

hope

prevention

advocacy

protect

protection

years



Freedom Registry

The Freedom Registry



GOAL/AIM

To develop a sustainable, collaborative approach by government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and grassroots movements to end commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking across the United States and beyond.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To increase collaboration between anti-trafficking stakeholders; reflect best practice standards; measure gap areas; and create an online space where organizations, donors, government agencies, academic institutions, students and community activists can access comprehensive information on anti-trafficking efforts across the country.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Develop a comprehensive and sustainable database of anti-trafficking efforts and stakeholders across the United States;
- ▶ Reflect best practice standards adhered to by participating stakeholders;
- ▶ Increase shared knowledge of best practice standards;
- ▶ Measure gap areas in current anti-trafficking initiatives and services; and
- ▶ Make collective recommendations based on data and recognized gap areas to policymakers, practitioners and others interested in the anti-trafficking movement

BACKGROUND

Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) are a growing global phenomenon, co-conspiring in the further development of modern day slavery. Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Men, women and children are regularly sold into forced situations of exploitative sex and labor.

The United Nations and U.S. Department of State agree that the United States is no stranger to human trafficking and CSE. An estimated 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked annually into the United States alone, and the number of U.S. citizens trafficked within the country is believed to be even higher.

U.S. government, local law enforcement and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have all made considerable progress in developing efforts to address trafficking and sexual exploitation in the U.S. since the development of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act*, passed in 2000 and subsequent reauthorization acts in 2003, 2005 and 2008. Federal initiatives such as the *Innocence Lost Initiative* designed by government agencies in collaboration with the *National Center of Missing and Exploited Children* (NCMEC); and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) *Rescue and Restore* campaign; have been supplemented by state laws, grassroots movements, and the NGO community, who have developed training and educational materials, victim restoration programs and are working with perpetrators, victims and survivors across the nation.

Though national efforts to fight trafficking and exploitation have increased in recent years, there remain several gaps and challenges if modern day slavery is to be brought to an end in the United States and across the globe. One such challenge is that cooperation and coordination among NGOs, U.S. government agencies and grassroots movements is currently insufficient. Concrete and sustainable referral systems between agencies are not in place, trust between sectors is weak, information sharing of best practice is often neglected, and players often find they've had to 'reinvent the wheel' due to a lack of knowledge of what's already being done.

There is currently no exhaustive catalog, index or list of all organizations, ministries and movements working against trafficking and CSE across the United States. Chab Dai has a proven track record for its work against human



trafficking in Cambodia, the U.S. and Canada. The Freedom Registry will aid in the development of more collaboration and cooperation amongst involved parties as a critical step in addressing modern day slavery. Because information about evidence based practices will be collected from participating organizations, other stakeholders will be likely to learn from others and implement similar practices into their own programs.

ACTIVITIES

▶ PHASE 1: STAKEHOLDER DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (COMPLETE)

- Gather information and input from nationwide organizations on the kind of information a database of anti-trafficking organizations should include. *(Complete)*
- Establish a steering committee of relevant practitioners, researchers and law enforcement representatives to assist with project design. *(Complete: See Steering Committee members below)*
- Gather preliminary contact information on anti-trafficking organizations across the United States and establish a baseline of organizations to be surveyed. *(Complete: Preliminary list contains information for over 1,000 anti-trafficking stakeholders across the U.S.)*

▶ PHASE 2: DATABASE DEVELOPMENT & PILOT (COMPLETE)

- Design and establish a web-based database based on the criteria and functionality set forth by the steering committee. *(Complete)*
- Finalize web database name, logo, domain. *(Complete)*
- Distribute and collect pilot survey information from at least thirty participants to ensure questions are clear and result in desired information. *(Complete)*

▶ PHASE 3: DATA COLLECTION & VERIFICATION (Time frame: 12 months)*

- Promote Freedom Registry platform at conferences, within coalitions, and within national task forces to encourage stakeholder participation.
- Collect data from baseline organizations.
- Verify data submitted by participant organizations. This will be done in partnership with *Vanguard University's Center for Gender & Justice*.
- Allow verified data to be viewed by other participants and database users.

▶ PHASE 4: GAP AREA ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS (Time frame: 6 months)**

- Review data collected during Phase 3 and analyze for apparent gap areas.
- Produce a literature review on research that has been conducted on human trafficking within U.S. borders.
- Establish steering committee recommendations aimed at how gap areas can be addressed.
- Disseminate report of findings and recommendation to anti-trafficking stakeholders.

▶ PHASE 5: SUSTAINABLE NETWORK (Ongoing)

- Continue data collection from additional organizations, and allow participants to update their information as needed.

**Currently seeking funding for Phases 3-5*

***For purposes of Phase 4 data will be collected for 12 months prior to analysis and recommendations. However, the intention of the U.S. Registry Project is to be sustainable and ongoing, allowing for organizations and agencies to continue joining the network and provide updated information well into Phase 5 and beyond.*



STEERING COMMITTEE PARTNERS

- ▶ Tania DoCarmo, Chab Dai USA (Chair)
- ▶ Joan Jarman, Chab Dai USA
- ▶ Sandra Morgan, Vanguard Center for Gender & Justice
- ▶ Lt. John Vanek, San Jose Human Trafficking Task Force
- ▶ Lisa Thompson, Salvation Army
- ▶ Laura Lederer, Global Centurion
- ▶ Kathy Maskell, Love146
- ▶ Kirsten Foot, University of Washington

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ An online directory of services to victims of human trafficking and other human trafficking stakeholders in the United States.
- ▶ An increase in best practice and transparency as organizations share experiences and work with one another.
- ▶ A report outlining recommendations aimed to cover gap areas in services.
- ▶ Increase in collaboration among human trafficking stakeholders
- ▶ Replication in other countries/regions (already this project is being replicated in Canada)

CONTACT

If you have questions about Freedom Registry, contact us at info@freedomregistry.org.