

Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery

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Website www.racsrag.org

16 Oct 2015

Issue No 59



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"The mass movement against slavery will only work if every single supporter performs simple acts of preventative abolition"
(Ben Skinner – "A Crime so Monstrous")



UN authenticates IS slave price list

The United Nation's Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflicts, Zainab Bangura, has recently confirmed the authenticity of the Islamic State Price list which is being offered to their fighters to purchase sex slaves as young as one year of age for \$165.

According to Bangura *"girls get peddled like barrels of petrol. One girl can be sold and bought by five or six different men. Sometimes these fighters sell the girls back to their families for thousands of dollars of ransom"*

The price tariff is simple – the older they are the

cheaper they are. All prices are quoted in Iraqi Dinars but US dollar equivalent shows that radical fighters can get children aged 1 to 9 for about \$165, prices for adolescent girls are \$124 and it's less for women over 20. Women over 40 cost as little as \$41.

Slavery in the cotton fields of Uzbekistan

The world's 5th largest cotton producer, Uzbekistan is currently in the midst of a two-month long harvest which involves the use of forced labour. Children as young as seven years old, as well as teachers and doctors are being forced to work in the cotton fields during the annual sowing, weeding and harvest cycles, in order to fulfil government-set harvest quotas enforced on farmers and administrators. Anyone who tries to speak out is punished. Sadly international institutions like the World Bank continue to fund projects in the country which has been proved to use forced labour on a massive scale.

According to our partner anti-slavery organization "Walk Free" the World Bank has signed a contract agreeing to suspend loans if evidence of forced labour is uncovered. Walk Free is now asking for help to hold the World Bank to this promise. You can help by clicking on the link below and signing Walk Free's petition. Let's hit the Uzbek Government where it hurts – its pocket.

[Tell the World Bank to suspend loans to the Uzbek government until it stops using forced labour.](#)



Indian teenager meets Bill Gates

Anayara Khatum is an Indian teenager who last month sat alongside Bill and Melinda Gates at a press briefing in New York City and called for an end to child trafficking. The briefing was a prelude to the launch of global targets at improving the lives of women and children under an initiative started 5 years ago by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon which involves the participation of 300 private and government partners.

[Anoyara Khatun](#), from West Bengal, had been forced to do domestic work for another family after her father died when she was five. *"I want to advocate for children's rights. The major problem is trafficking in the name of labour and marriage,"* said the 18-year-old. *"I myself have been trafficked and I know how painful it is."*

Editorial

The thought of selling human beings as slaves is abhorrent to most people, and selling someone as a sex slave is unspeakably terrible, but the Islamic State, in its twisted ideology, thinks nothing of doing exactly that.

But please don't think that the **list circulated by ISIS** is for the pleasure of their own fighters. It's not. Other bidders are invited to the sale. Whilst the "prices" listed are confirmed as accurate, the actual cost of an individual slave is often a lot more. The militia's leaders first take those they wish, after which rich outsiders from the region are permitted to bid thousands of dollars. Those remaining are then offered to the group's fighters for the listed prices. It seems that open slave auctions are once again an accepted part of life in those areas controlled by ISIS.

In the last Newsletter we reported on Amnesty International's decision to press for decriminalization

of the sex trade, which has already happened in countries like Holland and Germany. In Germany, a law was passed in 2001 which mandated that sex workers be treated like workers in any other industry, which allows them to sue for better wages and have full access to health insurance, pensions and other benefits.

Advocates for decriminalization say that not everyone who works in the sex trade is a victim and that arrests, even if they're done with the intention of providing social services, are inherently harmful. This is because arrest records can affect sex workers' ability to find work or housing, and that being hauled away in handcuffs just reinforces the stigma around sex work.

Amnesty's viewpoint has been strongly opposed by many anti-slavery bodies which point out that the majority of women who work in the sex trade are

coerced in some way and that sex trafficking is rampant in countries like Germany. Indeed the German magazine *Der Spiegel* recently described the well intentioned law in their country, a *"troubling subsidy programme for pimps"*

But what are members' views on Amnesty's recent decision? Readers of this Newsletter are once again invited to share their thoughts for inclusion in a future publication of the Newsletter.

In the meantime one of the members of the Action Group has alerted me as to how Cook County in Illinois, US is tackling the scourge of sex trafficking in that State

In the USA, in order to counteract the burgeoning growth of sex trafficking, there is an increasing acceptance of a strategy whose objectives are to target the men who buy sex whilst trying to help the women who sell it.



"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

(Dr Martin Luther King)



Editorial (continued)

Many advocates of this policy reason that focusing law enforcement attention on sex buyers reduces demand for prostitution which strangles the sex industry and curbs human trafficking.

It would appear that Illinois's Cook County Sheriff's Office has been the driving force in a national push to make it harder for pimps to sell sex and johns to buy it. Until recently, most jurisdictions in the U.S. had focused their energy on arresting prostituted women. According to records from the Department of Justice more than 43,000 women were arrested for prostitution-related offences in 2010, compared to just over 19,000 men (this number includes johns, pimps, and male sex workers).

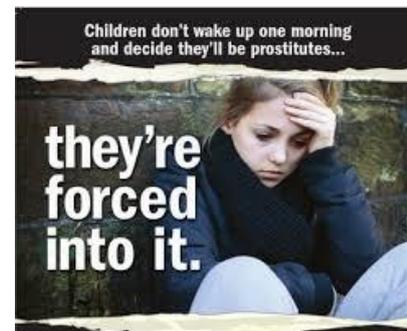
But since 2011, Sheriff Dart's office has organized the "National Day of Johns Arrests," now re-named "National Johns Suppression Initiative". This involves a series of stings which are coordinated with other jurisdictions over the course of several weeks and aimed at encouraging a permanent change in police practices.

Dart's office now arrests just as many johns per year as sex workers, and with a radically different agenda— while clients are hit with a ticket and fine that can reach \$1,300, sex workers are arrested and then offered counselling and job training through the Sheriff's Women's Justice Programme, which is run by sex trafficking survivors. 60% of the money collected from johns' fines goes to support the Women's Justice Programme, the other 40% goes to juvenile justice programs. Cook County operates johns stings year-round, but the national initiative happens a few times a year.

Dart's team isn't the first to target guys who buy sex. Sweden criminalized pimps and buyers (but not individual sex workers) in 1999, in a policy now known as the "Nordic Model." Government reports say this policy has led to a reduction in street prostitution and trafficking of young and vulnerable girls from poor countries. Under the Nordic Model, which has also been adopted in Norway, Iceland and Canada, sex workers themselves don't face arrest, only their clients do.

Versions of this approach are slowly spreading across the U.S., but most jurisdictions continue to arrest prostitutes even as they turn their focus to sex buyers. New York established a special court system in 2013 to process sex workers and trafficking victims, with the goal of offering them counselling and social services. In the same year Nassau County, NY caught more than 100 johns and posted their pictures online in a controversial sting called "Operation Flush the Johns". Orange County, California is cracking down on pimps and johns instead of prostitutes, reducing arrests of women as they increase arrests of men. Seattle has seen some early success in its "Buyer Beware" programme and in 2014, Seattle police arrested more sex buyers than prostitutes for the first time.

It would be interesting to hear how other areas/regions are combating the modern scourge which is human trafficking. According to a 2014 report from the UN-backed International Labour Organization, 4.5 million people are trafficked globally for sex, generating \$99 billion a year in revenue from forced sexual exploitation.



Update on Punarnawa Ashram

by Kathryn Metzker



“One of the cows in the cow shed at Punarnawa Ashram. The cows provide the milk for the Ashram and the dung which provides the energy for the kitchen via the bio-gas system..”

In 2011, as an environmental science undergraduate student at the University of Miami, I visited Punarnawa Ashram, a slavery-survivor rehabilitation center for girls in Bihar, India. In addition to receiving medical care and an education, many of the girls worked at its small farm, providing food for the center and at the same time learnt vocational skills to help them later in life.

There I met a young woman named Jaya (name changed for privacy). Thanks to her education at Punarnawa Ashram, today she is a self-sufficient entrepreneur. Among other efforts, Jaya buys unprocessed rice from local farmers, processes it at night, and resells it for a higher price. She invests her profits in better seeds and fertilizer for higher quality crops and improved yield. Through her work, she has raised the circumstances of herself, her family, and her tiny village in India.

In addition to the farm at Punarnawa, the girls were caring for cows that provided milk for the Ashram and dung for their biogas system which produced methane gas for cooking. Rotarians from Pennsylvania had previously funded the cows, the cow shed and the bio-gas system that provided a valuable sustainable part of the center.

This August I went back to Punarnawa Ashram to conduct my Master’s thesis research. Visiting the Ashram the first time inspired me to research rehabilitation and empowerment methods at survivor recovery homes.

Since I was last at Punarnawa Ashram, evidence of Rotary’s involvement was clear again. Solar street lamps were put up around the perimeter wall, the wall was raised higher for safety, solar water heaters were installed on the roofs of the dormitories, a water filter was put in the kitchen, and a pavilion was built in the center of the campus.

The cyclone and following earthquakes in April of this year caused significant damage to the solar lamps and the wall, but the lamps were first to be fixed and whilst I was at Punarnawa this past month, work started on the sections of wall that had collapsed. The biogas system is still going strong, though the solar water heaters have not been working for approximately the last year, according to the resident care-mother. The girls are using the water filter in the kitchen for drinking and cooking, so residents have stopped getting sick from drinking the well water. Lastly, the pavilion is beautiful and has become the main place for ashram residents to spend time. There they draw, chat, have snack time, do morning exercise, hang clothes to dry, and play.

***Editor’s note:** Kathryn Metzker is a graduate student at the University of Hawaii, a former Rotaract member, and daughter of RACSRAG charter member Carol Metzker. While visiting Punarnawa Ashram this summer, she checked on projects accomplished by Rotary over the past five years.*



Some of the girls enjoying the pavilion with their teacher.



The baby of one of the survivors at the Ashram.



Update on Kalimpong Project

by Robin Hamilton, RC of Dunbar, District 1020, Scotland

As a reminder this is an integrated project in West Bengal, funded by a Global Grant, which will provide vocational training for those vulnerable in the local community and shelter for those women and girls who are rescued from trafficking.

We had hoped that Phase 1 ie the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) would currently be in operation but in India, projects do tend to take a lot longer than in UK. Recent delays have arisen as a result of the impact of the Nepal earthquakes on NE India. Not as severe as in Nepal but there have been considerable mud slides in the region including in the Kalimpong area. Also there have been contractual delays on the building work.

Outstanding works on the VTC are as follows ;

Completion of the toilet - some electrical wiring and minor work to floors & windows and whitewash. Once this is completed, the admin and training equipment will be purchased followed by ensuring that the VTC is up and running

On the training front the following has already taken place

1. A programme of meetings with many churches in the Diocese to spread the word on the VTC
2. Meetings with NGOs, cultural organisations, inter- denomination churches and institutions to make them aware of the VTC facilities
3. National and State government have allocated staff to the project and are keen to help and are suggesting courses for the VTC
4. One Government group wish to start dairy farming and banana cultivation courses ASAP
5. Also the Scottish Universities Mission in Kalimpong has already vermin-composting, internal electrical wiring and garment making courses with government certificates

The District Governor of District 3240, Chandhu Agarwal visited the VTC in September. He was thrilled with the project and requested that the official opening should be held in February 2016 when the Districts PETS is scheduled to be in Kalimpong and all the Presidents Elect will be present.

Once the VTC (phase 1) is functioning, it is intended to raise funds for the Shelter Home (phase 2) which will be built above the VTC. Some funds already have been raised by Rotary Clubs and individuals

A group of Rotarians and partners from Dunbar Rotary will visit Kalimpong next September.

Editor's Note: For further information about this Global Grant project, please see page 7 of Newsletter No 55. Phase 1 was approved in August 2014 at a total cost of US \$69,000. Phase 2 is likely to cost \$92,000.

What you can do to help in the fight against slavery

- **Join with others who have the same aim:** A good start would be to enrol in the RAG against Child Slavery. You will learn about the issues of modern slavery and how to help contribute towards its extinction. Encourage others to join the Group. Alternatively join one of the other anti-slavery organizations in your area.
- **Persuade your club to participate in an anti-slavery project:** Projects opportunities can be found either on the Group's website (www.racsrag.org) or in its regular Newsletter.
- **Give a personal donation:** This is an option if your club shows no interest in project participation. The donation can be made to help fund one of the Action Group projects or to generally support the work of an anti-slavery organization or the RAG against Child Slavery..
- **Visit a rehabilitation centre either locally or abroad:** You will learn why slavery exists in a particular district, how children become enslaved and what is required to effect a successful rehabilitation. Then share your experiences, knowledge and subsequent actions with others.
- **Raise awareness in others:** Tell club members, friends or business colleague about the existence of modern slavery, the use of children as slaves and the numbers involved.
- **Obtain support at District Level:** Promote the work of the Action Group and anti-slavery organizations within the District through the District International Committee or your club's International Committee. Encourage your District Governor or District Executive to include the topic at a future District Conference or Council or Assembly.
- **Give or organize presentations:** This could be to your Rotary Club, other clubs or District Assembly/Conference. If you are not able to do it yourself find someone who can.
- **Visit local schools:** Inform them about modern day slavery and offer to provide a presentation on the subject either to individual classes or to the school's assembly.
- **Write to your local political representative(s):** Ask him/her/them to prioritise ending all forms of slavery and human trafficking..
- **Contact your fund managers:** This could include your mutual, savings and retirement fund. Ask how is the investment of your money screened to exclude any profits from slavery.
- **Contact your local administrative authority:** Find out if they have a website which raises awareness of human trafficking and slavery. If not, encourage the authority to establish a website which includes information similar to the information included from time to time in this Newsletter, eg how to spot victims, information on the mindset of victims, information on help lines, etc.
- **Write to local retailers:** Ask them about their current purchasing policies, eg do they check their supply chains to ensure that they are not receiving slave produced goods.
- **Check companies annual reports and website.** This is relevant for companies operating in the UK having annual worldwide gross receipts exceeding £60m. These companies have to disclose their efforts publically to eradicate modern slavery from their supply chains.
- **Try to purchase only fair trade goods:** This is the best way to ensure that you are not contributing to the funds of the slavers. Fair traded goods empower vulnerable people, advance social justice, guarantee a fair wage and safe working conditions and ensures no child or sweatshop labour was used to make the item.
- **Widen your knowledge about child slavery:** There are some excellent books, films, DVDs and anti-slavery websites that do spell out the full extent and horrors of modern slavery. If you cannot find any, ask your RACSRAAG officers and Coordinators.

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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