

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 RECEPTION AND INSTALLATION OF RAGAS FIRST PEACE POLE IN CALGARY

RAGAS INTERNATIONAL INVITES YOU  
AS WE PARTNER WITH RAGAS IN CANADA

# RAGAS RECEPTION

THE HILTON GARDEN INN, DOWNTOWN CALGARY

7:00  
PM 

|

20  
2025  
JUNE 

|

SURVIVOR AMBASSADOR  
**KELLY TALLON FRANKLIN**  
and speaker panel  
WITH PEACE POLE INSTALLATION EVENT TO FOLLOW

This important offsite event will raise awareness about the rising concern that is human trafficking in Canada and beyond.  
Join us for appetizers and a night of information, reflection, and action as we work together to end human trafficking.



Register at: *ragas.online*  
**COST: \$45 USD**  
**DOORS OPEN 6:30PM**

We are excited to invite you to a special reception hosted by the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) in Canada, during the Rotary International Convention in Calgary this June!

Event Details:

- Date: June 20, 2025  
Cost: \$45/person
- Time: 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30)
- Venue: Hilton Garden Inn Calgary Downtown

## RECEPTION AND INSTALLATION OF RAGAS FIRST PEACE POLE IN CALGARY

This gathering will provide an important opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians committed to raising awareness of human trafficking and supporting survivors of this devastating crime. **Join us for an inspiring evening including: tasty hors d'oeuvres, incredible local entertainment, a fabulous panel led by survivor Ambassador Kelly Tallon Franklin, some inspiring and informative speeches from RAGAS Members from around the globe and more.**

Connected to, and immediately following this event RIC and RAGAS International are thrilled to be announcing the installation of Calgary's first Rotary Peace Pole!!

**Please register in advance** to ensure your spot at this impactful event. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing an unforgettable evening dedicated to making positive change.

**To register ...**<https://emembersdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=12658>



## JOIN US FOR THE RAGAS BREAKOUT SESSION

Join us for the **RAGAS Breakout Session**, featuring Nobel Peace Prize nominee **Cheryl Perera**, founder of **One Child** ([www.onechild.ca](http://www.onechild.ca)), along with representatives from **RAGAS Chair, Dave McCleary, Pacific Link Foundation (Vietnam)** and **Leena Kejriwal**, founder of the **Missing Trust Foundation**.

### Session Title:

**Safe Communities: Empowering Against Trafficking**

### Session Description:


This session focuses on empowering vulnerable communities through **education and local initiatives** to combat **human trafficking, unsafe migration, child labor, child marriage, and internet exploitation**.

Our key initiatives include:

- ✓ **Risk screening, reporting, and response mechanisms**
- ✓ **Ensuring education continuity and career pathways for youth**
- ✓ **Training teachers and student leaders** to implement **School-Based Early Warning Systems**, protecting thousands of children in **India and Vietnam**

### Session Details:

 **Date:** Wednesday, June 25

 **Time:** 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**Don't miss this impactful session on building safer communities and empowering youth against trafficking!**





## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S CENTER FOR COUNTERING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ANTI-TRAFFICKING SYMPOSIUM: 2ND ANNUAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING EVENT IN WASHINGTON DC.

Dave McCleary, Chair of the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery, joined an incredible panel of leaders, including Moderator Thomas Ruck and Jonathan Barry (Senior Engagement Manager of DHS Blue Campaign), Michael Billet (U.S. Chamber of Commerce), Eliza McCoy (American Hotel & Lodging Association), Kendis Paris (United Parcel Service), and Tanisha Lewis (Metro-Washington Airport Authority).

It was inspiring to reconnect with old friends and meet new allies in the fight against human trafficking. A special highlight was hearing from Veronica McDaniel (Atlanta International School) and Chloe Brackens (George Mason University) as they represented The Freedom Connection, our new Rotaract Club, on a panel focused on education and prevention.

A huge thank you to the **Blue Campaign** for including Rotary in this vital annual event!

Chair Dave McCleary



## RINGING FOR PEACE: INTERACT QUITO RAGAS JOINS GLOBAL PEACE BELL CEREMONY

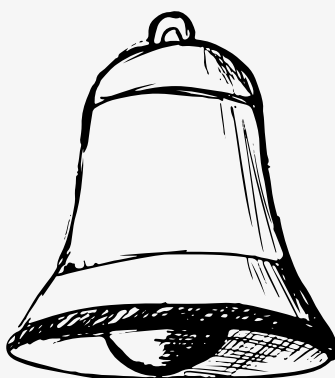
**The Interact Club Quito RAGAS** proudly participated in the *26th World Event and Peace Bell Ringing Ceremony, organized by the Rotary Club of Quito and the Embassy of Japan*. This meaningful event brought together diplomats, Rotarians, exchange students, and public figures to promote peace and conflict resolution while also celebrating the 120th anniversary of Rotary International.

**The Peace Bell is a powerful symbol of unity.** Built in Japan using metals, medals, and coins from 103 countries, it carries deep historical significance. Weighing 400 kilograms, it is one of only 21 Peace Bells in the world, with four located in South America. The bell in Quito was a generous gift from the World Peace Bell Association and was inaugurated in 1999.

The original Peace Bell resides at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Its base contains fragments from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, two cities devastated by atomic bombs during World War II. **The annual ringing of the bell serves as a reminder of the importance of global harmony and cooperation.**

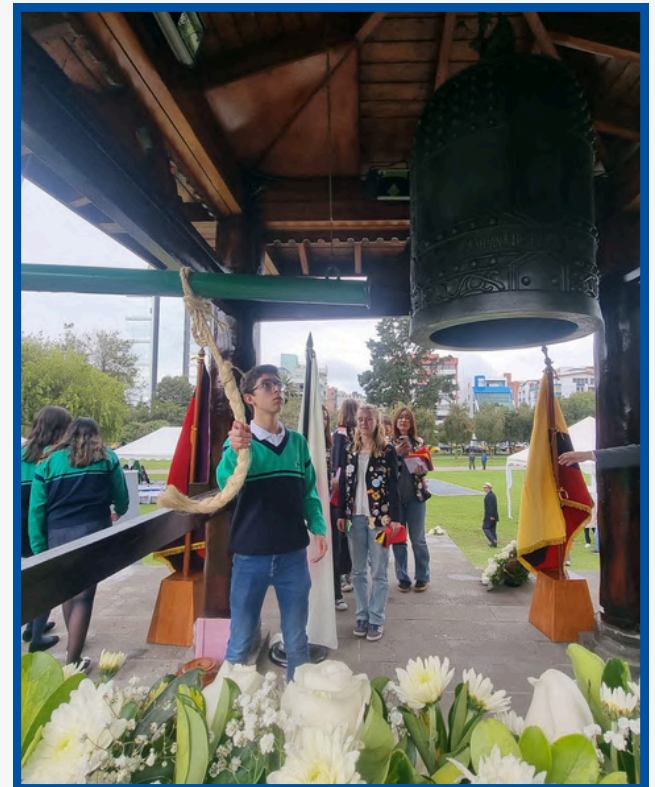
**Since its installation, the Rotary Club of Quito has hosted this event each year, reinforcing its commitment to peacebuilding.** The participation of Interact Quito RAGAS in this ceremony highlights the role of youth in shaping a more peaceful future. Through events like these, Rotary continues to inspire generations to work toward a world free from conflict.

Cinthia Chediak  
Past President  
Rotary Club of Quito  
RAGAS Board Director  
Latin America Coordinator





## RINGING FOR PEACE: INTERACT QUITO RAGAS JOINS GLOBAL PEACE BELL CEREMONY





## RINGING FOR PEACE: INTERACT QUITO RAGAS JOINS GLOBAL PEACE BELL CEREMONY





## HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TRAINING FOR ROTARY 3STRANDS GLOBAL

Calling all Rotary members and advocates!  
We're offering our Human Trafficking 101 for Rotary course FREE this week in honor of **#RotaryFoundersDay!**

Learn how to recognize the signs, take action, and be part of the **#PartnershipForPrevention**. Use promo code FOUNDERS at checkout to access the course at no cost—but hurry! This offer expires 4/1/2025.

Enroll now: <https://ow.ly/XgB550V6FwE>

**#EndTrafficking #RotaryImpact #HumanTraffickingAwareness**







## 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 [Ending Forced Organ Harvesting RSC of CAAHT](#)
- 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](mailto:ashley.rotarytoendht@gmail.com)**