



# Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery

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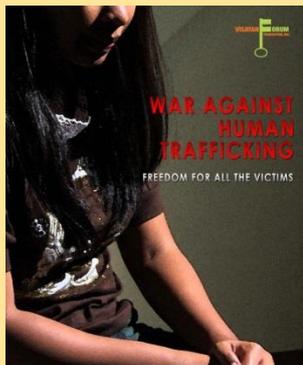


To contact RAG Board Members or Coordinators, please see relevant email addresses on page 8 of this Newsletter



*"Tell them, when they are eating chocolate, they are eating my flesh"*

(Vincent, an enslaved worker in the Ivory Coast)



Editor: Mark Little – Rotary Club of Norwich St Edmund, England

"You may never know what results come from our action, but if you do nothing, there will be no result"

(Gandhi)



## Nestlé agrees to clean up its act

Earlier this month Nestlé announced that they were on target to achieve 100% cocoa from sustainable sources by the end of 2015, thus becoming the first major confectionery company in UK and Ireland to achieve this milestone.

This is a significant step forward in the fight to eradicate child trafficking in the chocolate industry because by the end of 2015 all of Nestlé's confectionery containing cocoa will be certified by credible, independent standards bodies such as Fairtrade and UTZ.

Much of the credit for this public announcement

goes to Stop the Traffik. The anti-slavery organization has been relentless in its campaign to persuade Nestlé and other significant manufacturers of chocolate to ensure that their sources of cocoa are free from the taint of child labour.

Stop the Traffik has thanked supporters for their tireless efforts in campaigning to see an end to trafficking in the cocoa industry.

*"Since 2006, together we have put pressure on the chocolate industry. Together we have raised our voice on behalf of those who have been trafficked*

*and exploited. This announcement demonstrates that your voice has been heard. Because of your actions, the industry is changing"*

### Editor's comment

*Almost everyone enjoys a bit of chocolate every now and again. But if you take a closer look at how cocoa is produced, it is likely to leave a bitter taste in your mouth.*

*Estimates of child labour on cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast (the world's largest producer of cocoa) from organizations like the International Cocoa Initiative and UNICEF, have varied from 300,000 to one million children between 2007 and 2013.*

## UK trafficked victims can now claim damages

Up until the end of July, not all people trafficked into the UK had a right to recover damages from their traffickers. It depended on their immigration status – if it was irregular, they weren't able to achieve it, even if it was the traffickers who caused their status to become irregular in the first place.

Thanks to the intervention of Anti-Slavery International (ASI) in the Supreme Court, this has now changed. **In what is a historic judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that trafficked people have a right to claim damages from their traffickers irrespective of their immigration status.** According to ASI, "This is a hugely important step forward in the fight to end modern day slavery, and a proud week for Anti-Slavery International and our supporters".

**Editor's comment:** Brief details of the actual case which prompted the change in the law are included on page 3 of this Newsletter.



## US crackdown on child sex traffickers



Chart: Cross Country VIII Operations in US cities.

Last June, the FBI; its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners; and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) conducted Operation Cross Country VIII, a week-long enforcement action to address commercial child sex trafficking throughout the United States. This operation included enforcement actions in 106 cities across 54 FBI field divisions nationwide and resulted in 168 recoveries of children who were being victimized

through prostitution. Additionally, 281 pimps were arrested on state and federal charges.

*“Targeting and harming America’s children through commercial sex trafficking is a heinous crime, with serious consequences,”* said FBI Director James B. Comey. *“Every child deserves to be safe and sound. Through targeted measures like Operation Cross Country, we can end the cycle of victimization.”*

*“Child sex traffickers create a living nightmare for their adolescent victims,”* said Leslie R. Caldwell, Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. *“They use fear and force and treat children as commodities of sex to be sold again and again. This operation puts traffickers behind bars and rescues kids from their nightmare so they can start reclaiming their childhood”*

**(Source: FBI National Press Office).**

*“One of the strongest chains that hold slaves in bondage is lack of knowledge”*  
(Kevin Bales)

## Smart Phone APPs to identify Slavery Victims

Walk Free’s Global Slavery Index estimates that there are approximately 30 million people who are in slavery worldwide, but according to the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) only a fraction of this number (about 50,000 victims or less than one percent), received assistance globally. This number has remained unchanged for several years. Thus, very few victims are ever identified.

Three of the many factors which contribute to this dire situation include: 1) the inability of law enforcement officers who come into contact with potential slavery victims to determine where they are from; 2) their inability to communicate with them to identify if they are in need of assistance; and 3) many of these victims may be in exploitative situations, but surprisingly they may be unaware of their plight.

To address the issue of victim identification, the Mekong Club is focusing on two initiatives which use smart phone technology to solve the problem. The first initiative involves the refinement of an existing and fairly successful APP which enables law enforcement officers and/or NGO workers to question potential victims without speaking their language. This is achieved using pre-recorded videos and questionnaires which are loaded onto a smart phone. It is intended that this APP will be field tested in Thailand over the next six months, **but \$4,500 is needed** to complete this work. This APP has the potential to help law enforcement officials to identify hundreds of additional victims each year.

The second initiative is the development of an APP which would help victims to self- identify. After selecting a language on a smart phone, potential victims would be enabled to answer questions posed by a video (in their own language) to help them determine their exploitation status. To develop such an APP **would require funding of approximately \$15,000.**



## Smart Phone APPS to identify victims (cont'd)

The best way to visualise the two anti-slavery initiatives is to look at the Power Point presentation which RACSRAG received from Matt Friedman who was previously the Regional Project Manager of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking. Matt is currently the Chief Executive Officer for the Mekong Club. The Mekong Club is an organization of Hong Kong-based private sector business people who have joined forces to fight human trafficking in Asia.

Matt has also provided RACSRAG with a short video which he did for Google, which gives a sense of what he and the Mekong Club are trying to achieve. For this please click on the youtube link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQLhSx001S8>

If you required any further details of the above initiatives please contact Matt Friedman direct at [matt.friedman@themekongclub.org](mailto:matt.friedman@themekongclub.org)

## UK trafficked victims can claim damages (page 1 refers)

The actual court case which has resulted in a change in the law relating to a victim's rights to damages, concerned a young woman who, as a child was trafficked into the UK and exploited in domestic servitude. She had been deceived into agreeing to this employment as her "employer" had informed her that she would be paid £50 per month and sent to school. Instead, she found herself working seven days a week and without any pay.

After her escape she brought a claim for damages against her former "employer", but this claim was dismissed by the Court of Appeal on the basis that her employment was illegal, with her knowledge and that she had consented to her illegal stay in the UK.

However Anti-Slavery International's intervention in the Supreme Court was instrumental in reversing the Court of Appeal's decision. ASI argued that it would be contrary to the international law on trafficking to uphold the traffickers 'defence of illegality', a law that protected traffickers if their victim's immigration status was irregular. ASI also pointed out that the public policies seeking to deter and punish traffickers would be undermined if traffickers were able to avoid paying compensation to their victims.

## UK and the fight against Modern Slavery

The UK has since the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, prided itself on being in the forefront of the fight against human trafficking and slavery. But is that perceived role justified ?

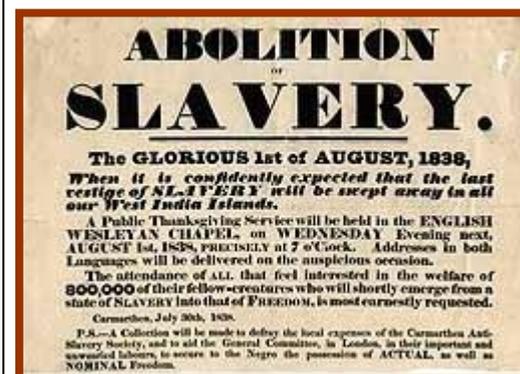
Since the end of the Second World War, it is accepted by commentators that the number of people held in slavery around the world has trebled. What has been Britain's response ? Has the country been proactive or reactive as a force against slavery and human trafficking ? Mark Little expresses a personal view on page 6.

IDENTIFYING  
SLAVES BY



USING  
SMART  
PHONES

Empowering the counter  
trafficking community to  
better identify victims  
of human slavery



## Modern Slavery and the American Psychological Association

(by Laura Dryjanska, PhD, RACSRAG Coordinator for Italy)

As a social psychologist I have the privilege to often link my professional activities and research interests with involvement in the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery.

I have recently attended the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association (APA) of which I am a member. Washington, DC provided a vibrant setting for multiple presentations, poster sessions and workshops; a number of them were dedicated to human trafficking, a mechanism that brings people into slavery and a crucial part of slavery's global picture. Among the human trafficking related presentations during this year's convention, it is worth mentioning the Continuing Education Workshop entitled *What Psychologists Need to Know About Human Trafficking: Identification, Tools, and Resources*, the Symposium entitled *Human Trafficking Victimization and the Criminal Justice System Process* and the Discussion entitled *Human Trafficking: Integrating Psychological Science, Policy, and Practice Solutions*.

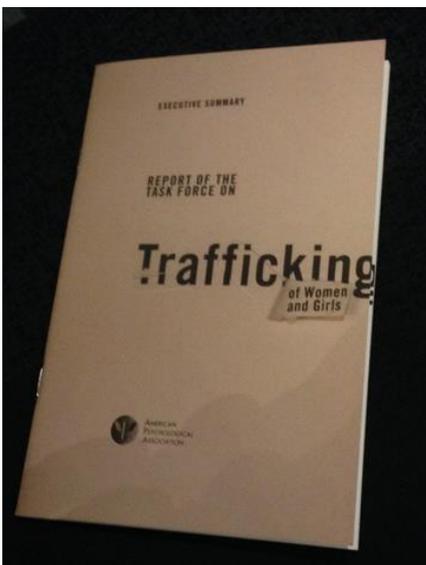
The last event offered an opportunity for participants to watch a documentary on human trafficking produced by the APA, analyze the state of the art of research, assess some the best practices currently undertaken to combat human trafficking and have a fruitful exchange during the collaborative break-out segment. One of the presenters, Dr. Michelle Contreras from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology congratulated and thanked the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery for the good work we have done in various parts of the world.

The Convention has also provided a unique opportunity to disseminate the report and executive summary on trafficking of women and girls, as well as to create other resources for psychologists and for the general public. At the Public Interest Booth in the Convention Center Exhibit Hall it was possible to pick up copies of trafficking-related resources and other public interest materials. The body of scientific literature on modern slavery is rapidly growing; at the Convention various prestigious publishing houses offered new volumes that emphasize different aspects of the issue, while others promoted new academic journals fully dedicated to human trafficking.

The APA's involvement in fighting modern slavery is by no means limited to annual conventions. Permanently, human trafficking resources are available on the Association's website (<http://www.apa.org/pi/women/committee/trafficking-resources.aspx>) and psychologists throughout the country participate in multiple projects and initiatives.

There is no doubt that child slavery exists all over the world, including the United States and Europe. **I have realized that there is a lot I can do not only as a Rotarian, but also as a professional. I would like to encourage our readers to do likewise, asking themselves: Is my professional setting concerned about child slavery? If yes, how can I contribute and bring the efforts of the Rotarian Action Group Against Child Slavery to the light ? If no, what can I do to change it ?**

*“ there is no doubt that child slavery exists all over the world....I have realized that there is a lot I can do not only as a Rotarian, but also as a professional” (Rtn Laura Dryjanska, RC of Roma Centenario, Italy)*



### Forced marriage: Another form of Child Slavery

(by Beau Neilson, Anti-Slavery Australia)

Anti-Slavery Australia has contributed to a new report from Plan International Australia which reveals that nearly 39,000 girls under the age of 18 are married off every day; some of these girls are married in Australia. Jennifer Burn, Director of Anti-Slavery Australia at UTS, says: *“In Australia, the practices of child and forced marriage are under-researched and under-reported. There is a need for more research, training of front-line workers, and, most importantly, community awareness and the development of effective support programs. A best-practice response means developing good laws and protocols, especially dealing with child protection issues.”*

See the full report at: <http://www.plan.org.au/News/2014/07/14/20140714-child-marriage-report-2014.aspx>

Editor’s Note: *Before the Rotary International Convention in Sydney in June 2014, RACSRAG members Mark Little, Carol Metzker and Harry Payne visited Beau Neilson and Jennifer Burn of Anti-Slavery Australia to learn more about the types of slavery prevalent in Australia, current efforts to fight the crime and ways Rotarians can help.*

### The Price of Sustainable Freedom

by Carol Metzker, One World Rotary e-Club

Schools4Freedom educate child slaves and free an entire village in India from slavery...for good. Addressing enslaved parents’ knowledge that education is the key to their children’s better future, they start by building a school. Adults learn, too—that they have rights, how to improve their health, and skills for generating income. Over a three-year process, villagers become stronger and able to demand wages and freedom.

#### Join us in this project!

- \$110 buys hot lunches for a child for 3 years.
- \$200 buys a roof for a school.
- \$360 buys freedom for a child.
- \$770 buys a solar streetlight.
- \$1,440 buys freedom for a family of 4.



So far, individual Rotarians and clubs together have donated enough money to free 18 villagers. The most recent donor—in addition to Rotarians and clubs listed in the RACSRAG’s Newsletter 48—is Lee Warren, a Rotarian from Virginia, USA.

Will you be the next?

Please become the next Rotarian or club to participate. To donate or to learn more about this project, please contact Carol Metzker at [echmetzker@aol.com](mailto:echmetzker@aol.com) or Mark Little at [mark.little@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.little@btinternet.com) or see more information about the budget, project and partners at:

[http://www.roisight.org/cs/Projects/schools4freedom/Schools4Freedom\\_invite.pdf](http://www.roisight.org/cs/Projects/schools4freedom/Schools4Freedom_invite.pdf)

## The Price of Sustainable Freedom (Cont'd)

### Progress Toward Funds to Free a Village

Each figure represents \$360 – the equivalent of freedom for one person in our School4Freedom project. When we have 100 figures, we've made our goal and the project can begin!



## UK's record in tackling Modern Slavery

(by Mark Little, Chair, RACSRAG)

As an anti-slavery activist, I have always felt slightly proud of the fact that the British Parliament, prompted by a handful of Quakers and a young Anglican, named Thomas Clarkson, took the very first step in recognizing each person's basic human right to freedom, and passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807. The 1807 Act was followed by the British Emancipation Act of 1833 which ended slavery in the Empire and Britain rightly assumed a leadership role in the fight against all forms of slavery..

In 2007 the UK celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that historic Act, but in truth the country's record in tackling slavery and the slave trade, has not been too impressive, especially in the six or so decades since the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

Most countries readily signed up to support the principles enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially Article 4, which states that "*No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms*". Britain like other European countries also supported Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights (1950) which states that "*No one shall be held in slavery or servitude. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour*"

The term "slave trade" is no longer used. The modern word for the "slave trade" is "trafficking". Why this new term was introduced, is anybody's guess. The most complete definition of the term "trafficking" is contained in what is commonly called the Palermo Protocol of 2000. But I like the simple definition used by Steve Chalke in his book "Stop the Traffik", ie "*Human trafficking is the dislocation of someone by deception or coercion for exploitation, through forced prostitution, forced labour, or other forms of slavery*"

It is easy for a country to sign a Convention, but it has no effect until its principles are written into its own laws and then those laws need to be enforced. In this respect, Britain appears to have moved at the speed of a glacier. It was only in 2004 under the Asylum & Immigration Act that trafficking for all forms of labour exploitation was made a criminal offence in Britain. That is 56 years after signing the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As far as the 1950 European Convention is concerned, Article 4 was only incorporated into UK law by the Human Rights Act of 1998. Under this Act, the UK was bound by international law to criminalize forced labour and to provide protection from slavery, servitude and forced labour. However, it was only in 2009 under the Coroner's & Justice Act, that criminal offences were created a) for holding someone in servitude and b) for subjecting someone to forced labour. So this was 59 years after accepting the principle enshrined in the 1950 European Convention.

Anti-slavery organizations have long since complained, with justification, that the UK authorities appear to focus more on excluding and expelling asylum seekers than discovering if those seeking asylum might have been trafficked into slavery. In a typical case, traffickers forced a 17 year old Congolese boy into sexual slavery in a gay club in London. When a patron rescued him, facing threats from the traffickers, the boy claimed asylum. British authorities denied his claims and deported him to Spain where earlier he had been held in brutal bondage.

Critics of the present system outline a litany of defects in the current system of tackling human trafficking in the UK: legal and governmental approach frames human trafficking as primarily an issue of immigration as opposed to a breach of human rights; too many government departments have responsibility for human trafficking leading to confusion; legislation relating to human trafficking and slavery is contained in three different acts; there is no one individual who can act as a voice for the victims of trafficking; there is no legal framework which requires large companies to disclose the efforts they are making to identify and remove trafficking from their supply chains; there is widespread ignorance among police, social workers and immigration officers about the scale and the nature of

## Britain and Slavery (Cont'd)

human trafficking; human trafficking is not included in the list of performance indicators for the police. On the latter point, it would appear that there is much more of an incentive to investigate a shed burglar than there is to find out if someone is a human trafficker.

In response to a highly critical report in 2013 from the Centre for Social Justice about the deficiencies of the current system, the Home Secretary, Theresa May has acted swiftly and drafted a new bill (the Modern Slavery Bill) which is claimed to be amongst the first Acts in the world specifically tackling modern slavery and reflects the Government's determination that the UK leads the global fight against this evil.

The [Modern Slavery Bill](#) is progressing its way through Parliament and is currently being scrutinized by the House of Commons Public Bill Committee which is expected to report to the House of Commons by 14th October. Many of the present shortcomings highlighted by anti-slavery bodies are being addressed in the new Bill, eg consolidation of slavery offences into one Act, the creation of an independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to drive through improvements to the system, increasing the maximum sentence for relevant offences to life imprisonment, making modern slavery a priority for the National Crime Agency. But many anti-slavery activists claim that the present Bill is still deficient on a number of issues.

In 2009 a coalition of anti-slavery organizations was established to monitor the UK Government's compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. This coalition is called the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG). The Group, which includes Amnesty International UK, Anti-Slavery International, ECPAT UK, Kalayaan, UNICEF UK, has produced an alternative model bill .

This Bill termed the [Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking & Human Exploitation Bill](#) is pressing for a number of new initiatives to tackle human trafficking in the UK. One is the creation of an additional offence for any person who uses the services of a trafficked, enslaved or exploited person. Another is the creation of an offence for anyone who removes, conceals or destroys any identity or travel documents. The creation of a separate offence is logical because undocumented status is the whip that trafficker/employers use to exercise control over migrant workers. Traffickers achieve undocumented status for their victims simply by stealing their passports.

Another clause being propounded by ATMG is the compulsory requirement for each large company (with a turnover exceeding £60 million) to disclose its efforts to eradicate modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour in its company's annual report and internet website. This is not a new initiative because similar legislation has already been introduced successfully in California, under the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act 2010.

Another situation which is causing concern is the visa regulations for domestic workers which some argue is accidentally licensing modern slavery. Under the current system, workers are tied to one employer, ie they cannot move jobs. The existing rules, it is claimed, could encourage abusive employers to demand extremely long hours and withhold pay and food. To improve the situation, ATMG is proposing that the new legislation should entitle all overseas domestic workers to change their employer (but not work sector) whilst in the UK, without any adverse consequences for their immigration status.

**If dear reader in RIBI, you believe that any of the ATMG's proposed initiatives to tackle human trafficking in the UK is worthy of inclusion as a clause in the Modern Slavery Bill, share your views with your MP before the Bill comes up for its last Commons debate in mid October.**

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**NB** There is vacancy for a Coordinator to cover Queensland.