

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)

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Volunteers still required to staff the RAG stand at the Lisbon Convention



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

"If we cannot give freedom to every creature, let us do nothing that will impose slavery upon any other creature" (Abraham Lincoln)



1st RAG Meeting.... at RI Convention

One of the benefits of being an approved Rotarian Action Group is the provision, by Rotary International, of a room at RI Conventions to hold a meeting of the Action Group...and there is **NO** charge !

This is a pleasant new experience because in previous Conventions we have not only had to fight for booth space in the House of

Friendship, but also had to pay for a meeting room for breakout sessions.

At the Lisbon Convention in June, we have Meeting Room 5 at the Feira Internacional de Lisboa (FIL) Exhibition Center reserved for our first meeting of the RAG. Please note that the meeting is scheduled for 26th June 2013 and will start at 8.00am and finish at 9.30am.

If you are going to the Convention, please do try and attend this meeting. You will be given the opportunity to suggest ways to improve our RAG's involvement, to listen to presentations on proposed anti-slavery projects and to take away project suggestions and ways to help in the fight against child slavery.

RAG booth in the House of Friendship

Please note that our RAG booth will be No 1321 in Pavilion 2 of the FIL Exhibition Center. The booth opening times will be as follows:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Exhibit Hours</u>
Sat 22 June	10.00 - 18.00
Sun 23 June	9.00 - 17.00
Mon 24 June	9.00 - 18.00
Tue 25 June	9.00 - 18.00
Wed 26 June	9.00 - 16.00

In a previous Newsletter I asked for volunteers to express an interest in "manning" the booth. To date I have the following members offering their support: Madhumita Bishnu, Dave Ellis, Peter Landers, Kevin Pitt, Susoli Satuyi and Mark Barnes. Have I missed anybody's name ? Any more volunteers ? At the moment we are merely trying to gauge the level of support. Later we will allocate a suggested time slot once we have further details of the programme and speakers.



Anti-trafficking law passed by Indian Parliament

On 21st March 2013, the Indian Parliament passed a landmark law against trafficking in the country.

The relevant legislation is the Criminal Law Amendment Act which prohibits trafficking for all forms of exploitation including physical exploitation, sexual exploitation and slavery. The Act also prescribes stringent penalties ranging from a

minimum of 7 years up to a maximum of life.

A spokesman for Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) stated that the Act was “*a huge leap forward for India in its effort against slavery, child abuse, child labour and all forms of violence against women and children. Now we must gear up towards the implementation of this stringent law.*”

Sadly the Indian Parliament is still delaying on another important piece of legislation, ie the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition) Act.

If you want to add your voice to those who are already urging action on this issue, please go to page 4 of this Newsletter.



“They were not registered and were living in terrible conditions. They had no official documents and were held against their will, they were not allowed to leave their work places without permission”

Zara probed over slave labour claims

High street fashion retailer Zara is under investigation over the alleged use of slave labour at factories in Argentina.

A report states that immigrant workers, including children, were discovered by the workers’ rights group, “La Alameda”, producing clothes for the label in “degrading” sweatshop conditions. The mostly Bolivian labourers claimed they were made to work more than 13 hours a day and were prevented from leaving the factories without

permission. Garments being sewn at one workshop in Buenos Aires were said to include items from the Zara Man fashion line sold in British stores.

Juan Gomez Centurion, Head of the country’s Health and Safety watchdog, which raided three factories allegedly producing Zara clothes said: “*We found men and children who lived in places where they worked. They were not registered and were living in terrible conditions. They had no*

official documents and were held against their will, they were not allowed to leave their workplaces without permission.”

A spokesman for La Alameda said people at the factory were made to start at 7.00am and to work without break until 11pm, six days a week.

Zara is part of Inditex, the Spanish company controlled by the billionaire Amancio Ortega.



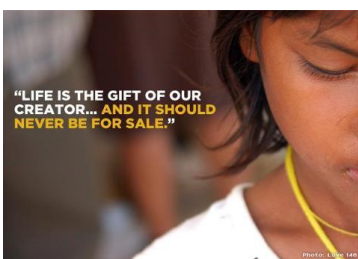
Google continues fight against human trafficking

Google’s non-profit arm has announced that three organizations would be receiving \$3 million in grants. All of these organizations are focused on setting up human trafficking helplines to help identify potential victims and provide them with support, no matter where they are in the world.

The three organizations — **Polaris Project**, **Liberty Asia** and **La Strada International** — are working together to form a “Global Human Trafficking Hotline

The hope for these organizations is that they can collect data from all local helpline services to be able

to view patterns and triangulate the hotspots in the world that are most egregious. Dating back to 2011, Google has invested \$14.5 million into anti-trafficking efforts.



Editorial

At a recent speaking visit to Mainz in Germany, I was asked “How can an individual Rotarian help in the fight against child slavery”?

Apart from signing up for our RAG, I have the following four suggestions: First, use your voice. The more we can increase the intelligence and decibel level of the global conversation on the subject, the more likely we are able to reach the ears and hearts of stakeholders and decision makers, ie lawmakers, politicians, judges, police, as well as the slave masters, traffickers and men on the street buying girls.

Second, encourage your club to participate in one of the

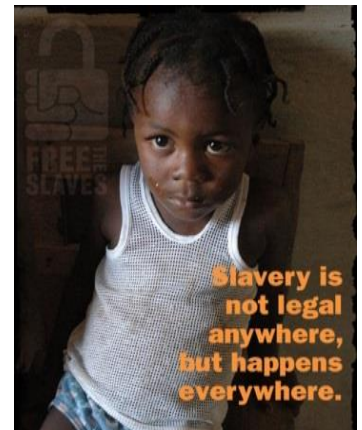
many anti-slavery project opportunities which are offered from time to time in this Newsletter. At the end of this edition I have provided the Wish List of three anti-slavery organizations, ie “Maiti Nepal” (see article below), “Asha Nepal” (see article in the last Newsletter) and “Challenging Heights” (see Newsletter 25). The lists of other organizations will be published soon.

Third, ask your District’s Newsletter Editor to include a regular link to this RAG’s website and latest Newsletter in the District Newsletter. This will help to further increase the “decibel level of the global conversation” and to persuade other Rotarians

to join this Action Group.

Finally use whatever skills you are blessed with. For example, if you have legal expertise and a passion for justice, organizations like the International Justice Mission can put those skills to use. If you are a member of the media or have access to a public platform, even something as basic as a blog, you can use that platform to raise awareness about the issue.

The needs are great, and the challenges often feel overwhelming. But no problem is without a solution. We can make a difference as an individual but we can be more effective collectively.



Human trafficking – Modern Day Slavery

(by Gillian Yudelman, RC of Bay View Claremont, District 9455, Australia)

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and according to statistics released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in February 2013, it is a trade that is on the increase. Women and girls now account for 75 per cent of trafficking victims and are more likely to be trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

In Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world, about 15,000 women and girls are lured every year to the infamous brothel “Cages” in Mumbai or to brothels across India and the Middle East.

Under extreme threats of abuse and torture, these girls are bonded into sexual slavery. Escape is near impossible, 80% of girls contract HIV-AIDS, and suffer physical abuse by traffickers and clients and often the most common way out of the brothel is suicide.

Identifying the need to combat these crimes against the most vulnerable in Nepali society, Anuradha Koirala established Maiti Nepal, an NGO, in 1993. A former English teacher and Minister for Women and Children in the Nepalese Government, Ms Koirala’s

work is multi-faceted.

Trafficked victims are rescued and repatriated to Nepal, where they are given food, shelter, clothing and medical care. Those with HIV-AIDS are treated in Maiti Nepal’s hospice. For the young women and girls whose physical health can be restored, Maiti Nepal provides vocational education and micro loans to help them to start small businesses. A school and orphanage have also been established for children of survivors, sexually exploited children and orphans.

In addition, Maiti Nepal



Human trafficking – Modern Day Slavery (Con'd)

“You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say that you did not know”

(William Wilberforce)



provides legal and psychological counselling, lobbies for tougher trafficking laws in Nepal and the rights of women and children.

The Rotary Club of Bay View Claremont has worked in partnership with Maiti Nepal for two years. Through our RAWCS (Rotary Australia World Community Service) project, we support an innovative, one-of-a-kind program, where rescued women are employed to check every vehicle that passes through the Nepalese/Indian border - who better to spot a trafficker? And how empowering to have a job that allows you to intercept girls and women before they are trafficked – on average 3 per day?

In our partnership with Maiti Nepal, we provide safe shelter, counselling

services and vocational training. We assist with public awareness campaigns, using street dramas, educational posters and brochures. We support the training of police personnel and help to prosecute the traffickers.

Our two matching grants of \$96,500 have provided essential humanitarian aid to Maiti Nepal. In addition to a year's supply of rice and lentils, we have provided solar panels, incinerator, a new surveillance system, computer systems, high volume laser printer, courier motorbike, medical supplies, clothing, baby formula and diapers.

As CNN Hero for 2010, Ms Koirala has given an international voice to the victims of trafficking, many of whom suffer in silence.

Supporting her work to rescue and rehabilitate these individuals offers us an opportunity to raise much needed funds and awareness about this heinous crime.

In 1791 William Wilberforce, the British anti-slavery campaigner said *“You may choose to look the other way but you can never say that you did not know”* – With this knowledge in mind, let's collaborate to help Ms Koirala to put an end to modern day slavery.

www.MothersHomeNepal.org.au
www.RotaryBayView.org.au

Editor's Note: *If you would like to help Maiti Nepal please see the Wish List on page 6 of this Newsletter and then contact Mark Little or Gillian Yudelman via email yudelman@westnet.com.au.*

Delays over Indian Child Labour Bill

As previously reported in this Newsletter, the Union Cabinet of India had taken a gigantic leap for Indian children when it approved the Child & Adolescent Labour Abolition Bill on 28th August 2012.

The Bill, if approved by Parliament, would put a blanket ban on employing anybody below 18 years

of age in a hazardous occupation. It would also become a cognizable offence, punishable with a maximum three years imprisonment for employing a child under the age of 14 years in any kind of occupation.

Sadly the Indian Parliament (as opposed to the Government) has

been delaying on this issue and failed to put it to the vote during its session last December.

Every day that this Bill is delayed, the children of India remain at risk of being bought and sold to work in unimaginable conditions of sex slavery, bonded labour and domestic servitude.

Every day this Bill is delayed, the children of India remain at risk of being bought and sold to work in unimaginable conditions of sex slavery



Delays over Indian Child Labour Bill (Cont'd)

Child Rights Groups in India and the rest of the world have called on the Indian Parliament to prioritize the Child and Adolescent Labour Abolition Bill, but they need our help to build massive public pressure that leaders in India cannot ignore. So click on the link below and tell the Indian Members of Parliament to pass the Child and Adolescent Labour Abolition Bill as currently presented.

www.walkfree.org/share/indiachildslaverypetition

Project involvement is the key to success

Today there are millions of child slaves waiting to be freed. The organizations which liberate the slaves know how to set slaves free and they know how to help slaves achieve rehabilitation and reintegration back into their own homes. What they struggle to do is to mobilize funds that will help extend their work further. This is where Rotarians can make a contribution.

On the next page, is a summary list of project opportunities for three anti-slavery organizations, two in Nepal and one in Ghana. Full details of each requirement is included in a spread sheet which is attached to the covering email. This includes the reason for the need and the cost in currencies other than the US dollar. Further project opportunities will be provided in future editions of this Newsletter.



Please consider helping these organizations which are few in number and small in size.

Wanted Active Members

Are you an active member, the kind who would be missed
Or are you just content to be on our supporters' list
Will you be involved with projects or work in selfless mode
Or do you intend to opt out...and let others bear the load
Will you take an active part to free each child from pain
Or are you one of those.... to whom we plead in vain
Think it over members, think just how you'd feel
To be a **paid up member** who turns that Rotary wheel.

Sign up [here](#). **Your commitment may be the one that turns the tide.**

Subscription levies:

Lifetime membership £80
Annual membership £20 (£5 for 2012/13)
Rotaractors membership £10 but £3 for 2012/13

How to pay

Pay by bank transfer or through RACSRAG's PayPal account. Full details can be found [here](#). If you wish to pay by card, hit the 'Pay Now' button on the [Sign up](#) page and add £3.40 to cover charges.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE FELLOW ROTARIANS TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.racsrags.org

Mark Little, RC of Norwich St Edmund
District 1080, England
22 April 2013

Today there are millions of child slaves waiting to be freed. If we can free them from polio we can free them from the clutches of the traffickers and slave masters.



Anti-slavery organizations' Wish Lists

\$US

Maiti Nepal www.maitinepal.org.au

a)	Kitchen utensils	4,590
b)	Clothing	14,916
c)	Musical Instruments	4,004
d)	Vocational training equipment	2,180
e)	Games	3,419
f)	Kitchen ware	3,224
g)	Flooring & furnishing	3,442
h)	Entertainment	9,638
i)	Education/School	14,457
j)	Office	11,091
k)	Water Treatment	2,294

Challenging Heights, Ghana www.challengingheights.org/

a)	Construction of classroom block	70,000
b)	25 + Seater bus	17,000
c)	School supplies	11,822
d)	Polytank and related materials(tap, hose etc)	1,028
e)	Text books (25 students, 9 subjects/textbooks each)	2,313
f)	Mini-laboratory/practical science equipment	1,028
g)	Desks	1,092
h)	Kitchen equipment	205
i)	Round tables for nursery classes	205

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Email: kaosei@ymail.com*

Asha Nepal www.asha-nepal.org/

a)	New curtains for all the rooms	250
b)	Bicycles	350
c)	Scooter	1,720
d)	Computer, projector, NEC 2600 or similar, etc	1,275
e)	Household Equipment	1,000
f)	Kitchen equipment	395
g)	Winter jackets and shawls	620
h)	Shoes and accessories	240
i)	Laptop/book computer	2,120
j)	Mini bus	37,815
k)	Summer blankets	690
l)	A Child Welfare Officer for 3 years	11,815
m)	Purchase of own property (incl fees and costs of Adaptations)	227,200

*Main Contact: Peter Bashford,
Founder.
Email address: peter@asha-nepal.org.*

Note: The above lists are in summary form only. Please contact Editor, Mark Little for further details which include itemised requirements, reasons for listings and estimated costs other than in US dollars.