

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Bob Deering - RAGAS Board Chair

RI CONVENTION 2023

The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery has BIG plans for the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, May 28th through 31st. As you know, Rotary International President Jennifer Jones has worked toward empowering girls and at RAGAS we work to empower girls/women every day through our work and efforts.

This is right up our alley as we strive to Imagine a world without human trafficking/modern-slavery.

Our booth in the House of Friendship (Booth 376) will be very prominent. It is a corner booth in the center of the Hall right across from the large Peace Exhibit. Please plan on visiting as we will be there from Saturday, May 27th to Wednesday May 31st.

We also have a general meeting scheduled with speakers highlighting the problem of modern slavery/human trafficking. It will be Saturday, May 27th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 209 of the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Center. Please join us for this event.

JOIN US FOR THE RAGAS BREAKOUT! YOU CAN STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH EDUCATION/PREVENTION

Calling all Rotary superheroes! Join the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) as they help you "Unleash Your Super Power to End Slavery". Join us on Wednesday, May 31st at 9:00 a.m. for a 90 minute breakout where we will discuss projects that you, your club or your district may undertake to help solidify the rights every individual has to not be held in bondage or groomed for another person's profit. Prevention is the key and we will discuss RAGAS's Community Awareness & Education Plan (CAPE) and how you too can be a super hero!!! We will have experts there to answer your questions and plenty of time will be made available.

Not every super hero has a mask - but they all have a CAPE! Do you have yours?

Breakout: Wednesday, May 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Melbourne Convention Exhibition Center.

We are expecting a large crowd, so get there early to secure your seat.

ANNOUNCING 2023-2024 ROTARY YEAR COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PREVENTION EDUCATION GRANTS

RAGAS is proud to announce its release of a request for proposals to solicit Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE) grant applications. 2023 marks the second year that RAGAS has launched the CAPE grant opportunity. This Request for Proposals for prevention education projects is also posted on our website: <https://ragas.online/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/RFP-CAPE-2023.pdf>

Applicants can be either individual Rotary Clubs or entire Rotary Districts. The deadline for grant submission is June 30th, 2023. The top 10 scoring applications will receive up to a \$1,000 RAGAS grant to assist clubs or districts in funding a community prevention education project. In addition to funding, all grantees will receive:

1. Free 1-year trial RAGAS memberships for all Rotarians in each participating Rotary Club or District.
2. Access to an updated Prevention/Education Toolbox and CAPE Global Strategy to help to create and execute a CAPE project.
3. Mentoring by a designated RAGAS coordinator, ambassador, or Board member to consult on their project and provide support on how to collaborate with partner stakeholders, including local schools, local government, NGO's and other community members.
4. All grantee clubs or Districts will be asked to adopt a pledge committing to take a public stand against human trafficking/modern slavery. <https://ragas.online/district-pledge/>.
5. All participating Clubs or Districts will be asked to appoint a human trafficking primary contact at the District or Club level who will help coordinate efforts throughout the grant period - and ideally beyond.



INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA



We are looking forward to the 2023 International Peace Conference on May 4-6 right here in the heart of the South! This conference will feature over 80 speakers from across the globe who will speak on topics such as human trafficking, reducing violence in our communities, education, social justice, empowerment of women and much more. The Human Trafficking program is particularly strong, bringing many of the best presenters I have encountered over my years of working on this issue. We will have panels on: HT and the Law, with panelists who have compiled all the national and international laws on HT; HT in the Business, with presenters from Delta, Motel 6, and Amazon; HT and Law Enforcement, with presenters from the Alabama Anti-Human Trafficking Alliance, one of the few statewide coordinating efforts in the US, as well as national law enforcement representatives; and several more.

In addition to the Human Trafficking panels and presentations, there will also be speakers on Empowering Women and Girls, some of whom are also either treating trafficking victims or educating girls on how to avoid the dangers of traffickers; on domestic violence; and, on preventing child marriage.

This is a "don't miss" event! Take advantage of the great lineup of speakers and convene with others who are dedicated to ending human trafficking as well as many more who are building peace in other ways, including the largest group of Rotary Peace Fellows you are ever likely to encounter in one place at one time.



BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA MAY 4-6 2023

Human Trafficking Tracks

Law Enforcement - Government

Moderated - Dave McCleary
Ambassador John Cotton Richmond
Chris Lim - Attorney General's Office
Alabama
Doug Gilmour - Department of
Homeland Security

Education/Prevention

Ashlie Bryant - 3Strands Global
Valerie Ellery - A21
Veronica McDaniel - Teacher

Health Care

Hanni Stoklosa - Heal Trafficking
Bethany Biesenthal - Jones Day
Rachel Fisher - Survivor Advocate,
Health Care
Laura Castellanos - Hospitals Against
Violence (AHA)

Hospitality/Transportation/Commerce

Moderated - Dave McCleary
Trucker Against Trafficking (TAT Trailer
will be at the event)
UPS
Delta
Amazon
Motel 6

Financial Institutions - Private Sector - Labor Trafficking

Laura Ellsworth - Global Community
Services Initiatives Partner In-
Charge, Jones Day
Matt LaVigne - (NCFTA) National
Cyber Forensic Training Alliance)
Heather Fischer - Senior Advisor for
Human Rights Crimes
Reuters
Renata Parras - Paul Hastings,
Environmental, Social and
Governance (ESG)

Survivor Services

Jessica Munoz - Hawaii -
CEO/Founder - Ho'ola Na Pua
Carolyn Potter - CEO, Well House
Tammy Bitanga - Survivor
Advocate
Rachel Fischer - Survivor
Advocate

Trafficking of Children

Kelly Locher - Jones Day
Preston Findlay - National
Center for Missing and
Exploited Children
Windy - Survivor

Rotary's Work on Human Trafficking

Dave McCleary - Chair Emeritus
RAGAS

Join us as we come together to
learn how we can #buildpeace. To
learn more about @ipeace2023,
visit: International Peace
Conference

#ipeace2023 #imaginepeace.

Any Questions please contact
Dave McCleary at
dave.m@ragas.online

BEYOND NET ZERO THE CANADA HUMAN TRAFFICKING DECLARATION

Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) and the Canadian RAGAS members (many of whom are Rotactors) with the founding group of the Canada Declaration Team (Canadian RAGAS Ambassador Barb Lustgarten Evoy, RAGAS Chair Emeritus, Dave McCleary, International Justice Mission Canada's David Pollendine, NotInMyCity's founder Paul Brandt, and The Mekong Club's founder and RAGAS board member Matt Friedman) hosted a first ever event this week in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Their goal is to see Canada as the first country in the world to adopt a Zero Tolerance approach to Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery. And it was a huge success! With Survivors, Canadian Senators, Members of Parliament, Local and Provincial government heads plus keynote speaker and IJM Canada's Leader Anu George Canjanathoppil, with countless organizations and groups from around the country all working together - it was nothing short of outstanding! The first follow-up to this event is already being planned for Toronto, Canada in June 2024, with a third summit being designed to run alongside the Rotary International Conference in Calgary in June 2025. A special thanks to Shell Oil President Canada, Susannah Pierce for being the presenting sponsor.

Most of all we want to thank Survivor Advocates, Jessica, Timea and April for their amazing stories courage and inspiration we should always be survivor centered in everything we do, they were truly the highlight of the summit.

The overall outcome was exciting and had the attendees are all waiting for the next summit with enthusiasm.

<https://winnipeg.citynews.ca/video/2023/04/01/winnipeg-symposium-calls-for-zero-tolerance-declaration-on-human-trafficking-in-canada/>

Please sign the declaration here <https://www.canadadeclaration.ca/>



ROTARY GLOBAL GRANT TO PREVENT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN UGANDA

The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery has become aware of a global grant in Uganda through Patti Mellard of the Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (Rotary CAAHT).

Jennifer Montgomery, a District 5710 Peace Fellow, completed her fellowship at the Peace Center in Uganda this past year. When Jennifer was in Uganda she learned about the extreme violence and trafficking that the women of that country are subjected to. Patti been working closely with Jennifer to write a grant that is designed to prevent gender-based violence for at risk women and children in Kampala, Uganda. It is felt that this grant will make a huge difference for these women and girls and their families.

Brad Martens, an Assistant Governor and member of the Rotary Club of Columbia South in Missouri in District 6080 heard a presentation about this grant at the Zone Institute for Zones 30 & 31 and was taken by the project as he had just spent time in Uganda and was aware of the needs of these women and children. He has stepped forward to take the lead on this grant after hearing Jennifer speak. Jennifer also spoke at the Rotary International Convention in Houston. For details and needs to help with this grant, you may contact either Jennifer Montgomery (jennifer25montgomery@gmail.com) or Brad Martens (martensb@health.missouri.edu).



DISTRICT 7770 MAKES THE PLEDGE TO FIGHT MODERN SLAVERY/HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH CAROLINA, USA!

District Governor Bob Gross invited RAGAS Board Member, Amelia Stansell, to educate and empower the attendees of District 7770's District Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (USA) on March 25th. Stansell donned her signature Super Girl costume and inspired the audience to unleash their inner super power to end slavery! During the presentation a flash mob style skit of Rotarians and Early Act students broke-out as they put on their #RAGASHero branded masks and capes and participated in a skit prepared by Stansell and with the help of chat.openai. The skit was entertaining and educational and showed that there are superheroes in Rotary. Among the participants was DGN Mary Gasque, who owned her role as Wonder Woman and borrowed the golden rope from a Rotary banner to make a golden lasso! Fun was had by all!

After the conference, District Governor Bob Gross, DGE Lou Mello, DGN Mary Gasque and DGND Sandy Morckel agreed to make the pledge for their District to support 21R28 and join the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery through 2026! They will work with their clubs to promote anti-trafficking efforts throughout their District and across the state through their connections. RAGAS is honored to have them take the pledge!

If your District hasn't taken the pledge, please contact bob.d@ragas.online for a copy of the pledge to share with your District Governor. They can adopt it one year at a time, or for the entire District Governor line like D7770 did!

Photo: The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery's Justice League (L-R) Brian Dunphy (Superman), PDG Alex Wilkins (Flash), DGN Mary G. Gasque (Wonder Woman), Amelia Stansell (Supergirl), Bitsy Stansell (Batgirl), Amelia Grace Stansell (Animal Girl), Michelle Altman (Captain Marvel) and two Early Act Students as Batman and the Green Lantern as they celebrate their success of combatting human trafficking through Community Awareness & Prevention Education with RAGAS!



GET THE RAGAS GEAR HERE!

Just in time for Melbourne! We have again partnered with the Rotary Club of Poulsbo in District 5020 to create a collection of RAGAS wearables. To order yours go to: <https://1905gear.com/product-tag/ragas/> and place your order! They are available in 4 colors (red, blue, white and black) in men's and women's cuts and a hoodies. This is a great way to start a conversation about ending human trafficking - and they are super soft and well made!



Dave McCleary, Dave Furia, Amelia Stansell and Troy Stansell





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?
帮助您找方法 ¿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 "iowaahelp" to 20121
Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery
www.iwanaht.org
Rotary

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 to talk 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](#),
- District 5710 [Rotary eClub of Community Action Against Human Trafficking](#),
- District 5280 [Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking](#),
- District 5810 [Rotary Satellite Club of Greenville to End Human Trafficking](#)
- District 1260 [Ware Rotary Satellite Club Rotary for Slave Free Communities](#)
- District 5030 [The Pacific Northwest Ending Sex Trafficking](#)
- District 5840 [To Combat Human Trafficking](#).