

# RESOLUTION 21R-28

To request the RI Board to consider encouraging all Rotarians to oppose the growing problem of modern-day slavery

**Proposer(s):** District 6000, USA

1 WHEREAS, Rotary’s first area of focus is peace and conflict prevention, and  
2 therefore Rotary recognizes that maintaining human dignity is part of its mission,  
3 morals and values, and

4  
5 WHEREAS, RI endorses and supports the human rights of children, youth, and  
6 adults to food, shelter, health care, education, and freedom from abuse, violence  
7 and modern-day slavery, including sex trafficking, labor trafficking, forced child  
8 marriage, child soldiering, debt bondage, as well as other forms of exploitation,  
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, RI recognizes that modern-day slavery is among the worst and most  
12 damaging forms of abuse and exploitation, and that every nation on earth has  
13 adopted laws to ban this practice, and

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15 WHEREAS, RI has had a unique and important role in the founding of the  
16 United Nations and in the ongoing Sustainable Development Goals and human  
17 rights policies, and

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19 WHEREAS, in 2015, the United Nations developed Sustainable Development  
20 Goals, which include Target 8.7: “Take immediate and effective measures to  
21 eradicate forced labor, and end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure  
22 the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including  
23 recruitment and use of child soldiers and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms,”  
24 and

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26 WHEREAS, the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery has been working for over  
27 ten years to increase awareness and encourage local Rotary clubs to engage in  
28 anti-trafficking projects, and

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30 WHEREAS, every business, community organization, faith community, family  
31 and individual can make a difference by choosing products that are not produced  
32 by forced labor; by working to protect our young people from exploitation; by  
33 addressing the problem of internet sex trafficking; and by becoming more aware  
34 of the problem and possible solutions

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36 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
37 International consider encouraging all Rotarians to become more familiar with  
38 the growing problem of modern-day slavery, to be vigilant and report suspicious

1 activity in this regard, and to work towards solutions to end the practice in all its  
2 forms.

3  
4 IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors  
5 of Rotary International consider encouraging clubs around the world to engage in  
6 projects to protect all victims from hunger, neglect, abuse, and all forms of  
7 exploitation and modern-day slavery.

(End of Text)

### **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

8 The exploitation of children, youth, and adults is a growing problem across the  
9 globe. Today, there are over 40 million people enslaved in 155 countries; 47  
10 percent of these victims are age 18-25, and 25 percent are under age 18. It is the  
11 fastest growing criminal enterprise worldwide.

12  
13 RI has a choice on this issue: It can either rationalize the exploitation of children  
14 and youth as an age-old problem, simply accepting that human nature never  
15 changes and that, in any case, slavery is a problem for government, and do  
16 nothing; or RI can put into practice the tenets of The Four-Way Test, the second  
17 Object of Rotary, and the Rotary Code of Policies in relation to the rights of the  
18 individual by taking a strong public stand in opposition to enslavement, and do  
19 its utmost to help eradicate this worldwide evil practice.

20  
21 By taking a strong position, RI will increase global awareness, encourage clubs to  
22 initiate anti-trafficking service projects, publicly declare its opposition to the evils  
23 of slavery, and reach the hearts and minds of stakeholders and decision makers  
24 throughout the world.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

25 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot  
26 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of  
27 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.