

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

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

PLEASE JOIN OUR ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 26, 2024



RAGAS's annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:00 a.m PDT. All members are welcome to join this meeting as we will be bringing everyone up to date on the various projects and programs that we have undertaken in the last year. Below is the Zoom entrance to the meeting:

Topic: RAGAS Annual Meeting
Time: Jun 26, 2024 06:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87343660896?
pwd=PrZdqJ7zlSCjnpFbrqa92mJbsjXe66.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87343660896?pwd=PrZdqJ7zlSCjnpFbrqa92mJbsjXe66.1)
Meeting ID: 873 4366 0896
Passcode: 782037

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87343660896?pwd=PrZdqJ7zlSCjnpFbrqa92mJbsjXe66.1>

AN IMPORTANT, RAGAS SPONSORED EVENT IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

Let's Show Our Support



A fellow Rotarian who is an ultra-endurance athlete by the name of **Naresh Kumar** departed Astoria, Oregon on Sunday, May 19th for a **six week, cross-country, solo ride on a tandem bike named Kindness**. The ride is called [Pedaling 4 Freedom](#) and the goal is to raise awareness and funds to **combat human trafficking**. In his first two weeks, [Naresh has faced severe weather](#), closed roads, [snow](#), hail, mud, rain and flooding, and [breakdowns](#) yet he has persevered. His ultimate destination is Washington D.C.

[RAGAS](#) and [3Strands Global Foundation](#) are sponsoring this ride which is dedicated to ending human trafficking worldwide. The funds raised will be used for prevention education, one of the best ways to prevent human trafficking.

The total trek to D.C. will take approximately 6 weeks. The total fundraising goal is \$250,000. Currently, we are below \$10,000. For this reason, we need to come together and help make this happen.

Here's How You Can Help!



1. **DONATE** - If every Rotarian would donate to this cause, we would easily meet the goal. Every dollar counts! You can donate by clicking here or visiting **Pedaling4Freedom.org**.

2. **HELP SPREAD THE WORD!**

Pedaling 4 Freedom Marketing Playbook

As Rotarians, we each have the ability to share information about this important fundraiser to our clubs and communities. To make it as easy as possible, a **[Marketing Playbook](#)** has been created.

The **[Marketing Playbook](#)** was designed for Rotarians and has links to a myriad of marketing tools in Google Drive you can use to share this information including:

- **Ready-to-go social media posts** and captions for your personal or club pages
- **Links to photos and videos** of Naresh that you can use in presentations, on social media or wherever you want to share the information about Pedaling 4 Freedom.
- **A press release** about Pedaling4Freedom and Naresh
- **The scheduled route and dates** Naresh will be in select cities
- **A flyer for Rotarians** to share on your clubs social media channels, via email or to print out and share in person.
- **A flyer for your community** to share on public notice boards, with local elected officials, organizations and even your media.
- **Sample Media Coverage** that Naresh has already received by media along his route.

And if you are lucky enough to be located along Naresh's route, nothing would mean more to him than having you cheer him on or even hop on the extra seat and ride with him for a few blocks or a few miles!

Thank you for any and all support you and your club can give to Naresh and the cause.

Sincerely,
Bob Deering.



CALLING ALL Rotarians!

Let's Support Fellow Rotarian Naresh Kumar



Naresh Kumar is Traveling 3,500+ Miles Solo on a Tandem Bike Across America To Fight Human Trafficking. Give Today - We Need Your Help!



Naresh's Goal is to Raise \$250,000. Let's Get Him There!

Donate \$100 or more and earn Paul Harris points!

- RAGAS together with 3Strands Global is sponsoring this ride.
- Share Naresh's story on your social pages and use **#Pedaling4Freedom**.

Follow the Journey
Visit [Pedaling4Freedom.org](https://pedaling4freedom.org)

Make a donation to help end human trafficking!

pedaling4freedom.org

QR Code To Donate



If every Rotarian donates \$25 we can easily reach our goal.

The Staggering Facts

There are 50 million victims of human trafficking globally on any given day

This has increased by 10 million people since 2016

1 in 4 are children, 56% are women and children

SPONSORED BY:



SINGAPORE 2024



At the RI Singapore Convention in late May the RAGAS booth was quite popular with many visitors over the 4.5 days, including RI President Gordon McNally, who is holding the new RAGAS pin, - pictured with Yannick and Jo Fo from Thailand RAGAS, along with a flat super hero Amelia. Thank you to Malcolm Baird & Jim Poage for running the booth most days. On Tues the 28th RAGAS had an excellent breakout meeting organized by Dave McCleary with presentations from 'Pacific Links Foundation' on their Vietnam schools projects, plus the announcement of the RAGAS & A21 joint initiative, Rotary Youth Human Trafficking Awareness Program. Booklet link on the RAGAS website.

Below are various photos of visitors to the booth including at the nearby Peace Park with President elect Stephanie Urchick. Look forward to catching up with more RAGAS members in Calgary 2025. More pics on Facebook - RAGAS Central - <https://www.facebook.com/ragascentral/>



SINGAPORE 2024





Rotary



Rotary Action Group
Against Slavery



A Year in Review

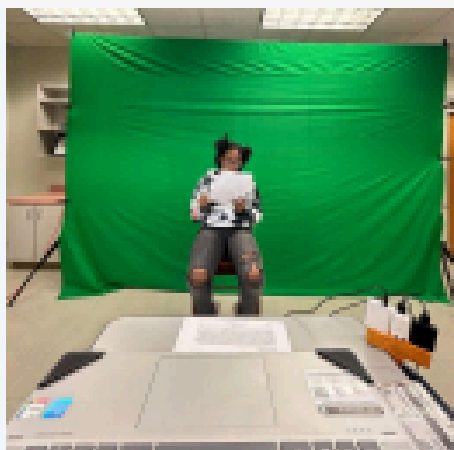
In June 2023, the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville applied for the 2023-24 RAGAS Community Awareness & Prevention Education (CAPE) Grant and was later awarded the funding. This grant was to fund the production of the Students Against Child Trafficking (SACT) High School Training Program at First Coast High School.



(Left to Right) SACT Board Member, Dani Hernandez; SACT Executive Director, Madison Edwards; SACT President, Denny Winkelman; Rotary Club of North Jacksonville Pres. Tom Melissgoier; and Pat Mulvihill

Students Against Child Trafficking (SACT) is a 501 C.3 NPO with the mission to prevent child trafficking and exploitation by educating and empowering students internationally through researched and peer2peer, interactive, SEL, online training programs. The training is 1-hour, free, and available 24/7 online in English, Spanish, and Thai. SACT currently offers the Training Program for high School and College-aged students and is in the development of a middle school and professional training program.

The original SACT High School Training Program was filmed in 2020. To keep the courses



Madison Phillip, Interact Vice-Pres., and Madison Edwards, SACT Executive Director.

Along with updating the SACT High School Training Program, the Interact Students at First Coast High School have had various opportunities to advocate at events like the Donna Health and Wellness Expo, as shown to the right where they passed out brochures and educated thousands of attendees on the importance of SACT and its mission.

relevant to today's global issues surrounding trafficking and exploitation, the high school training needed to be re-filmed. This was a heavy task that the ambitious Interact students at First Coast High School took on and were able to successfully re-develop the script and film the 8 modules of life-saving material that has since been published to the [SACT Training Website](#).



DISTRICT 6420

Since 2017, Rotary District 6420 has had a Task Force Against Human Trafficking. The Task Force was started by Toni Lucas after hearing a speaker on the topic at Rotary International. The group has since expanded and continues to focus on Education for Eradication (our motto). Our team has spoken to more than 30 other Rotary Clubs and not-for-profits this last year; explaining WHAT Human Trafficking is, how the exploitation of children occurs and WHAT can be done to help stop these heinous crimes.

The task force has t-shirts, beanies and mugs for sale, which supports the events that raise awareness on Human Trafficking. We also started a Facebook Page with a lot of information on Human Trafficking and our Task Force.

In 2023 we sponsored the first Walk for Freedom with A21 in the Quad Cities, across our newly built 74 -Bridge. We used the previously received profits from sales of merchandise to purchase signage and pamphlets for the event. It was a great way to raise awareness and we invited Rotary District 6000 from Iowa to join us for the walk. BIG things happen when small organizations work together for the same worthy cause.

Future plans include a large community event with a survivor speaking on Human Trafficking, probably this summer. In October of 2024, we have plans to Walk for Freedom with the A21 organization again. Our goal is to continue to grow the walk and have a greater impact on educating the community and surrounding areas.

As always, we will continue to speak with Rotary Clubs and other community organizations to stress educating the public on Human trafficking and how to recognize it. We would love to work together with other Rotary Clubs/Districts/Ragas on special projects or events, to educate the youth in our communities and around the World.

I have attached pictures of our Walk for Freedom, merchandise we purchased to sell, in order to buy brochures and signage AND a great article about Our Task Force Against Human Trafficking. There are some mis-quotes...like my in-person training was not with RAGAS, but with "Join the Movement" to stop Human Trafficking. (a not-for-profit training in central Illinois) But, it was a great way to spread awareness about our group and what we do.



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 an upcoming newsletter.
Please email the editor Ashley Aiken at:
ashley.rotarytoendht@gmail.com**



LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT?
帮助您的方法 ¿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
or Text "iowaahelp" to 20121
IT HAPPENS HERE IN IOWA
Iowa Network Against Human Trafficking & Slavery
www.iowanah.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