

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Ms. Maureen Henneberg
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs
US Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Ms. Katherine D. Schmitt
Acting Director
Office for Victims of Crime
Office of Justice Programs
US Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

VIA Email

November 14, 2025

Dear Attorney General Bondi, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Maureen Henneberg, and Acting OVC Director Katherine Darke Schmitt:

The undersigned 45 anti-trafficking and anti-violence organizations write today to urge you to protect access to lifesaving victim services for thousands of survivors of human trafficking in the United States. **45 days ago, on October 1, 2025, the Department of Justice cut off funding for over 100 victim service providers, serving at least 5,000 survivors.** The DOJ Office for Victims of Crime has yet to release any notices of funding opportunities for the \$88 million in appropriated funds from FY25 appropriations. Without new grants, over 100 communities have lost or will soon lose a crucial service provider that helps keep their communities safe. Survivors need these services to escape trafficking and rebuild their lives.

Congress established these victim services programs in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and subsequent reauthorizations (TVPA). Congress has overwhelmingly voted to continue these programs over the last 25 years and increase funding to ensure survivors across the country are able to escape their traffickers and access the services and support that they need to survive. Since the enactment of the TVPA, the DOJ has ensured thousands of survivors could find a provider with safe emergency housing, case managers who connected them to lifesaving services, and attorneys who helped them address their legal needs.

Consistent federal funding puts providers in a better position to quickly help survivors seeking safety. With these grants, they can meet emergency needs that help survivors escape, like housing, food, and medical care. The funding allows for comprehensive services like case management, reunification for families separated by trafficking, mental healthcare, assistance in finding safer jobs, legal support, and community support, which support survivors in long-term healing and

financial stability. The sustained nature of these funds has allowed providers to expand these services to more survivors each year. Any lapse in funds threatens over 5,000 survivors' access to services.

We urge the DOJ to act quickly to protect the victim services survivors need by:

- **Releasing the FY25 TVPA funds and conducting the grant notice of funding process**, so providers can reactivate or begin offering services in over 100 communities.
- **Providing invitations to FY22 grantees for non-competitive awards of at least one year** to ensure survivors are able to maintain access or regain access to services while the DOJ conducts the notice of funding process and makes grant decisions.

We understand the notice of funding process can take multiple months to complete. We hope that by temporarily providing funding to existing grantees, the DOJ can conduct a full grant solicitation process, while also preventing survivors from experiencing an extended lapse in services. Survivors who lose access to sustained services also lose trust in service providers, which can put them in danger of re-exploitation.

Allowing these funds to disappear would enable human trafficking and put survivors' lives at risk. Many regions will lose their only service provider, leaving survivors with no safe emergency housing, case management, or counseling. Communities will be made less safe as traffickers would exploit with impunity, and fewer survivors will be able to come forward. Please reach out to Emma Ecker at emma@freedomnetworkusa.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Freedom Network USA

ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies

Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Esperanza United

Futures Without Violence

HEAL Trafficking

International Rescue Committee

Justice in Motion

Justice Restoration Center

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Network For Youth

National Survivor Network

National Network to End Domestic Violence

Polaris

Sahiyo U.S. inc.

Secure Survivors

Tahirih Justice Center

The Advocates for Human Rights

VALOR

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

State and Local Organizations

Ayuda

Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto

Her Justice

Human Trafficking Intervention and Prevention Program

Interface Children & Family Services

Jane Doe Inc.

Justice At Last

Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking

LOTUS Legal Clinic

Loyola Law School Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative

National Council of Jewish Women- Greater Long Beach & W. Orange County

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Oasis Productions DBA Stepping Stones Network

Preble Street

Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA)

Saving Innocence

Standpoint

Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Loyola Law School

University of Maryland SAFE Center for Human Trafficking Survivors

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Worker Justice Center of New York