

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

RAGAS NEWSLETTER

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2024 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION MAY 25-29 2024 SINGAPORE



Are you attending the R.I. Convention in Singapore ?

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP RAGAS Booth 2420

RAGAS members and friends are invited to be volunteers at the RAGAS Booth 2420 in the House of Friendship. If you are able to spend some time, a couple of hours at the booth during the week, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Convention and booth is a great opportunity to meet other Rotarians and to share the RAGAS Strategy of Community Awareness and Prevention Education, (CAPE) which is aimed to help curtail the extent of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery that exists in many countries, a global issue. RAGAS brochures and documentation will be provided to assist. The aim is to create interest and sign up more Rotarians to be RAGAS members to share information and support more Rotary CAPE projects in many countries.

The desire is to have volunteers spare a few hours during the Convention week. We understand availability may change as details of the Convention program is released. The volunteer roster is flexible to enable volunteers to swap around so as not to miss any desired sessions. Hopeful you are able to join us in the RAGAS booth team.

If you can be available please email Malcolm Baird
malcolmbaird@ragas.com and/or Dave McCleary dave@endhtnow.com ,
who are drawing up the booth roster.

Convention current Program <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/program-and-events>

Video: <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/>

REMEMBRANCE OF THE 2023 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA



CAUSE-BASED ROTARY CLUBS ARE FIGHTING MODERN SLAVERY

By Susanna L. Southworth, PhD, JD
RAGAS Board Member / Rotary District 5030 Secretary
Rotary Club of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Ending Sex Trafficking IPP

We are charged by former RI President Kaylan Banerjee to promote positive change. In response to the question, “Why are we in Rotary?” Banerjee reminds us of our unique perspective as servant leaders motivated to improve lives: “I believe we are here because we care, and because we see both what’s wrong in the world and what is right...I believe we are in Rotary to change the world – for why else would we be Rotarians? We are not here to listen to the naysayers, the doom mongers, those who say the world can be no better than it is, so why even try to change? We are here because we believe in change.” Seven cause-based Rotary clubs, chartered in the United States, believe in change and fight modern slavery in some form.

The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS), an action group comprised of over 900 Rotary members, coordinates efforts among these Rotary clubs as well as individual Rotary members to accomplish their mission of a world free of human exploitation. This article introduces each of these seven cause-based clubs. Increasing our awareness of the clubs that channel their energy and resources toward fighting modern slavery will boost their membership, affirm their mission, and help to connect all Rotary members impassioned to combat modern slavery.

No other area of humanitarian need is greater than the fight against human trafficking. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, after drug trafficking, human trafficking is the world's second most profitable criminal enterprise, a status it shares with illegal arms trafficking. It is imperative that Rotary direct its attention to the world's fastest growing criminal venture, valued to be an estimated \$32 billion-a-year global industry. Moreover, human trafficking causes significant harm and trauma that often requires a lifetime of treatment to overcome.

In my law practice, Restore the Child, PLLC, I advocate for survivors of sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse material, and sex trafficking to achieve justice and a judicial outcome to support their long-term treatment needs. One of the initiatives of RAGAS is to facilitate the passage of a resolution that Rotary International adopt an eighth area of focus that specifically counters human trafficking. Global grants are driven by Rotary’s focus areas, yet none of Rotary’s seven pillars squarely addresses human trafficking. Without an area of focus specifically targeted on human rights, it is imperative that this theme is represented among service projects of individual Rotary clubs, like the seven introduced here.

ROTARY CLUBS ARE DEDICATED TO COMBATTING MODERN SLAVERY

This article highlights seven cause-based Rotary clubs dedicated to fighting human trafficking and modern slavery

1. Rotary Club of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) Ending Sex Trafficking (District 5030)
2. Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) (District 5710)
3. Rotary Club to Combat Human Trafficking (District 5840)
4. Rotary eClub to End Human Trafficking (District 5950)
5. Ware Rotary Anti Slavery Satellite Club (District 1260)
6. The Rotary Satellite Club of Ending Forced Organ Harvesting (RSC of EFOH) (District 5710)
7. Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking (District 5280)

Each club was asked to share their mission statement, their motivations and why they formed, and their service projects

Stories and narratives were encouraged with the goal to understand the heart of each club. Through this article, RAGAS endeavors to spread awareness about the important work of these clubs as well as to connect them with one another in a coordinated effort to combat modern slavery.



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1. Rotary Club of the PNW Ending Sex Trafficking (District 5030)

Between 300 and 500 youth were commercially sexually exploited in 2018 in the Seattle area based on reports by service providers.[1] In fact, Seattle ranks number 17 among major cities and Washington state ranks number 3 in the U.S. for the prevalence of human trafficking.[2][3] An energetic group of Pacific Northwesterners have banded together to tackle this crime, and I am proud to be one of them. Newly chartered on September 29, 2021 by Seattle 4 Rotarian, Virginia McKenzie, our club rallies around its mission statement: The Rotary Club of the PNW Ending Sex Trafficking engages its members and the community to work together to end sex trafficking in the Pacific Northwest through the inclusion of survivor leaders as subject matter experts, education, service, fellowship, networking, and skill-sharing. We leverage efforts and resources to build momentum for our cause by maintaining joy, grace, patience, persistence, and levity in the process.

“Our club is dedicated to bolstering the direct service providers that help survivors in our Pacific Northwest communities. For example, we have built hygiene kits with inspirational cards for both Real Escape from the Sex Trade (REST) and the Organization for Prostitution Survivors (OPS) as well as provided landscaping for transitional housing properties for (REST); we have supported fundraising galas by Scarlet Road, REST, the Genesis Project, Justice and Soul, Compassion Washington, and Stolen Youth; we have painted rooms for CHOOSE 180; we have baked holiday cookies for OPS; we have placed the National Human Trafficking Hotline onto hotel soaps to disseminate into the community; we have helped pick up litter and clean up homeless encampments around Seattle with We Heart Seattle, to name just a few of our projects. In addition to these service projects, our club has educated other Rotary Clubs in the District 5030 about the problem of sex trafficking in the Pacific Northwest and how to get involved and support their mission.

Our club’s main service project is to help incorporate the trafficking prevention education PROTECT Program by 3Strands Global in Washington state middle schools and high schools.”[4] The PROTECT Program comes with strong Rotary support as RAGAS endorses this particular trafficking education prevention curriculum and the PROTECT Program has already been successfully implemented in at least eight other states, reaching over 800,000 students so far. The Washington State Legislature recently enacted Senate Bill 5355 mandating that Washington state public schools provide trafficking prevention and awareness training beginning in the fall of 2025 to 7th-12th graders in which instruction must be offered at least once before a student completes grade 12.

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Currently, our club is seeking a pilot high school for this program and has funds available to offer financial support for this project. The PROTECT Program recommends a whole school approach, using a train the trainer model. Both online and in-person curriculum addressing labor and sex trafficking is available to train counselors, social workers, teachers, health care workers, administrators, support staff, students, and even parents. Our club is poised with funding ready to help pilot this program in a middle school or high school in the fall of 2024. We are committed to fighting sex trafficking in the Pacific Northwest through trafficking prevention education. To learn more about and engage with the Rotary Club of the PNW Ending Sex Trafficking, visit our website at: <https://www.rotarypnw.org>.

2. Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) (District 5710)

District 5710 formed a District Anti-Human Trafficking Committee in 2018 with a goal of bringing together Rotarians who hold a passion for helping survivors of human trafficking. The committee received several District Grants to provide clothing, shoes, prepaid phones, and other supplies for survivors. In 2019, the committee was awarded a \$120,500 Rotary Global Grant to establish a drop-in center, or Day Center, to provide services to survivors. The Day Center provides a respite for currently exploited individuals. It provides a safe place to nap, shower, do laundry, store personal documents, and eat a snack. By providing for the basic needs of survivors without judgment, the committee builds a foundation of trust. The Day Center is an entry point to long term community support services. In 2020, under the leadership of DG Faron Barr and 30-year Rotarian Patti Mellard, the decision was made to form a Rotary cause-based club focused on fighting human trafficking. The Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT) chartered with 24 members on March 3, 2021. The club mission statement is to fight human trafficking and sexual exploitation by raising awareness, educating ourselves and our communities, providing assistance and support to survivors, and advocating for change.

The CAAHT Club engages in several main service projects. Their main service projects include summits on human trafficking; establishing a training center for survivors; combatting human trafficking in the Greater Kansas City, Kansas; providing COVID vaccine injections; assembling and distributing "Rotary Cares kits" and dinner casseroles for human trafficking survivors; assisting women leaving incarceration with basic needs and reintegration services; and supporting education on organ harvesting.

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Multiple service projects are pointed towards helping human trafficking survivors. The CAAHT Club has hosted two virtual human trafficking summits, “Educators Role in Preventing Human Trafficking” and “Human Trafficking Summit: What can financial institutions do to stop human trafficking?” They are cosponsoring a state-wide Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition building Conference in May 2024.

The CAAHT Club has leveraged both global and district grants to assist survivors. The Rotary Global Grant, “Reintegrating Survivors of Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking,” is a \$40,500 grant with international partner, the E-Club of Greater Cape Town, South Africa, to assist Rended Heart in establishing a Ready Training Center and Chosen: A Rended Heart Boutique. The project renovated space and increased support and training to human trafficking survivors to help them obtain sustainable employment and reintegrate into the community.

The Rotary Global Grant, “Rotary Swarm to Build and Implement Capacity to Counter Human Trafficking,” is a \$32,000 grant with international partner, Taipei Oriental Integrity, Taiwan, and partnering agencies, Veronica’s Voice and Engage Together. This grant will support community education and raise awareness of human trafficking networks, survivor services, and opportunities to affect change in the Greater Kansas City, KS area.

The CAAHT Club was able to increase its services to human trafficking survivors through a District grant for \$9495.30 in which it partnered with 5 Rotary clubs to assemble 114 “Rotary Cares kits” of supplies that were distributed to 6 nonprofit agencies that provide services to victims of human trafficking. The Club continued its trend to assist survivors with a 2023 District Grant project to support serving dinner casseroles to survivors of human trafficking at the Day Center every Friday for their group luncheons.

The CAAHT Club has a heart for helping women leaving incarceration. Through a 2022-2023 Rotary Global Grant, “Intersection to Care-Providing reintegration services to women leaving incarceration,” the CAAHT Club was able to provide a variety of tools to this vulnerable population, such as an on-site Resource Liaison at the county jail, supplies to meet basic needs, a mentorship program, training programs, SMART recovery program, resource referrals, and other assistance. This grant consisted of \$53,600 plus a \$35,000 donation from partnering agency, Valeo Behavioral Health, and a \$10,000 contribution from Shawnee County as well as support by international partner, Taipei Leadership Village Club, Taiwan.

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The Intersection to Care Project was also funded by a State Farm Neighborhood Assist Grant of \$25,000, which helped to provide basic needs to women leaving incarceration in conjunction with the Intersection to Care Grant. The CAAHT Club has invested in other health initiatives, such as “Kansas Beats the Virus” grant to provide COVID vaccine injections to individuals receiving services at the Day Center. In 2022, CAAHT took a stand against forced organ harvesting and both sponsored the Rotary Satellite Club of Ending Forced Organ Harvesting and assisted them in writing and implementing a successful District Grant on organ harvesting education. These service projects reflect the CAAHT Club’s desire to help an array of vulnerable populations, including human trafficking survivors. To get involved with CAAHT, go to their website at: www.rccaaht.org.

3. The Rotary Satellite Club of Ending Forced Organ Harvesting (The RSC of EFOH) (District 5710)

Human exploitation extends beyond modern slavery and trafficking and includes the purchase and sale of human organs. The Rotary Satellite Club of Ending Forced Organ Harvesting (The RSC of EFOH), established on August 15, 2022, makes it their mission to engage Rotarians and their communities to help eradicate the trafficking of vulnerable populations for their organs, known as Forced Organ Harvesting (FOH), and prevent people from unknowingly becoming accomplices worldwide. The RSC of EFOH is part of the Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking (CAAHT).

Just as modern slavery is a crime against humanity, so is forced organ harvesting, also known as “Medical Genocide.” These crimes have taken place for decades and they are still ongoing. Countless innocent people have suffered persecution and have even been killed due to these crimes. China is the leading hub for organ trafficking and transplant tourism, although China lacks a mature and reliable organ donation system. In fact, massive, forced organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners goes back to 2000.

The evidence was compiled and made public in 2006.[5] Organs are predominantly obtained from prisoners of conscience, such as Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghurs, Tibetans, House Christians, and others. Organs are forcefully extracted without consent whenever a demand arises, often leading to the victim’s death on the operating table. These Rotarians provide a voice for victims of forced organ harvesting who have none and strive to create hope in the face of these crimes against humanity.

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When asked what keeps members motivated to engage in this club, themes emerged. The atrocity of the crime against humanity of forced organ harvesting drew strong support and “enthusiastic encouragement” for the formation of this club by members from all over the world, including Australia, Canada, Sweden, and the United States. Some charter members are Falun Gong practitioners and so hold a special empathy for victims of forced organ harvesting, like Ien, the Charter President, who drew upon her leadership experience gained as Past President of the Sherwood Rotary Club to start this club. Members are driven by a sense of responsibility to increase public awareness about this heinous crime and motivated to make a greater impact to prevent the brutal killings of prisoners of conscience, such as Falun Gong practitioners. Other members highly admire how Rotarians demonstrate high morals, like honesty, politeness, and generosity, as well as Rotarians' dedication to community service. This club is an outlet for human rights activists—to share expertise, learn from other Rotarians, and form a team made up of people from all over the world to achieve the same goal of stopping forced organ harvesting.

This club engages in projects that raise public awareness about forced organ harvesting, particularly through presentations, screening documentaries, and distribution of medical research reports and publications about the issue to local Rotary clubs, universities, and communities. For example, with the backing of a grant offered by Rotary District 5710 and proactive support from its sponsoring CAAHT Rotary Club, members from various states of the RSC of EFOH club successfully completed three film screening events of “Medical Genocide” at the University of Washburn, Kansas (54 petitions signed); University of Delaware (24 petitions signed); and the Churchill Center in Los Angeles, California by the end of June 2023. Over 80 people attended from local communities, Rotary clubs, and universities, including both professors and college students. The club is planning to host three documentary screening events in New Jersey, Delaware, and Melbourne, Australia before the end of June 2024.

To learn more about this club's story, why it formed, and get involved, go to the following link:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/16195/Page/Show?ClassCode=Page&Slug=rotary-satellite-club-of-ending-forced-organ-harvesting-our-story>

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4. Rotary Club to Combat Human Trafficking (District 5840)

The District 5840 Rotary Club to Combat Human Trafficking is located in South/Central Texas. This Rotary District encompasses 44 counties and 57 Rotary Clubs, from Del Rio to Dripping Springs and Ballinger to Beeville. In July of 2021, the District 5840 Rotary Club to Combat Human Trafficking was formed as a satellite Rotary Club of the Fair Oaks Ranch Rotary Club and then chartered as a standalone club in April of 2022. The District 5840 Rotary Club to Combat Human Trafficking's vision is to take action to significantly reduce human trafficking in D5840 communities as well as to make an impact on human trafficking internationally. Their primary avenue for accomplishing both their mission and vision is to work with their fellow 57 Rotary Clubs throughout the 44 Texas Counties of District 5840. Members stay because this club provides avenues for members to make an impact on human trafficking, as well as to become more knowledgeable about the issue locally and worldwide.

The Rotary Club to Combat Human Trafficking has two primary areas of Focus. Service Projects and Raising Awareness. The club partners with fellow D5840 Rotary Clubs on projects that are specifically geared toward supporting those vulnerable to human trafficking in District 5840. These projects also provide partnerships with various entities throughout District 5840 to combat human trafficking, including non-profits, law enforcement, coalitions, and community leaders. Some of these projects include: delivering math textbooks in partnership with Del Rio Rotary and Acuna Rotary Club of Mexico; collecting and delivering shoes and clothing to SanAntonioThreads.org; sponsoring Ransomed Life's Prayer Breakfast; organizing the collection of over 100 backpacks for vulnerable youth at the 2022 D5840 District Conference; overseeing the collection of over \$3000 worth of items for Common Thread Backpacks for Survivors at the 2023 D5840 District Conference; and partnering with Rotary Clubs from The Dominion, Boerne Noon, and Fair Oaks Ranch to fund and build an Outdoor Meditation Area for The Retreat4 Kids (serving survivors of child sex trafficking).

Additionally, the D5840 Combat Human Trafficking Club raises awareness throughout the 44 counties in D5840 by working with local Rotary Clubs to provide trainings, presentations, meetings, and community awareness events. Trainings and presentations are delivered via partnerships with anti-human trafficking programs designed to provide Prevention Education for school districts, parents and communities.

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The Club reduces demand for human trafficking internationally by educating D5840 Rotarians on ethical consumerism and how to avoid participating in human trafficking in purchases and choices. The club gathers information from their national and international speakers on human trafficking to disseminate throughout D5840.

The club's focus area of raising awareness came together to spur action when the club partnered with the non-profit Ransomed Life to provide an Awareness Training on human trafficking for a Town Hall in Beeville, hosted by the Beeville Rotary Club and attended by community and school leaders. The School District Superintendent attended the town hall meeting, and decided to work with his leadership team, Rotary, and Ransomed Life to provide Prevention Education to all school staff in Beeville coupled with Parent Prevention Education Trainings. Beeville ISD is now working with the Beeville Rotary Club and Ransomed Life to roll out Prevention Education to all Middle and High School students in Beeville.

Through a coordinated effort of impactful service projects; partnerships with government entities, school districts and other Rotary Clubs; raising awareness and focused activities to reduce demand, this club has made great strides toward combatting human trafficking in District 5840 and beyond. See their website to get involved: www.5840combathumantrafficking.com/.

5. Rotary eClub to End Human Trafficking (District 5950)

Not all Rotary Clubs hone their mission and service to a certain geographical area. The Rotary eClub to End Human Trafficking (RCEHT) boldly tackles human trafficking on a global scale through its expanding international network of Rotarians. Their mission is: As the only global Rotary Club focused on ending the humanitarian crisis of human trafficking, we work with others around the world to raise awareness, educate children, youth and communities, reduce risk factors that make different communities vulnerable and stop the demand for human trafficking.

They serve as a key resource in increasing the role of Rotary in reaching this goal as well as serving as a hub in creating partnerships with other Rotary Clubs and Districts, and key organizations engaged with the issue. The club values action and is committed to ensuring that club members are engaged in service projects and making connections between other organizations focused on ending human trafficking.

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Because of the global nature of the club, all meetings are on Zoom. The club offers both full membership opportunities and associate memberships for those Rotarians who are passionate about the cause but want to remain active in their local club. The membership fees for the associate members are used to subsidize membership dues for individuals who cannot afford the costs. The club also has a foundation to fund global projects such as the Economic Development Project described below.

Consistent with its mission to combat human trafficking globally, its main service projects are international and broad in scope, spurring improvement in big picture areas that directly relate to increasing vulnerabilities to trafficking, like business and economics. The club does not make light of the magnitude of its mission. However, eradicating polio was also seen as an overwhelming goal. The key is finding meaningful programs that can be pursued diligently over time. It is only with persistence and determination that a humanitarian crisis such as human trafficking that is so well entrenched in world society can be overcome.

An example of this type of program focus is the Economic Development Initiative. It is well documented that the lack of opportunity for sufficient financial well-being is one of the primary contributors toward making individuals vulnerable to trafficking. While countries around the world are experiencing economic development, much of this activity is disjointed, lacks follow-through, and does not provide a solid base for self-perpetuating, broad-based economic activity. The programs under development at RCEHT are designed for sustainability. They combine true hands-on training with capital availability, on-going mentoring and monitoring, and a focus on social capitalism. The goal of this initiative is the establishment of lasting, scalable, and locally owned business activities in areas of the world where human trafficking is prevalent to undermine the foundations on which traffickers build their networks.

Another example of a service project to overcome barriers to collaboration is the growth of an international network of RCEHT branches in communities that are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. The first two branches were founded in East and West Africa, and the club's long-standing Rotarians act as mentors to new branch members. A recent presentation by our West Africa Branch to the main club highlighted the importance of having a global perspective and participation that mirrors the real demographics of the world. The description of how a young woman may become a party to sex work via a long established culture of the "trading of favors" demonstrates that the types of programs that would work in the U.S. or Canada, would not be effective in a place like Ghana.

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Nevertheless, numerous suggestions of services and assistance stemmed from this discussion, clearly reflecting the value of an international, multicultural network. The power of networks is why association with RCEHT on even a small level can provide so much value to this cause. RCEHT provides a unique opportunity to engage with Rotarians all over the world on the issue of fighting human trafficking and take action. RCEHT has numerous ways for Rotarians to work collaboratively while staying focused on their own clubs. For additional information about this club and how to get involved, see their website at: www.endhtr Rotary club.org.

6. Ware Rotary Anti Slavery Satellite Club (District 1260)

The Ware Rotary Anti Slavery Satellite Club, while fairly new, has deep roots in the anti-trafficking movement extending to the formation of RAGAS in 2012-2013, when Mark Little, co-founder of RAGAS, submitted an application to RI for the action group. Reverend Debbie Hodge, currently a board member of RAGAS, was a key signatory to the application, and at that time, served as the District Governor of District 1260. Debbie Hodge is passionate about fighting modern slavery and poured this energy into chartering this Satellite Club in June 2022 as an extension of the Rotary Club of Ware.

The Satellite Club receives strong support from the Rotary Club of Ware, located within District 1260. The club has ten members and meets monthly on a Monday evening. It rallies around the mission to create “slave free” communities through education and prevention, while working in partnership with other organizations, such as the Salvation Army, Gang Masters Authority, and the Police. Their mission is also to provide unyielding support to survivors

The club supports the Medaille Trust—a network of safe houses for both men and women. Their latest venture was to fund a book club (cost about £100 a month) for the East London safe house that supports approximately 10 women. The long-term goal for this project is that the books will be passed on to another safe house, extending the value and length of the project.

Within Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, the club attends District and Multi District Conferences, promoting RAGAS and challenging members on their consumer behavior that perpetuates the problem of labor trafficking. The focus this year is on cotton t-shirts. The club asks questions such as: Do you know where the cotton has come from? Are the garments produced in “ethical” factories? If the garment is cheap, who is being exploited?

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Do you consider the carbon footprint of growing cotton, production, and shipping? Questions like these spur analytical thought on the issue of modern slavery and action to prevent exploitation and human trafficking. It is exciting to know that cause-based Rotary Clubs taking a stance against modern slavery are not just in the United States. To get involved with the Ware Rotary Anti Slavery Satellite Club, visit their website at: www.warerotary.co.uk/satellite.htm.

7. Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking (District 5280)

The Club of Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking in District 5280 is committed to combating Human Trafficking worldwide, while making a significant impact in their local communities. They actively engage in education, awareness, prevention, and support for those at the forefront of this critical mission. They embody the spirit of “People of Action” and strive for a more peaceful world. Together, these Rotarians envision a Rotary that inspires hope across the globe.

While many people are aware that human trafficking occurs overseas, awareness among Rotarians grew that this crime was happening within their own District 5280. Therefore, the Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking chartered with the goal to build awareness, help and empower survivors, and bolster nonprofits who assist survivors with their needs. Their members stay motivated through education on the issue, which empowers a sense of urgency to act and serve.

This club provides service projects centered around human trafficking survivors and those who directly work on this cause. Their main service projects are geared towards prevention education and community awareness. First, the club displays the iEmpathize Exhibit, which is an exhibit open to the public that is focused on raising awareness about human trafficking. Second, the club is committed to a holiday project, Adopt A Survivor, in which the club aims to adopt 40 survivors of human trafficking for the holidays and provide them with gifts. Third, the club hosts group discussions on the topic of human trafficking, facilitated by an expert on the topic, at a local bookstore. Fourth, the club organizes a toiletry drive in collaboration with other local clubs to deliver much needed items to survivors. Finally, in collaboration with another cause-based club, The Rotary Club of Mental Health and Wellness, these clubs host a panel discussion on mental health and human trafficking, two topics that overlap.

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These Rotarians are people of action. They are motivated by change for good, and they understand that lasting change requires affirmative action to oppose negative actions of greed, power-mongering, oppression, and tyranny. Passivity only leaves greater room for injustice to grow. Following Gandhi, this club strives to be the change they wish to see in the world. They stand alongside RAGAS in their focus on fighting modern slavery. They see a world where humans are not commercially exploited, but valued, respected, and protected. To be a part of the change for good and to learn more about the Rotarians Fighting Human Trafficking, see their website at <https://d5280rfht.org/>.

Our Clubs Need to Tackle Relevant Issues to Make an Impact

To remain effective, current, and relevant as a leadership and service organization in our communities, Rotary must take a proactive approach on the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking. Whether it is by protecting children (25% of sex trafficking victims are children), promoting human safety, furthering justice, or supporting human rights, there is an avenue that is non-political, non-religious yet deeply impactful for Rotary members to follow. The seven caused-based clubs are carving out the path towards ending modern slavery. This path leads to human empathy that is universal and resolute, blind to denominations and affiliations. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Laureate and advocate for the human rights of children, is on this path. Having received the highest award of honor with Rotary for the 2021-2022 Rotary year for the rescue of a nearly 1,000,000 children out of slavery, he says, "Breathe IN Suffering – Breathe OUT Compassion." Our Rotary clubs dedicated to fighting human trafficking breathe in suffering and breathe out compassion. They take a proactive as opposed to a passive approach on the issue, mindful that, "if we are neutral in situations of injustice we have already chosen the side of the oppressor." Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

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Special thanks to the leaders of the following clubs for providing information to help in the compilation of this article:

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[1] Boyer, Debra, PhD. 2019. "Commercially Sexually Exploited Children in Seattle/King County 2019 Update." Commissioned by Stolen Youth, Seattle, WA (<https://www.kingcountycsec.org/data> (accessed on January 22, 2024)).

[2] National Human Trafficking Hotline. September 1, 2017. "Ranking of the 100 Most Populous U.S. Cities: 12/7/2007-12/31/2016." Polaris (<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/resources/ranking-100-most-populous-us-cities> (accessed on January 22, 2024)).

[3] Ahmed, Ghazal. June 14, 2023. "Top 5 Human Trafficking Cities in The US." News (<https://www.insidermonkey.com/blog/top-5-human-trafficking-cities-in-the-us-1160004/> (accessed on January 22, 2024)).

[4] For more information regarding the 3Strands PROTECT program, <https://www.3strandsglobalfoundation.org/protect#:~:text=Through%20PROTECT%20curriculum%20delivered%20by,keep%20themselves%20and%20others%20safe>. The 3Strands Licensing and Education Director, Cynthia Cook, would be very happy to receive any specific questions that you may have about the curriculum. Her contact information is: (530) 200-3660 / cynthiac@3sgf.org. In addition, The Co-Founder and CEO of the 3Strands Global PROTECT Program, Ashlie Bryant, spoke about the program and the importance of trafficking prevention education at the Seattle 4 Rotary Luncheon on October 4, and a recording of the program is available to watch here: <https://youtu.be/c9F3ljtygXM>.

[5] An independent report entitled, "Report into Allegations of Organ Harvesting of Falun Gong Practitioners in China," was compiled and released by Canadian attorneys Messrs. David Kilgour and David Matas on July 6, 2006. See <https://dafoh.org/matas-kilgour-report/> (accessed on January 18, 2024).



RAGAS SOCIAL MEDIA

RAGAS communication

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

- [RAGAS Facebook](#)
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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 review for an upcoming newsletter you can email the editor Ashley Aiken at:
ashley.rotartytoendht@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.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