

NATIONAL FREEDOM NETWORK

JANUARY -
JUNE 2020

NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #15

NEW YEAR, NEW PARTNERSHIP

Better Together

We are very excited to announce our partnership with ProVision International (PVI). We are committed to work with PVI and their M-cubed modus operandi: mentoring, management and means. Together we hope to see transformation and growth through both relational and organisational steps, moving the NFN into a better strategic position in SA and beyond.

We acknowledge God's provision in this partnership; PVI founder Ted Carr's many years of experience in the Non-Profit sector will hugely benefit the NFN, and Dr. Mike Unsworth has successfully begun leading the mentoring process with NFN Operations Manager, Marina - we are grateful for his wisdom, counsel and patience.

TRAINING & EMPOWERMENT

Diane was grateful for the opportunity to lead a multi-sectoral team of Gauteng-based trainers from both Government and Civil Society in February. Together they provided a successful four day training on Human Trafficking for social workers, forensic healthcare workers, labour inspectors, immigration officers, police officials and an Advocate.



A big thank you to Andre Jordaan from Anlin Research Foundation, who recently ran an online training session around Social Media, Online Dangers and Online Safety for our Network members. We had 14 organisations learn more about how to keep themselves safe online.

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MARCH MEETINGS

Connecting Government & Civil Society

This was a busy month. We met with the National TIP Coordinator, TIP Secretariat, NPA National and DSD National to assess the relationship with Civil Society, and cover some common concerns. One result of this meeting was their decision to host the "CSO Alliance Building & Mandate Clarification" workshop. We as NFN have been tasked to draft the Concept Paper for this, and are working on consultations throughout the Network.

We also, together with the National Human Trafficking Hotline and Salvation Army Helpline, met with key senior members of the DPCI (HAWKS), Department of Justice, and National Prosecuting Authority, to discuss referral and reporting guidelines and how best the helplines can work with the Government structures already in place.



EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

We are so excited at all the research taking place at the moment, it is vital in guiding the work we all do!

Marcel's recent article 'Child trafficking and children in South Africa's sex trade: Evidence, undercounting and obfuscations', was recently published in Child Abuse Research: A South African Journal 2020. "The research confirmed that at least 21 convictions on child trafficking could be traced so far... and thus salutes all role players, especially police officials, prosecutors and the judiciary that played a pivotal role in securing trafficking convictions to help curb trafficking as a crime of impunity."

A national research study has also commenced, and we are proud that four of the five from the team chosen to conduct the research, are NFN members.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Survivor & Member Support

Our first port of call when the pandemic and resultant lockdown struck in April, was to check in on survivors, many of whom are already some of the most vulnerable in society. To date since lockdown began, we have been able to provide support and care to 17 survivors across 6 provinces.

We also arranged discounted, as well as some free, debriefing sessions to be made available to all our Network members who felt the need to talk with someone during this time.

The "Network Needs and On Offer" initiative was successfully launched, and aims to share what we have as a Network in order to lighten the collective load. We've already had much positive feedback regarding this initiative!

We continue to network virtually, although we do miss the in-person networking a lot. We have also been taking part in many international networking calls, as all these platforms went virtual once the virus hit. It is great to be part of several global counter-Trafficking communities from whom we can learn and with whom we can share.

HELLO & GOODBYE

We are pleased to have Zeena Martin on board again this year as a Volunteer. She is currently doing her Masters in Law with a focus on Human Trafficking, and is an asset to our team.



With very sore and heavy hearts we bid a forced goodbye to Kirsten Jenkin, one of our Founding Directors, who passed away at the beginning of May. She was vibrant, passionate and inspiring, and she made a huge impact on the counter-TIP field. She is dearly missed.

"The best thing we can do for society is to recognize the dignity and value of the people around us."

~ Kirsten Jenkin



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GOOD NEWS!

We love silver linings

We received news of a small grant for a project that will focus on scaling up and strengthening some of our collective NFN work. We are grateful to Vital Voices for this opportunity.

The best news yet is that South Africa has been upgraded on the annual US TIP Report; we moved from the Tier 2 watchlist to Tier 2. We would like to commend every single person from Government and Civil Society who played a role in helping to make this happen!



AWARENESS:

Board member Adv. Palesa Mafisa gave a successful awareness presentation to the Ombudsman for Banking Services. Reana Steyn was grateful for the informative session and requested more information. Thank you to Shelley McMaster for arranging the event.

CALL TO ACTION

Want to flatten THAT curve while fighting Human Trafficking at the same time?

This is a health-focused fundraising challenge where you choose your challenge, set your goals, and mobilise your friends, family and social networks for support.

The challenge runs until 1 September 2020. Visit <https://coneckt.org/flatten-that-curve/> for more info or to sign up (for a week, a fortnight, a month or more)!



FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

FLATTEN
'THAT'
CURVE