

FREEDOM NETWORK USA

TO EMPOWER TRAFFICKED AND ENSLAVED PERSONS

Freedom Network (USA) came together as a coalition shortly after the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (VTVPA). The Network has grown into a national coalition of 22 organizations whose mission is to work for full access to justice for persons trafficked in the United States.

Freedom Network (USA) works to provide victims with access to linguistically-appropriate and culturally-sensitive, victim-centered services including mental health, medical, legal, educational, vocational, and other social services. Member organizations provide direct services; engage in policy and advocacy work; develop task forces and networks between domestic and international non-governmental organizations, law enforcement and other governmental agencies; coordinate with law enforcement and Department of Justice officials to prosecute traffickers, including corporations and subcontractors; conduct research; and provide public education on trafficking issues.

Collectively, Freedom Network (USA) member organizations have served over 1,500 victims trafficked to the U.S. from nearly 60 different countries. Members assist persons who have been recruited, transported, and/or harbored for forced labor, slavery, debt bondage, or servitude in agricultural work, child labor, child pornography, domestic work, entertainment, garment manufacturing, prostitution, food service industries, other factory work, and servile marriages. Its clients have ranged from toddlers to workers of advanced age. Member organizations provide services in over 40 languages and dialects. Case management services include rescue and removal from situations of slavery, assistance in finding housing, jobs, education, obtaining refugee benefits, medical care, mental health care and counseling, trauma counseling, life skills training, transportation, and support groups for trafficking victims.

Members work on a daily basis with government agencies such as the FBI, ICE, Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and Office for Victims of Crime, Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement, State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, local U.S. Attorneys' offices, victim-witness coordinators, police and sheriffs' departments, and federal and state labor authorities. Members also work with foreign embassies and consulates and have developed task forces with law enforcement on trafficking in persons in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. Members directly serve trafficked persons in the U.S., but the Freedom Network is part of a larger global struggle for the human rights of trafficked persons. Many members are engaged in international advocacy, training and victim assistance. NGOs and government agencies in other countries frequently contact members for information and assistance.

Members also have a significant record of primary research for academic journals, consultation on research for government publications, and public education campaigns. Members have also written training guides such as "The Annotated Guide to the Complete U.S. Trafficking Protocol," "Training Manual for the Prevention of Adolescent Trafficking," and "Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: International and Domestic Trends."