

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

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PEDALING 4 FREEDOM NARESH HITS THE FINISH LINE

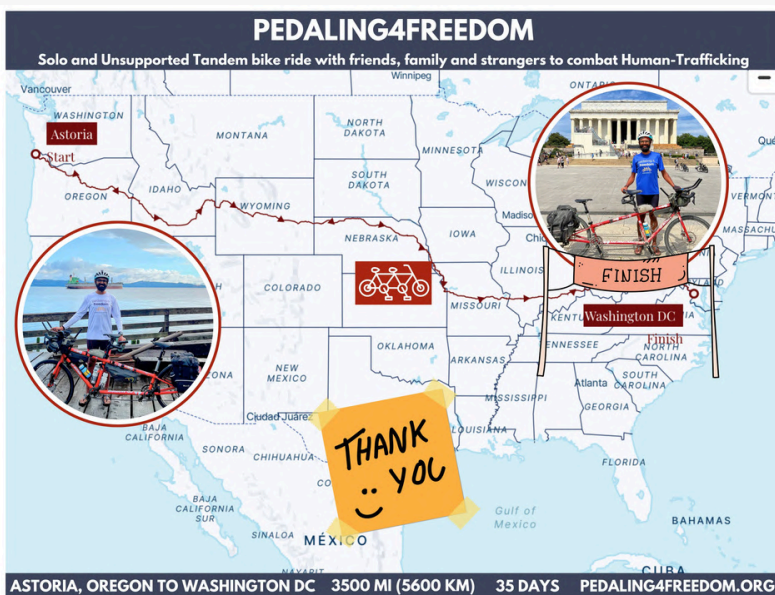
RAGAS, in partnership with 3Strands Global Foundation and G6 Hospitality LLC, presents Naresh Kumar of the Rotary Club of Guindy, India, with the HERO AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COURAGE. He embarked on a courageous solo trek across America, self-supported on a tandem bike. Learn more at pedaling4freedom.org.

Naresh Kumar's journey spanned 3500 miles in just 35 days, driven by his unwavering commitment to combat human trafficking, the second largest illicit trade globally. His constant mission is to raise awareness and funds worldwide, supporting efforts to protect children and educate communities.

Why choose a solo journey on a tandem bike? Naresh invites strangers to join him on the second seat, symbolizing the lack of control experienced by trafficking victims. They cannot steer, change gears, or stop—paralleling the control traffickers exert over their victims.

Naresh had the honor of dining with RI President Stephanie Urchek and a select group of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Monroeville, PA.

Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters. Pedaling4Freedom has received nearly **\$23,000 in donations to date.** Donations are still being accepted via QR code or at pedaling4freedom.org. The tandem bike will be auctioned later to further support the cause.



WORLD DAY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS TUESDAY, JULY 30; THEME IS “ACCELERATED ACTION TO END CHILD TRAFFICKING” BY DR GEORGE BELITSOS RAGAS BOARD MEMBER



Annually, the **United Nations designates July 30 as World Day Against Human Trafficking** in Persons to raise awareness of this devastating global problem and to promote the protection of people’s basic human rights. Trafficking is modern-day slavery, and this heinous crime is growing globally.

RAGAS encourages Rotary Clubs and Districts to mark World Day Against Human Trafficking with awareness events and trainings in your club and community. Another idea is to host a town hall meeting to discuss ways that human trafficking is occurring in your community/country and how we can create stronger, safer communities. Invite your sheriff, mayor, police, and other community leaders. Your club could hold a fundraiser for a local HT/MS survivor service NGO.

This year’s global campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons urges “**accelerated action to end child trafficking.**” Children represent a significant proportion of trafficking victims worldwide, with girls being disproportionately affected.

1 in 3 victims of human trafficking globally is a child!

The causes of child trafficking are as diverse as the ways in which children are exploited. Children are subjected to various forms of trafficking, including prostitution, exploitation in forced labor, criminality or begging, forced child marriage, and recruitment into armed forces.

Root causes are manifold, including poverty, inadequate support of unaccompanied children amidst rising migration and refugee flows, armed conflicts, dysfunctional families, and parents who sell their own children. Notably, in low-income countries, children are often trafficked for forced labor, whereas in high-income countries, sexual exploitation remains prevalent among child victims.

Please make the **Global Day Against Trafficking the day that your Rotary Club becomes part of the solution and stands with RAGAS in the global fight to end HT/MS trafficking.** We are aware that several Rotary Clubs are holding virtual trainings and in-person events to mark this special annual day. Please send photos and reports on your events to malcolmbaird@gmail.com, and we will post them in the RAGAS newsletter and/or the RAGAS Facebook page.

Click [here](#) to read more about this year’s UN World Day Against Human Trafficking theme. And click [here](#) to sign up for a free webinar by the Blue Campaign.

GRANT EXTENTION TO JULY 30TH, 2024. APPLY NOW



RAGAS is proud to announce its release of a request for proposals to solicit Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE) grant applications/ 2024 makes the third 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/rfp-cape-2024/>

Application can either be individual Rotary Clubs or an entire Rotary Districts. **The new deadline for the grant submission is July 30th, 2024.** The top 10 scoring applications will received 1,000 RAGAS Grant to assist clubs or districts in funding a community prevention education project.

In addition to funding, all grantee will receive:

- 1. Access to updated Prevention/Education Toolbox and CAPE Global Strategy to help create and execute a CAPE Project**
- 2. Mentoring by designated RAGAS coordinator, ambassador, or a 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.**
- 3. All grantee clubs or districts will be asked to adopt a three-year pledge committing to take a public stand against human trafficking/modern day slavery.**
- 4. All participating Clubs and Districts will be asked to appoint a human trafficking primary contact at the District and Club level who will help coordinate efforts throughout the grant period and ideally beyond.**

PROJECT REPORT FOR RAGAS 2023 GRANT

With the grant offered by RAGAS in 2023, the EFOHRSC (Ending Forced Organ Harvesting Rotary Satellite Club) of CAAHT (Community Action Against Human Trafficking) conducted the following projects by end of June 2024:

A. “Human Harvest” film screening at Texas A&M University
The event was hosted in the afternoon on November 4th, 2023, by the Falun Dafa Club of Texas A&M University and sponsored by EFOHRSC of CAAHT.



After the screening, David Matas, co-founder of The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC) joined via live video connection and gave an update on the recent progress of the investigation and answered many questions from the audience.

PROJECT REPORT FOR RAGAS 2023 GRANT

B. "Medical Genocide" film screening at GBC (Goldey Beacom College, Wilmington, Delaware)

EFOHRSC of CAAHT and Goldey Beacom College, hosted a documentary "Medical Genocide" screening at the event center of GBC from 6:30-8 pm on April 10th 2024.



Rick Jensen, Delaware's award-winning talk show host from WDEL Radio, served as the moderator for the panel discussion. The panelists consisted of representatives from different organizations:

- Dr. Jessica Russo, representative from Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting (DAFOH.org)
- Mr. William Huang, survivor of religious persecution in China
- Alex Luchansky, board member of Greater Philadelphia Falun Dafa Association (GPFDA)

The event was a great success with 60+ fully engaged local participants, including State Representative and House Minority Leader, Michael Ramone, Colleen Keith, President of GBC and member of Wilmington Rotary Club. Also in attendance were professors, staff, and students of GBC, and residents from the local community.

News coverage by both NTD TV and The Epoch Times can be referenced - links below.

Organ Harvesting in China Takes Center Stage at Film Screening
https://ntd.com/organ-harvesting-in-china-takes-center-stage-at-film-screening_985431.html

Documentary on Medical Genocide Shocks Delaware Audience
<https://www.theepochtimes.com/china/documentary-on-medical-genocide-shocks-delaware-audience-5628950>

PROJECT REPORT FOR RAGAS 2023 GRANT

C. “State Organs” film screening at Victoria Law School, Victoria University (Melbourne, Australia)



EFOHRSC of CAAHT and HRDOCS, hosted a documentary “State Organs” screening and talk at Victoria Law School from 7:00-9:30 pm on June 14th, 2024



The screening in Melbourne is briefly mentioned in an article in The Epoch Times linked below.

CCP Makes Nearly \$9 Billion Annually From Medical Genocide, Lawyer Estimates
<https://www.theepochtimes.com/china/ccp-is-profiting-at-least-8-9-billion-annually-from-medical-genocide-lawyer-estimates-5671723>

Dr Liza Lau, the local representative from Doctors Against Forced Harvesting (DAFOH), served as interviewer and moderator for the discussion with David Matas, co-founder of The International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China (ETAC).

The event was a success with 100+ participants including Councilor Blair Barker from Whitehorse City Council and Jordan Dittloff, senate candidate for the Libertarian party. Also in attendance were Rotarians and human rights advocates.

VISIT TO VIETNAM

Post Rotary International Convention an incredible visit to Vietnam where I visited our amazing partners working to help prevent, rescue, provide safe homes and job training to victims of human trafficking Pacific Link Foundation and Blue Dragon I spend a week there visiting their work in Ho Chi Minh City, Makong River Delta, DaNang, Hoi An, Ha Long Bay, Hanoi and Sa Pa what a life changing trip thank you to the team for taking good care of me.

We visited Elementary, High School where I had the honor to present Rotary Scholarships and iPads to allow them to dream again it was so inspiring and they were so happy someone from America took the time to visit them. I was on the Chinese border where Pacific Link Foundation rescues and helps restore Survivors I had the privilege of eating dinner with them and seeing how they are successful now and have hope for a brighter future.

Dave McCleary
RAGAS Chair Emeritus



ANTI-TRAFFICKING INTERNATIONAL 2024 CONFERENCE



In 2013, the Northern Virginian suburbs of Washington, DC, were the stomping grounds to some of the most dangerous gangs in the country. Despite their presence in some of the country's wealthiest and most well-educated counties, citizens were unaware that these gangs were trafficking young women and men, many of them teenagers from local high schools, for sex. This became a turning point for the localities that were affected and state of Virginia, which did not have a codified statute recognizing human trafficking at that time. **It was from these events that Anti-Trafficking International (ATI) got its roots.**

In 2013-2015, law enforcement, educators, community organizations, and local citizens launched a public outreach and awareness campaign with the goal of addressing a recognized need in educating the community about the prevalence of human trafficking. What was originally called the Just Ask Prevention Project became Anti-Trafficking International in 2021 to better reflect its global reach. **ATI provides prevention education to communities, schools, and front-line professionals.** It also consults with other organizations overseas who are seeking to implement prevention programs in areas that are highly susceptible to trafficking. It is only through education that we can get ahead of the problem.

ATI's mission is to stop human trafficking before it starts, and we are proud that our prevention programs have reached over 350,000 students around the world, more than 20,000 front line professionals, and thousands of community folks who are interested in protecting the places they work and live. **This past year, with the generous support of RAGAS, ATI trained teachers in Warren County Virginia to deliver our Just Ask Prevention curriculum to grades 6-10.** The introduction of the curriculum was warmly received by the school board, administration, and teachers. Many long time residents noted that the rural counties of the state are seeing problems that used to be only in the NOVA counties, and most kids are too naïve to recognize manipulation and grooming.

ATI is grateful for our partnership with RAGAS and its continuing commitment to fighting human trafficking. Together, we will be stronger in our fight to irradicate this scourge on humanity.

This year's conference ticket gets you two-month access to 17 pre-recorded presentations by survivor leaders and human trafficking experts to view at your leisure, plus two interactive livestream speaker sessions that will be recorded and available to view later, too! View the videos as many times as you want between September 8 and November 9, 2024.

NATIONAL TRAFFICKING SHELTERED ALLIANCE TO EXPAND ITS ALLIANCE REFERRAL SYSTEM WITH THE HELP OF ROTARY

The Parole Rotary Club of Annapolis and Rotary District 7620 have awarded the National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance \$12,000 in grants to expand the NTSA Alliance Referral System (ARS.) ARS is a network of over 100 shelters across the United States dedicated to enhancing resources and increasing access to care for survivors of human trafficking. **NTSA's Alliance Referral System (ARS) bridges gaps between trafficking survivors in need and the shelters that walk alongside them on their healing journeys.** The goal of the grants is to leverage the Rotary network and deep community ties to help identify candidate organizations to serve the needs of survivors of human trafficking.



Estimates show that there are likely up to 300,000 people being trafficked right here in the US. It is reported that less than 1% of those victims receive the aftercare they need to thrive. This problem generates a desperate need for thousands of survivors to find a safe place where they can heal and experience high quality, trauma-informed care.

With just one [online](#) form, the ARS team matches survivors' individual needs to the available shelters in their network of 100+ services within 24 hours. **Each referral represents a survivor in need taking a brave and powerful step on their healing journey after experiencing significant trauma within the commercial sex trade.** Each one is an individual with their own story, hopes, and dreams - all from different walks of life - but all seeking a similar path towards a new beginning. For these survivors, placement in a shelter means access to trauma therapy job training, a safe place to stay, and even legal services. As the anti-trafficking field continues to evolve, NTSA is leading the charge to expand ARS into an even larger and more comprehensive resource - onboarding new shelters to provide more options to survivors across the country. **To date, this program has facilitated over 2,000 referrals for survivors in need with a 30% average growth rate each year.**

I cannot explain how very grateful I am. This will change my life and make me whole again." - Survivor Who Used ARS

Looking forward, the anti-trafficking field urgently requires a tech solution connecting survivors with comprehensive services nationwide. NTSA's in-progress mobile app will streamline the current process of connecting survivors with residential programs and give survivors direct access to making their own referrals. This mobile app matches survivors with tailored resources based on individual needs like supervision level, faith preference, and location.

NATIONAL TRAFFICKING SHELTERED ALLIANCE TO EXPAND ITS ALLIANCE REFERRAL SYSTEM WITH THE HELP OF ROTARY

As NTSA and Rotary joined forces, the focus was not just on expanding the network but on identifying and addressing specific gaps in services. Through concentrated efforts, the partnership has yielded remarkable outcomes, ensuring that no survivor is left behind:

Filling Crucial Gaps: Recognizing the diverse needs of survivors, the ARS team identified several key gaps, including male survivor care, support for the LGBTQ+ community, assistance for minors, and services for individuals with disabilities. With the support of the Rotary grants, NTSA has been able to strategically fill these gaps, ensuring that every survivor receives the care and support they deserve.

Expanding Network and Connections: The grants provided by the Rotary has enabled NTSA to attend conferences, share valuable insights, and forge connections with providers and services across the field. This networking has not only strengthened NTSA's position but has also facilitated partnerships with organizations catering exclusively to specific demographics. Noteworthy additions include Bob's House of Hope, addressing the needs of male survivors, and Forgotten Children, serving undocumented foreign nationals. Additionally, Reclaim 13 has joined the network, specializing in services for minors.

Knowledge Sharing and Training: Beyond expanding the network, NTSA has leveraged the grant funding to provide HT 101 training to new organizations and services. This capacity-building initiative ensures that frontline responders are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively support survivors and combat trafficking in all its forms.

The impact of this partnership extends far beyond the numbers—it's about creating a more inclusive, responsive, and effective support system for survivors of human trafficking. Through collaboration and dedication, NTSA and Rotary are not only bridging gaps but also building bridges of hope and healing for those who need it most.

For more information about this grants or to learn ways to be involved, please contact Anna Hagenbuch at membership@shelteredalliance.org. If you're interested in supporting survivors on their healing journey, you can learn more and donate to NTSA at: <https://shelteredalliance.org/>.



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](#)

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 District and clubs that are dedicated 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](#)
- District 5710 [Ending Forced Organ Harvesting RSC of CAAHT](#)
- District 6000 [Prevent Human Trafficking Action Team](#)

**To submit a potential article for for an upcoming newsletter.
Please email the editor Ashley Aiken at:
ashley.rotarytoendht@gmail.com**



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 "iowaHELP" to 20121
Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery
www.iwanaht.org Rotary

This is a sticker created by the Rotary District 6000 Prevent Human Trafficking Action Team. For more information or questions, contact RAGAS Board member Dr. George Belitsos at gbelitsos55@gmail.com