

ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

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



LIGHTING THE WAY: CALGARY'S FIRST ROTARY PEACE POLE & VIGIL FOR FREEDOM

A Historic Evening Hosted by Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) & RAGAS in Canada

As Rotarians from around the world gather in Calgary this June, join us for a night that will mark a powerful milestone in Rotary history.

RAGAS and RAGAS in Canada proudly present an unforgettable evening as we unveil Calgary's very first permanent Rotary Peace Pole — a bold symbol of unity, peace, and our global stand against human trafficking.

The evening kicks off with delicious hors d'oeuvres, vibrant entertainment, and inspiring stories from changemakers on the frontlines of freedom. You'll hear from survivor and advocate Kelly Tallon Franklin, alongside Rotarian leaders who are driving impactful work through RAGAS to eradicate modern slavery worldwide.

Then, under the glow of candlelight in the hotel's courtyard, we'll come together for a moving vigil. The night will culminate in a powerful keynote address from Rotary Peace Fellow and 2025 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Cheryl Perera, Founder of OneChild, as we celebrate the unveiling of the Calgary 2025 Peace Pole — a beacon of hope and commitment for generations to come.

Don't miss this historic and heart-stirring celebration of Rotary's mission for peace and justice.

When: June 20, 2025

Where: Hilton Garden Inn Calgary Downtown 711 4th St. S.E Calgary

Time Reception: 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Peace Pole Candlelight: 9:30-10:30 pm

[Register Here:](#)



CALGARY'S FIRST ROTARY PEACE POLE & VIGIL FOR FREEDOM



RAGTIME RICON 2025 CALGARY



RAGTime RICON 2025 CALGARY

RAGTime at the HILTON GARDEN INN, CALGARY DOWNTOWN

Thursday June 19, 2025 from 7:00-9:00pm

hors d'oeuvres – light music – everyone welcome (120PAC)

Meet the leaders of Rotary and the 26 Action Groups

**Share experiences and look for collaborations as we better serve Clubs
and Districts in their sustainable, measurable, impactful projects**

Early bird US\$75 by April 1, 2025; \$100 from April 2, 2025

**Please register at [RAGTime at the HILTON GARDEN INN, CALGARY DOWNTOWN |
Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development](https://ragced.org/)**

<https://ragced.org/>



WILL YOUR CLUB HELP US CHANGE THE ENDING FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Imagine this: a 15-year-old girl in a remote mountain village is offered a job that promises to help her support her family. She's hopeful. She dreams bigger. But instead of opportunity, she walks straight into exploitation. This story plays out far too often in Vietnam's Điện Biên Province, where human traffickers prey on families facing poverty and limited choices. Now, imagine if that story could have ended differently—because your club chose to act.

Introducing Project Dignity (GG2577183)- An \$800,000 Rotary International and World Vision Project

This is a \$800,000 global grant powered by Rotary International and World Vision. The goal? To prevent trafficking before it happens, protect those most at risk, and walk alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives with dignity and hope.

We already have strong support from key Rotary leaders and clubs, and World Vision has committed to matching our \$400,000 fundraising goal—dollar for dollar.

We're asking your club to be part of this movement. Will you join us?
What Does Project Dignity Actually Do?

- Teaches youth and families how to spot trafficking tactics, travel safely, and protect themselves online.
- Provides real job training and leadership development to at-risk youth
 - Offers legal aid, counseling, and reintegration support to survivors
 - Trains local officials in trauma-informed, victim-centered response
- Builds strong, connected communities that can stand up to traffickers

All of this is happening in Điện Biên, near the borders of Laos and China—one of the most affected areas in Southeast Asia.

Ask Yourself...

- What would it mean for your club to help stop a child from being trafficked?
- How many lives could change with just one job opportunity, one training session, or one safe community?

Your Next Step: 1. Make a Pledge to GG2577183 Project Dignity by
May 31, 2025

2. Click the [link](#) and fill out the Project Dignity Pledge Commitment Form

Thank you

WILL YOUR CLUB HELP US CHANGE THE ENDING FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

That's it! Your commitment can help rewrite someone's story.
Your Club's Gift Will Be Matched

Your club's contribution will be matched by World Vision—so your impact is instantly doubled.

A High-Impact Project Led by Seasoned Rotarians and Districts

We're proud to have the support of Dave McCleary (dave.m@ragas.online), Global Chair of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) and a global leader in this work. Please reference RAGAS when sending in your pledge to support this grant.

Project Dignity is being led by experienced and passionate Rotary clubs, including Sacramento and Danang, across these powerhouse districts:

- 5180 – Greater Sacramento, CA
 - 5240 – Central Coast of CA
 - 5950 – Central/Southwestern MN
 - 5030 – Seattle Metro Area
 - 5750 – Northwestern Oklahoma
 - 3350 – Central Thailand + clubs in Vietnam, Myanmar, and Cambodia
- Pretty amazing group, right?

Want to Learn More? We'd Love to Visit Your Club!

We're offering presentations to Rotary clubs interested in hearing more about this inspiring project. If you'd like us to speak at a meeting (in person or via Zoom), just let us know—we'd be honored to share the story of Project Dignity with your members.

Thanks so much for reading. Your leadership could be the reason a child finds safety instead of danger. That's Rotary at its best.

Email Attachments Included:

- Contribution Commitment Form – For clubs ready to pledge
- Project Dignity Brochure – A quick visual overview of the grant and impact

With gratitude,

On behalf of the Project Dignity Grant Team
Rotary Club of Sacramento



PROJECT DIGNITY A FIGHT AGAINST MODERN DAY SLAVERY

We put on our make-up and we say we are pretty. But it is a lie. Men come in and they see us and they tell us we are pretty. But it is a lie. We are nothing, we are worthless, our life means nothing. There is no hope for us. — Found scratched on the wall of a brothel in Vietnam



Human trafficking generates over US\$150 billion a year and is the second-largest criminal industry in the world after drug trafficking. It is a high-demand, low-risk crime. Human trafficking in Vietnam has reached alarming levels, with nearly 3,500 cases uncovered between 2010 and June 2021, impacting approximately 7,500 victims, over 90% of whom are women and children.¹ This underscores the need for an immediate and stronger intervention to combat forced labor and sexual exploitation

Changing Lives

Every person deserves a life free from violence and exploitation. Rotary and World Vision are working together to combat trafficking of women and children by equipping them, their communities, and local partners with effective approaches to prevent the exploitation of the most vulnerable, protect those who have been victimized, and increase access to justice and critical care. Project Dignity is a 2-year, global grant that will focus on the most vulnerable children and youth, including from ethnic minorities, poor families, and remote areas. Many of them lack parental care and are desperate for work opportunities. The project will educate children, youth, and parents on what trafficking is and the recruitment techniques traffickers use. It will facilitate learning on life skills, safe migration, online safety, vocational training, and leadership development. Families will receive home visits and livelihood support to meet children's immediate needs. The project will strengthen the capacity of protection systems and community-based networks to identify victims and at-risk children. It will support community-based social protection and referrals while seeking justice for victims.



PROJECT DIGNITY A FIGHT AGAINST MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Key Partnerships

Project Dignity will be managed by the Rotary Club of Danang and World Vision Vietnam. As the world's largest service organization, Rotary has unprecedented reach. World Vision works in nearly 100 countries with over 30,000 staff serving the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. In Vietnam, World Vision has partnered with government and community stakeholders since 2007 to protect vulnerable populations from trafficking and strengthen protective environments for children. World Vision will match Rotary's \$400,000 contribution toward an \$800,000 budget for this critical project.



Project Location

A large proportion of the world's trafficking cases occur in Asia, particularly across the Greater Mekong sub-region. The program will target trafficking hotspots in Vietnam's Điện Biên province, which borders Laos and China. Human trafficking in Điện Biên is a growing crisis, with traffickers preying on ethnic minority communities trapped in poverty, making them highly vulnerable to scams and exploitation. Trafficking victims—especially young girls and boys—are lured with false promises of jobs or marriage and taken across borders for exploitation. From December 2023 to November 2024, authorities recorded 5 trafficking cases involving 39 victims—a significant increase from the previous year. This is only counting the cases recorded by local authorities—many more remain unseen and unheard.



Điện Biên is located in northwest Vietnam (shaded above in orange).

PROJECT DIGNITY A FIGHT AGAINST MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Project Goal and Outcomes

The goal of Project Dignity is to significantly improve the well-being of women and children by reducing the prevalence of trafficking and exploitation and supporting survivors to rebuild their lives. This will occur through four areas of focus:

Prevention:

- Educate children, youth, parents, and caregivers on trafficking risks, online safety, safe employment search and migration, and self-protection.
- Support children's groups and leadership development opportunities in schools and communities.
- Equip youth with vocational training and connect them with legal recruiters and employers.
- Organize campaigns on safe migration and online safety.

Protection:

- Build the capacity of local government and other collaborators in the identification of trafficking victims, youth at risk, and home visits.
- Train local government and service providers in case management, counseling, and referral.
- Support reintegration of victims and returnees by linking them with legal and medical assistance, counseling, and livelihood development assistance.
- Conduct home visits with individuals and families to support development of life plans

Prosecution

- Train law enforcement staff on child-friendly investigation procedures and a victim-centered approach.
- Facilitate legal support for trafficking victims and juvenile offenders during investigation and prosecution.

PROJECT DIGNITY A FIGHT AGAINST MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Partnership

- Build protection-focused partnerships among government agencies, service providers, companies, and other community-based actors
- Develop a joint action plan to address human trafficking and connect victims to services.

You Can Make a Difference Rotary and World Vision look forward to another successful partnership, one that will change lives for children and families. Your club's participation will have a lasting return on investment, as every young life is precious beyond value. Thank you for joining with us.

World Vision contact

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World Vision U.S
Phone: 1-425-281-8429
Email: bgower@worldvision.org



Rotary Contact

Jamie Furlong, ISC Committee Member
Rotary Club of Sacramento, District 5180
Phone: 1-323-229-2885
Email: bgower@worldvision.org



During a recent World Vision project in Điện Biên province, these girls from a children's club received instruction in how to prevent human trafficking. They are safe, informed, and standing strong—because prevention is the first step.

2 DOCUMENTARY SCREENINGS + EXPERT Q&A PANEL

🏆 36 INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES! 🏆



“ALARMING, GRIPPING, AND ENGROSSING”

- NEW YORK MOVIE GURU

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

VENUE: CENTRAL LIBRARY

800 3 STREET SE

CALGARY, AB T2G 2E7



MS. CINDY SONG

Producer of State Organs



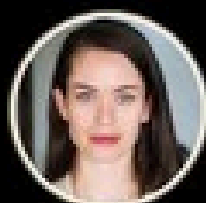
DR. JESSICA RUSSO, PsyD

*Board Member, Doctors Against
Forced Organ Harvesting*



DR. MARIA CHEUNG

*Professor Emeritus,
University of Manitoba*



MS. CAYLAN FORD

*Documentary Filmmaker &
Foreign Affairs Specialist*



10 PM - 3:30 PM

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

RSVP - FREE ADMISSION

~ This event is hosted by the End Forced Organ Harvesting Rotary Satellite Club ~

"STATE ORGANS" DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING

You're Invited!

The End Forced Organ Harvesting Rotary Satellite Club warmly invites fellow Rotarians to the compelling documentary screenings of

"State Organs" at the upcoming Rotary International Convention in Calgary.

1. Date: Monday 23, June 2025

Time: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Event Name: "State Organs" Documentary film screening
Open to All Rotarians and Public**

**Location: Calgary Central Library
800 3rd St SE, Calgary, Alberta, T2G 2E7**

RSVP: <https://StateOrgans-Calgary1.eventbrite.com/>

2. Date: Monday 23, June 2025

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Event Name: "State Organs" Documentary film screening
Open to All Rotarians and Public**

**Location: Calgary Central Library
800 3rd St SE, Calgary, Alberta, T2G 2E7**

RSVP: <https://StateOrgans-Calgary2.eventbrite.com>

Masterfully directed by Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Raymond Zhang and accompanied by an evocative score from Emmy Award-winning composer Daryl Bennett, *State Organs* tells the gripping story of two young individuals who mysteriously disappeared in China. It follows the heart-wrenching journey of their families, who spent two decades in search for their loved ones. In the process, they uncovered a shocking crime and a grassroots movement that has inspired both a nation and the world.

Visit StateOrgans.com to view the trailer, interviews, and additional information about the film.

Kindly RSVP via the links above. Thanks and looking forward to seeing you!

REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP: ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SEED UGANDA AND BULENGA MODERN PRIMIARY SCHOOL WITH SUPPORT FROM ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

Theme: Education as a Tool to fight Child Trafficking and Enslavement

Held at Bulenga Modern Primary School

Prepared by Lydia Nanfuka- Associate Director

On 1st March 2025, a workshop on Education as a Tool to Fight Child Trafficking and Enslavement was successfully conducted at Bulenga Modern Primary School. The event was organized by the Rotary Club of Kololo- Kampala in collaboration with the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS), SEED Uganda, and Bulenga Modern Primary School. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about child trafficking and enslavement, highlight the role of education in preventing these vices, and equip stakeholders with practical strategies to safeguard children.

The workshop was well attended by 162 children and 19 teachers from different schools, 41 parents, 15 Community leaders and 16 Rotarians, demonstrating a strong community commitment to protecting children from exploitation. School that attended included; Bulenga Modern Primary School, Right Way Nursery and Primary School Bulenga, Excellence Primary School Bulenga, His Will Primary School Bulenga, Kikaaya College School Bulenga, Quality Care Primary School Bulenga, Chosen Generation Primary School and Buloba Valley College.

2. Objectives of the Workshop

The primary objectives of the workshop were:

- i) To educate participants on the dangers, causes, and consequences of child trafficking and enslavement.
- ii) To highlight the role of education in reducing the vulnerability of children to trafficking.
- iii) To empower parents, teachers, cultural leaders, religious leaders and local leaders with knowledge and strategies to identify and combat child trafficking.
- iv) To foster partnerships among stakeholders to enhance child protection efforts in the community.

REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

The workshop was officially opened by Rotarian Kaguma William, the president of the Rotary Club of Kololo- Kampala, who emphasized Rotary's commitment to fighting child trafficking and enslavement through education and community engagement.



He highlighted the role teachers play in making children love school, encouraged leaders to help us implement all rules and regulations that help guide and protect the children, called upon the parents to treasure and treat children well and the learners to be serious with their studies.



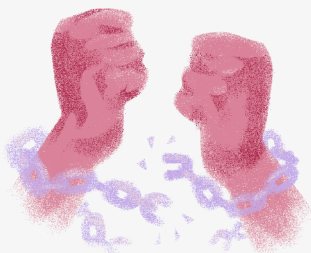
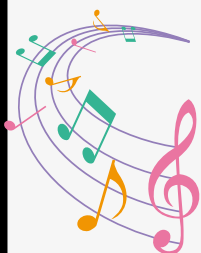
↙ The director Bulenga Modern Primary School and Director SEED Uganda, Mr. Semwogerere Patrick provided in insight into the role played by the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) and the Rotary Club of Kololo - Kampala, in sponsoring the workshop. He talked about the impact of child trafficking and enslavement by giving a real-life case shared by a former parent of the school whose daughter fell victim of the vice and spent over a year in prison; all his to illustrate the severity of the problem and the urgent need for intervention.

Musical interlude - The children presented a skit, poem and a songs all with a message to all highlighting the need for us to light the way, by educating them, so that they can rise and break the chains that bind them, the chains that make them vulnerable to trafficking and enslavement.



REPORT ON STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

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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 organizations 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 [End Forced Organ Harvesting Rotary Satellite Club](#)
- District 6000 [Prevent Human Trafficking Action Team](#)
- District 6420 [Task Force Against Human Trafficking](#).
- District 5170 [Rotary Vietnam Project](#)

**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