



NATIONAL FREEDOM NETWORK

JULY -
DECEMBER
2020

NEWSLETTER
ISSUE #16

LOOKING BACK

... while looking forward

September saw the start of a 6 month project for which we received a small grant: thank you Vital Voices for believing in us and allowing us opportunity to go ahead with the project despite all the adaptations that had to happen due to COVID-19.

The project includes capacity building sessions for those working in the field; more local level coalitions; and the formulation of some exciting documents including Guidelines for Survivor Speakers (with input provided by survivors themselves) and a Safe Guarding Policy template.

We are also working on a website upgrade, fine tuning the site to be more in line with what our members need and would like.

We are excited to share the final products and further updates at the end of February!

NETWORKING

We love engaging with our 115 official Network members, as well as all those we partner with from the wider counter-Trafficking movement. Thank you to each and every one who continued to fight the good fight through what was arguably the most difficult year for us all yet.

We appreciate all the feedback and kind comments that we receive from you. It gives us great satisfaction knowing that what we do, makes a difference to the vital work that YOU each do!

"NFN is SUCH a powerful source of information to us! THANK YOU guys for HELPING us to be more informed with regards to Human Trafficking & to PERFORM better in our fight against this heinous crime against humanity."

~ Zion Foundation

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ADVOCACY

Research & Media

There has been a lot of research conducted at various levels, as well as many media engagements, over the past six months.

NFN has also been proud to assist with the national USAID / DSI research currently underway through Khulisa Management Services; this research is looking at the Nature, Scope and Prevalence of Human Trafficking in South Africa and is the first of its kind for our country.

Civil Society Representation

Some of the Provincial Task Teams, the NICTIP and the National Rapid Response Task Team started up again from August; most welcome after a particularly silent lockdown period prior to this.

The latter part of the year also saw many online and a few in-person events, where NFN was asked to speak, contribute or represent. We are always honoured to do so.

October:

- Training on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Integrated Victim Assistance
- DSD TIP Indaba

November:

- Trauma Support SA's "Trauma Wise" seminar

December:

- Official launch of the TIP Training Manuals & SOP
- SOP Training for SAPS



SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Thanks to the funds raised through Freecember 2019 and a generous donation from the Mergon Foundation, we were able to support 17 survivors over the course of lockdown.

We are now on a more long term journey with 3 ladies, empowering them to reach their goals and encouraging them to become all that they aspire to.



We would also like to acknowledge NFN member EPIC Foundation who are always ready and willing to assist with comfort packs for survivors. They prepared 50 packs for men at a moment's notice, when we were alerted of an imminent rescue operation in Gauteng just before Christmas.

CAPACITY BUILDING

New monthly initiative

The first of our monthly online capacity building sessions ran on Friday 27 November 2020 and was on **Trauma Informed Care in the Treatment of Human Trafficking**. It was facilitated by Claudia Roodt from Designed to Connect, who has over 3 decades of experience in the field of Trauma.

There were 35 people in attendance representing 14 organisations, as well as 5 professional individuals. Going forward, these sessions will run the last Friday of each month, and will be open first and foremost to official NFN members and then to the wider field should spaces still be available.

Human Trafficking 101

In November Diane was privileged to co-facilitate an online session on the basics of Human Trafficking with Jacs Fourie from Small Voice. It was open to members of the Nelson Mandela Bay Justice Coalition (NMBJC) and the Tshwane Counter Trafficking Coalition (TCTC).

Some feedback from The Salvation Army included: "Thank you, thank you!!! That was absolutely awesome!! It certainly was an excellent overview, and seemed to cover a little bit of everything. Great for training purposes in terms of structuring training and making sure all our pastors are on the same page with what they communicate publicly on human trafficking."

CASE CONSULTATION

Our team assisted with over 40 cases and potential cases of Human Trafficking last year.

Our Case Manager Dr. Marcel van der Watt also relocated to the USA during the latter part of the year, and while we were sad to see him go, we are so grateful that he remains on as NFN Case Consultant and is still available to share his wisdom, knowledge and insight.



GOODBYE



We honour the work, lives and legacy of two incredible individuals who each sowed so much of themselves into counter-Trafficking. Alex Abok and Soraya Smith are deeply missed by family, friends and colleagues.

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ENDING OFF...

Thank You

We are grateful to Julia Conway who assisted Marina with so much over the past few years in an administrative role. She has now moved on and we wish her all the best going forward.

We are also grateful for Alisha Goussard who joined us as a volunteer. She is keen to learn more and find her fit within the work.

Lastly a huge thank you to each and every one who provided input and assistance throughout the latter half of the year:

Anthony Sham, Chantal Coetzee, Estelle van Eeden, Ian Slade, Jacs Fourie, Lungelo Dakile, Mel Doucakis, ProVision International, Robyn Phillips, Sonja du Plessis & Zeena Martin.

A huge thanks to our amazing Freecember 2020 champions, who worked hard over December to raise awareness and freedom funds. They had some exciting challenges and managed to raise above and beyond our target goal. These funds will go towards our medium and long term survivor care and support work, as well as towards keeping the local level coalition work going.



FREEDOM FUNDS

We would appreciate any support towards the fight for freedom:


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