

For the month of October, the IRC was busy attending to the following countries in different aspects. We had requests for help to start meetings in Thailand, Philippines, Dubai and Turkey. I give directions to Thailand and Dubai and have not heard back yet. I also reached out to the Philippines, they do have meetings but apparently they are hours away by travel. So I gave them directions also to start a group and have not heard back. As for Turkey, we were contacted by a counselor at a facility wanting to start a meeting, we explained it would have to be a problem gambler who starts a meeting, they were supposed to contact us but we have not been contacted yet.

The IRC has also been in contact with the Czech republic on updating our website, also quite a bit with Latvia, they had questions about their intergroup and possibly asking permission from the BOT to translate some of the GA literature. This must be submitted to the Seattle agenda. Then there is Scotland, we have been trying to get them to join our GA ISO umbrella and use our literature but have failed in the past. We have been in contact with some members who want to join the ISO, we will continue the discussions with them and see where this leads.

In the month of November we had a slow month for the International Relations committee. We did exchange some emails with a counselor in Zimbabwe who is helping problem gamblers. He wanted to start a GA meeting and I explained that only people with problem gambling and a desire to stop gambling are eligible to start a group. He is still assisting about twenty problem gamblers. He was asking for literature and I explained he could order them on line. The only other real exchanges we had was with a person who was trying to find the group in Dubai, however we found out that group had closed and took it off our website. Also someone was asking to find Vietnamese literature and I had some foreign literature. I was happy to send them a copy of a Vietnamese combo book.

Ara H
IRC Chair