

END SLAVERY

District End Slavery Program Committee Newsletter

Issue3

February 2016

Welcome to issue 3 of

The District End Slavery Program Committee Newsletter

With this newsletter we hope to help keep you informed on issues relating to **MODERN DAY SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR**. We also hope to make you aware of actions and projects that clubs and individuals can support to help rid the world of these scourges, and alleviate the suffering of its victims.

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GOOD NEWS



Canberra, December 2, 2015 [The Launch of the](#)

Australian Freedom Network



Faiths United to End Slavery: To mark the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, the Australian Freedom Network was launched ... at Parliament House in Canberra. The Australian Freedom Network brings together faith communities making a firm commitment to practical actions to tackle modern slavery in Australia.

More: <http://afn.org.au/news-and-media/2015/11/27/faiths-united-to-end-slavery/>

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull endorses the Australian Freedom Network: ...If we want to preserve the values that underpin our open, democratic society, we must work together to defend and protect the freedoms we hold dear

More: <http://afn.org.au/news-and-media/2015/12/07/prime-minister-malcolm-turnbull-endorses-the-australian-freedom-network/>

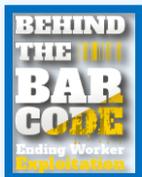
Eight Australian Businesses sign up to tackle Forced Labour and Exploitation.

Woolworths, Coles, Big W, Masters, Simplot, Goodman Fielder, Inghams and Officeworks join the pledge to move towards better work practices.

.....the signatories recognised that human trafficking, slavery and other forms of forced labour were human rights abuses occurring in global supply chains.



More: <http://www.theguardian.com/law/2015/dec/10/eight-australian-businesses-sign-up-to-tackle-forced-labour-and-exploitation>



Behind the Barcode is a series of industry reports seeking to empower consumers to purchase ethically, and by doing so, encourage companies to ensure workers are protected and not harmed, that they are rewarded, not exploited and that they work free from the tyranny of modern slavery. The guides' grade 219 fashion brands and 100 electronics brands operating in Australia and around the world, and assess the systems they have in place to protect the workers in their supply chain from exploitation, forced labour and child labour.

More: <http://www.behindthebarcode.org.au/>

Consumers urged to boycott popular electronic brands over worker exploitation concerns

The Electronics Industry Trends report graded 56 companies on the practices and policies they have in place to mitigate the risk of forced labour, child labour and exploitation.....

"Despite the size and profitability of these companies, no company could demonstrate to us that the workers that are producing their products are being paid a living wage," Mr Nimbalker said.

"A living wage allows people to cover the basics, the things they need to survive."

More: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-10/consumers-urged-boycott-electronic-brands-worker-concerns/7155098>



Child Labour in the Fashion Supply Chain

Visit <http://labs.theguardian.com/unicef-child-labour/>



Where,
Why &
What
can
be done



Global supply chains link us all to shame of child and forced labour

A false perception persists that child labour affects only developing countries. However, in 2013, more than half of Australia's imported goods came from the Asia-Pacific region, which has the largest absolute number of child labourers: 78 million.

More: <https://theconversation.com/global-supply-chains-link-us-all-to-shame-of-child-and-forced-labour-33593>

10 things we learned about eradicating child labour

In a recent live chat, a panel of experts took questions on the complexities of child labour in supply chains and the role of companies in eradicating it.

More: <http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/jan/23/10-things-we-learned-about-eradicating-child-labour>



Thailand's most senior human trafficking investigator to seek political asylum in Australia

Major General Paween Pongsirin says his investigations into human trafficking implicated senior figures in police and military and he now fears for his life

More: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/dec/10/thailands-most-senior-human-trafficking-investigator-to-seek-political-asylum-in-australia>

How the Thai fishing industry trafficks, imprisons and enslaves

Since last year's Trafficking in Persons report demotion, Thailand has announced tougher legislation, but there has been little evidence of improvement

More: <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jul/20/thai-fishing-industry-implicated-enslavement-deaths-rohingya>



Key items from recent RACSRAG newsletters

Newsletter 60

<http://www.roisight.org/cs/news/racsnews60.pdf>

RACSRAG joins forces with Walk Free

Child Friendly Movement

The USA Abolitionist Road Trip

Newsletter 61

<http://www.roisight.org/cs/news/racsnews61.pdf>

January 2016 Slavery and Human Trafficking prevention month in the USA

Rotary School4Freedom

"Where were you" – A profile of modern slavery

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUR_yFYDtOo

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www.racsrag.org/



Rotarian Action Group against Child Slavery