



Educate to Eradicate...

Eradicating Human Trafficking Committee: Short summary of our first year

In January 2021, a powerful presentation about the devastating effects of human trafficking left an indelible mark on a group of Rotarians from Guelph South. LUISA KRAUS, founder of Elora House, had really impacted them with her presentation about how insidious modern-day slavery and human trafficking has become in society and especially in our own communities. This group decided to do something about it and the committee to Educate to Eradicate Human Trafficking was formed.

First they reached out to numerous groups and individuals such as Women in Crisis, Victims Services and Crime Stoppers to learn more about this crisis and soon they were ready to help educate others about this dreadful scourge on humanity.

The next step was an online speaker series. Bob Burnside of Cry Not, Karly Church, a survivor and crisis intervention professional were among 8 fantastic speakers.

The goal of reaching out and educating others was an important step in this process and our speakers touched a large number of people with personal stories and horrifying statistics of what is actually happening out there to vulnerable members of our society.

A follow up survey revealed how eye opening the speaker series had really been. Only a minority of the people in attendance realized that human trafficking was happening in their own communities! If any of the people that attended are motivated to reach out to vulnerable people or change some of their own behaviours, then a change is starting.

Throughout the year, members from other Rotary Clubs joined our cause and together we created a successful online fundraiser for Elora House, a safe home and support for victims exploited by sexual abuse.

So, our first chapter was a success. Our continuing mandate includes creating in-person events within our community to spotlight human trafficking, featuring, a flag-raising ceremony possibly to coincide with WORLD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DAY on July 30th and an intense and informative film festival slated for this fall.

Further resources are available online. Our committee members are happy to help with movie or book suggestions such as "Where Were You?" by Matt Friedman and/or any inquiries about joining this committee and general interest queries.

(Submitted by Shelley Adlington
on behalf of the Eradicating Human Trafficking Committee
Rotary Club of Guelph South)

