



WE ARE UNITING ANTI-SLAVERY
EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT TANGIBLE
CHANGE



NationalFreedomNetwork

Newsletter

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We are already at the end of another year, and what an eventful second half of the year it has been. Here are just a few of the highlights that we would love to share with you.

DSD Workshop

September saw us teaming up with the Provincial Department of Social Development in Gauteng, to run a workshop for those people and organizations who already run, or would like to start up shelters for victims of trafficking. We are grateful to Morrells in Northcliff for hosting and catering for us at their incredibly beautiful venue.



Building relationship between Civil Society and Government

Also in September we had a meeting with the Deputy Minister for Justice, Hon. John Jeffrey, and members of the National Rapid Response Task Team. The aim of this meeting was to come to an understanding of how we can share data, and to start building relationship between civil society and government.

There were some important conversations started, and two key outcomes included agreement that the national Hotline should have a seat on the National Rapid Response Task Team, and buy in for an MOU to be put into place between civil society and government.

We look forward to seeing how we can better build and strengthen these relationships going in to 2020.



Training

One of our team members completed the IOM TIP Sector Specific Train the Trainer course, and is now certified to train officials from Department of Employment and Labour, Department of Health, Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Social Development. She is also leading a team of Civil Society and Government trainers in Gauteng, and they will be rolling out their first inter-sectoral training session for front line officials from the various departments, in Feb 2020.



International Opportunities

Over the past few months one of our team members has had the opportunity to present at the INTERPOL Conference in Buenos Aires; at various universities in Toronto, Canada as well as in the USA; and will also shortly be travelling to Nepal to assist with training of prosecutors and investigators from a host of countries including Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. We are so grateful for opportunities to participate and partner on these international platforms.

Survivor Support

We do not often work directly with survivors of human trafficking, but have been humbled to be able to play a small role in some survivors' journeys. We were able to source a pro bono counsellor for one survivor who has not yet had any counselling after her traumatic trafficking experience, and we were also recently able to assist the Department of Social Development with finding emergency placement for a victim whose rescue was imminent.

US Roundtable Discussions



We were invited to participate in two US Roundtable discussions this year. The most recent one took place now in December with US Ambassador for TIP, John Richmond. It was a pleasure to meet him, and we felt that he really gave ear to what the various organisations had to say. We are grateful to the US Embassy for consistently including civil society in such discussions and meetings.

Networking

The past six months have seen another two successful NFN online gathering and discussion sessions that were open to all our official members across the country.

We continue to host networking days in Gauteng and have met up with a further 51 Network members, partners and others working in the field. We continue to be passionate about networking, a core function of the NFN.



The 6th MeCAHT International Human Trafficking Conference in November 2019 saw many taking opportunities to network. Incredible support was provided by all for the successful conference. Delegates attended from the USA, UK, South Africa, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Malawi, Ghana and Swaziland. There were also representatives from the Nigerian embassy, the US embassy as well as from the Department of Social Development, National Prosecutors Authority, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Survivors and representatives from Academia viz. The Universities of South Africa, Western Cape, Free State, Witwatersrand and Kwazulu Natal.

Freecember

We are currently taking part in the [Freecember](#) (Freedom + December) campaign. You can read more about the personal challenges we have chosen, and why, [here](#)



Thanks for all your support and encouragement throughout what has been our busiest year. We sincerely appreciate each and every one of you!