



# NSN Core Values Statement 2022

## MEMBERSHIP

1. The NSN uses the operational, criminal definition [severe forms of trafficking](#) found in the TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000; SEC. 103 8 – A and B = A person who is exploited through force, fraud, or coercion, or someone who was in the sex trades while a minor.
2. The NSN believes in [trauma-informed](#), [nonviolent communication](#), and building [survivor-centric](#) cultures of care. We emphasize collective goals, shared facilitation, and [active listening](#), and promote informed, inclusive, and [equitable](#) dialogue over debate.

## PUBLIC HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS

3. The NSN promotes a public health framework and human rights-based approach to anti-human trafficking efforts.
4. The NSN seeks to end human trafficking without [co-opting](#) the language of slavery or abolition. While people are still enslaved in many parts of the world and all forms of slavery fit the definition of human trafficking, not all forms of human trafficking fit the definition of slavery.
5. The NSN acknowledges that all human trafficking exploits an individual's body and mind, and that trafficking in the [sex trades](#) is not inherently more traumatic, grievous, or important to address than trafficking in other forms of labor, as different experiences of trauma cannot be compared or measured.
6. The NSN acknowledges that human trafficking is horrific, and is an extension of rather than an exception to the range of exploitation inherent in [capitalist systems of labor](#).
7. The NSN acknowledges that injustices experienced disproportionately by [people of the global majority](#) is rooted in [systemic](#) and historic oppression of these people and communities.

## LABOR RIGHTS

8. The NSN acknowledges that labor trafficking is underreported due to an increased emphasis on trafficking in the sex trades in awareness and prevention campaigns as well as media coverage and service provision.
9. The NSN opposes the use of forced or exploited labor in prisons.
10. The NSN opposes [conflation](#) of consensual and trafficked engagement in sex trades and acknowledges that not all adults in the sex trades are trafficked.

## PREVENTION & POLICY

11. The NSN believes that social policy and norms (like immigration policy, anti-Black racism, and homelessness policy), for example, can either prevent or drive trafficking by decreasing or increasing vulnerability.
12. The NSN does not advocate for causing harm to end harm, and [end demand](#) practices (including models known as the “Nordic Model” or “Equality Model”) harm people in the sex trades, whether consensual or trafficked. The NSN opposes end demand and other anti-trafficking efforts that rely upon criminalization or shaming of consensual adult sexual behavior.
13. The NSN calls for an end to law enforcement ever having sexual contact with individuals in custody or potential victims, or ever having sexual contact while acting under the color of the law.
14. The NSN promotes harm reduction, sharing information and resources that help people in the sex trades to stay safer and healthier, and an end to criminalization and stigma for people in the sex trades. We recognize that many of our members work for organizations that are federally-funded and are expected to follow the “Anti-Prostitution Pledge” in their work, which requires organizations receiving US funding to certify that they will not “promote or advocate the legalization or practice of prostitution or sex trafficking.”

## SURVIVORS' RIGHTS

15. The NSN opposes criminalizing survivors for their trafficking experiences and supports holistic and comprehensive vacatur expansion for all survivors of human trafficking.
16. The NSN supports the right to permanent resident status and equitable visa protections as well as a path to citizenship for noncitizen survivors of trafficking.
17. The NSN supports meaningful survivor leadership in the movement rather than [tokenized](#) contributions, the [mitigation of power dynamics](#) over when and how survivors choose to tell their stories, and a movement whose frameworks are big enough to accommodate and advocate for those survivors whose narratives have been ignored or invalidated.