

THE ANNUAL REPORT

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM TOGETHER

2022

National *freedom* Network

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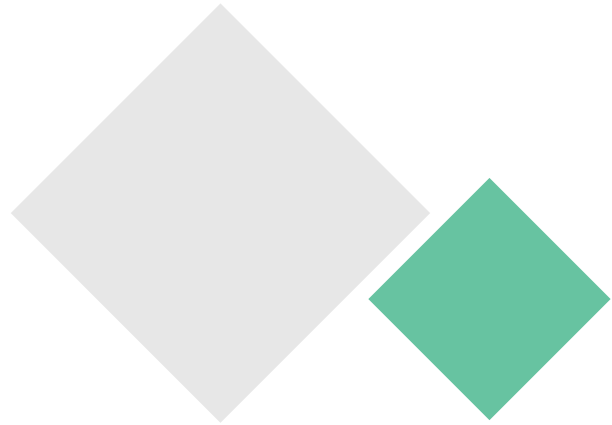
thank you

End of year Annual Report, 2022.
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National *freedom* Network

Content

Section	Content	Page
A	Introduction	03
B	Structure and Organizational Governance	04
C	NFN Programmes	05
D	Programme area 1: Networking	06
E	Programme area 2: Care and Support	06
F	Programme area 3: Advocacy	07
G	Programme area 4: Capacity Building	08
H	Programme area 5: Strategic Projects	09
I	Thank you	10



INTRODUCTION & SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Trafficking in Persons (TiP), also known as Human Trafficking, is the illegal trade of people, with the intent to exploit them to obtain large profits, or free services or labour. It is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry¹ in the world and no country is untouched by this gross violation of human rights, including South Africa.

While Trafficking remains an 'elusive statistical nightmare'² it is estimated that out of the 2,000,000 people who fall victim to this heinous crime annually, close to a quarter come from our continent: Africa.³ It is also widely known that South Africa is a source, transit and destination country for the trafficking of men, women and children who are then subjected to various forms of exploitation, including forced and bonded labour, sex trafficking, domestic servitude, child labour, organ and body part trafficking, forced marriage and forced criminal activities.

There is no one person, organisation or Government department that can provide every service needed on a case of Trafficking; indeed, this complex crime requires a joint and organised response from many role players, if it is to be effectively addressed.

A 2009 Symposium at the British High Commission in Johannesburg highlighted a lack of knowledge as to who and where the various counter-Trafficking role players

were across the country, and during 2010 research and workshops were conducted to determine the base for a network and to identify gaps and strategic imperatives to be addressed. The National Freedom Network (NFN) was formally launched in May 2011. After many years of bridging the gap by building this phenomenal network and establishing credibility, we are in a phase where we want to see how we can be more strategic in using the network to organically relate to one another.

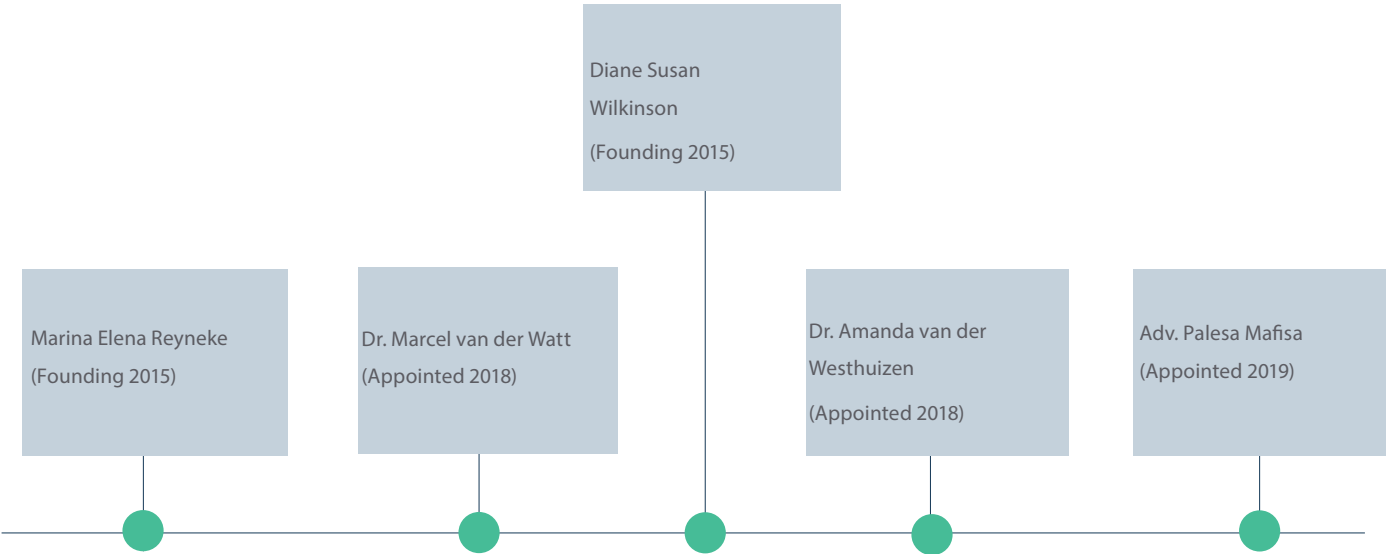
Our aim is to connect all role players within and across Civil Society and Government, acting as a link and ensuring that the interaction between the sectors allows for the flow of communication; the sharing of information, resources and best practices; and much needed collaboration.

Government structures have also since been established over the past decade, both at Provincial and National level.

1. US Dept. Health and Human Services (2004) Human Trafficking Fact Sheet [PDF] Retrieved from <https://www.hssl.org/?abstract&did=23329>
 2. Van der Watt, M. (2015, July 16) Human Trafficking in South Africa: An Elusive Statistical Nightmare [Press release] Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/human-trafficking-in-south-africa-an-elusive-statistical-nightmare-43949>
 3. Salvation Army Anti-Human Trafficking [Website] Retrieved from <https://www.salvationarmy.org.za/anti-human-trafficking/>

STRUCTURE & ORGANIZATIONAL GOVERNANCE

DIRECTORS



PRO BONO SERVICES

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for contributing their time, skills and efforts over the past year:

Jacqueline Fourie Bi-weekly Human Trafficking News and Resources	Anthony Sham Digital Synergy – Website hosting and Zimbra email platform	Robyn Phillips CA – for financial oversight & Annual Financial Statement Mar 2021 – Feb 2022	PWC for the annual audit (Annual Financial Statement is available on request)
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OUR VISION

To see all sectors of society organised and united in their efforts to prevent and combat Trafficking in Persons (TiP).



OUR MISSION

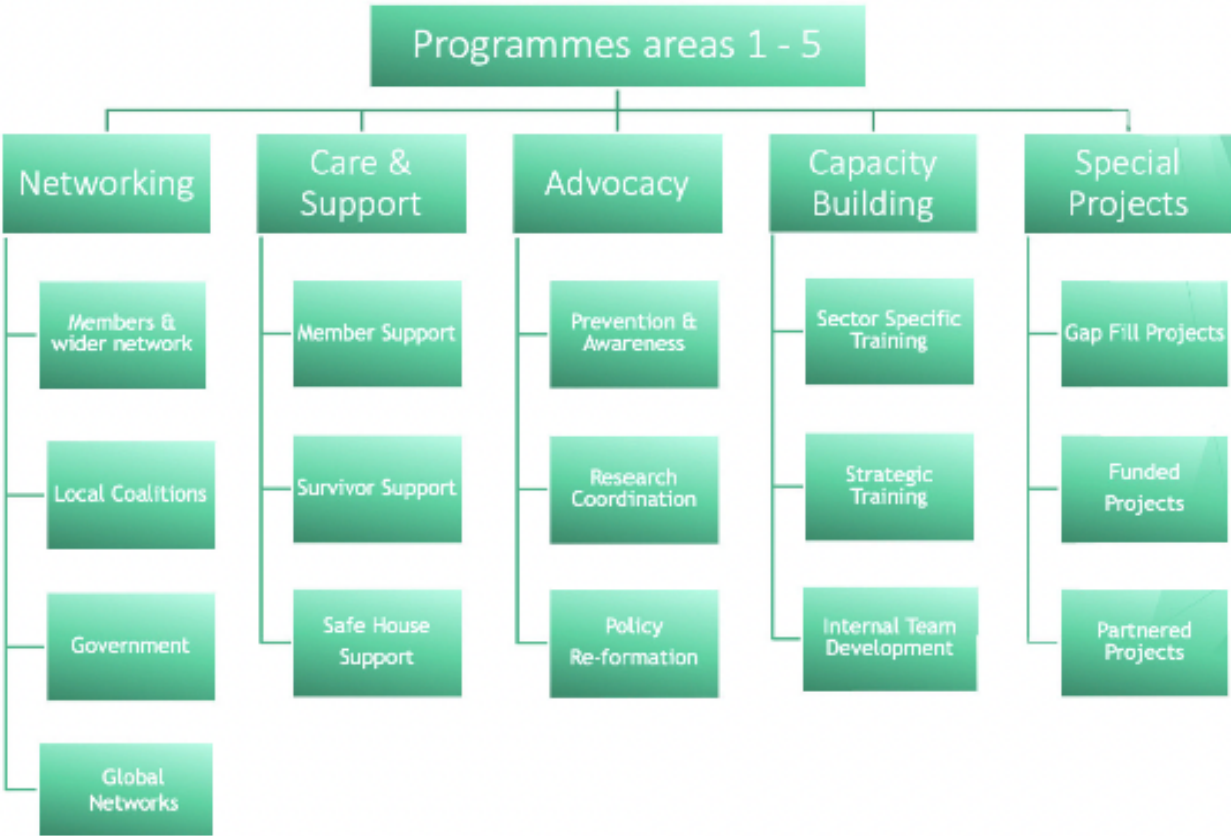
To effectively fight Trafficking in Persons (TiP) through strategic networking, partnership and collaboration.



LONG TERM GOALS

To include targeted and strategic prevention programs, as well as implementing steps and opportunities towards becoming a survivor-led Network.

NFN PROGRAMMES



PROGRAMME AREA 1 NETWORKING

This is our core programme area and aims to build relationships with stakeholders across the counter-TIP field: Civil Society including organisations, professionals and small businesses; Government; Faith-based organisations, Parastatals; and Chapter 9 institutions. NFN members have specific benefits, including a higher level of credibility in the counter-Trafficking field. There are currently four Local Coalitions in efforts to strengthen on-the-ground coordination and support. NFN represents its members on the National Intersectoral Committee for TIP and several Provincial Task Teams.

MEMBERS AND WIDER NETWORK

Over 90 member organisations

- 31 Meetings in-person or online
- 46 Introductions to NFN or between others
- 206 Information updates
- 4 References

NFN networking includes daily connections, referrals, introductions and updates.

Diane Wilkinson (Director & CEO) hosted Member calls on Zoom in April, June & November with an average of 24 attendees at each meeting.

LOCAL COALITIONS

- Tshwane Counter Trafficking Coalition (TCTC), Nelson Mandela Bay Justice Coalition (NMBJC), Cape Town Counter Trafficking Coalition (CTC), and Kwazulu Natal Human Trafficking Harmful Practices Prostitution Pornography and Brothels (HHPPB) Task Team.



GOVERNMENT

- We continue to build relationship with government departments in order to assist, contribute and collaborate on cases. Katie Modrau (Country Manager, A21) represented the NFN at the NICTIP workshop in November 2022.
- The Safe House workstream was established with DSD National and a few safe houses. Two meetings were held. This will be a worthwhile "Focus group" to include on the Community platform. The following are some of the identified role players or services in the journey to recovery of a victim: drug intervention, psychologist, doctor, mentor, speech therapist, psychiatrist, dietician, lawyer (statements / legal advice / court testimony prep), nurse, social worker, creative therapist, education, internship, job shadowing in a safe environment, skills of interest, courses/workshops, CV preparation and interviewing coaching, employment, entrepreneurship and more.

GLOBAL NETWORKS

- NFN maintained relationships with Global Networks and attended webinars and coffee corners. These events and opportunities will be included in the new Community Platform for members to attend. The Global Learning Community led by Chab Dai and Commonwealth 8.7 were key focuses.



PROGRAMME AREA 2

CARE & SUPPORT

We serve as a support centre for our members, as well as for survivors and safe houses.

This support has many different forms and depends on current needs, situational context, as well as what we have available in terms of funds and capacity.

SERVICES OFFERED

NFN acts as a support centre for our members; providing financial, physical, emotional and spiritual support when and as we can; we are available for consultation, guidance, advice, material and resource review etc. focusing on Members, Survivors and Safe Houses.

SURVIVORS

13 Survivors were financially supported with over

R 52000

The highlight for 2022 was NFN working with Charles, Fula Africa to assist with the repatriation of

13 men

NFN sends personalised words of encouragement and interacts with survivors when needed.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Care & Support of members, safe houses and survivors was evident.

Thank you to Reana, Shelley and Staff at the Ombudsman for the generous donation of toiletry bags filled with toiletries for shelter survivors.

“Providing financial, emotional and spiritual support”.

47

Support Needs

76

Support Referrals

Prayer requests (69) via 13 communications to the team of prayer warriors
Monthly devotionals to encourage those working in the counter trafficking field.

News & Resources were distributed to over

500 contacts

during the year.

PROGRAMME AREA 3

ADVOCACY

A

PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

- Over 45 posts supporting and promoting 35 organisations & businesses locally and internationally were shared on NFN Facebook page.
- January to June 2022 saw seven posts from resources provided by KZN HHPPB TT related to significant calendar dates: Youth Day, Online Safety, Worker's Day, Debt Bondage, Zama Zamas, International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and Back to School Superheroes.
- A highlight was the Think Creative Africa #TheTraffickYouNeedToKnow campaign created in partnership with NFN and A21 for Freedom Day (27 April 2022). The Campaign was broadcast using the radio slot with the most listener traffic, to draw attention to the human trafficking stats they need to know. The radio commercial was written and performed in the style of a road traffic report but reveals a much darker truth...a human traffick report.
- Media Comms: Nearly 400 media articles were uploaded to the Resource Library Website for the year. Some really great video clips and interviews took place during the year. Free to Fly shares 6 podcasts, and Tershia de Klerk assisted with interviews on behalf of the NFN. More info on this on website here <https://thinkcreativeafrica.com/portfolio/the-national-freedom-network-and-a21/>

B

CURRENT RESEARCH UPDATES

We encourage and champion research in the field. Researchers undergo a vetting process to ensure that they meet research requirements, including having the correct ethical clearance necessary to conduct their research. We then work to connect the researcher with the most relevant members and other colleagues in the field, for their research.

- 2022 Brent Frieslaar (University of Pretoria)
Title: Human Trafficking of women: A Pastoral Challenge. (Progress)
- 2020 Khulisa Management Consultants, Marcel van der Watt, Susan Marx, Ajwang Warria and the government of SA.
Title: Research on the Nature and Scope of Trafficking In Persons (TIP) in South Africa Three Policy Briefs and three Evidence Briefs were shared. Awaiting final outcomes to be published.
- 2022 Anastasia Pelser (University of Pretoria.)
Title: Minimum requirements for the development of a reintegration protocol for adult survivors of human trafficking in South Africa.
- 2021 Dr Monique Emser, Mission 89.
Title: TIP and Sport.
- 2023 Eunice Stoltz, Mail & Guardian journalist is considering explorative research around TIP and the media.
- 2021 Dr Antoinette Basson, Youth Research Unit, Bureau of Market Research, UNISA.
Title: The Viewing of Online Pornographic Material among Children in South Africa: A Nationally Representative Assessment
- 2021 Prof Molly Gordon, Baylor College of Medicine.
Title: Reintegration of victims of human trafficking including child soldiers.
- 2021 Paula Levitt, University of the Witwatersrand.
Title: Health care needs of victims of human trafficking through the views of psychosocial practitioners in organisational settings.

C

POLICY (RE)FORMATION

NFN advocates for change by supporting, reviewing, commenting on and contributing to policy (re)formation. In December 2022 after the announcement by the SA government to fully decriminalise prostitution, the NFN joined the movement/collective team SALE!SA (Stand Against Legal Exploitation) with many other passionate activists. Please visit the website to learn more from the Press Release, Manifesto, Analysis and Resources and how to get involved. <https://salesa.org.za>

PROGRAMME AREA 4

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Services offered: Sector Specific Training; Strategic Training; Internal Team Development.

We assess training needs for our Network members and then source specific capacity building opportunities, with the aim to upskill and strengthen the collective. Several Government officials have started attending these sessions.

Capacity Building Sessions for 2022

- March 2022 – Resh Mehta, NFN team member visited and trained 42 delegates at the Eastern Cape Task Team.
- July 2022 – Sihle Dhlamini, SIHMA hosted the The legal challenges of human trafficking survivors webinar with speakers: Ms Nokwazi Memela (Survivor), Advocate Phalane (NPA), Adelle Phillips (DSD) and Emma van der Walt (Brave to Love) We are excited for attendees to consider joining the team to establish a Legal Services Network for Survivors.
- Sept 2022 – Catherine Restiau, NFN on behalf of the KZN HHPPB task team hosted the Healing Environments for victims of trafficking training webinar with Claudia Roodt (59 delegates) Internal Team Development.
- As part of Internal Team Development, Marina attended Info Officer POPI training in November sponsored by the service provider IACT-Africa.



PROGRAMME AREA 5

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Due to our unique position, the NFN has a birds-eye view and is well positioned to identify who and what is already in place, as well as where the major gaps and challenges lie. When possible, we work to fill these areas by sourcing, creating and collaborating on solutions. As such, our strategic projects often have a specific focus and time frame and can include grant-funded opportunities or partnered projects.

INTERNATIONALLY FUNDED PROJECT

BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA'S CYBER TRAFFICKING RESPONSE

Duration Feb 2022 to Nov 2022

- The main goal of this project is to contribute towards South Africa's ability to understand and respond to online Grooming, Exploitation and Cyber Trafficking. By empowering role players, especially Law Enforcement officials, we will aid in building capacity to detect, investigate and prosecute these cases.
- Cyber TIP project - included 3 days of training on Cyber Trafficking and related crimes, for over 50 delegates from Law Enforcement, with a few from Civil Society too. An e-resource booklet was created as a quick reference guide of contact information and services offered, pertaining to Cyber Trafficking. In addition, six (6) NFN members facilitated awareness sessions on Cyber Trafficking and online safety, to over 15 high schools, collectively reaching 5 362 students.

LOCALLY FUNDED PROJECT

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

- Taking priority in 2023

The NFN brings together individuals and organisations working against human trafficking in South Africa and further afield. Our aim is to build a network of strong, funded, well-resourced, inter-connected members so that collectively, we can be more effective in our quest to eradicate human trafficking. After much consideration and research, it was clear that we had to take our networking mission into the online space. By using this approach, we will be able to widen and deepen our network and reduce the bottlenecks we have been experiencing. It's also the only effective way we can see the work of the NFN continuing.

- Thank you to Anne Gray, Solutioneers for stepping into our world to facilitate the much needed BIG MOVE taking the network online!
- Thank you to Tsai Lin, Chris Reyneke and Sanlam Foundation for your financial contributions towards this project.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

MARCH 2022

WEBINAR: SURVIVOR EMPOWERMENT



We support the Sustainable Development Goals

- Attended by Octavia, Catherine and Marina from South Africa with the following topics discussed: Trauma informed care, victim-led discussion, case management, working with clients, caution when interviewing, mental health, new discussions around providing CSOs with training on stabilising victims by taking care of the most important needs first eg. Maslow's pyramid—safety, housing, employment—and in the case of foreign-born survivors also immigration status. The idea of mock media events was a brilliant idea.

SEPTEMBER 2022

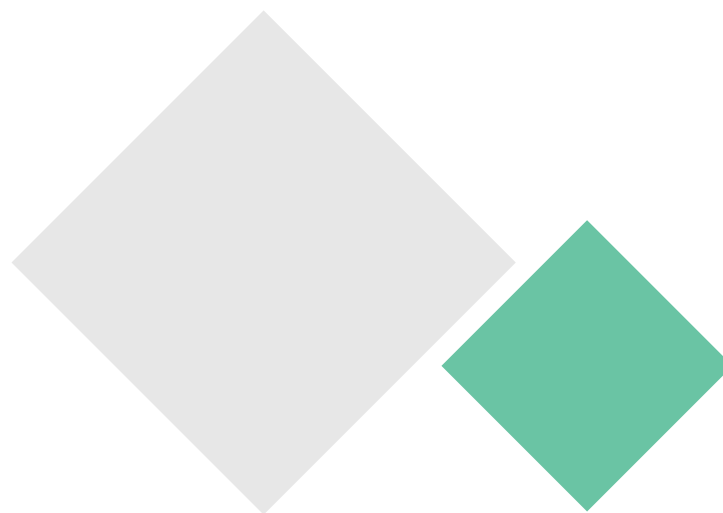
CESE AFRICA CONFERENCE



CESE Africa conference brought together an influential diverse group from across the African continent and the work, who shared their expert knowledge and experiences to address sexual exploitation and abuse.

- Fast Facts: 46 Speakers, 400 in-person and online delegates, six sponsors and hosted by the Bureau of Market Research at UNISA.
- Themes: Online Sexual Exploitation and Pornography, Sex Trafficking, Prostitution, Child Sexual Exploitation, Protection & Empowerment of Vulnerable Groups.
- Interactive activities: Panel discussions a) Survivors of sexual exploitation b) Youth Online Experiences and special "meet & greet"/ networking sessions.

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OCTOBER 2022

EZRAH & CHILD TRAFFICKING



The Western Cape Child Trafficking Forum has modeled the ideal connecting, communicating and collaborating we strive for between CSOs and Government departments.

NOVEMBER 2022

SAMLIT / FAST ROUNDTABLE & CONFERENCE



- November 2022: Roundtable Discussion on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Risks and the Financial Sector in South Africa and FAST conference. The Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking.
- SAMLIT partnered with A21, Love Justice and Monique Esmer & Government departments.
- NFN attended the 3-day event in Cape Town which was sponsored by UN University. Besides catching up and networking with NFN members and government delegates, the most interesting presentation was Western Union Financial Intelligence Unit – Law Enforcement Outreach.

Key takeaways from the conference included:

- **Data:** Data runs through the entire process of addressing modern slavery and human trafficking – from identification to remedy. What you can't measure, you can't manage or improve. The "S" in ESG is not impossible to measure; using qualitative data helps reflect survivors' lived experiences. Financial inclusion: while access is crucial, we must move to meaningful usage of tailored financial products that can enable vulnerable populations and survivors to access essential services.
- **Remedy:** Remedy does not stop at criminal justice: Survivors need and deserve an independent, dignified life with socio-economic opportunities.
- **Prevention:** Vulnerability doesn't start when one is trafficked, it results from pre-existing structural inequalities which prevention work needs to address.
- **Collaboration:** Efforts are needed to build cross-sectoral coalitions. Global knowledge exchange is critical: If you share information with different stakeholders, you can tackle a problem holistically.

NFN has been invited to join the Pan-African Networking Group on MSHT. Looking forward to feedback on the way forward.

We acknowledge and thank each and every person who has contributed in any way to the work of our organisation.
Thank you for believing in us and working with us to make a difference.

THANK YOU

National *freedom* Network



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