

Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery

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Website www.racsrag.org

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Kailash Satyarthi



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

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

(Dr Martin Luther King)



RI President signs MOU with Nobel Laureate

A recent tweet from RI President "Ravi" Ravindran has informed us that he has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi to combat, inter alia, the global evil which is child slavery.

As soon as the details of the Understanding are known,

they will be published in this Newsletter. rights of more than 83,000 children from 144 countries.

Kailash Satyarthi is an Indian children's rights and education advocate and an activist against child labour. It is largely because of Satyarthi's work and activism that the [International Labour Organization](#) adopted [Convention No. 182](#) on the worst forms of child labour, which is now a principal guideline for governments around the world.

In 1980 he founded [Bachpan Bachao Andolan](#) (*Save the Childhood Movement*) and has acted to protect the world.

RACSRAG's new Donor Advised Fund

Thanks to the generosity of Rotarians in Luton, England, Action Group Treasurer, Stephen Sypula, has, with the guidance of Rotary Foundation officers, initiated the launch of a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) to help with the funding of future anti-slavery projects.

The DAF is a group of dedicated charitable giving accounts within The Rotary Foundation. It allows donors to make US tax deductible contributions to TRF, and then later to recommend how and when grants are to be made from the account to charities recognized by the US Inland Revenue Service. Account assets are invested at the recommendation of the account holders in one or more of four investment portfolios. On page 3 Stephen provides an outline of how the DAF will be operated by the Action Group.

Carol Metzker's TEDx talk

RACSRAG member, Carol Hart Metzker is from West Chester, Pennsylvania and is the author of "Facing the Monster – How One Person Can Fight Child Slavery" Please watch and share her TEDx video which talks about some of the survivors her projects have helped: www.youtube.com/watch?v=99dLPSGer7I

Carol is a member of the One World Rotary e-Club and will be speaking at the RACSRAG Breakout Session on Monday 30th May (see next page)



RACSRAG in Seoul, S Korea

RACSRAG Booth - No 3132

The House of Friendship (HoF) is open each day from 9.00hrs to 18.00hrs, except on Wednesday when the HoF closes down at 16.00hrs. We are looking for volunteers to man our booth but especially during the following times:-

Sun 29 May -14.00hrs – 15.00hrs – Breakout Leaders Meeting
 Mon 30 May – 11.00hrs – 13.00hrs – Breakout Session
 Wed 1 June - 12.00hrs – 14.30 hrs – Annual Meeting of RACSRAG

Please let either Stephen Sypula or Mark Little know if you can help.

Breakout Session – Monday 30th May

This event will be held between 13.00hrs and 14.30hrs in Room 304 in Kintex 2. The presenters will be Mark Little (Chair of RACSRAG), Carol Metzker (Author of “Facing the Monster – How one person can fight child slavery) and Gillian Booth (RACSRAG Coordinator for Western Australia).

Delegates attending will learn about the extent of child exploitation, its root causes, how human trafficking and modern slavery affects us all, how to recognize the signs of trafficking within our communities, how each of us has to become part of the solution to end trafficking, how Rotarians are already taking action and how we can work together with other anti-slavery organizations to protect children from slavery and its consequences. At least one third of the session will be devoted to Questions and Answers.

Editorial

I am really looking forward to hearing Gary Haugen’s presentation on Monday morning 30 May at the RI Convention in Seoul. His presentation is entitled “Until all are free: How to end slavery in our lifetime”.

The aim of ending slavery is not helped by the fact that most of us unknowingly support slavery.

Our purchases feed the black market of human trafficking. We buy a wide range of goods, from chocolate bars to cars, that include ingredients or components from the hands of slave labour and we do it in the proud name of frugality.

We are continually

seeking a cheap deal, and we boast about it when we find one. Frugality is a virtue, especially in a world of rampant consumerism, but sometimes we bargain for in a transaction. Very often we do not want to know why we are able to get such a bargain.

The problem is, slavery in all its forms, thrives on our bargain shopping. It is the cheap labour provided by slaves that make it possible for us to purchase many everyday goods at low prices.

Today we Rotarians have a choice on this issue. We can either despair that exploitation is an age-old

problem, that human nature never changes, that in any case slavery is a problem for government – and then do nothing. Or we can remember the tenets of the 4-Way Test, Part 2 of the Object of Rotary and Rotary’s Code of Policies in relation to the rights of the individual – and then do our utmost to end this evil practice.

We can do this because we are consumers and as such have considerable power to end slavery in all its forms. But to achieve this aim we need to understand the prime motive of the slaver.

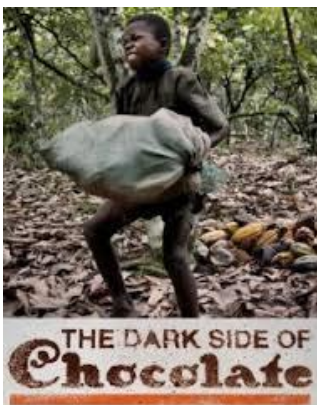
The main aim of the traffickers and the slave masters is to make a profit in whatever ventures they



Past RI President Frank Devlin (seen here at the Sydney booth) has consistently provided moral support to RACSRAG

“Whatever you may do may be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it”

(Gandhi)



Editorial (continued)

are involved in. To achieve this aim, they will use any means whatsoever to protect their lucrative businesses. However, they will walk away if the venture stops making money. So putting pressure on these profits is a key strategy in the fight to eliminate slavery and human trafficking.

We can do this individually, but our efforts will be more effective if we act together as a Rotary Club or District or as a member of RACSRAG. In the Annex to this Newsletter are a few suggestions as to how we can use our consumer power to advantage.

Over 200 years ago in England, Thomas Clarkson helped to organize a 300,000 strong boycott of slave-harvested sugar in the first known example of consumer protest. The protest was so successful that retailers previously selling sugar tainted by slavery, were quickly sourcing alternative supplies. The initiative provided an immense fillip for the abolition movement which culminated in the UK Parliament passing the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 and in the eventual collapse of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade. If one man can generate such a successful action against a slave produced commodity, just think what a committed group of Rotarians could achieve. The consumers of Clarkson's time knew their power and they used it to great effect.....so why can't we ?

In the last edition of this Newsletter we included a brief news items about the rescue of over 500 adults and children from forced labour in a substantial brick factory in India. The rescue was undertaken by staff of the International Justice Mission (IJM) and the police. On page 4 is a more detailed account of the event written by Abigail Jarvis, an officer of IJM.

RACSRAG's End Slavery Now Donor Advised Fund

by Stephen Sypula, Treasurer and Vice Chair RACSRAG

Job done ! Our grateful thanks go out to RACSRAG member Leslie Robertson and his Club, ie the RC of Luton North D1260, England, which has arranged a donation of \$10,000 USD to enable RACSRAG to launch this Donor Advised Fund (DAF). Thanks also to The Rotary Foundation's Planned Giving team for steering us through the set-up process.

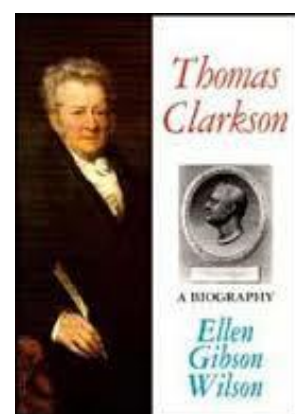
The DAF will be applied and used to pump prime, or support relevant anti-slavery Global Grant projects sponsored by Clubs and Districts and other RACSRAG endorsed projects.

The DAF is a fund within The Rotary Foundation (TRF). A panel of up to four RACSRAG Directors will act as account advisors and will make grant recommendations to US based charities in good standing with the US Internal Revenue Service (ISR). If the DAF grant is applied to a TRF approved Global Grant project, the Trustees will add 50% from the World Fund.

Whilst individuals and "corporate" entities from around the globe may donate to the End Slavery Now DAF, with a minimum of \$1,000 USD to help build a sustaining project base, the DAF will be particularly attractive to US domiciled donors as they can obtain a US charitable receipt for tax purposes.

In summary: We now look to grow this US tax efficient Donor Advised Fund account to support RACSRAG endorsed projects contributing to ending slavery and human trafficking. Funds applied to TRF approved Global Grant projects will be increased by 50% thanks to a match by The Rotary Foundation.

For further details please contact our Treasurer, Stephen Sypula (stephen@racsrags.org) or view our [Donations](#) webpage



IJM Rescues 560 Brick Kiln Slaves

by Abigail Jarvis, Public Affairs Executive, IJM



“Debt bondage is illegal, but the illiterate workers don’t know this, and the bosses are keen to play on their sense of obligation, not alert them to the scam that’s sucking them under”

(Kevin Bales – “Blood & Earth”)



In 2011 IJM rescued more than 500 people from a brick kiln, but the kiln owner evaded prosecution. Last month, Indian police and IJM staff rescued 564 people from bonded labour slavery at this same massive kiln. Now 6 members of an organized trafficking network, including the owner, are in police custody.

In response to a frantic call from an escaped labourer, a team of police, government officials and IJM staff entered the brick kiln to find hundreds of families toiling under the hot sun. Many couldn’t believe that the rescue was real; when a government officer asked “Who wants to go free?” he was met with a stunned silence. Slowly, one man, then another, then dozens raised tired hands into the air.

As police gathered evidence and arrested the owners, the families packed their few belongings and were taken to safety. 373* individuals received release certificates, dissolving the false debts holding the families in bonded labour slavery

The families painted a vivid picture: The labourers’ day began at 3:00 every morning and was filled with verbal and physical abuse. They were watched at all times, and if injured visited the “doctor” for pain pills before being forced back to work. Pregnant women were forced to work without slowing down. Living in tiny tin-roofed rooms or tents, families received a weekly allowance of 400 rupees (less than £5). Many went without eating for days at a time

Nearly 200 children lived inside the kiln, almost half under 5 years old. While some attended school, most over age 12 joined the labour.

Many families have now returned to their home villages. IJM will collaborate with the local government to help them resettle and access rehabilitation resources, including a Beneficiary Card granting access to medical care and tool kits, free housing and ration cards for food and other necessities. The Odisha local government has provided survivors with opportunities to be part of a livelihood support programme which guarantees 100 days of employment.

For the next two years, IJM staff will meet with families regularly to provide training on basic skills and to ensure children can return to school as well as monthly support meetings in each community

IJM will support local police in building the legal case to charge the owner under the Bonded Labour Act and newer provisions of the Indian penal code introduced in 2013. This new law has helped bring stronger cases against traffickers and business owners using bonded labourers, and better protects the vulnerable poor from this kind of violence.

This operation highlights a critical need in the fight against modern-day slavery. If criminals remain free, the violence will continue. But if laws are enforced and traffickers go to jail, we can end slavery for good. Help us bring rescue to others in slavery today: www.ijmuk.org/give

IJM has partner offices in the following countries which support the field work: USA (HQ www.ijm.org, UK www.ijmuk.org, Canada www.ijm.ca, Netherlands www.ijmnl.org, Australia www.ijm.org.au, Germany ijm-deutschland.de



Generational Freedom Campaign

On 29th March, a group of anti-trafficking experts in the USA launched the “General Freedom” campaign whose main aim is to persuade all the 2016 Presidential Candidates to commit more funds to fighting human trafficking and slavery.

Whilst human trafficking and slavery generates global profits of around \$150 billion per annum, the US Government spends only \$150 million per annum on tackling the issue. So traffickers make 1,000 times more in profits from their activities compared with what is spent trying to contain them each year.

The campaigners are specifically asking each Presidential Candidate to commit at least \$3 billion “in annual anti-trafficking funding for both a scaled response across the United States and around the world.” This figure is still less than the \$30 billion per annum spent by the US Government tackling the drugs trade.

If you wish to add your voice to the pleas of anti-slavery activists for greater expenditure on fighting this obnoxious crime against humanity, please click on the link below.

[Join us and Generation Freedom in calling on the 2016 Presidential candidates to make ending human trafficking and slavery a priority for their campaign.](#)

Mauritania signs Forced Labour Convention

Mauritania has ratified the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, reinforcing thereby the global movement against forced labour in all its forms, including human trafficking. Mauritania follows Niger, Norway and the United Kingdom, as one of the first states to formally commit to implement the Protocol. The Protocol, adopted in 2014 by an overwhelming majority by the International Labour Conference, supplements Convention (No. 29) 1930, requiring States to take effective measures for prevention, protection of victims and ensuring their access to justice and compensation.

Editor's Note: *Mauritania has the highest percentage of the population in modern slavery than any other country in the world.*

Letter of Invitation from Rtn Jean Louis Nguyen Qui

Dear Friends

Come and join the **ROTARY E-CLUB 9920 FRANCOPHONE on ZOOM.US/568 425 868**, as it will be hosting **Professor Marleina Broadhurst, criminal psychologist, as Guest Speaker, on Tuesday May 17th at 8pm, France time**, talking on: **ACTION AGAINST CHILD SLAVERY**
Register with me by email or on private Facebook message.

Jean Louis Nguyen Qui
President of the Rotary E-Club 9920 Francophone
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Editor's Note: *Marleina Broadhurst is an Australian currently working in Egypt as a Criminal and Clinical Psychologist and is a member of the RC of Heliopolis El Sherouk in District 2451. Marleina was voted onto the RACSRAG Board for 2016/17.*

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NB There are vacancies for Coordinators to cover Queensland and Tasmania

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

Putting pressure on slaver's profits

Below are a few suggestions as to how we can use our consumer power to advantage:-

- a) Only buy commodities which you know have not been made by slave labour. For most products it is very difficult to tell whether or not slavery has been involved somewhere along the production process. However for certain goods, their origins are comparatively easy to trace. This would apply to certain types of cigarettes (beedies), jewellery, fireworks, carpets and rugs. Here we can take direct action. For example, when buying a carpet or a rug, we need to look out for the GoodWeave International (formerly known as Rugmark) label. GoodWeave International is an international charity which inspects and licenses carpet looms in India, Nepal and Afghanistan. GoodWeave International is also responsible for licensing throughout Europe and North America. When carpet makers apply for a GoodWeave licence, they promise not to employ children under 14 years, undertake to pay adult weavers a minimum wage and promise to allow inspection at any time. Companies that import GoodWeave carpets in Europe and America, pay at least 1% of the wholesale price of the carpet to GoodWeave. This money pays for the inspection process, schools and rehabilitation programmes for children who have been freed from slavery in the carpet industry.
- b) When shopping first always consider purchasing fair trade certified goods. This is the best way to ensure that we are not contributing to the funds of slavers. Consumer pressure for more fairly traded goods means that their availability is increasing each year. For example in the UK, the Fairtrade Foundation has licensed over 4,500 fair trade certified products for sale through retail and catering outlets in the UK. Fair traded goods empower vulnerable people, advance social justice, guarantee a fair wage and safe working conditions to producers and ensures no child or sweatshop labour was used to make the items. Fair trade sales catalogues will usually give us information about the source of the goods offered, eg Traidcraft catalogues.
- c) Rotary Clubs could adopt the practice of writing to retailers to ask them for a copy of their purchasing policy. This should, for example, indicate whether or not a company conducts social or ethical audits of their suppliers to highlight cases of unethical practices. The simple act of writing a letter of enquiry is a signal to the retailer that local Rotarian members do care about the source of their products.

NB In the UK, commercial organizations with a turnover in excess of £36 million are required to prepare a statement in their annual report and on their website which outlines the steps the company has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains or in any part of its business.

- d) As an indication of your club's support for anti-slavery measures, ask your venue's proprietors to serve only fair trade food and drink. Such a request could be the catalyst for an overall change of purchasing policy by your venue's owners.
- e) Consider investing monies in funding organizations like "Shared Interest" which specializes in helping to finance fair trade cooperatives in the developing world. This financial help is particularly important because it ensures that family based

cooperatives are kept at arms length from unscrupulous slavers disguised as benevolent benefactors.

- f) In the last few years RACSRAG Newsletters have highlighted the details of those companies which produce or have links with or directly benefit from slave produced goods. If encouraged by the Newsletter, write to these companies or sign a petition directed at these companies urging them to cease their activities or to change their suppliers.