

## ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

# RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

This Rotary Action Group is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.



## MESSAGE FROM THE RAGAS CHAIR

Dave McCleary, RAGAS Chair

What a great time Rotary 26 & 27 Zone Institute Conference in Arizona. So proud of the team in Zone 26 & 27, PDG, RAGAS Board member, Cozette Vergari, RAGAS Board Member & President, Sally Goun, PGD & RAGAS Coordinator, Bob Deering, PP, Davis Oats and President eclub, Virginia McKenzie you all are amazing. Congratulation to Cozette for winning an award for work on human trafficking, Well Done!

Thank you PP RI, Mark Maloney for your support and telling the story on how we were able to help facilitate his sister to joining Rotary because her passion for ending human trafficking., she is now a member of Rotary District 5950 Human Trafficking club. Great seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

There was also an opportunity to visit with RI President Shekhar and share the efforts the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) is doing around the world including emphasizing empowering girls through Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE). I was also able to share how RAGAS has grown and expanded our global impact even during COVID.

This was a great opportunity to share our vision with great Rotary leadership by changing the world one community at a time. So thankful to be part of an amazing organization like Rotary and sincerely honored and humbled to serve as Chair of RAGAS. Together, we are truly making a difference in the lives of others!



# JONES DAY®

## GLOBAL COMPENDIUM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS

Annamarie Daley, Jones Day of Counsel  
Dave McCleary, RAGAS Chair

RAGAS is excited to partner with Jones Day on a Global Compendium of human trafficking laws.

The Global Compendium—Human Trafficking Laws project seeks to create a global compendium that would make available the first single standardized summaries of human trafficking and modern slavery laws of each country and all U.S. states and territories.

The intended users of this Compendium include governments, legislators, NGOs, companies, victims, victim advocates, academics, attorneys, and others. The information in the Compendium not only summarizes laws and identifies resources but also provides that information in a standardized format.

This standardization should facilitate use of compendium information and permit users to easily compare the laws of different countries on the same topic. For example, a country's human trafficking laws on supply chain reporting are in Section 4 for each country chapter. Some country chapters also contain custom sections addressing specific additional information.



The law firm of Jones Day partnered with the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery and various corporations to produce this Compendium.

The initial installment of the compendium contains about 90 separate pdfs of the human trafficking laws in various countries/states/territories. To summarize each country's human trafficking laws is a substantial undertaking especially as laws change from time to time. Rather than delay availability of this information, it was decided to release portions of the Compendium in installments. In the future, additional country chapters will be added and existing chapters updated.

Contributors to the project include:

AbbVie Inc.  
Accenture plc  
BNP Paribas S.A.  
Chevron Corporation  
Cushman & Wakefield plc  
Goldman Sachs  
Jones Day  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
PayPal  
Wells Fargo & Company







## CALLING ALL ANTI-SLAVERY SUPERHEROES!

Amelia Stansell, RAGAS Coordinator

The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) is excited to host a Zoom call to action for all Rotary SUPERHEROES to learn more about how to stop human trafficking and modern slavery in their community. Featuring special guest, RAGAS Board Member and founder/CEO of Mekong Club, Matt Friedman. Matt is an international renowned global expert on modern-slavery with over thirty-five years of experience in the field. He will share ways you can engage your community in the fight against human trafficking/modern-slavery in the world and share his new book "Where Were You?".

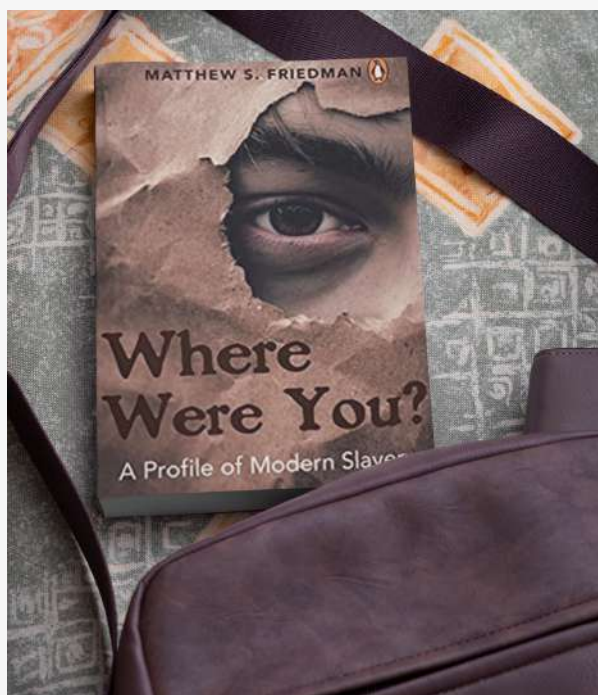
RAGAS Coordinator, Amelia Stansell, will share the RAGAS Community Action & Prevention Education (CAPE) strategic action plan. She will share our newly developed toolbox that where you may begin addressing CAPE in your District, Clubs and your Communities. RAGAS is offering ten (10) grants to help Districts and Clubs execute local community awareness & prevention education projects through a competitive request for proposal which will be introduced during the call. The deadline to submit a project proposal is 28 February 2022.

Agenda - RAGAS Community Awareness & Prevention Education

1. 9:00 am - Welcome/Update on RAGAS, Chair Dave McCleary
2. Introduction, Matt Friedman
3. Matt Friedman
4. RAGAS Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE) Strategic Action Plan and RFP 2021-2022, RAGAS Coordinator, Amelia Stansell, Ashley Bryant, RAGAS Coordinator, CEO 3strands Global, Valerie Ellery, A21.
5. Q/A







## NEW BOOK: "WHERE WERE YOU?: A PROFILE OF MODERN SLAVERY"

Matthew Friedman, RAGAS Board Member

There are more slaves in the world today than any other time in history. Enter the world of human trafficking and explore what we can do together to end this global crime. Where Were You?: A Profile of Modern Slavery by Matthew Friedman provides an up-to-date overview of human trafficking, a largely ignored present-day evil, and recounts true stories of enslavement in Asia today.

Former United Nations and USAID expert Matthew Friedman obtained in-depth first-hand knowledge with boots-on-the-ground work over 35 years throughout Asia. Human trafficking exists in nearly every nation on earth and Friedman has personally interviewed hundreds of freed slaves and imprisoned traffickers throughout South and Southeast Asia. The modern slave trade operates in brothels, fisheries, clothing and chocolate industries, as well as a myriad of other manufacturing jobs and is a billion dollar business that continues to grow unchecked.

Even with the collective response of governments, the UN and civil society partners, less than 0.2 percent of the victims are assisted. "We're not winning the fight against human slavery.

Relying solely on the anti-slavery community around the world to tackle the scourge of modern slavery and the criminals behind it simply is not working. "Unless something drastic changes, this trend will continue unabated," writes Friedman.

This book not only reveals the plight of human trafficking victims; Friedman also offers valuable advice and guidance related to his own personal experiences working in the counter-trafficking and development world. He offers valuable lessons for those thinking about entering this field.

Please celebrate a milestone with me: my new Penguin book, WHERE WERE YOU?: A PROFILE OF MODERN SLAVERY, has been published and is available worldwide. In this memoir, I explore the early days of meeting modern slavery survivors and recount true stories of enslavement in Asia.

I recall painful moments that literally changed my life, reflect back on the different approaches to fighting human trafficking over the last 35 years and give an account of the early beginnings of the fight against modern slavery before the phrase "human trafficking" was adopted.

As I reflect on the deeply personal lessons learned, my first and foremost goal for this book is to motivate more people to join me in helping to fight this global crime.

Find the book at Penguin Random House SEA [here](#).



## NEW CLUB! ROTARY CLUB OF THE PNW ENDING SEX TRAFFICKING

Virginia McKenzie, Club Founder

Please welcome our newest club: Rotary Club of the Pacific Northwest Ending Sex Trafficking, chartered on October 1, 2021. We are a unique club in that we are regional, virtual, and single cause, all at once. First, a little bit on our origin story.

The idea for this club germinated from a speaker at Seattle Rotary and was incubated for in the Seattle Rotary Peacebuilders Committee for many years.

As part of the Seattle Rotary Peacebuilder Committee we completed several successful projects, the most successful of which was the Health Care Alliance where 1,000 health care professionals and 1,000 Seattle Fire Fighters were trained on sex trafficking identification and response. This project won the best peace project in District 5030 for the Rotary Year 2019-20.

You might be wondering, if the quest to fight sex trafficking is well addressed in an existing Rotary club, why start a whole new club? Great question!

Like all of us, Rotary is innovating. Rotary is working to serve up Rotary in new and creative ways to attract a new membership base and energize an existing membership base.

For people who want to do a deep dive in a single area of focus, these single cause Rotary Clubs are a very compelling format to do so. Rotary PNW Ending Sex Trafficking chartered with 23 members: 16 are brand new to Rotary, 2 are Rotaractors graduating to their first club, 5 are people who had left Rotary years ago and came back.



In addition to these 23 members, we have 8 Rotarians who are fully committed to other clubs but are coming alongside us as mentors.

We meet on the first and third Monday of the month at 5pmPST via zoom. Once a month we have a hands on service project and once a quarter we have an in person fellowship.

Our dues are \$50/qtr plus a \$100 annual contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Here is a quick overview of our service projects:

### Completed so far:

- Litter pick up from abandoned homeless encampment with We Heart Seattle
- Tiny Home build party with Sound Foundations Northwest
- Movie Night with Center for Children and Youth Justice
- Painting interior walls with Choose 180 – a juvenile justice partner
- Yard clean up with Real Escape from the Sex Trade
- Backpack build party with Stolen Youth for homeless youth



### Upcoming:

- Private tour of the art work for a memorial to honor the victims of the Green River Killer
- Building a vegetable garden with Organization for Prostitution Survivors
- Day of support for 5k Fund Run with Washington Trafficking Prevention
- Clothes sorting at Wellspring Family Services Baby Boutique
- Citizen Diplomacy trip to Nepal with Destiny Rescue

Our first major project in 2022 will be trafficking prevention education for youth in the Pacific Northwest.



### Special thanks to:

- The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery who paved the way for Rotary to engage in the fight against sex trafficking. I distinctly remember, at the Rotary International Convention 2012 in Bangkok, visiting the RAGAS booth at the House of Friendship. It was hosted by Mark Little who explained how the fight against human trafficking had a connection to all of Rotary's area of focus and how we as Rotarians could have a positive impact.

- Global Chair of RAGAS Dave McCleary who organized a powerful candlelight vigil and plenary speaker for the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta in 2017. I attend as many opportunities as presented where Rotary is addressing sex trafficking and it seems Dave McCleary is always there!

- PDC Tom Gump from District 5950 who announced at the Rotary Telethon in May 2020 that the "Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking" was being chartered in Minneapolis. I remember I was so excited about this news that I took a screen shot of him speaking so I could capture his Rotary District number from his logo wear polo shirt. Then I searched him out on social media, introduced myself over a Facebook private message and asked for an introduction to this exciting new club.

- Charter President of Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking, Karen Walkowski, who let me listen in to all of her meetings for a year while I summoned the courage to start a similar club in the Pacific Northwest.

- Seattle #4 Rotary who the official sponsor of our new club. THANK YOU!! Take heart Rotarians. The good deeds we do matter! They matter to the world and they matter to each other. Good ideas from good people are sure to spark more good ideas from more good people. If you'd like to ask about our past or future projects, you can reach out to me at [virginia.mckenzie74@gmail.com](mailto:virginia.mckenzie74@gmail.com).







## FALMOUTH, CAPE COD, U.S. ROTARY CLUB SUPPORTS SLAVERY PREVENTION AND SURVIVOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Robin Singer, RAGAS Member

The Rotary Club of Falmouth Cape Cod, in Massachusetts in the USA, has taken up the challenge of focusing on **Girls' and Women's Empowerment**. President Paul McCadam was Inspired by Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta's passion for helping vulnerable girls and women, and **combatting human trafficking**.

A subcommittee of the Falmouth Club was formed, led by new member Robin Singer, in order to partner with **Her Future Coalition**. HFC is an impactful organization, which was formed in 2005 to help survivors of trafficking and at-risk girls through employment training, education, shelter, counseling, and guidance.

<https://herfuturecoalition.org/>

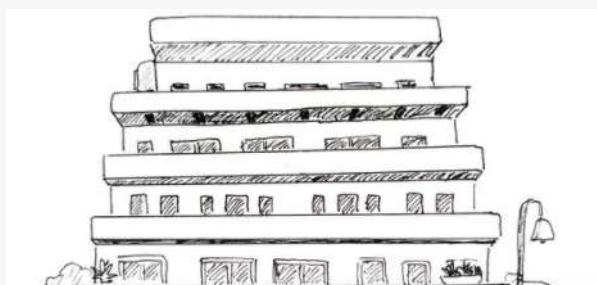
The Rotary Club of Falmouth Cape Cod has been given full support and encouragement by District 7950, led by District Governor Billy Roberts, and District Foundation Chair, Stephen Certa. Guidance was also provided by Dave McCleary and Malcolm Baird of RAGAS, the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery.

Her Future Coalition has two new major initiatives for helping some of the world's most vulnerable and at-risk girls and women. One project is in Kolkata, India and the other is in a rural village in Nepal. Some of the worst situations of trafficking of vulnerable girls and women into brothels can be found in these locations.

HFC is building a Learning Center near the Sonagachi Red Light District of Kolkata; the Falmouth club was recently awarded a **District grant** to outfit the tutoring room of this new facility.

The grant will be used for computers, furniture, and supplies. At the facility, all at-risk girls and rescued trafficking victims will have access to computer literacy training, English classes, employment guidance, and financial literacy classes, and a variety of other programs determined by their needs and interests.

The Kolkata Learning Center can be seen during its construction in the picture below.



A school has recently opened in a rural Nepali village, with the support of Her Future Coalition. It was opened by a young woman named Anjali Tamong, who was trafficked from there to the brothels of India, and managed to escape and receive an education through HFC and partner organizations. Her story is told in the book, "Standing in the Way, From Trafficking Victim to Human Rights Activist," which can be accessed [here](#).

The image below shows the Nepali school during its construction.



Through Ms. Singer of the Falmouth Cape Cod Rotary Club, a tutoring program for English literacy has begun at this school (pictured below), and several additional Rotarians will be participating through writing letters and reading stories.

Ms. Singer invites anyone interested in knowing more about this project and ways that Rotary clubs can get involved to contact her at [msrobinsinger@gmail.com](mailto:msrobinsinger@gmail.com).



## DISTRICT 5710 GLOBAL GRANTS RELATED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Usha Reddi, President, Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT)

The District 5710 **Rotary Swarm to Counter Human Trafficking** global grant convenes local service providers, law enforcement, healthcare workers, and other community leaders in Lenexa and Leawood, Kansas to equip them with the skills to identify human trafficking systems in their community and develop networks, techniques, and collaborations to counterattack these trafficking systems, thereby reducing the occurrences of trafficking.

Rotarians are working with Lucy Bloom, Veronica's Voice, and Ashley Chapman, Justice U and Engage Together, to implement this education and collaboration project.

The [community conversation videos](#) cover many topics and are informative to everyone involved in anti-human trafficking initiative.

For more information contact Patti Mellard, [patti@keystaffing.com](mailto:patti@keystaffing.com).



The District 5710 Rotary Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Drop-In Center global grant in Topeka, KS established a site with services to support victims' psychosocial needs and assist with basic needs of food, rest, laundry, clothing, and shower facilities in a safe environment.

The center is an entry point for longer-term community support services. The "Day Center" as it is known, was established in 2019 and is providing services to 25-30 victims per month.

YWCA of Northeast Kansas Center for Safety and Empowerment is the collaborating partner on this project. For more information contact Patti Mellard, [patti@keystaffing.com](mailto:patti@keystaffing.com).



The District 5710 Reintegration of Survivors of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking global grant in collaboration with Rended Heart and several international and local Rotary clubs has been instrumental in the opening of The Ready Training Center and Chosen, A Rended Heart Boutique. The Ready Training Center provides resources and assistance needed to support survivors on their path to sustainable employment. The boutique sells high-end clothing donated by Rotarians.

Survivors will have on-the-job training in retail sales, marketing, financial management, inventory, customer service, and business management. Here is a short video of the organization learning about human trafficking and shopping at the boutique all proceeds from sales go to support survivors.

Please contact Usha Reddi, [ulr12345@gmail.com](mailto:ulr12345@gmail.com) for more information. Also, go to Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) for more details.



### OTHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In April 2021 Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) held a virtual Human Trafficking Summit: Educators Role in Preventing Human Trafficking. Ashlie Bryant founder of 3Strands Foundation along with other panelists discussing curriculum, education efforts, certification for educators and other resources for community members, teachers, and educators to take part in preventing human trafficking.

Students Stop Traffic - Rotary clubs have partnered with local organizations Intouch Group and Lumen Touch to spread awareness about child trafficking.

Together, the organizations have launched a contest, Student Stop Traffic, which aims to inspire Kansas City-area high school students to create a compelling awareness campaign or idea to combat the trafficking and targeting of peers in their own communities. Ideas could include an advertising campaign, a live event, a social media campaign, or something more.

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### DISTRICT GRANTS SUPPORTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Rotary Club of Topeka South has used District Grant matching funds for 3 projects.

**Fresh Start Kits** - When victims are rescued or choose to leave the life they only have the clothes on their backs. This project provides them with a duffle bag of new basic need items, including a set of clothing, socks, underwear, and hygiene products. (See attached list) The Fresh Start kit shows them that someone does care about them, their life has value, and to encourage them to accept help to escape from the life of being trafficked. For many victims this is the first time they have owned anything new.

### FRESH START KIT DONATION ITEMS NEEDED

Below is a list of items that will be included in our Fresh Start Kits. With your donations we can give these women some essential items we use on a daily basis.

ITEMS	SPECIFIC INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> Duffle Bag	Preferably a 20-inch bag
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt/Hoodie	Need Sizes M, L, XL, 2XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweatpants	Need Sizes S, M, L, XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Tee Shirt	Need Sizes S, M, L, XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Tank Top	Need Sizes S, M, L, XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Hanes 6 Pack Cotton Underwear	Need Sizes S, M, L, XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Women's Leggings	Need Sizes S, M, L, XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Bras	Need Sizes S, M, L, XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Flip Flops	Need Sizes S, M, L, XL
<input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Socks (low cut)	Need Sizes S, M, L
<input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo	Full Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Conditioner	Full Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Body Wash	Full Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste	Full Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Body Lotion	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Sanitizer	Full Size
<input type="checkbox"/> Hair Brush/Comb	

**Safe Line** - When victims are coerced or groomed, one of the first things the trafficker does is take the victim's phone and place tracking software on it to maintain control over the victim. This grant is for TracPhones, providing a safe way for victims to reach out for help and escape from the slavery of human trafficking. They will be able to confidentially seek help, reconnect with family and friends, and apply for employment. We have distributed over 100 phones and 30 day unlimited use cards to victims.

**Stepping Out** - Through our Global Grant project at the Day Center, we learned that traffickers take victims' shoes from them, making it more difficult to leave, especially in winter months. This project provided new shoes in the 5 most common sizes that were distributed to those in need through the Day Center site.





## DISTRICT 5340 ROTARIANS HELPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

David Oates, D5340 Anti-Human  
Trafficking Task Force Chair

HUGE thanks to the two dozen Rotary District 5340 members, family, and friends that came out to GenerateHope on June 19 to perform some much-needed facility repairs clean up. A BIG thanks to Mark Rodriguez and the Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Club for spearheading the amazing landscape project!

We also had great representation from Coronado Rotary Club, San Diego Rotary Club, Rotary Club of Chula Vista-Eastlake, and Rotary Club of Southeast San Diego! Rotarians made a big difference today in the lives of several human trafficking survivors!





## RAGAS SOCIAL MEDIA

RAGAS communication

You can receive the information by following us on social media!

- [RAGAS Facebook](#)
- [RAGAS LinkedIn](#)
- [RAGAS Twitter](#)
- [RAGAS Instagram](#)
- [RAGAS YouTube](#)

**LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT?**  
幫助您的方法 ¿ESTÁS BUSCANDO UNA SALIDA? ¿NECESITAS AYUDA?  
**STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE  
**888-3737-888**  
or Text "Help" to 233733(BeFree)  
IOWA VICTIM SERVICE CALL CENTER  
**800-770-1650**  
IT HAPPENS HERE IN IOWA or Text "iowahelp" to 20121  
 Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery  
[www.iowanah.org](http://www.iowanah.org)

## TAKE ACTION

We are not defined by who we are, but by our actions. To contribute to ending modern slavery, you can:

- Become a RAGAS member from [here](#).
- Donate to RAGAS, or organisations working on ending modern slavery.
- [Contact your local Coordinator](#) to volunteer for RAGAS.
- Invite a RAGAS speaker to your local club meeting talking about modern slavery.
- Initiate a Global Grant project to fight against modern slavery.
- Engage with Rotary clubs that dedicates to ending modern slavery, including District 5950 [Rotary eClub to End Human Trafficking](#) and District 5710 [Rotary eClub of Community Action Against Human Trafficking](#).

