

58th International  
Convention



# *Creating a Human Trafficking Club Project*

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## *Action Steps*

- 1. Gain Club Commitment*
- 2. Get Educated*
- 3. Find a Partner*
- 4. Develop Goals*
- 5. Engage the Community*
- 6. Adjust to Changes*

## 1. Gain a Club Commitment

- *Through a strategic planning process or with a club resolution, adopt the service theme of human trafficking*
- *Think of the commitment in terms of a multi-year initiative that goes beyond providing a grant to a nonprofit*
- *Identify club leaders to initiate the process*
- *“Think globally, act locally”*

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## *Our Commitment*

- In our 3 year strategic planning process the club determined it wanted a closer connection to ZI themes.*
- We researched projects, facts and models and made several connections at the ZI convention in NYC*
- The board developed a 3-year proposal to commit to 3 service projects, one of which was connected to a ZI project – human trafficking.*
- After much work (and success), we expanded our efforts to an Anti-Trafficking resolution at district*

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## 2. Educate Yourself & Your Club

- *Commit to educating your club about the global & local issue through national & international governmental agencies & nonprofits; websites, newspapers, books, periodicals, television, etc.*
- *Give yourselves time to understand the issue—this is the foundation for all future work*
- *Use fast facts to gain interest - Slavery is now the #2 International Crime- to gain buy-in from members*
- *Use resources to set up classes, bring in speakers*

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## *Our Education*

- We used much of the first year to research, bring in speakers, host courses and training sessions and educate members & community.*
- We created a website page with links to disseminate the information within our club, but also for the community*
- We shared what we knew with the community through local speeches, working with the media.*

## 3. Find a Partner

- *Your research will include understanding the problem in your community and in identifying the involved organizations*
- *Interview each potential partner involved in human trafficking to find the partner that best matches your interests*
- *Seek a partner that can use the club members' time and skills, as well as funding*
- *A local organization is more likely to provide a meaningful experience for your members*

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## Our Partner

- *We interviewed several groups and selected the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking (FCAHT) - a new organization dedicated to raising public awareness, providing training services to law enforcement and service providers, and assisting victims*
- *FCAHT's founder, Anna Rodriguez, has received national and international recognition which has allowed Zonta's contributions to be acknowledged on a large scale*
- *We support FCAHT with money and service - our grants, and hands-on assistance played a key role in its initial success*

## 4. Develop Goals & an Action Plan: Ask

- *How can your club best contribute to the fight against human trafficking?*
- *What leverage do you have in your community—with elected officials, law enforcement, social service agencies, faith-based organizations, the business community, the media?*
- *What are the interests and skills of your Club members?*
- *What do you want to accomplish the first year, the second year, the third year?*
- *What specific actions can you take to meet those goals?*

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## *Our Goal: Eradicate Trafficking of Women*

*Local: Bring attention to trafficking of women in Southwest Florida and the District:*

- *SUPPORT: law enforcement, service providers, community groups and media to identify and assist human trafficking victims*
- *ACT: create speaking and writing opportunities, distribute materials, be available to all*
- *ADVOCATE: work with other District Clubs, legislators, other groups who want to join the fight*

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## *Our Goal:*

*International: Encourage ZI to continue the fight against human trafficking*

- *SUPPORT ZI's backing the UN Anti-Trafficking Protocol Prevent & combat trafficking in persons (esp. women & children)  
Protect & assist victims of trafficking*
- *ENCOURAGE ZI's Anti-Trafficking Efforts: Prevention means different things in different parts of the world.*

## 5. Engage the Community

- *Community awareness is the cornerstone of getting stakeholders to take action and to identifying the victims.*
- *Human Trafficking is a hidden crime that is usually first reported by a citizen, rarely by a victim - There is significant ignorance & denial about the existence of human trafficking*
- *Law enforcement, the media, and community leaders need to be empowered to educate their organizations and the community*
- *No one organization can fight this problem alone, but it helps to have one organization that is willing to take the lead*
- *Best to include law enforcement as an anchor of gaining widespread support*

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## Our Community Efforts

- *We met with the newly elected sheriff and told him of our interest in human trafficking and our belief that it needed to be combated locally*
- *The Sheriff agreed to provide training to his staff and to set up a Human Trafficking Task Force of service providers, community groups and law enforcement*
- *He provided the facilities, Zonta and our partner provided the organizational skills, speakers and media relations*
- *In the beginning, trust must be established among organizations and in your Club's leadership and role*

## 6. Adjust to Change

- *Key players may move on to other projects*
- *Understand that outside forces can alter plans and divert media attention*
- *Be prepared to let go of control*
- *Work on 2 tracks: Community and Club*

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## *Our Club's Adjustments*

- The designated law enforcement leader was promoted out of human trafficking and our partner's energy was divided as funding and other projects arose*
- The connection between human trafficking and illegal immigration blurred the message*
- If you are really successful, the project won't need you anymore and others will take on leadership*
- Be sure the club has established an independent action plan so its interest is not completely tied to the community project*
- Teach other clubs, other communities*

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## *Our Shared Achievements: 6/04-06*

- *Rescue of 8 victims and 4 babies and conviction of 4 traffickers*
- *Establishment of a regional task force called a “model of citizen activism for the nation” (4/2005)*
- *Establishment of a statewide task force (6/2006)*
- *Club Funding given to our service partner in 2 years: \$28,000, \$8,000 to Zonta International’s Anti-Trafficking Project in Bosnia-Herzegovina, total grants to all partners: over \$90,000*
- *Assistance in obtaining a state grant for \$150,000. and a federal 3 year grant of + or - \$300,000. for our partner and \$450,000. for the Sheriff*
- *Recognition in local and national publications, requests to speak nationally and internationally*
- *Adoption of a District Anti-Trafficking Resolution and interest by many other clubs*

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## *Overall Benefits to our Club 6/04-06*

- *Increased ability to attract new members*
- *Increased recognition of Zonta in the community*
- *Increased ability to raise funds for partners*
- *Increased sense of partnership with other service partners*
- *Increased awareness of ability to advocate and speak on women's issues*
- *Increased pride in belonging to Zonta*