

**ENGAGE
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COMMUNITY ACTION KIT TO END & PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

IN JOHNSON COUNTY, KS & SURROUNDING AREAS



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This special project is sponsored by Rotary Clubs of Eastern Kansas - District 5710, including Rotary Club of Lenexa, Rotary Club of Leawood, Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking, and Rotary Club Taipei Oriental Integrity, in partnership with Veronica's Voice and Engage Together.

PHASE I:
PROJECT PLANNING
HISTORY, PURPOSE, PARTNERS, AND PREP

PARTNERS

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



Rotary Clubs of Eastern Kansas - District 5710, including Rotary Club of Lenexa, Rotary Club of Leawood, Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking, and Rotary Club Taipei Oriental Integrity.



Our local partner, the mission of Veronica's Voice is to empower women to exit from, to prevent the entry into, and to end all demand for prostitution-sex trafficking in the United States through survivor leadership.

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Our national partner, Engage Together[®] provides communities the tools, trainings, technology and support they need to increase collaboration and accelerate impact in the fight to end and prevent human trafficking.

LEARN MORE AT [VERONICASVOICE.ORG/ROTARY-SWARM](https://www.veronicasvoice.org/rotary-swarm)

HISTORY & PURPOSE

Rotary International is working to combat human trafficking on a global scale. But that work begins in local communities. Which is why, in 2021, our three Rotary clubs committed to working on it together right in our own towns in Johnson County, Kansas, and to rally a “swarm” of community members to join the fight.

Our mission was two-fold, to learn and to act - together. First, we worked to discover: What is happening in our communities, who is already engaged, and what do they need to succeed? What are gaps in our community efforts to combat human trafficking, and how might we address them? As we learned, we turned awareness to action, and found ways to come alongside our entire community to end and prevent human trafficking.

Our objective was to leverage the unique strengths of Rotary as community conveners, catalyzers, and actively engaged citizens to support and accelerate the work to end and prevent human trafficking in our community.

To accomplish this, we engaged two key local and national partners to guide us in the journey, Veronica's Voice and Engage Together. And we developed this Community Action Kit to capture the process and plan moving forward.

PREP WORK

1

First, we applied for and secured a Rotary Global Grant to support the initiative and our partners.

2

Second, we worked with our partners to get ready to launch, incl. setting up a website, communications and social media strategy, and group project platform.

3

Third, we all earned our Human Trafficking Awareness & Strategy Certification from Justice U, to better understand human trafficking and what a community needs to do to end it.



PHASE 2: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

SESSION DETAILS & PLANNING FOR NEXT STEPS

TAKING TIME TO LEARN

To understand the needs of our local community, we hosted two community conversations each month. The first was open to the public, and invited local community experts to share their perspectives and insights into the strengths, gaps, and opportunities for engagement on specific topics. The second gathering was a working group session of Rotary members to determine - now that we know more, what could we do?

- July: Findings Reviews
- August: Vulnerabilities
- September: Addressing Demand
- October: Reforms
- November: Labor Trafficking
- December: Supporting Survivors
- January: Nat'l HT Awareness Month

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2021 Community Assessment Findings Review

Evaluating the current strengths, gaps, and opportunities for community action to address human trafficking in Kansas City and surrounding areas.



Wednesday, July 14th, 2021
12 - 1 PM CST

Register at veronicasvoice.org/rotary-swarm



Session 1: Findings Reviews

In this kickoff session, we heard from Ashleigh Chapman, founder of Engage Together and Lucy Bloom, Executive Director of Veronica's Voice, who shared the results of the most recent Engage Together Community Assessment survey for Kansas City and surrounding areas.

This session evaluated the current strengths, gaps, and opportunities for community action to address labor and sex trafficking, of adults and minors, foreign nationals and citizens, in the areas of prevention, identification, rescue/exit, restoration, and reforms.

To review, [watch the one-hour session.](#)

IDEAS ON NEXT STEPS

GROUP ACTION

1

Add community stakeholders to the outreach list

2

Let Veronica's Voice know who else should be included in the Community Assessment

3

Support getting the word out about upcoming events

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

1

Complete earning your Justice U certification

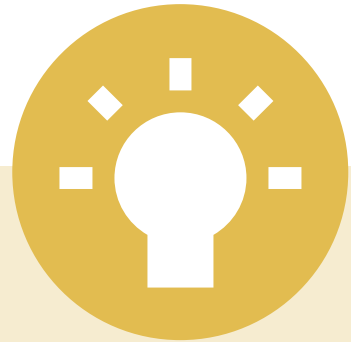
2

Share social media and email announcements with your local network

3

Block bi-monthly events on your calendars

PRIORITIES & PLAN



1) Get the word out about the initiative, upcoming events, and scholarships for Justice U certifications for Johnson County (and area) residents

2) Let Veronica's Voice know of any additional programs or services that need to be invited to participate in the Community Assessment dashboards.



1) Work with Veronica's Voice, and Engage Together on obtaining and sharing communications and collaterals, then proactively reach out and have conversations with your contacts

2) Send local service provider contacts and details to Veronica's Voice for review and outreach



1) For immediate (and ongoing) action throughout the duration of the Project

2) For immediate (and ongoing) action throughout the duration of the Project

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Community Conversations: Vulnerabilities in Kansas City

A conversation with local community experts on the vulnerabilities to human trafficking that exist in Kansas City and surrounding areas and actions we can all take to support vulnerable populations and prevent exploitation.

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021
12 - 1 PM CST

Register to join us live or review the recording
at veronicasvoice.org/rotary-swarm



Session 2: Vulnerabilities

In this session, we heard from Lee Jost, Executive Director of NCircle; Mary Ann Pitnick, Programs Coordinator for Johnson County Case Management Program; Kelly Young, Director of Evidence Based Initiatives for KVC KS; and Detective Shannon Leeper, Lenexa Police Department. Key take-aways included the need for:

- Providing a meal for families who are struggling
- Assisting with transportation
- Mentoring justice-involved youth and adults
- Providing meaningful employment
- Having employers and leaders in our community organizations and churches be trained in trauma
- Supporting affordable housing solutions
- Sponsoring opportunities for youth to participate in meaningful activities
- Creating a safe place for victims of crime to go to get all their services in one location

To review, [watch the one-hour session.](#)

IDEAS ON NEXT STEPS

GROUP ACTION

1

Leverage Rotary foundation to support existing and new local efforts needed

2

Contact local city & county leadership to do a presentation on needs and vulnerabilities

3

Create fundraising and awareness through SWARM t-shirt brand mkt'g campaign

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

1

Contact your local school about needs for food, transportation, or scholarships

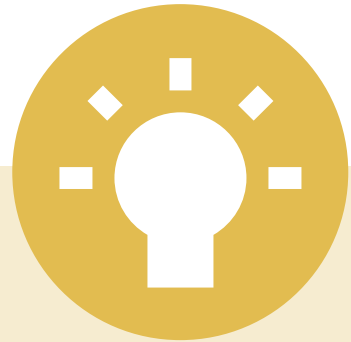
2

Have conversations with your churches, businesses, etc. on how they can help

3

Explore mentorship opportunities and/or support mentoring program needs

PRIORITIES & PLAN



1) Educate city, county, and state leadership (including Rotarians) on these issues, needs, and opportunities for action

2) Target and promote fundraising efforts to strengthen local programs



1) Reach out to new legislators, city councils, Rotary districts, association boards of vulnerable venues (e.g. massage businesses), chambers of commerce, churches, and more

2) Work with local Rotary club leadership and community partners (both individuals & organizations)



1) For immediate and ongoing action; time outreach to events and national (and/or local) monthly awareness themes

2) For immediate & ongoing action throughout (and after) the Project

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Community Conversations: Addressing Demand

A conversation with community experts on local law enforcement and service provider efforts to surface, address, and reduce demand for commercial sex acts in Johnson County.



Wednesday, September 8th, 2021
12 - 1 PM CST

Register to join us live or review the recording at veronicasvoice.org/rotary-swarm



Session 3: Addressing Demand

In this session, we heard from Mike Jensen, Founder of Concerned Citizens for Responsible Government; Vine Tucker, Director of Men's Education for Veronica's Voice; Jennifer Montgomery, Director of Human Trafficking Initiatives for KS Attorney General's Office; and Ashleigh Chapman, Founder of Engage Together and Justice U.

Key take-aways included the need for:

- Better understanding of the impact of how pornography, pimp culture, and sexually oriented businesses drive demand
- Expansion of education for first-time offenders on the realities of human trafficking
- An approach that engages all sectors of the community to decrease demand

To review, [watch the one-hour session.](#)

IDEAS ON NEXT STEPS

GROUP ACTION

1

Partner with the Attorney General's Office to support the Demand an End campaign

2

Explore opportunities to partner with local law enforcement to report suspicious businesses and activities in your community

3

Work with the business community to enact zero tolerance policies & ethical codes of conduct

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

1

Contact your local and state leaders about strengthening efforts to reduce demand and protect victims

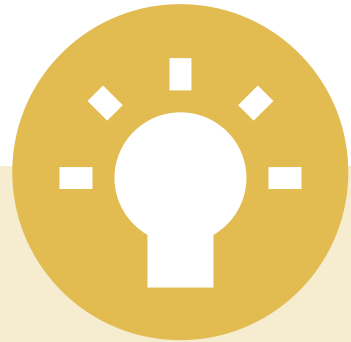
2

Leverage social media to raise awareness of demand and efforts to address it

3

Educate others on biases and misconceptions related to commercial sexual exploitation and its true harms

PRIORITIES & PLAN



1) Have meaningful conversations with local law enforcement leadership to share our concerns about HT in our area, learn what they are presently doing to address it, and discover how we can help

2) Engage the business community to build awareness and highlight ways they can be part of the solution



1) Set up a meeting between the Chief of Police and a cohort from our Rotary clubs

2) Reach out to the local Chamber of Commerce & City Council to discuss ideas and plan for larger catalytic events throughout the year



1) Late January/early February

2) Invite leadership to attend January event, then follow up about hosting separate sessions with their members (consider joining forces around April event with fellow Rotary clubs)

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Community Conversations: Reforms in Kansas

A conversation with local community experts reviewing current priorities for policy reform in Kansas aimed at restoring victims and thwarting trafficking.



Wednesday, October 13th, 2021
12 - 1 PM CST

Register to join us live or review the recording at veronicasvoice.org/rotary-swarm



Session 4: Reforms in Kansas

In this session, we heard from Christine Raino, Senior Director of Public Policy at Shared Hope; Faron Barr, Immediate Past District Governor Rotary District 5710; and Rebecca Zipkin, Policy Director at World Without Exploitation.

Key take-aways included the need for:

- All lawmakers to become educated on the local reality of human trafficking and its impact
- New legislators and policy-makers to understand the history of anti-trafficking efforts in Kansas so that they can build on past progress and know what still needs to be accomplished
- A focus on both labor and sex trafficking in our reform efforts

To review, [watch the one-hour session.](#)

IDEAS ON NEXT STEPS

GROUP ACTION

1

Build on relationships with legislators, staffers, and revisers to elevate needed reforms at the state level

2

Provide training and education opportunities and resources (e.g. Justice U courses) to local and state leadership

3

Craft an official statement of concern, with suggested reforms, and Rotary's commitment to help

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

1

Send webinar(s) as a follow-up to your individual networks

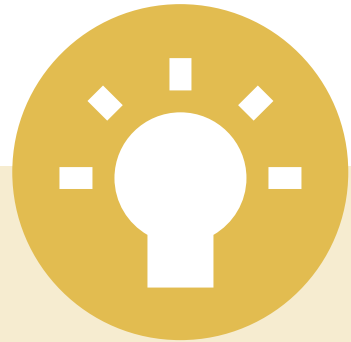
2

Ask your rep(s) how they are working on both labor and sex trafficking, and what they would like to know about its impact in Kansas

3

Keep tabs on upcoming legislation and contact your rep(s) to share your opinion

PRIORITIES & PLAN



- 1) Develop and share a one-sheet for all legislators detailing both a brief history of Kansas's progress on HT reforms and what still needs to be accomplished
- 2) Use the one-sheet as a catalyst for discussion with individual state and local leadership, as well as in legislative committee discussions and hearings
- 3) Send out this particular webinar to our local representatives' offices



- 1) Veronica's Voice, Engage Together, and HTAB
- 2) Individual legislators (particularly those with whom we have existing relationships), committees, local city council leadership
- 3) Individual action



- 1) Publish the one-sheet by first week of January 2022
- 2) Schedule discussions and meetings beginning January 2022 through Q1
- 3) Immediate

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Community Conversations: Labor Trafficking in Kansas City

A conversation with local community experts reviewing current efforts in our area to identify, address, and prevent labor trafficking.



Wednesday, November 10th, 2021
12 - 1 PM CST

Register to join us live or review the recording at veronicasvoice.org/rotary-swarm



Session 5: Labor Trafficking

In this session, we heard from: Parker Roth from Kansas University; James Johnson from Kansas Department of Corrections; and Ashleigh Chapman, human rights lawyer and founder of Engage Together.

Key take-aways included the need to:

- Know that labor trafficking impacts Kansas in two primary ways 1) the use of labor trafficking present in supply chains of the goods imported into Kansas and 2) the forced labor and services of adults, children, foreign nationals and citizens that reside in Kansas.
- Understand that labor trafficking is a crime and is often hidden in plain sight - and is present in the manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality and restaurant industries in Kansas.

To review, [watch the one-hour session.](#)

IDEAS ON NEXT STEPS

GROUP ACTION

1

Always include labor trafficking when raising awareness of human trafficking - both sex and labor trafficking exist in Kansas

2

Educate & equip local businesses on supply chain transparency and steps to take to mitigate risk and protect victims

3

Build relationships with schools, law enforcement, victim service providers, and child welfare - and be ready to meet needs

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

1

Know the signs & make the call (if imminent danger, call local law enforcement before the national hotline)

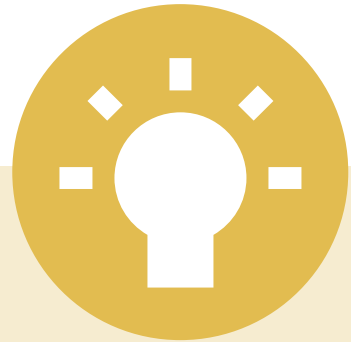
2

Increase your personal commitment to responsible consumerism and fair trade

3

Talk to your employer about offering apprenticeships or jobs to labor trafficking survivors

PRIORITIES & PLAN



- 1) Take a top-down approach to mobilizing the business community
- 2) Map the industries present in our area and match it to those at high risk of labor trafficking
- 3) Reach out to local agencies working to address labor trafficking, and rally needed resources to support individuals and families - as both a preventive and restorative measure



- 1) Connect with AG's Taskforce, State & Local Chambers of Commerce, and Societies of Association Executives, and SHRM (Society of Human Resource Mgrs)
- 2) Work with the Club Vocational Service Chair to do the research
- 3) Work with Veronica's Voice and Engage Together to identify those agencies already addressing labor trafficking in the community



- 1) Begin building relationships in Q2
- 2) Begin the conversation Q1; Aim for an early draft deliverable before July 30th (World Day Against Trafficking in Persons)
- 3) Begin reaching out now

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Community Conversations: Supporting Local Survivors

A conversation with local community experts on the dreams of survivor leaders regarding how communities can help.



Wednesday, December 8th, 2021
12 - 1 PM CST

Register to join us live or review the recording at veronicasvoice.org/rotary-swarm



Session 6: Supporting Survivors

In this session, we heard from Kristy Childs, Founder of Veronica's Voice, and Terry Forliti, Executive Director of Breaking Free, discussing supporting survivors of commercial sexual exploitation.

Key take-aways included the need for:

- Accurate reporting, appropriate use of terminology, and respecting survivors' rights to tell their own story are critical when raising awareness of this issue
- Knowing that both survivors AND those working every day on behalf of this cause need our encouragement and support
- Increasing available resources and solutions to support housing, employment, healthcare, and every day needs

To review, [watch the one-hour session.](#)

IDEAS ON NEXT STEPS

GROUP ACTION

1

Advocate for policy changes and support programs to better empower survivors in Kansas (e.g. Veronica Voice petition)

2

Rally funding and resources to support housing, healthcare, and transportation needs of survivors

3

Sponsor opportunities, community outings, and self-care activities for survivors, their kids, and local victim service providers

INDIVIDUAL ACTION

1

Offer your professional services and expertise to support local programs and organizations

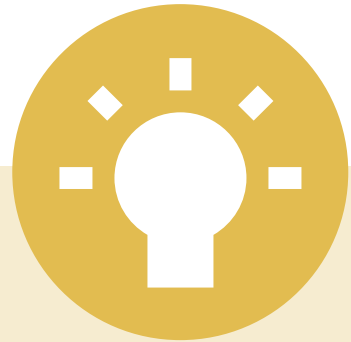
2

Reach out to local organizations to learn more about and meet their needs - e.g. donating gift cards or teaching a class

3

Talk to your networks about offering apprenticeship or employment opportunities to trafficking survivors

PRIORITIES & PLAN



1) Reach out to local organizations and agencies supporting survivors, ask about their tangible, funding, and service needs, then rally the resources

2) Create a network of employers ready and willing to provide apprenticeship and/or living wage employment opportunities for survivors



1) Use the listserv provided by Veronica's Voice and Engage Together as a starting point for outreach

2) Start by educating business owners that are Rotary members about the opportunity, and include this call-to-action in all community awareness events, particularly for business partners



1) Immediate and ongoing

2) Immediate and ongoing

PHASE 3: ACTION PLAN

OUR ACTION PLAN FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

OUR STRENGTHS

NO. 1

Community Conveners

Rotary club members are diverse in gender, creed, politics, age and vocation. That is its strength and magic formula. This membership diversity helps create community partnerships to address local problems.

NO. 2

Catalyzers of Action

Rotary International exists as the sum of its local clubs. Rotarians are people of action, and action must begin at the local level to address challenges and meet needs.

NO. 3

Engaged Citizens

Rotarians are highly engaged in our communities. As peacebuilders and changemakers in their spheres of influence and vocations, this gives Rotarians a platform to engage others in the solution.

OUR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEEDS



SUPPORT LOCAL PROGRAMS

We can leverage Rotary Foundation to support existing efforts, fund new programs, and sponsor activities (e.g. self-care outings for survivors and nonprofit leaders)



SHARE WHAT WE KNOW

We can catalyze our entire community to take action by equipping our members with knowledge about the issue and sharing this information with key community stakeholders (e.g. schools, local chambers, and houses of worship)



BUILD & BRIDGE RELATIONSHIPS

We can collaborate with our local schools, law enforcement, victim service providers, and child welfare agencies - and be ready to meet any needs they have throughout the year, or connect them to those who can



RAISE OUR VOICE

We can partner with state leaders (e.g. government officials) to rally behind needed reform efforts, and we can inform local leaders (e.g. city council) about current needs and possible solutions

OUR ACTION PLAN

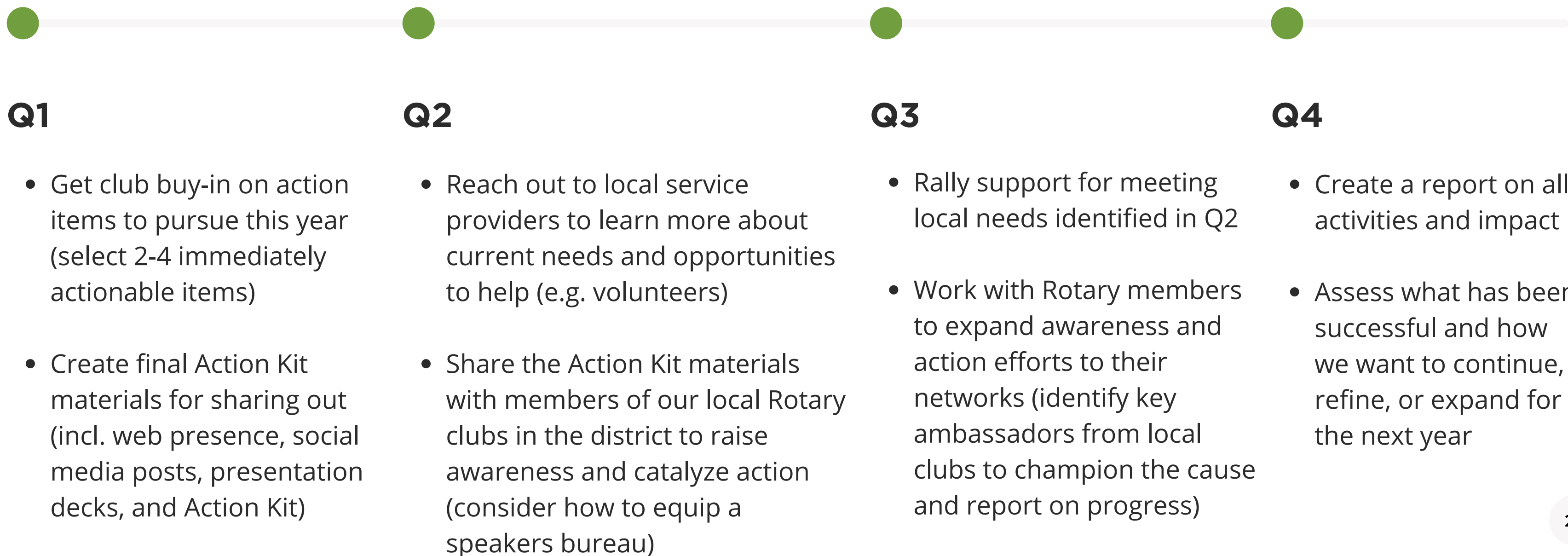
- 1** Present this action kit to our clubs to get buy-in and determine next steps

- 2** Create materials that all Rotary members can use to establish a common vocabulary and share this information with others

- 3** Identify and find ways to support local anti-trafficking partners (through funding, tangible, or service opportunities)

- 4** Create a measurement tool to track and report on success and impact

OUR TIMELINE



THINGS WE WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT

- 1** Trauma training

- 2** How to support survivors and their kids

- 3** How to raise awareness of labor trafficking in our local community and with industries most likely to be impacted by it (e.g. manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality, and restaurant businesses)

- 4** What reform efforts are needed and how to best support them

- 5** Continue our learning journey by joining and promoting monthly CAAHT webinars

- 1** How best to increase efforts that address Demand in our local communities

- 2** Whether all schools in our local districts have trainings and protocols in place, and are including human trafficking in their curricula

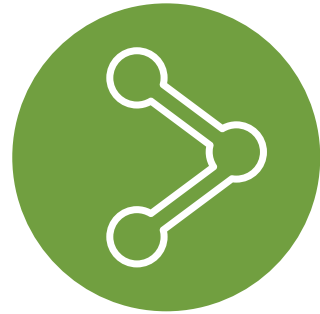
- 3** How businesses (small or large) can provide jobs, internships, skills trainings, and other opportunities for survivors

- 4** What laws and policies have been established so far in Kansas, and what still needs to be done (for legislators)

ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE RAISED TO OTHERS

KEY RESOURCES & WEBSITES

FOR FURTHER LEARNING & SUPPORT



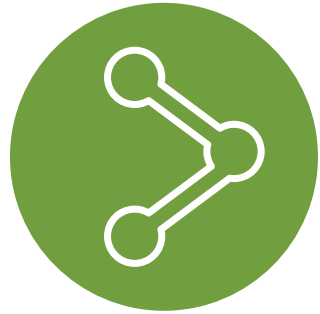
PARTNERS & LINKS

Use the QR Code below for easy access to this Project's website, participating partners, and video archives.

- [Learn How to End Human Trafficking Series on Justice U](#)
(use coupon code ROTARYSWARM)
- [Engage Together](#)
- [Veronica's Voice](#)
- [Rotary Club of Lenexa](#)
- [Rotary Club of Leawood](#)
- [Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking \(CAAHT\)](#)



ROTARY SWARM
PROJECT WEBSITE



REFERENCE LIBRARY

The following resources were shared during our Community Conversations by our national and local experts.

PROGRAMS & ORGANIZATIONS:

- Breaking Free (breakingfree.net)
- Buyers' Intervention Program (veronicasvoice.org/ssek)
- City of Lenexa (lenexa.com)
- Freedom Business Alliance (freedombusinessalliance.com)
- Johnson County Government (jocogov.org)
- KVC (kvc.org)
- NCircle (ncircle.org)
- Veronica's Voice Residential Program (veronicasvoice.org/mkc)

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES:

- House Committee on [Children and Seniors](#)
- House Committee on [Heath and Human Services](#)
- House Committee on [Federal and State Affairs](#)
- House Committee on [Health and Welfare](#)

REPORTS:

- Shared Hope State Report Cards (reportcards.sharedhope.org)
- 2020 List of Goods Produced by Child & Forced Labor (dol.gov)

TOOLS:

- Sweat and Toil App (dol.gov)
- Fair Trade Toolkit (afrij.com/businessstools)
- Outreach Tool for Spanish Speaking Populations (polarisproject.org)

ARTICLES:

- Child Labor Trafficking Ring in Kansas City (justice.gov)

CAMPAIGNS:

- Equal Not Exploited (equalitymodelus.org)
- Fashion Revolution (fashionrevolution.org)

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IN JOHNSON COUNTY, KS & SURROUNDING AREAS

