



Freedom Network USA

# ABOUT FREEDOM NETWORK USA

Freedom Network USA (FNUSA) is the nation's largest coalition working to ensure that trafficked persons have access to justice, safety, and opportunity. The network is comprised of trafficking survivors, legal and social service providers, researchers, advocacy organizations, and expert consultants. Our perspective is derived from the diverse geographic scope and expertise that our members bring from working with survivors of trafficking in all forms of labor. We engage in advocacy work nationwide, provide training and technical assistance, and enhances the capacity of its members.

## HISTORY AND MEMBERSHIP

FNUSA was established in 2001 by a group of organizations and individuals bringing decades of experience from a diverse set of backgrounds, including immigrant women and children's rights, social services, migrant farm worker advocacy, and human rights activism. After the passage of the **Trafficking Victims Protection Act** in 2000, some of these early members were involved in the prosecution of the first federal cases, filed the first T visas for survivors to obtain immigration relief, and provided the first essential social services needed for survivors to regain their independence. Today FNUSA is comprised of 68 members headquartered in over 50 cities across 24 states. Membership is diverse and includes some of the leading experts in the field, including the first three recipients of the **Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons: Florrie Burke** (2013), **CAST** (2014), and the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers** (2015).

## WHAT MAKES FNUSA DIFFERENT?

As a nationwide network of survivors, and those working directly with survivors, FNUSA has a deep understanding of trends, promising practices, and challenges in the movement. We see the real-life implications of policies and respond quickly to the training needs of the field. **No other organization in the United States has the same comprehensive view of human trafficking.**

FNUSA is uniquely committed to using a human rights framework to address human trafficking in the United States. At its core, human trafficking is a violation of an individual's basic rights and personal freedom. Therefore, services and support must be provided using a human rights-based approach that allows the survivor to exercise their own self-determination and reclaim those rights. FNUSA also applies this model to prevention. The root causes of human trafficking are poverty, discrimination, weak worker protections, and restrictive immigration policies. Effective prevention efforts must combat these structural inequalities. These principles serve as the backbone of our advocacy and training efforts.