

## ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY

# RAGAS NEWSLETTER

<https://ragas.online/>

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

## INTRODUCING RAGAS 2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS

### Officers:



**Chair:** *Dave McCleary*, Georgia, US: Rotary District 6900, Rotary Club of Roswell. In 2012 Dave became aware of human trafficking issues. He founded End Human Trafficking Now in 2012 with the goal to bring awareness and action. Dave serves on Georgia's Statewide Taskforce's working group "Deterring Traffickers and Buyers". He has been involved in fighting human trafficking efforts through White House efforts, United Nations Rotary Day, lobbying US House and Senate members, 2019 Super Bowl Anti-Trafficking task force, US Department of Justice and much more. Dave also received Rotary International's "Service Above Self Award". Dave oversees all of the RAGAS Board sub-committees.

**Vice Chair:** *DG Amelia Stansell*, Virginia, US: Rotary District 7610, Rotary Club of Warrington. Amelia joined Rotary in 2006 and is currently D7610's District Governor. She became aware of the Rotary human trafficking effort in 2017 and in 2018 with the help of her Rotary club formed the Fauquier Anti Sex Trafficking Alliance (FASTA), which brings awareness and prevention education, support for survivors and families. She has worked with her area Sheriff's Office, FBI and has served on speaker panels with other international representatives and continues to bring awareness to RAGAS members around the world. Amelia is Co-Chair of the RAGAS Strategic Planning and Governance-Nomination sub-committees and a member in the Public Image, RI Convention, Legal, Membership, Education/Prevention/CAPE, and Financial sub-committees.



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**Secretary:** *Sally Guon*, California, US: Rotary District 5320, Rotary Club of San Clemente Sunrise. When Sally joined Rotary, she found her passion for service. She was President of her club 2021-22, at which time she educated herself about human trafficking and knew she had only one option – to work in the trenches. She has spent countless hours researching best practices, attending conferences, networking with likeminded organizations and fundraising towards her goal to completely wipe out this crime during her lifetime. Sally is a member of the RAGAS Membership sub-committee

**Treasurer:** *Greg Davis*, Georgia, US: Rotary District 6900, Rotary Club of Buckhead. Greg is CEO and CFO of the LOG Financial Group. He is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner with over 40 years of public accounting experience. He has been involved with community service for years, President and Past Chapter President of the Kansas Junior Chamber of Commerce and Past National Chaplain of the US Junior Chamber of Commerce. Greg is Chair of the RAGAS Financial sub-committee.



### Directors:



**Cinthia Chediak**, Ecuador: Rotary District 4400, PP Rotary Club of Quito and RAGAS International Service Chair Cinthia was an active Rotaract member, 1998-2000, before joining the Rotary club of San Francisco of Quito in 2014. She then went on to be the 1st woman in the Rotary Club of Rio Guayas (Ecuador) in 2016. Cinthia is Co-Chair of the RAGAS Education/Prevention/CAPE sub-committee, Co-Chair of the Public Image sub-committee and member of both the Strategic and Coordinators/Ambassadors sub-committees. Cinthia is Co-Chair of the RAGAS Education/Preventions/CAPE and Public Image sub-committees, and member of the Coordinators/Ambassadors, Membership and Strategic Planning sub-committees.

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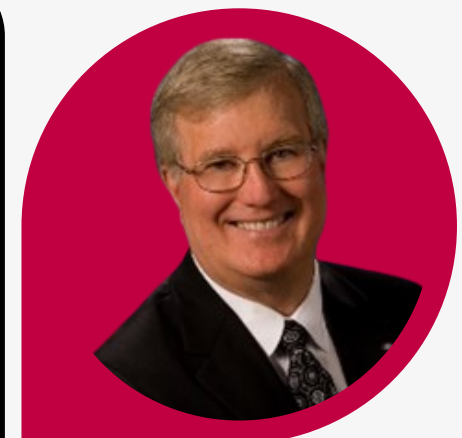
**Malcolm Baird**, Australia: Rotary District 9800, Rotary Club of Brighton North. Malcolm has been a Rotarian 18+ years and joined RAGAS during its inception. Modern slavery and child slavery is not well known in Australia and Malcolm feels Rotarians and Rotary International are well placed to influence, share resources and take action in local communities. Malcolm is a strong believer in education and helped to develop the RAGAS Community Awareness and Prevention Education Strategy (CAPE). Also, helping create the support Toolbox to share available global resources from many education and NGO service providers. All aimed to help curtail/remove vulnerability and exploitation of adolescents through information and knowledge. Malcolm is Chair of the RAGAS Education/Prevention/CAPE and Grants/Cadre sub-committees.



**Ashlie Bryant**, California, US: 3Strands Global Foundation (3SGF) – Founder and President. Ashlie founded 3SGF in 2010 in response to a trafficking incident in her small suburb. 3Strands has a global anti-trafficking training and curriculum, PROTECT, live in six states and several countries. 3Strands includes a direct services program called Employ + Empower that has placed a large number of survivors and at-risk individuals in sustainable jobs. Ashlie is frequently a panelist and keynote speaker, presenting to groups around the world. She consults with legislators and state Attorney Generals on anti-human trafficking legislations and helped author and pass AB1227, The Human Trafficking Prevention Education Act in CA, the first legislation of its kind in the US. Ashlie is a member of the RAGAS Education/Prevention/CAPE and Grants/Cadre sub-committees.



**PDG Bob Deering** (Past RAGAS Chair), California, US: Rotary District 5180, Rotary Club of East Sacramento. Bob joined Rotary in 1985. He has been President of his club, a Board member multiple times, and received many awards which include the District Service Award and Citation for Meritorious Service from the Rotary Foundation. Bob has been District Treasurer, Assistant Governor, and District Governor in 2012-2013. Bob has worked in many areas of the RI Zones 26/27, including being the Zone's Chief Financial Officer and several years as a facilitator at Far West PETS. Bob helped spearhead D5180's Global Grant Project to bring human trafficking education training to students along with community human trafficking awareness. This project with help of the Global Grant raised close to \$400,000 and educated over 50,000 students. Bob is Co-Chair of the RAGAS Coordinators/Ambassadors sub-committee.



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**Eduardo Esparza (new)**, Ecuador: Rotary District 4400, Rotary Club of Quito. Eduardo is a lawyer specializing in International Economic Law and Policy, as well as Administrative Law. He has extensive experience in international trade, conflict resolution, and international commercial law. He has been a delegate of Ecuador for the defense of free competition and national director of abuse of market power. He is fluent in English and Portuguese. Eduardo is a member of the RAGAS Governance – Nomination and Legal sub-committees.

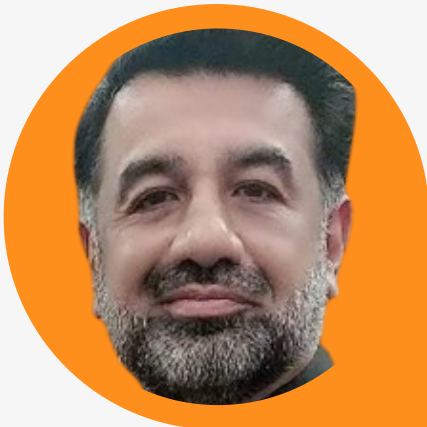
**PDG Aswini Kar (new)**, India: Rotary District 3262, Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Meadow. Aswini joined Rotary in 1986. He has been President of his club and served as District Governor in 2002-03. He has held many District positions over the years including being Chair of: District Foundation, Vocational Services, Friendship Exchange, Membership Attraction and Engagement, International Service, Youth Exchange and Club Development. Additionally, he has been Chair for many District sub-committees, and District Trainer during three different Rotary years. He has served during multiple Zone Institutes and been a member of the RI Multi District PETS committee. Aswini has participated, organized human trafficking awareness campaigns at club and district levels. He is passionate about helping to connect, empower and equip Rotarians to engage their communities to eradicate all forms of modern slavery/human trafficking locally and internationally. Aswini is Co-chair of the RAGAS Financial sub-committee and member of the Grants/Cadre, Membership, RI Convention and Strategic Planning sub-committees.



**Barb Lustgarten-Evoy (new)**, Ontario, Canada: Rotary District 7080, RAGAS E-Club. Barb has been a Rotarian for almost 12 years. She has served on the club board as Director of Youth Services for 10 years. Barb has been an elected official as a School Board Trustee for 2-terms (2016-2022) and has been Vice-Chair for the last two years. She is a professional speaker and hosts radio and television shows locally. Barb started the first human trafficking awareness raising group in her community to help support the only local survivor space, deeply supported in the community now. She has assisted RAGAS in organizing a large event in Canada, spoken at many events meetings and gatherings to help raise human trafficking awareness. Barb's hope is to work together to establish a unified plan and voice so RAGAS can be more effective in every country with Rotary International support. Barb is Chair of the RAGAS Governance – Nominations, RI Convention, and Strategic Planning subcommittees.

## 2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS

**Marie Julia Moreyra**, Argentina: Rotary District 5950, Rotary Club of ENDHT. Marie is a lawyer specializing in International Relations and the importance of the participation of women in peace process and resolution of conflicts. She has been involved in programs focused on gender violence perspective and prevention, human trafficking, and domestic violence. Maria is a Professor of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, has been a guest professor, speaker and trainer for workshops on “Gender and Human Trafficking with Sexual Purposes”. Maria has been a facilitator, moderator, panel member, speaker and organizer/coordinator for multiple international meetings, conventions and symposiums with a focus on women, peace, security and/or human trafficking. She is fluent in English, Portuguese and French.



**Salman Mubarak (new)** Pakistan: Rotary District 7080, Rotary Club of Multan Cannt-Pakistan. Salman’s focus is in health and his advocacy has been on polio eradication and malnutrition, as well as blindness prevention. He is a Cadre member of Technical Advisor of The Rotary Foundation. There is a dire situation regarding bonded labor work in Pakistan and Salman is passionate about contributing to the RAGAS cause. Salman is Co-Chair of the RAGAS Grants/Cadre sub-committee and member of the Education/Prevention/CAPE, RI Convention, and Strategic Planning sub-committees.

**Jerry Nelson**, Thailand: Rotary District 3360, Rotary Club of Chiang Mai Airport – Rotary E-Club Human Trafficking. Jerry has been involved in Rotary since 2013, first as a Charter member of the Chiang Mai International Rotary Club and now as a Charter member of the Rotary Club to End Human Trafficking. After serving in the Army for 20 years, Jerry is now retired. After this retirement he worked at the Pentagon Federal Credit Union, McLean Group and then later as an independent database/software consultant. He is also a professional photographer. Jerry is a member of the RAGAS Coordinators/Ambassadors and Financial sub-committees.



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**DGE Aaron Sines (new)**, Pennsylvania, US: Rotary District 7280, Rotary Club of Mercer-PA. Aaron has been club President, Vice President, Membership Chair, Public Image Chair, District Public Image Chair and has helped Zone 33/34 public image teams with zone production. Aaron has gone on three mission trips to Guatemala, volunteers with the Mercer County Coalition against trafficking and is current Mercer Borough Council President. He has conducted three trafficking seminars locally and has spoken at clubs about RAGAS. Aaron has been Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce Vice-President, Mercer AG development board member, and been involved with the Mercer Area Little League. Aaron believes we need to get the word out as to what RAGAS does, to unite to create lasting change in the education of all forms of trafficking and human rights. Aaron is Chair of the RAGAS Public Image sub-committee and a member of the Membership sub-committee.

**Dr. Susanna Southworth**, Washington, US: Rotary District 5030, Rotary Club of PNW Ending Sex Trafficking. Susanna is dedicated to ending human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Through her law firm, Restore the Child, she represents victims of abuse, online exploitation, child sex abuse material and sex trafficking. She holds certifications in collaborative law and basic mediation training. Susanna served survivors of child sex trafficking in her leadership as President of her Rotary club, 2022-2023, and serves on the leadership boards for CHILD USA, CHILD USA Advocacy, Compassion Washington, and the Organization for Prostitution Survivors to help survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. She passionately believes that trafficking prevention education that is trauma-informed is key to ending child sexual exploitation. Susanna has presented training to government and nonprofit entities across the country. Susanna is a member of the RAGAS Governance – Nomination and Legal sub-committees.



**Deepa Willingham (new)**, California, US: Rotary 5240, Rotary Club of Central Coast Passport. Deepa joined Rotary in 2001. She has been club Secretary and President. She quadrupled her club's revenue and ended the year with 12+ new members when she was President. She has been District Secretary and District Governor. She has been a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin and Santa Barbara City College and has taught in special education programs. Deepa founded the PACE Universal non-profit organization, setting up PACE Learning Center in South 24 Parganas District outside of Kolkata, India, successfully implementing anti-trafficking programs. South 24 Parganas is the biggest human trafficking district in all of India. This effort was highlighted in the October 2020 Rotarian magazine. Deepa is hoping to develop a document, "What you can do", for RAGAS distribution to raise awareness in local communities, to help develop commitments between public and private services, and help make this part of Rotary's Community Service Program.

## ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY ANNOUNCES EXPANSION AND STRATEGIC VISION FOR 2024-2025

The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) is thrilled to unveil its plans for the upcoming year, marking a significant milestone in its mission to combat human trafficking and exploitation worldwide. With the addition of five new board members hailing from three different countries, RAGAS is poised to enhance its global impact and reach new heights in its advocacy efforts.

One of the key pillars of RAGAS's strategic plan for the year ahead is the adaptation of the Rotary International action plan. By aligning with Rotary International's broader initiatives, RAGAS aims to leverage synergies and maximize effectiveness in its anti-slavery initiatives. This strategic alignment underscores RAGAS's commitment to integrating global best practices and ensuring comprehensive support for victims of slavery and trafficking.

Moreover, RAGAS is eager to expand its collaborative efforts with other Rotary Action Groups and stakeholders worldwide. Recognizing the power of collective action, RAGAS seeks to forge partnerships that amplify its advocacy and outreach efforts. By working closely with like-minded organizations and individuals, RAGAS aims to foster a united front against modern-day slavery, promoting systemic change and empowering vulnerable communities.

In addition to its partnerships with fellow action groups, RAGAS continues to cultivate strong relationships with corporate partners and governments globally. Collaborations with esteemed companies such as Delta, Coca-Cola, and UPS have been instrumental in advancing RAGAS's initiatives, providing crucial support and resources. Furthermore, engagements with governments underscore RAGAS's advocacy for policy reform and legal frameworks that uphold human rights and combat trafficking effectively.

Looking ahead, RAGAS is committed to showcasing its impactful work not only within the action group but also within the broader Rotary International community. By sharing successes, lessons learned, and innovative approaches, RAGAS aims to inspire and mobilize others to join the fight against slavery and exploitation. Through advocacy, education, and tangible interventions, RAGAS strives to create a world where every individual can live free from the threat of trafficking and exploitation.

As RAGAS embarks on its journey for the 2024-2025 term, the organization remains dedicated to its founding principles of service, solidarity, and social justice. With a growing team of passionate board members, strengthened partnerships, and a renewed strategic focus, RAGAS is poised to make a profound impact in the global fight against slavery. Together, we can build a future where freedom and dignity are safeguarded for all.

For more information on RAGAS and its initiatives, visit [[rotaryagainstsavery.org](http://rotaryagainstsavery.org)] (<http://rotaryagainstsavery.org>).

## 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](#)
- District 6420 [Task Force Against Human Trafficking](#)

**To submit a potential article for for an upcoming newsletter.  
Please email the editor Ashley Aiken at:  
[ashley.rotarytoendht@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.rotarytoendht@gmail.com)**



**LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT?**  
帮助您找方法 ¿ESTÁS BUSCANDO UNA SALIDA? ¿NECESITAS AYUDA?  
**STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
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**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.iowaht.org](http://www.iowaht.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](mailto:gbelitsos55@gmail.com)