

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

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

RAGAS CAPE GRANTS MAY-JUNE 2024



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: www.ragas.online. Applications can be either individual Rotary Clubs or entire Rotary Districts. The deadline for the grant submission is June 30th, 2024. The top 10 scoring applications will receive up to 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. 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 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.

ROTARY YOUTH HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS PROGRAM

In May, the Rotary Youth Human Trafficking Awareness Program will launch at the Rotary International Conference. This is a comprehensive awareness program designed to teach youth about exploitation and human trafficking and how to take action against it. The program aims to educate youth on human trafficking, empower them to take action in their community, and equip them with practical ways to get involved in the fight against human trafficking. This program came to be through a collaboration between A21 and RAGAS. Thanks to this collaboration, this program was created to target Rotary Youth groups, such as Interact Clubs. By using A21's expertise in human trafficking and RAGAS's expertise in working with youth, an action-based program was able to be created and target youth in a variety of ways. From going through the program individually to using it in a group, there is no shortage of ways the Rotary Youth Human Trafficking Awareness Program can be used. A21 and RAGAS are so excited about the launch of this program and all that will continue to come from this collaboration. Visit the RAGAS Booth in the House of Friendship at the Singapore Convention.

A21 Website: <https://www.a21.org>.



RAGAS GRANT SUPPORTS A SCHOOL PROGRAM IN KOLKATA MISSING LINK TRUST INDIA -

Our flagship program, Missing Awareness and Safety School program (MASSp) developed by Missing Link Trust (MISSING) is a first-of-its-kind safety awareness program that is designed to address personal safety and empowerment of adolescents. The program focuses on Child Safety. It's a fully audio-visual program that engages with adolescents to raise awareness of sex abuse and exploitation, by using compelling narratives, art and technology for immersive experiential learning. The program is geography & class-agnostic and has been designed to be relevant for every adolescent in the country.

The program is currently available in English, Hindi and Bengali, and can be implemented both online and offline.

We have received permission from Samagra Shiksha Mission (SSM) Kolkata to implement the project in Government Schools of Kolkata. Thereafter, the program has been successfully implemented in 20 schools in Kolkata.

The RAGAS grant assisted with the MASSp education program, with highlights of the implementation at Kasba Balika Vidyalay a Govt Higher Secondary School situated in the southern side of the Kolkata district. Founded in 1927, it has since been catering to students coming from lower middleclass families. Presently the school has around 700 students. The project was rolled out for the students of class VIII to XII.

Respondent Age: 13 - 18 years Number: 225. Kolkata, West Bengal

MASSp comprises modules:
Critical Thinking Modules:

- Awareness 101: Against abuse and exploitation
- Cybersafety
- Adolescent Education
- Creative Thinking Modules
- Create Your Own Board Game
- Launch Your Own Awareness Campaign



MISSING AWARENESS & SAFETY SCHOOL PROGRAM – MASSP



Participants' Feedback

“ The MASSp program was organized in our school. I really like the Adolescent education module, as I learnt a lot of things from it. I would like to share the learnings and information to all my friends and the younger ones as well”
Student, Class X

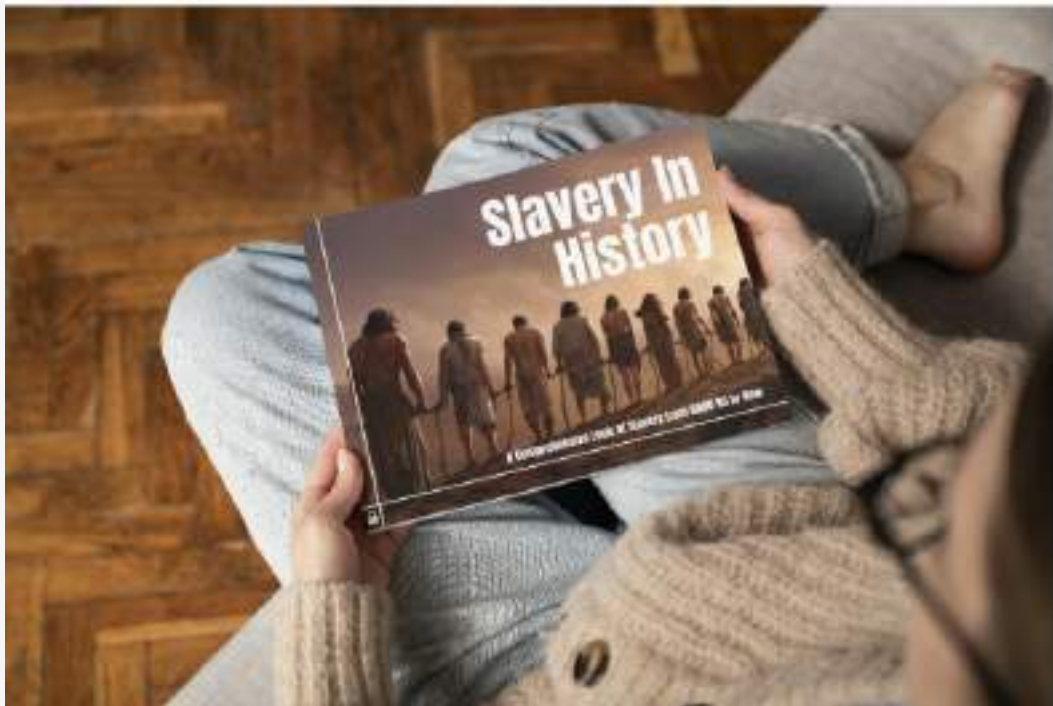
“Today the MASSp program was organized at our school, where the topics covered included safety of children & women, puberty & adolescence etc. It was a very useful program, we got to learn a lot & become aware and would like to spread this awareness further to our friends so they can also become aware of these issues. “
Student, Class XII

“Earlier we used to know little about online safety, but from this program we got to learn about a lot of new information. I got to know about the do's & don'ts of using social media accounts in Whatsapp, Facebook etc. Also, there have been times where I interacted with unknown people on social media, but now I have understood we should not do it, so this program was really beneficial for me.”
Student, Class: XII

Project Report for RAGAS: Kasba Balika Vidyalaya, Kolkata

Missing Link Trust India - <https://www.savemissinggirls.com/>

FREE THE SLAVES



We are pleased to introduce our brand-new eBook, "[Slavery in History: A Comprehensive Look at Slavery from 6800 BC to Now](#)".

Why this ebook matters: This eBook expands on the comprehensive timeline available on the Free The Slaves website, delving deeper into each time period and offering enhanced insights into the complexities of slavery through the ages. It is great for anyone seeking a better understanding of the historical scope of slavery and its persistent impact on society.

You can access this invaluable eBook at no cost.

<https://freetheslaves.net/download-ebook/>

[Download eBook - Free the Slaves](#)

This eBook is a testament to the unwavering commitment we all share in the fight against modern slavery. Accessing this resource offers a chance to deepen your understanding, finetune your advocacy efforts, and enhance your awareness as a global citizen.

20 OF THE WORLD'S RICHEST COUNTRIES ARE FUELING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Submitted by Dr. George Belitsos
RAGAS Board Member

The world's 20 richest countries are fueling forced labor and sex trafficking which account for over half the estimated 50 million people living in "modern slavery", according to a report released Wednesday by the Walk Free Foundation. The Walk Free Foundation is an international human rights group that focuses on human trafficking and modern slavery (HT/MS). Six members of the group of 20 nations have the largest number of people in modern slavery – either in forced labor, sex trafficking, or forced marriage. India tops the list with 11 million followed by China with 5.8 million, Russia with 1.9 million, Indonesia with 1.8 million, Turkey with 1.3 million, and the United States with 1.1 million.

The Walk Free report states, "Most of the countries with the lowest prevalence of modern slavery – Switzerland, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Ireland, Japan, and Finland – are also members of the G20". Yet even in these countries, thousands of people continue to be forced into prostitution or labor, despite their high levels of economic development, gender equality, social welfare, political stability, and strong criminal justice systems.

Last year, a report by the U.N.'s International Labor Organization and International Organization for Migration and Walk Free estimated that 50 million people were living in "modern slavery" – 28 million in forced labor and 22 million in sex trafficking and forced marriage. That is a 10 million increase in just five years.

The report stressed that human trafficking and modern slavery occur in every country, across many sectors, and at every stage of the supply chain. It cited the demands for cheap fashion and seafood as spurring forced labor that was hidden deep in those industries, while the worst forms of child labor are used to farm and harvest the cocoa beans that end up in chocolate. The other countries with the highest prevalence of modern slavery were North Korea, Eritrea, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. While the United Kingdom, Australia, Netherlands, Portugal, and the United States were noted for having strong government responses to combat slavery, the report said those improvements were fewer and weaker than required. Most G20 governments are still not doing enough to ensure that modern slavery is not involved in the production of goods imported into their countries and within the supply chains of companies they do business with. In 2015, one of the U.N. goals adopted by the world leaders was to end HT/MS by 2030. But Walk Free said the significant increase in the number of people living in modern slavery and stagnating government action highlight that this goal is even further from being achieved. The United Nations is calling on governments around the world to step up their efforts to end HT/MS on their shores and in their supply chains. What we need now is the political will.

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



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