



Freedom Network USA

Freedom Network USA

is the largest national alliance of anti-trafficking advocates working to ensure that trafficked persons have access to justice, safety, and opportunity.

2018 IMPACT REPORT



A NOTE FROM JEAN



Photo credit: Tyler Mahal

Freedom Network USA grew dramatically in 2018 thanks to our amazing partners. We started the year with a total staff of two and ended it with five. We added six new members, including four Survivor Leaders. Conference attendance was up by almost 20 percent. And we are not alone.

Human and civil rights organizations across the US are growing to be stronger, louder, and more effective as we continue working together to fight for dignity, respect, and fair policies. Human traffickers are not rogue, bad actors – rather they are taking advantage of a system designed to put immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, and women and children at risk. Fighting for human rights is the only effective way to prevent human trafficking. FNUSA will continue to ensure that [#EverySurvivorCounts](#), come what may.

We thank you for joining us.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Bruggeman".

Jean Bruggeman
Executive Director

OUR FOCUSES

Advocacy

Submitted 7 formal recommendations to federal agencies

Training

Provided training and technical assistance to over 1200 professionals

Membership

Welcomed our first 4 individual survivor members

WE INVITE YOU TO STAY ENGAGED AND CONNECTED

Sign up for our newsletter at freedomnetworkusa.org

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2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

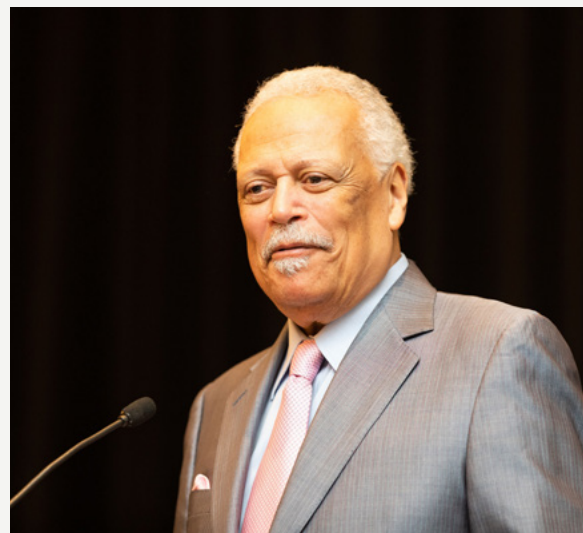


Photo credit: Tyler Mahal

- ▶ **We engaged** in advocacy with government agencies and legislators to promote the adoption of human rights-based legislation, policies, and programs.

FNUSA fought on a variety of policy issues in 2018. The **Trafficking Victims Protection Act** reauthorization passed both chambers in the final days of 2018. Executive Director Jean Bruggeman worked with congressional staff throughout the year to ensure the bill secured vital services for survivors of all forms of human trafficking and removed harmful language around demand reduction.

In its 2018 funding solicitations, the **US Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)** included a restriction that prevents service providers from providing legal counsel in vacatur and expungement matters. Criminal records significantly impair a survivor's ability

to obtain housing, education, and employment, and these legal remedies helped them clear criminal convictions that were due to their trafficking situation. FNUSA coordinated an effort with a range of anti-trafficking organizations, including the **American Bar Association's Survivor Reentry Project** and the **National Survivor Network**, to gather signatures on letters from survivors, law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, and the **Association of Pro Bono Counsel**. FNUSA continues to engage in direct and indirect advocacy with OVC to overturn this policy.

FNUSA spent significant time pushing back on harmful immigration policies that impact survivors who are seeking T or U visas. These visa categories offer immigration relief for victims of crime, including human trafficking. FNUSA will continue to fight for the rights and protections that trafficking survivors deserve through the immigration system.

- ▶ **We developed** collaborations with allied organizations to address the root causes of trafficking, including abuse, poverty, and discrimination.

In response to the harmful policies coming out of the Trump administration, FNUSA collaborated with allied movements, including those working in immigrant, reproductive health, and LGBTQ+ spaces. FNUSA strengthened relationships with over 30 organizations

by drafting comments, signing onto advocacy letters, submitting amicus briefs, and amplifying work through our FNUSA communication channels.

Policies that fuel discrimination, weaken the US immigration system, reduce worker protections, and restrict access to healthcare make people vulnerable to exploitation. FNUSA believes that the only effective way to prevent human trafficking is to address these root causes — making this a defining characteristic of the human rights-based approach.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS · Continued

- ▶ **We provided** training and technical assistance to legal and social service providers, law enforcement and prosecutors, and faith and community groups in the US to increase access to effective, victim-centered, nonjudgmental services for survivors.

2018 was a big year for the **Freedom Network Training Institute (FNTI)**. FNTI's Housing Training and Technical Assistance Project launched under the leadership of two new staff members. FNTI Director **Karen Romero** and FNTI Coordinator **Avantika Shenoy** spent 2018 building an internal infrastructure to support a robust training program for the future. This included updating the website and launching the **FNUSA Resource Library**, a one-stop shop for practitioners to access the most up-to-date training materials, resources, and articles on human trafficking.

The **2018 Freedom Network Human Trafficking Conference** was another record-breaking event. **Standing Tall: A Vision of Freedom in Times of Change** welcomed over 500 anti-trafficking professionals from across the country to develop strategies to combat new challenges and build better collaborations with allied movements. FNUSA proudly supported the largest and most diverse group of survivor speakers and attendees, bringing 14 survivor advocates to the stage to lend their expertise and inform these important conversations.



Photo credit: Tyler Mahal

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I loved connecting with other people with similar passions and jobs. Great selection of beyond 101 sessions. It inspired many ideas!

▶ **Spotlight** on Housing



2018 marked the launch of the **FNTI Housing Training and Technical Assistance Project**, funded by the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). This national project supports service providers in addressing the gaps in knowledge or access to housing services. The Housing

Project includes a wide array of expert consultants, including survivors, who support the creation of tools and delivery of training.

A new webpage for the **Housing Project** was launched to provide the most current resources and training materials on housing for survivors of trafficking, as well as to offer a space for service providers to request technical assistance.

Addressing housing for survivors of trafficking requires a collaborative approach that includes mainstream housing systems. The Housing Project has intentionally been working with key partners in the homeless and housing fields to ensure that housing solutions are not developed in silos. Instead, we collaborate and leverage expertise and existing resources of both housing and anti-trafficking programs to meet the needs of trafficking survivors.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS · Continued

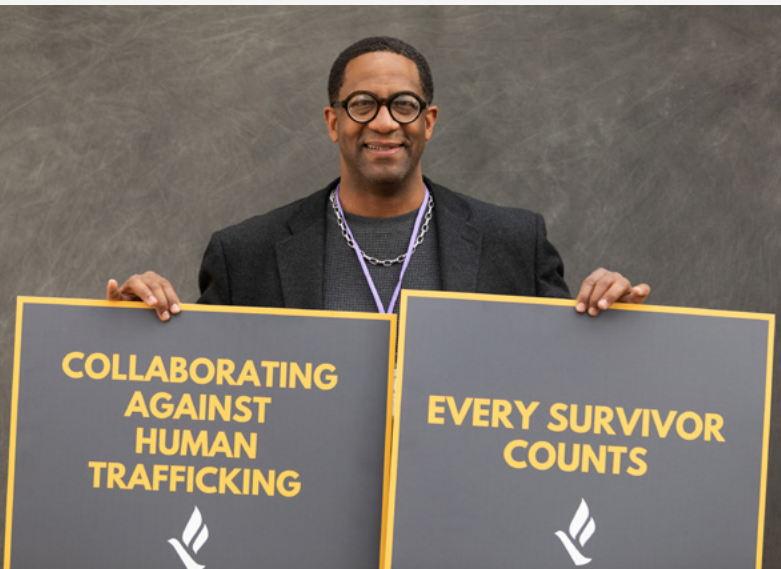
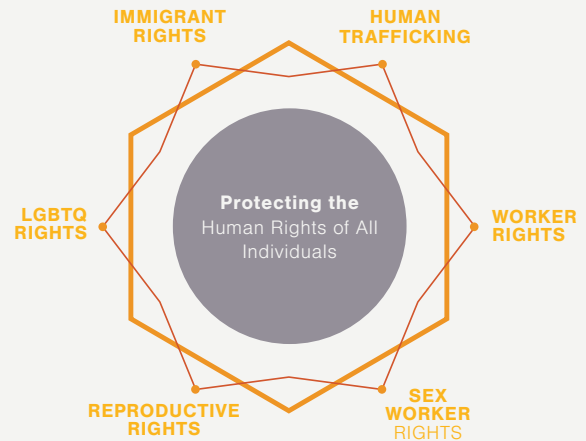


Photo credit: Tyler Mahal

ADVOCATING FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH



These 4 advocates bring vital perspective and expertise to FNUSA and have grounded and informed the work in new ways.

Thanks to support from **Lush Cosmetics**, FNUSA launched a working group to find more effective ways of partnering with law enforcement. Federal and local law enforcement officers discussed the training needs of their profession and how to create a safe environment for dialog at the 2019 conference. Additionally, the working group helped inform a new preconference training focused on victim-centered investigations and a human rights-based approach to enforcement.

- ▶ **We improved** services and responses to trafficking survivors through supporting the human rights-based, human trafficking movement.

In 2018, FNUSA offered new learning opportunities to members, including training on how immigration policy changes might impact their clients and best practices on topics like working with landlords. FNUSA also welcomed its first individual survivor members to the network.

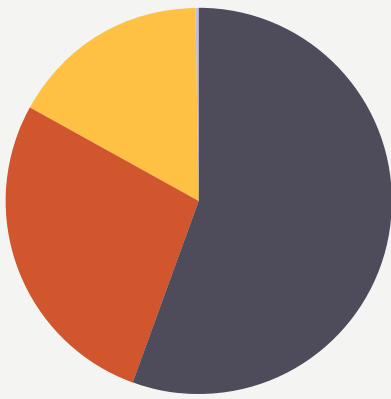
- ▶ **Spotlight** on Survivor Leadership

FNUSA launched its **Survivor Leadership Project** in 2018 with generous support from **Humanity United**. This was a critical step to supporting survivor leaders as equal partners in the anti-trafficking movement. The project supports survivor members to overcome barriers to full participation in the work of the network and creates new pathways for emerging leaders to build connections, flex their training muscles, and gain new skills to reach their professional goals. To inform this work, FNUSA conducted significant research on existing leadership development efforts across the US, which was presented in the **Human Trafficking Survivor Leadership in the United States** white paper, published in January 2019.



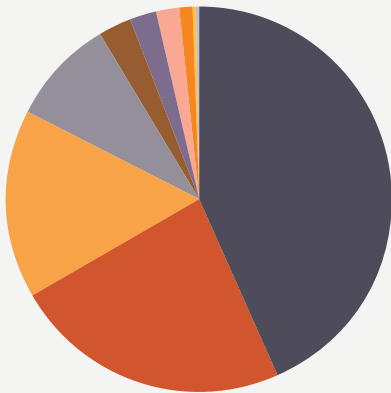
Photo credit: Cody Ard

FINANCIAL REPORT



Total Income

Restricted Public Support	\$349,744
Unrestricted Public Support	\$174,005
Program Income	\$104,780
Other	\$554
Total Income	\$629,083



Total Expense

Personnel	\$248,911	Operations	\$10,846
Program	\$133,695	Other	\$6,237
Contracts	\$91,782	Payroll	\$1,795
Fringe Benefits	\$50,637	Business Expenses	\$259
Facilities and Equipment	\$16,100	Media/Recruitment	\$135
Travel and Meetings	\$13,455		
		Total Expenses	\$573,853
		Net Income	\$55,230

OUR TEAM

Staff

Jean Bruggeman
Executive Director

Melinda Smith
Director of
Partnerships

Karen Romero
Freedom Network
Training Institute
Director

Avantika Shenoy
Freedom Network
Training Institute
Coordinator

Amanda Norwood
Operations
Assistant

Board

Kathleen Morris
Chair

Tammi Hogan
Secretary

Jacqueline Murray
Treasurer

Maria Odom
Member

