

2017 AGM Report - RIC 17 Atlanta



Overview: I am pleased to report that RAGAS continues to make good progress. It is now widely recognised as the Rotarian anti-slavery and anti-trafficking authority.

Following formation of the Action Group in 2013 Membership and funding has grown steadily. Most importantly, Rotarians and others are now aware of the plight of the enslaved and have taken action in support of programs and projects developed by Rotarians, their Clubs, and other anti-slavery organisations with which we have close association..

Our last AGM in Seoul was well supported by RAGAS Members. Nearly three hundred Rotarians crammed to our Breakout session. Many thousands became aware of our cause following the Keynote speech given by International Justice Mission (IJM) Founder and CEO Gary Haugen. We thank IRIP K.R. Ravindran (Ravi) for inviting Gary to speak and help open the minds of so many.

With support from RI President John Germ we have great hopes that RIC17 (Atlanta) generally, and our Candlelight Vigil in particular, will see tens of thousands get engaged. Our thanks to RAGAS Vice-Chair, Dave McCleary for driving the Vigil concept to fruition..

Since the last AGM, our Newsletter Editor, Mark Little, has produced a staggering eleven Newsletters. Well done Chairman Mark. In August we published a special edition called [Just One+](#), showing how to address slavery by supporting Rotary International's Areas of Focus

Operational matters: I am grateful to the RAGAS Board and Rotary International for supporting a modest name change which leaves no doubt that the Action Group embraces all forms of slavery and associated human trafficking, as well as children who, of course, hold a special place in our hearts.

The simple name change, however, prompted significant work to update our social media and website presence, their associated links and documents, and of course our Banking details. A modified logo was produced and promotions materials changed. This was achieved in short order, and at minimal cost.

Working with our web design consultant, Ben Atkinson of Tall Lime, we have enhanced our website www.rage.online to provide mini-website sites for each Regional / Country Coordinator. Hopefully we will see more 'local' content coming soon!

Encouraging support for projects: We continue to look for simple and effective ways for sponsors and donors to support RAGAS endorsed projects. Our tax-efficient Rotary Foundation (USA based) Donor Advised Fund is open for donations. We have enhanced our website to allow donors to contribute in \$US or \$AUD. Other currencies will be added, as required.

I look forward to meeting many of you in Atlanta at our Booth (2926), and at the Breakout and Business Sessions on 12th June.

Finance Matters: My Report on and Accounts for the Year ended 30th June 2016 are available on the [website](#). Updates to 31st March 2017 are provided in separate attachments.