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

NB Somalia is not classified. According to the US State Department, the Somalia Government *"possessed minimal capacity to investigate and prosecute most crimes, including human trafficking. In addition, officials across Somalia generally lacked an understanding of trafficking crimes, which they often conflated with smuggling. Justice was primarily provided through military courts"*

The countries upgraded from Tier 3 up to the Tier 2 Watch List are Cuba, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan..

Belarus, Comoros and the Marshall Islands were automatically downgraded to Tier 3 after being on last year's Tier 2 Watch List.

Thailand, Venezuela and Gambia were downgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 3 in last year's report and remain in the same ranking in 2015.

Whilst a Tier 3 ranking can trigger sanctions limiting access to aid from the US, the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank, such action is frequently waived. The real power is its ability to embarrass countries into action



A letter from Pakistan

Dear Editor Mark

Please look at recent child sex abuse in Pakistan at Kasur District. More than 400 videos featuring 280 children forced to have sex, have been discovered in Kasur. Videos of these sexual assaults and heinous crimes were committed in Hussain Khanwala village in Kasur district. This scandal came to light earlier this week when parents of the victims clashed against police officials who failed to apprehend those who were behind the child abuse crimes.

Close to almost 4,000 people had gathered to protest on Dipalpur Road and were dispersed by police, injuring almost two dozen people. The protesters had accused the police of being involved with the criminal gangs who were perpetuating such nefarious activities.

So far only five of the six alleged criminals in this regard have been arrested and are in police custody. However, people claim that these activities were carried out by a gang of 25 young men and teenagers, who were backed by two individual in their 40s.

The filming of such sexual acts began in 2006 and continued till last year, when almost 400 tapes were discovered. In one clip, a boy is seen to be molested by five to six men. Some of the parents recognized their children from the video clips as victims. These videos were filmed at various locations; in washrooms, fields, abandoned houses and bedrooms.

"We have arrested six persons after registering six separate cases against them on the complaints of the victims. Five of the accused are on physical remand while the sixth has obtained pre-arrest bail," District Police Officer Rai Babar Saeed told The Nation.

A 13 year-old boy was arrested for having sex with another small boy. However, his mother claimed his innocence. *"They (producers of the clips) not only molested the children themselves but they also asked the victims to rape each other on camera,"* she said. Another woman claimed *"Everyone in this village is a victim. Our children both boys and girls are raped and blackmailed,"*

The boys were subjected to such sexual abuse after they were intoxicated with drinks or injected with a drug in their spine.

YIR

Munir Ahmed Tanoli
Rotary Club of Rawalpindi
Pakistan

Editor's Note: Pakistan is classified under the Tier 2 Watch List.

Bakhita House – A Trafficking Shelter

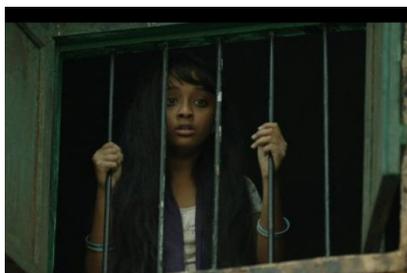
In June this Newsletter published a short article about Bakhita House, a new Trafficking Shelter which was about to be opened in London and which will provide accommodation, care and rehabilitation for up to 12 female survivors of human trafficking and slavery. The Newsletter also included an article from Karen Anstiss, the Project Manager of Bakhita House entitled “The reason why I do my job”. Bakhita House actually opened its doors on 30th June and took in its first resident the following day. Six guests are now being accommodated at Bakhita House.

In the Annex to this Newsletter is a Wish List of items required for Bakhita House. The list has been forwarded to RACSRAG by Karen Anstiss. The Annex also provides an explanation why the items are needed.

Please will UK members/readers consider helping to fund some of the required items on the Bakhita Wish List. Donations can be forwarded either to RACSRAG Treasurer, Stephen Sypula, or Mark Little, for onward transmission to Bakhita House.

Preview of film “SOLD”

Newsletter 57 provided some details of a film which will be on general release in the USA later this year and in the UK next January. The film is called “SOLD” and tells the story of a young girl called Lakshmi who is hoodwinked into travelling from her home in Nepal in the expectation of a job, but who finds herself forced to work in a brothel in India. The film illustrates the brutality of human trafficking and the misery and pain suffered by the young girls press ganged to work in a brothel, cynically called “Happiness House”



For readers in the UK, please note that there is a special screening of SOLD on Wednesday 2 September in Newcastle Upon Tyne. The screening will take place from 18.00 to 22.00 (BST) in room 001 Business and Law Building, Northumbria University, City Campus East, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST

You can register for the screening by clicking on [REGISTER FOR FILM PREVIEW](#)

Child Sex Tourism in Kenya

Child Sex tourism has been highlighted by anti-slavery organizations as a major issue in Kenya for many years now. A few years ago, UNICEF estimated that some 30,000 children were being exploited in the sex industry but believed that the figure was likely to be an underestimation due to the social stigma inhibiting children from reporting abuses. However, a recent report by End Child Prostitution in Kenya (ECPIK) indicates that more than 50,000 children are forced to work in different forms of child prostitution.

The ways in which children become exposed to sex tourism are numerous. Some research suggests that one of the ways that child sex tourists seek out children is under the guise of domestic workers in their private residence. According to ECPAT, this is practiced in Mombassa, Ukunda, Malindi and Nairobi. On the beach resorts of Mombassa, it is reported that both boys and girls are sexually abused by male and female sex tourists. In some locations, there are suspicions that hotel staff bring children into hotels for abuse by sex tourists.

How about joining Walk Free's latest campaign in calling on the Kenya Government to declare a zero tolerance of commercial sexual exploitation of children, backed by regular monitoring and law enforcement. Walk Free suggests that RACSRAG members call on the Kenyan Minister of Tourism to take urgent steps to better regulate the tourism sector to help protect Kenyan children from sexual abuse. This call can be achieved by signing the petition below which will indicate your concern about the commercial sexual exploitation of Kenya's children.

PLEASE SIGN [Walk Free's Petition](#)

Should it be a crime to buy or sell sex ?

That's the question at the heart of a growing debate in the human rights community. It's kicked off because Amnesty International, in spite of strong opposition from anti-slavery organizations and Hollywood stars, voted a few days ago that the sex trade should be decriminalized. The Human Rights organization passed the measure at its decision-making forum, the International Council Meeting, in Dublin, involving delegates from around the world.

Groups such as the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women have strongly opposed the move. It wrote an [open letter](#) to Amnesty carrying the names of such Oscar-winning actresses as Kate Winslet, Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emma Thompson as well as those of activists and sex trade survivors.

Esohe Aghatise, anti-trafficking manager at Equality Now, told CNN: *"It is a matter of deep regret that Amnesty has chosen to support the powerful sex trade barons who exploit the weak and poor and has refused to listen to the voice of survivors. It has ignored international law and has ignored the evidence from countries which have decriminalized brothel keeping, pimping and buying sex."*

Editor's Note: Readers of this Newsletter are invited to comment on Amnesty International's decision. Some of the comments will be included in the next Newsletter.

RACSRAG Board

Chairman: Mark Little, RC of Norwich St Edmund (D1080), England. mark@racstrag.org
 Vice Chairman: Mark Doyle, RC of Pretoria West (9400), South Africa. mpdoyle@mweb.co.za
 Vice Chairman: Stephen Sypula, RC of Stevenage Grange (D1260), England. stephen@racstrag.org
 Secretary: Harry Payne, RC of Burnham on Crouch (D1240), England. harry@racstrag.org
 Treasurer and Webmaster: Stephen Sypula, RC of Stevenage Grange (D1260), England. stephen@racstrag.org
 Board Member: Bob Christie, RC of Dalkeith (D1020), Scotland. bob@racstrag.org

Board Member: Dave McCleary, RC of Roswell (D6900), USA dmccleary@fms-inc.us
 Board Member: Dorothy Pulsford-Harris, RC of Swaffham (D1080), England. dorothy@racstrag.org.
 Board Member: Girish Mittal, RC of Mumbai Boravali East (D3140), India girish@racstrag.org
 Board Member: Judith Diment, RC of Windsor St George (D1090), England judith@thediments.co.uk

RACSRAG Coordinators

North America Dave McCleary (For contact details see above)
 Cokkie Eakie, RC of Roswell (D6900), USA cokkie@endhtnow.com
 Chuck Fitzgerald, RC of Peoria (D5490), USA chuckfitzgerald@gmail.com
 Caleb LaPlante, RC of Greater Grants Pass, (D5110) caleblaplante@gmail.com

Africa: Mark Doyle, RC of Pretoria West (D9400), South Africa. mpdoyle@mweb.co.za
 Oceania and parts of SE Asia: David Black, RC of Dunedin Central (D9980), New Zealand
dblack@mainlandpoultry.co.nz

India: Girish Mittal (For contact details see above)
 Italy: Laura Dryjanska, RC of Roma Centenario (D2080), Italy.
Laura.dry@windowlive.com

Philippines Ernesto Perez, RC Makati Central (D3830), Philippines evperezlaw@gmail.com

Australian States

Victoria Tony Stokes, RC of Box Hill (D9810) stokes9@optusnet.com.au
 Western Gillian Booth RC of Bay View Claremont (D9455) shreveportgb@hotmail.com
 NSW John Roberson, RC of Wagga Wagga, (D9700) johnroberson@bigpond.com
 Tasmania Chris Love, RC of Salamanca, (D9830) chrislove@internode.on.net
 South Teresa Evans, RC of Adelaide, EDGE, (D9500) teresa1407@hotmail.com

NB There is vacancy for a Coordinator to cover Queensland.

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

Annex

Bakhita House – Wish List

- a. Television Set – One set required from the three models listed
 1. Argos Samsung UE32H4500 32 INCH HD READY Freeview HD Smart TV - £220 or Samsung 40H6200 40 inch HD Freeview HD 3D Smart TV - £390
 2. John Lewis - LG 42LF580V LED HD 1080p SMART TV 42” with Freeview HD & Built in WiFi with Monster HDMI cable - £470
- b. DVD
 1. Argos – Toshiba SD3020 DVD Player with HD Upscaling - £35, or
 2. John Lewis – LG-BP350 –Smart-Blu Ray =DVD Player with-built in WiFi/P1981556 - £89
- c. TV and DVD Console
John Lewis – Techlink 1L160 Air TV stand for TVs up to 80” - £149
- d. Radios 13 in number from John Lewis
 1. Spectrum-Clock-DAB-FM-Digital radio/p1783476 - £39, or
 2. Spectrum – dab fm – digital radio/p1749662 - £35
- e. Hand Mixer
 1. John Lewis Kenwood – HM520 – hand-mixer-white/p1609102 - £20, or
 2. Argos – Kenwood Electric Hand Mixer – silver/343/5995 - £30
- f. Rice cooker/Steamer
 1. John Lewis – Russell Hobbs 19750 cook at Home Rice cooker and steamer - £20, or
 2. Argos – Chef O Matic Multifunction Cooker 3L 425/4041 - £50
- g. Induction Pan – John Lewis Pan Set 5 Pieces - £99
- h. Cushions John Lewis – 26 @ £15 each
- i. Throws John Lewis – Fun knitted Chevron Throw/p1422534 - £25 each.
- j. Garden table
 1. Habitat Zeno Oak Extending table - £450
- k. Table plus 6 reclining chairs from IKEA, outdoor, brown stained - £365
- l. Pay as you go Mobile - Argos-Lebara Alcatel One Touch Mobile - £35 each

Karen explains the needs for the above items

“The TV/DVD would enable us to have film nights in different cultures/languages so each guest can share with the other residents, something from their own country.

The kitchen implements are required because the guests share the cooking. In this way they learn the value of having friends from different countries, religions or, cultures.

The garden has been crucial initially in team building for the new staff. Now, we find that the resident guests love the outdoor space. So we make as much use of it as we possible can.

Articles in the bedrooms. Nearly all trafficked victims have experienced few nice or comforting things around them. A simple cushion or throw adds a little bit of luxury they have never enjoyed. To them, the world seems better place if their little bit of space has a homely touch.

Mobile phones are an ideal way for the guests to learn how to communicate. A phone also makes them feel safe as they venture out into the city”.