DEAR FREEDOM NETWORK COMMUNITY,

In 2014 the Freedom Network (USA) observed its thirteenth anniversary as a coalition of like-minded service providers and individuals in pursuit of the common goals of assisting trafficked persons and influencing the national dialogue to ensure a comprehensive view of human trafficking in all its forms. From our beginnings in 2001 when a small group of those working with trafficked persons saw the need to create synergy by sharing ideas and resources, our membership has increased to nearly forty affiliates this year, representing every region of the United States.

It was a year that brought many developments for the Network, including a revision of our mission statement, our twelfth annual national conference, our first annual membership report, some crucial work on policy issues, and the expansion of our various committees and their work.

For the second year in a row, a member of the Freedom Network received the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons: The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, based in Los Angeles, was honored on April 8, 2014. Both recipients of this award were founding members of the Freedom Network.

Another Freedom Network member, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, received the 2014 Clinton Global Citizen Award, as well as being featured in the 2014 documentary, Food Chains.

On behalf of the members of the Freedom Network (USA), thank you for your continued attention to the many needs of trafficked persons and to the efforts to address this issue locally and nationally.

Sincerely,

Bill Bernstein
Co-Chair

Ivy Suriyopas
Co-Chair

Kathleen Morris
Co-Chair
MISSION

GROWING TOGETHER

The Freedom Network (USA) is a national alliance of experienced advocates working with survivors of all forms of human trafficking to ensure that trafficked persons have access to justice, safety and opportunity.

Over the past 13 years, we have grown and evolved as an organization. Working from the principles outlined by our founding leadership in 2001, the Freedom Network adopted this new mission statement in 2014.

Thanks to the continuous support of our funders and the tireless efforts of our membership, we have increased the scope and capacity of how we assist survivors, while maintaining our identity as direct service providers. We believe this mission statement stands at the heart of who we are as an alliance and highlights our ongoing dedication to human rights-based, survivor-centered work.

BYLAWS

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

In the spring of 2014, the Freedom Network began working with our pro bono counsel, McDermott Will & Emery, to develop bylaws. By developing rules and formalizing our structure, we will be able to provide long-term sustainability and strengthen the Freedom Network as an organization overall. Led by our Ad Hoc Steering Committee Members, an initial draft was presented at this year’s Steering Committee Retreat. We will continue to work on the revisions of the document and look forward to passing and enacting the document in 2015.
“ALL PEOPLE DESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND WORK FREELY WITH DIGNITY, CHOICE, AND SELF-DETERMINATION.”

Florrie Burke
Founder and Chair Emeritus of the Freedom Network
The 12th Annual Freedom Network Conference, "Inspiring Change and Upholding Dignity" was held in San Francisco on April 1 and 2, 2014. The national conference brought together 283 participants from diverse disciplines to discuss emerging issues and innovative approaches to supporting survivors of human trafficking. Speakers included direct service providers, representatives from various federal government agencies, law enforcement, and survivors.

Freedom Network also held its first Pre-Conference Event, on the evening of March 31, entitled "Collateral Damages: Sex Workers and Anti-Trafficking Campaigns." More than 100 people attended, engaging in an open dialogue about the and rights of trafficking survivors and sex workers, looking for common ground in a human rights/labor rights framework that benefits all.

This year, material at the conference was presented within five tracks, including the previously offered tracks of Social Services, Immigration Law, Law Enforcement and Prosecutors, and the Freedom Network Training Institute (FNTI). We introduced a new Civil Law track based on feedback and emerging trends in the field, which was well-attended and received positive feedback. FNTI proved to be a conference favorite from participants of all professions, citing the use of practical information and the useful materials provided.

**PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK**

“This is one of the best conferences of the year every year. I am so proud to be a part of this movement with such smart and passionate advocates. The Freedom Network is vital to keeping this work at the forefront and keeping us all connected. Bravo on another amazing conference.”

“Listening and meeting survivors of human trafficking was the best aspect of the conference. Freedom Network conferences really are a wealth of information, and it is amazing to get their perspective.”

“The aspect of the conference I liked most was the FNTI classes. Very practical information with great case examples.”

You can see the agenda and more details about the 2014 Conference in the Conference Program.
At the inception of the Freedom Network in 2001, the founding members were very deliberate in creating a coalition of organizations and individuals who work directly with trafficked persons. All Freedom Network members work directly with survivors, making them intimately familiar with the needs and struggles that survivors face.

Their work informs our perspective, which is why in July of 2014, we released our first Member Report. The report compiled demographic data from Freedom Network members’ cases from 2010 to 2012. With over 2,200 cases creating our sample, we were able to offer a national snapshot of human trafficking in the United States. The report highlights demographic data such as geographic origin of trafficking survivors, age, gender and type of trafficking case.

In addition, the report examined the type and scope of services members delivered to survivors and made recommendations on how to improve future work. For example, Freedom Network members served an estimated 39 percent of the individuals who received T nonimmigrant status (“T visas”) in the United States, reported 768 criminal cases, and assisted with 41 civil cases during the three-year period covered in the report. Contact a Freedom Network Co-Chair for the Full Member Report and infographics highlighting some of the findings. The full report can be viewed here, and infographics to help highlight some of findings can be found here. The Freedom Network will release its next Member Report in 2016.

Almost 73 percent of survivors served by Freedom Network members were trafficked for non-sex forms of labor, according to data collected for our Member Report. As human trafficking has received more media coverage over the past decade, most of that reporting has focused on sex trafficking. Many advocates in the anti-trafficking movement tend to misunderstand or ignore labor trafficking. For this reason, several Freedom Network members cooperated in a labor trafficking report released in September.

The report entitled, “Understanding the Organization, Operation, and Victimization Process of Labor Trafficking in the United States,” was a collaborative effort between the Urban Institute and Northeastern University.

Five Freedom Network Member organizations served as test sites, supplying case record data, survivor narratives, and coordinating individual survivor interviews. The findings cite a need to improve both the process of identifying victims and the response in serving those survivors by law enforcement, social service providers, prosecutors, and government systems.

We have created infographics to display much of the information provided in the report; Contact a Freedom Network Co-Chair which can accessed here. The Freedom Network was grateful to participate in the study. We hope it will shed light on labor trafficking as a human rights issue in the United States.
A human trafficking case can last as long as seven years and may include identification, criminal justice advocacy, social service provision and case management, counseling, immigration relief, family reunification, civil litigation, adjustment to legal permanent residency, and applications for citizenship. In some cases, Freedom Network members have become involved in the criminal defense of trafficked persons or assisted survivors with vacating prior convictions.
2014 proved to be a busy and successful year for our policy team. The Freedom Network weighed in on significant federal legislation, agency appointments, and agency reports (including the U.S. State Department’s annual Trafficking in Persons Report).

A large portion of this advocacy was in response to various federal bills attempting to change the definition of human trafficking as outlined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). For example, in the spring of 2014, policy makers introduced several bills that would have defined sex and labor trafficking differently while at the same time reducing criminal penalties for labor trafficking as compared to sex trafficking. Our policy team worked day and night to reach out to congressional offices to voice our concerns. We have been successful in preventing changes to the definition of human trafficking and will continue our efforts in 2015.

New US Attorney General Loretta Lynch has been called the Sex Traffickers Worst Nightmare.

“Lipsum sinas ipla manitus granislorem loemsm. Lipsum lorem sinas ipla manitus granis loemsm. Lipsum lorem sinas ipl.”

In addition to this, Freedom Network wrote several advocacy letters to weigh in on policy decisions affecting unaccompanied alien children (UAC). Other policy work over the past year includes encouraging the Department of Labor to use effectively its newly expanded authority to certify T and U Visas, submitting comments on a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services interim memo affecting T-6 derivative family members, and submitting a letter concerning the new Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) Ambassador-at-Large appointment. Lastly, we signed on to several letters with our allies, including the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and the Alliance To End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST). Please enquire about our Advocacy and Memoranda.

Freedom Network also weighed in as amicus curiae in the case, Cruz v. Maypa, in support of a domestic worker whose claims included violations of the TVPA and the Fair Labor Standards Act. The court agreed with the plaintiff domestic worker, holding that the lower court erred in dismissing her TVPA claims as time-barred and that her FLSA claim may be timely as well.

* Contact The Freedom Network Co-Chairs for Policy-related Reports, Letters and Court Decisions.
SOCIAL SERVICES

CLIENT-CENTERED SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS

The Social Services Committee (SSC) has served as a forum for direct service staff of FN members to discuss issues and challenges related to serving survivors and to brainstorm solutions, in areas such as safety planning, serving survivors using a “client-centered” approach, and facilitating support groups. SSC members contributed topic ideas and served as moderators, panelists and participants in the Freedom Network Annual Conference’s Services Track. SSC members are also working on practice papers that will focus on various aspects of what it means to serve clients through a human rights-based approach. We look forward to their release in 2015. The SSC also collaborated with the Policy Committee to inform and respond to certain aspects of the Trafficking in Persons report.

FNTI

THE FREEDOM NETWORK TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Freedom Network Training Institute (FNTI) continues to be an integral part of the Freedom Network. In 2014, FNTI performed six closed trainings across the United States and four abroad. These trainings included participants from all sectors involved in the fight against modern-day slavery including: social service providers, legal providers, healthcare providers, judges, local, state and federal law enforcement.

In the United States, each training was attended by 50 to 60 people. At the Annual Retreat this year, the Steering Committee outlined some integral changes to the way trainings are selected. FNTI will conduct three regional trainings annually, in addition to the Annual Conference.

This will allow Freedom Network to bring the human rights framework to trafficking work to underserved areas. Our hope is to increase collaboration and build capacity within those regions by restructuring. We look forward to opening our trainings and identifying those areas around the country in 2015!
MEMBERSHIP

In 2014, we welcomed six new members to the Freedom Network. Four new organizations and two new individual applications were approved, boasting diverse expertise and talents. We look forward to learning from their experiences and supporting their work:

NEW YORK ASIAN WOMEN’S CENTER

The New York Asian Women’s Center (NYAWC) is the largest Asian American-focused domestic violence agency in the country, a premier human trafficking serving organization, and a national demonstration project that provides model services to victims of sexual assault. Many Freedom Network members have close ties to NYAWC and speak to their commitment to a culturally-competent and client-centered approach. They are a natural and welcome addition to the Freedom Network.

ADVOCATING OPPORTUNITY

Advocating Opportunity (AO) is a small, comprehensive legal service provider based in Toledo, Ohio. Their expertise is vast, as they provide a broad spectrum of legal services to all survivor populations. Additionally, AO invests a significant time in community outreach through direct training and the creation of resource materials. We look forward to their contributions to the Network.

OPENING DOORS

Opening Doors serves refugees and human trafficking victims in the Greater Sacramento Area. Their services include intensive case management, direct street outreach, and community education programs. Their programs and services embody what it means to be culturally competent and victim-centered, making them a valuable new member of the Freedom Network.
CINDY LIOU

Cindy Liou applied and was approved for individual membership to the Freedom Network in 2014. Ms. Liou was an active and valued participant of the Freedom Network for many years during her time as a staff attorney at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach in San Francisco. Her contributions to the Policy Committee have been exceptional, and Freedom Network is grateful for her continued dedication to anti-trafficking work.

SUSAN FRENCH

The Freedom Network was elated to welcome Susan French as an individual member at the end of 2014. She has prosecuted cases of human trafficking for the United States Justice Department beginning in 1999. The Freedom Network awarded Ms. French the 2008 Paul and Sheila Wellstone Award for her fearless, victim-centered approach to prosecuting human trafficking cases. Ms. French currently works for George Washington University, leading The Human Trafficking Project in the George Washington Law International Human Rights Clinic.

GIVE WAY TO FREEDOM

GWTF is a private operating foundation that creates and supports targeted, culturally relevant projects aimed at providing care and empowerment to survivors of human trafficking. Their emphasis on collaboration and implementation of trauma-informed practices align with the vision and principles of the Freedom Network.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Freedom Network Member, Coalition of Immokalee Workers had a big year in 2014! Their Fair Food Program has drawn international attention for its innovative approach to combating labor injustice in the Florida tomato industry. In September, it was announced that the founders of CIW would be awarded the 2014 Clinton Global Citizen Award. Every year, the Clinton Global Initiative honors leaders and visionaries from around the world who work together to implement positive change. Moreover, CIW was featured in the 2014 documentary, Food Chains, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival to critical acclaim. The Freedom Network is proud to support the work of CIW and grateful for all of their contributions.
COMMUNICATIONS

Despite being in a transition with a communications and marketing provider in much of 2014, the Freedom Network celebrated several communications milestones. Guided by our Freedom Network Strategic Communications Plan, we were able to prioritize our efforts to maintain a continuous presence in the public domain.

In terms of social media, Freedom Network increased its Facebook presence from 300 to 3,000 likes/followers in 2014. Not only were we able to maintain a presence on social media during this transition, but we managed to consistently release new information on the website concerning news and events via blog posts. For example, Chair Emeritus Florrie Burke contributed with an extensive piece on the 2014 TIP Release and Ad Hoc Steering Committee member Suzanne Tomatore blogged about her recent trip to Vienna with the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

As we enter the new year, we will welcome a new communications contractor, Wheel Media. Guided by our 2013-2014 communication strategy, we look forward to reaching our marketing goals and setting new priorities for 2015.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE

We are currently in year two in our three year core support grant from the Oak Foundation. Thanks to their generous support, the Freedom Network has been able to strengthen the network with the addition of staff, improving our organizational structure and continue to support co-chairs and members in their advocacy work in order to advance the human rights approach to human trafficking in multiple venues.
2014 REVENUE

- Foundations/Grants
- Conference Income
- Memberships
- Individual Contributions

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<td>Royalties from Denise Brennan’s Life Interrupted: Trafficking into Forced Labor in the United States – Denise Brennan, author, professor, and long-time supporter of the Freedom Network, generously agreed to donate all royalties from her book to benefit human trafficking survivors. This came to $2,000 in 2014.</td>
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<td>$2,000.00</td>
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HONORING SHEILA NEVILLE

The Sheila Neville Memorial Fund – In 2014, the Freedom Network lost a dear friend and inspiring advocate for trafficking survivors. At the request of the Neville family, we created the Sheila Neville Memorial Fund to accept memorial donations in her honor. All contributions to the fund will directly support survivors of human trafficking. The Freedom Network made the decision to maintain the survivor fund to memorialize the impact Sheila made on the field and continue her life’s work in the anti-trafficking field.

Sheila Neville was a tireless advocate for trafficking survivors. She was a senior attorney at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) where she represented survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and other crimes in their immigration and public benefits cases. Sheila also provided countless hours of training and technical assistance on human trafficking issues across the county. Before returning to LAFLA in 2002, she worked for the National Immigration Law Center, LAFLA’s Immigrants’ Rights Office and the Haitian Refugee Center in Miami. She served as Co-Chair of the Freedom Network (USA), Conference Co-Chair and was a founding member of the Freedom Network Training Institute in 2004. Ms. Neville was the 2014 recipient of the Freedom Network’s Paul and Sheila Wellstone Award.
STAFFING

In 2014, we welcomed several new staff members to the Freedom Network. In development, we hired long-time contributor and former staffer at CAST, Vanessa Lanza, to assist in maintaining our funding relationships. She has been working closely with Chair Emeritus Florrie Burke to document and report the work of the Freedom Network, as well as the contributions our members have made to the anti-trafficking field.

In August, the Freedom Network transitioned in a new Freedom Network Coordinator, Melinda Smith. Melinda serves the Freedom Network from member organization, International Institute of Buffalo. As the only full-time paid staff of the organization, she is responsible for maintaining communication between all coalition members, documenting the work and
progress of the Network, and serving as the point person around logistics for the Annual Conference. She is directly supervised by the three Freedom Network Co-Chairs.

Freedom Network is in the process of securing a contract with a professional communications independent contractor, Wheel Media. We have worked out a tentative agreement with the organization that includes very specific outcomes that we believe will help the Freedom Network reach its communication goals. Currently, the contract start date is slated for January 2, 2015.

Finally, several exciting decisions came out of the Freedom Network Retreat of 2014. One of the largest of those is the announcement that the Freedom Network is laying the groundwork to hire a Director to be based in Washington, DC in early 2015. After reviewing many of the Freedom Network’s goals, the Steering Committee believes that hiring an individual to be the face of the Freedom Network is vital to support ongoing progress toward Freedom Network priorities. This is an exciting time for the Network, and we look forward to welcoming a new leader in 2015.

The organizational structure will shift with the addition of this new staff person. The current Steering Committee will act as an Advisory Board for the new Director.

ON THE HORIZON

CONFERENCE

Conference Preparations for the 13th Annual Freedom Network Conference are in full swing. This year’s title, “TVPA Past, Present & Future: Elevating the ‘Human’ in Human Trafficking,” will reflect on the successes of the past in the anti-trafficking field, current trends and issues, and devise recommendations for future work. This year, the conference will emphasize two common themes in a more strategic fashion. First, survivor expertise will be featured in a more inclusive manner as members of plenary and break-out session panels. Secondly, the conference will utilize the UI Labor Trafficking Report as the backbone of the conference, as its findings and recommendations are explored more fully throughout the conference sessions.

We aim to incorporate the values of the Freedom Network and the vision that makes us unique in the anti-trafficking movement. The Conference will be held in Washington, DC on April 21 and 22, 2015 and be immediately preceded by our Biannual Advocacy Day. We look forward to another successful event this year.

In looking ahead, the Freedom Network has already begun the process of securing a site for the 2016 Conference. This is the earliest that the planning phase has begun, helping the Freedom Network to be more cost-effective. We are pleased to announce the 2016 Freedom Network Conference will take place in Chicago! Chicago last hosted the conference in 2006. Organizations based in the Midwest have been assisting survivors for years, but often do not have the resources or support to deliver the services they know their clients need. We are excited to bring Freedom Network experts to share their knowledge and to learn of the challenges and trends that the anti-trafficking movement is experiencing in that region.
POLICY

The Policy Committee is in the early stages of planning their bi-annual Advocacy Day, which coincides with the 13th Annual Freedom Network Conference. Each year the conference is held in Washington D.C., Freedom Network members gather on Capitol Hill to meet with Senators, Representatives, and their staff to discuss legislative policy that affects survivors. This year we are excited about the opportunity of including survivors in the planning and implementation of these advocacy meetings.

Additionally, in 2015 we look to continue defining legislative priorities and enhance existing relationships with law makers. To do this, the Committee is dedicated to creating a greater sense of community amongst its members; defining strengths and interests of individual members in order to become more efficient and effective in policy goals.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services Committee looks to continue work to increase participation on monthly calls and projects in 2015. We hope the monthly forum calls continue to be an effective tool in sharing best practices nationally. Building upon the groundwork laid in 2014, we intend for upcoming projects to include further collaboration with other Freedom Network Committees, specifically bringing a social services perspective to Policy Committee work.

FREEDOM NETWORK TRAINING INSTITUTE (FNTI)

2015 should prove an exciting year for FNTI. New faculty has been identified and we look forward to their contributions to the Institute. We hope this will expand the perspective and will reflect some of the trends, challenges, and best practices being utilized in other regions nationwide. As we move toward the new structure for identifying and conducting open trainings, we look forward to the potential opportunities and new relationships that may arise in these targeted regions.

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee’s goal for 2015 is to increase member involvement and assist with inclusion of survivor voices. We also hope to foster a better understanding among member agencies of needs of youth affected by human trafficking.
Freedom Network USA

4144 North Central Expressway Suite 530

Dallas, TX 75204

info@freedomnetworkusa.org

www.freedomnetworkusa.org