# THE FREEDOM FUND

# CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

(With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2022)

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Independent Auditor's Report	1
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	3
Consolidated Statement of Activities	4
Consolidated Statement of Functional Expenses	5
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7



#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors The Freedom Fund New York, New York

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Freedom Fund, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of the other auditors, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Freedom Fund as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of The Freedom Fund UK and The Freedom Fund Ethiopia, which statements reflect total assets of \$952,592 and \$367,325, respectively, as of December 31, 2023, and total revenues of \$4,496,214 and \$2,896,249, respectively, for the year then ended. Those statements, which were prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, were audited by other auditors, whose reports have been furnished to us. We have applied audit procedures on the conversion adjustments to the financial statements of The Freedom Fund UK and The Freedom Fund Ethiopia, which conform those financial statements to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for The Freedom Fund UK and The Freedom Fund Ethiopia, prior to these conversion adjustments, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

## **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of The Freedom Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about The Freedom Fund's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to
  fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures
  include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial
  statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The Freedom Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about The Freedom Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

## **Report on Summarized Comparative Information**

We have previously audited The Freedom Fund's 2022 financial statements, and, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated April 26, 2023. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

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Wegner CPAs, LLP Waukesha, Wisconsin July 8, 2024

## THE FREEDOM FUND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION December 31, 2023 With Comparative Totals for December 31, 2022

ASSETS CURRENT ASSETS Cash Grant advances Government grants receivable	2023 \$ 7,383,725 435,615 1,109,293	2022 \$ 44,533,427 337,291 1,305,236
Pledges receivable Prepaid expenses	117,155 279,634	13,610 165,957
Total current assets	9,325,422	46,355,521
FIXED ASSETS Equipment Accumulated depreciation	652,991 (341,910)	411,800 (293,350)
Equipment, net	311,081	118,450
OTHER ASSETS Deposits Operating lease right-of-use asset Investments	254,314 753,317 31,108,722	106,646 220,919 -
Total other assets	32,116,353	327,565
Total assets	\$ 41,752,856	\$ 46,801,536
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS CURRENT LIABILITIES Accounts payable and accrued liabilities Accrued salaries and related benefits Current portion of operating lease liability	\$ 694,783 291,100 35,808	\$   1,119,167 266,626 220,919
Total current liabilities	1,021,691	1,606,712
OTHER LIABILITIES Operating lease liability less current portion	739,539	<u> </u>
Total liabilities	1,761,230	1,606,712
NET ASSETS Without donor restrictions With donor restrictions	37,454,272 2,537,354	41,463,735 3,731,089
Total net assets	39,991,626	45,194,824
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 41,752,856	\$ 46,801,536

See accompanying notes.

## THE FREEDOM FUND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year Ended December 31, 2023 With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

		2023		2022
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE Contributions Government grants Interest and other income	\$ 5,543,191 - 207,572	\$   7,016,149 6,095,331 -	\$ 12,559,340 6,095,331 207,572	\$ 10,978,237 5,098,980 99,928
Investment return, net Foreign exchange rate gain	1,308,722 43,632	- -	1,308,722 43,632	- 46,061
Total support and revenue	7,103,117	13,111,480	20,214,597	16,223,206
EXPENSES Program services				
Hotspots Global initiatives Movement building Program quality and learning	14,250,589 2,573,195 3,350,602 794,994	- - -	14,250,589 2,573,195 3,350,602 794,994	11,564,336 1,939,686 3,518,445 743,308
Total program services	20,969,380	<u>-</u>	20,969,380	17,765,775
Supporting activities General and administrative Development and fundraising	2,356,121 2,092,294	-	2,356,121 2,092,294	2,748,731 1,917,196
Total supporting activities	4,448,415		4,448,415	4,665,927
Total expenses	25,417,795	-	25,417,795	22,431,702
NET ASSETS RELEASED RESTRICTIONS Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	14,305,215	(14,305,215)		
Change in net assets	(4,009,463)	(1,193,735)	(5,203,198)	(6,208,496)
Net assets at beginning of year	41,463,735	3,731,089	45,194,824	51,403,320
Net assets at end of year	\$ 37,454,272	\$ 2,537,354	\$ 39,991,626	\$ 45,194,824

## THE FREEDOM FUND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES Year Ended December 31, 2023 With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

				2023				2022
		Program	Services		Supportir	ng Activities	_	
	Hotspots	Global Initiatives	Movement Building	Program Quality and Learning	General and Administrative	Development and Fundraising	Total Expenses	Total Expenses
Salaries and benefits	\$ 2,293,208	\$ 225,509	\$ 394,857	\$ 96,726	\$ 1,332,447	\$ 1,498,528	\$ 5,841,275	\$ 4,876,037
Consultancy fees	770,499	561	123,435	165,935	20,190	17,533	1,098,153	1,325,023
Occupancy, utilities, and maintenance	112,536	-	11,262	808	411,035	3,852	539,493	426,207
Services, supplies, and other	35,314	61	1,053	1,134	113,196	1,398	152,156	184,460
Grants to others	10,179,473	2,288,974	2,421,096	409,503	-	-	15,299,046	12,433,243
Depreciation	15,591	-	-	-	48,149	-	63,740	76,373
Bank fees	-	-	-	-	33,168	-	33,168	29,971
Partners capacity building and assistance	426,749	13,198	320,239	10,309	191	38	770,724	1,566,978
Travel and running costs	268,380	27,849	48,430	50,481	37,472	192,368	624,980	591,350
Communication and events	91,220	17,043	-	50,303	24,746	376,237	559,549	570,178
Legal fees	3,100	-	4,138	297	58,194	-	65,729	32,712
Accounting and payroll processing fees	22,575	-	-	-	162,451	-	185,026	110,495
Professional services	31,944		26,092	9,498	114,882	2,340	184,756	208,675
Total expenses	\$ 14,250,589	\$ 2,573,195	\$ 3,350,602	\$ 794,994	\$ 2,356,121	\$ 2,092,294	\$ 25,417,795	\$ 22,431,702

## THE FREEDOM FUND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS Year Ended December 31, 2023 With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	2023	2022
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ (5,203,198)	\$ (6,208,496)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash flows from operating activities		
Depreciation	63,740	76,373
Amortization of operating lease right-of-use asset	222,891	290,345
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	(614,388)	-
(Increase) decrease in assets		
Grant advances	(98,324)	(125,416)
Government grants receivable	195,943	(479,390)
Pledges receivable	(103,545)	2,158,065
Prepaid expenses	(113,677)	59,084
Deposits	(147,668)	(38,943)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(424,384)	329,491
Accrued salaries and related benefits	24,474	3,664
Operating lease liability	(200,861)	(290,345)
Net cash flows from operating activities	(6,398,997)	(4,225,568)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Interest and dividends reinvested	(824,194)	-
Purchases of investments	(34,170,140)	-
Proceeds from sales of investments	4,500,000	-
Purchases of equipment	(256,371)	(30,423)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(30,750,705)	(30,423)
Change in cash	(37,149,702)	(4,255,991)
Cash at beginning of year	44,533,427	48,789,418
Cash at end of year	\$ 7,383,725	\$ 44,533,427

See accompanying notes.

## NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Nature of Activities

The Freedom Fund is a non-profit organization with offices in New York, London, and Ethiopia. The Freedom Fund seeks to end slavery by partnering with government and private agencies to serve those enslaved and formerly enslaved. The Freedom Fund carries out its activities by operating global hotspots, which are areas determined to have a high incidence of modern slavery; global initiatives to influence governments and agencies to end modern slavery; and movement building to strengthen global movement of activists to provide collaboration. The Freedom Fund is supported primarily by contributions from individual and private foundations and by government grants.

#### Principles of Consolidation

The financial statements include the accounts of The Freedom Fund, The Freedom Fund UK, and The Freedom Fund Ethiopia. The Freedom Fund is the sole corporate member of The Freedom Fund UK and The Freedom Fund Ethiopia. All material intra-entity transactions have been eliminated.

#### Pledges

Unconditional pledges are recognized as revenues in the period received and as assets, decreases of liabilities, or expenses depending on the form of the benefits received. Conditional pledges are recognized only when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met and the pledges become unconditional.

## **Fixed Assets**

All acquisitions of fixed assets in excess of \$1,000 are capitalized. Fixed assets are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximate fair value at the date of donation. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line basis.

#### Investments

The Freedom Fund reports investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities at their fair values in the consolidated statement of financial position. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets in the accompanying consolidated statement of activities.

Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such change could materially affect the amounts reported in the consolidated statement of financial position.

## NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Contributions

Contributions received are recorded as increases in net assets without donor restrictions and net assets with donor restrictions depending on the existence of any donor restrictions. When a restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the consolidated statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

#### Grants to Others

The Freedom Fund also provides grants to partners located in various hotspots. Amounts provided in advance of grant expenses incurred are recorded as grant advances and included on the consolidated statement of financial position.

#### Government Grants

Government grants are subject to financial and compliance reviews and audits by the United States Department of State or other agencies pursuant to authority given by law or regulation. Such reviews and audits could result in claims against The Freedom Fund for disallowed costs or noncompliance with the provisions of grants. Management believes it is highly unlikely that an adverse material outcome will result from those reviews and audits.

## Expense Allocation

The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributable to more than one program service or supporting activity. Therefore, these expenses require allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. The expenses that are allocated include occupancy, utilities, and maintenance; and depreciation, which are allocated on a square footage basis, as well as salaries and benefits; services, supplies, and other; travel and running costs; legal fees; and professional services, which are allocated on the basis of estimates of time and effort.

#### Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### Income Tax Status

The Freedom Fund is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, The Freedom Fund qualifies for the charitable contribution deduction under Section 170(b)(1)(a) and has been classified as an organization other than a private foundation under Section 509(a)(2).

## NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### Leases

The Freedom Fund does not recognize short-term leases in the consolidated statement of financial position. For these leases, The Freedom Fund recognizes the lease payments in the change in net assets on a straight-line basis over the lease term and variable lease payments in the period in which the obligation for those payments is incurred. The Freedom Fund also does not separate nonlease components from lease components for all classes of underlying assets and instead accounts for each separate lease component. If the rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable, The Freedom Fund uses a risk-free rate as the discount rate for the lease for all classes of underlying assets.

#### **Comparative Financial Information**

The financial statements include certain prior year summarized comparative information in total but not by net asset class. Such information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with The Freedom Fund's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, from which the summarized information was derived.

## Reclassifications

Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the presentation in the current year financial statements.

## Date of Management's Review

Management has evaluated subsequent events through July 8, 2024, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

## NOTE 2—CONCENTRATIONS

#### Credit Risk

The Freedom Fund maintains cash balances at two financial institutions located in Rhode Island and at two financial institutions located in London. Accounts at each institution in Rhode Island are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$250,000 and accounts at the institutions in London are insured by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme up to £85,000 (approximately \$115,000). At December 31, 2023 and 2022, The Freedom Fund's uninsured cash balances total approximately \$6,400,000 and \$43,000,000, respectively.

## NOTE 2—CONCENTRATIONS (continued)

#### Concentration of Revenue

For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, The Freedom Fund received contributions totaling \$3.7 million and \$3 million, respectively, (or 18% and 17%, respectively, of total revenue) from its three founders. The Freedom Fund has no reason to believe that relationships with these founders will be discontinued in the foreseeable future. However, any interruption of these relationships (i.e., the failure to renew grant agreements or withholding of funds) would adversely affect The Freedom Fund's ability to finance ongoing operations.

#### NOTE 3—INVESTMENTS

Investments are comprised of the following:

	2023	20	22
Cash equivalents held by investment managers	\$ 5,978,264	\$	-
Equity securities	3,292,435		-
Fixed income funds	21,838,023		-
	\$ 31,108,722	\$	-

Fair values of equity securities are based on the closing prices reported on the active market where the individual securities are traded. Fixed income funds are valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. These funds are required to publish their daily value and to transact at that price. Equity securities and fixed income funds held by The Freedom Fund are considered to be actively traded and are valued using Level 1 fair value measurements.

## NOTE 4—LEASES

The Freedom Fund leases office space in London under a five-year operating lease that includes an option to extend the lease through 2031. The Freedom Fund intends to exercise this option and, thus, it is included in the measurement of the right-of-use asset and lease liability. The Freedom Fund also leases office space in New York on a month-to-month basis.

The components of total lease cost are as follows:

	2023		 2022
Operating lease cost Short-term lease cost	\$	222,891 53,472	\$ 249,086 38,196
Total lease cost	\$	276,363	\$ 287,282

## NOTE 4—LEASES (continued)

Other information related to operating leases is as follows:

	2023	2022
Cash payments classified as part of operating cash flows for amounts uncluded in the measurement of lease liabilities Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for	\$ 200,861	\$-
new lease liabilities	781,283	-
Weighted-average remaining lease term Weighted-average discount rate	7.75 years 4.27%	0.92 years 0.78%

The maturities of the operating lease liability as of December 31, 2023, are as follows:

Year ending December 31:	
2024	\$ 35,808
2025	102,330
2026	136,440
2027	136,440
2028	136,440
Thereafter	 373,512
Total minimum lease payments	 920,970
Imputed interest	(145,623)
	 (140,020)
Total lease liability	\$ 775,347

## NOTE 5—RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, The Freedom Fund received the following contributions and foundation grants from institutions that have representatives on its board of directors:

	2023	2022
Humanity United Legatum Minderoo Stardust Dolby Family Foundation	\$ 2,422,966 1,000,000 2,227,212 - 500,000	\$ 2,501,517 1,052,000 1,480,711 1,500,000 500,000
	\$ 6,150,178	\$ 7,034,228

During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, The Freedom Fund repaid unused foundation grants funds totaling \$64,217 and \$649,178, respectively, to Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

#### NOTE 6-RETIREMENT PLAN

The Freedom Fund sponsors a defined contribution plan covering all full-time permanent employees. Total expense for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, was \$452,666 and \$363,064, respectively.

#### NOTE 7—NET ASSETS

Net assets with donor restrictions are restricted for the following purposes:

	 2023	 2022
Thailand hotspot Movement building and strategic partnerships Bangladesh hotspot Indonesia hotspot Rajasthan hotspot South East Nepal hotspot Ethiopia hotspot Brazil hotspot Freedom rising Lebanon hotspot	\$ 340,009 920,623 97,801 3,915 - 655,781 186,089 41,340 270,157 21,639	\$ 688,049 1,138,168 289,411 361,102 64,217 277,255 563,625 78,482 270,780
	\$ 2,537,354	\$ 3,731,089

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes specified by the donors:

	2023	2022
Thailand hotspot Southern India hotspot South East Nepal hotspot Research Global initiatives Myanmar research Bangladesh hotspot Northern India hotspot Rajasthan hotspot Ethiopia hotspot Other Freedom rising Brazil hotspot Indonesia hotspot West Africa hotspot	\$ 1,572,486 352,754 999,009 1,441,444 2,190,035 260,080 686,977 - 237,243 3,484,926 448,884 889,496 664,080 754,956 322,845	\$ 2,120,155 346,060 903,658 1,420,933 794,571 250,000 204,824 67,341 507,054 3,269,583 753,013 672,986 451,186 295,977 24,503
	\$ 14,305,215	\$ 12,081,844

#### NOTE 8-LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

The following table reflects The Freedom Fund's financial assets as of the date of the consolidated statement of financial position, reduced by amounts not available for general expenditures within one year of the date of the consolidated statement of financial position because of donor-imposed or other restrictions.

	2023	2022
Financial assets at year-end		
Cash	\$ 7,383,725	\$ 44,533,427
Grant advances	435,615	337,291
Government grants receivable	1,109,293	1,305,236
Pledges receivable	117,155	13,610
Deposits	254,314	106,646
Investments	31,108,722	-
Total financial assets at year-end	40,408,824	46,296,210
Less those unavailable for general expenditures within one year:		
Donor-restricted with time or purpose restrictions	(2,537,354)	(3,731,089)
Deposits to be received in more than one year	(254,314)	(106,646)
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for		
general expenditures within one year	\$ 37,617,156	\$ 42,458,475

The Freedom Fund receives significant contributions that are restricted in use to the purposes specified by the donors.

General expenditures include administrative and general expenses, fundraising expenses, and grant commitments expected to be paid in the subsequent year. Annual operations are defined as activities occurring during The Freedom Fund's fiscal year.

The Freedom Fund manages its cash available to meet general expenditures following three guiding principles:

- Operating within a prudent range of financial soundness and stability,
- Maintaining adequate liquid assets, and
- Maintaining sufficient reserves to provide reasonable assurance that long term grant commitments and obligations with donor restrictions that support mission fulfillment will continue to be met, ensuring the sustainability of The Freedom Fund.

#### NOTE 10—CONDITIONAL GRANTS

The Freedom Fund has several grants that are conditioned upon The Freedom Fund incurring qualifying expenses under the grant programs. At December 31, 2023, these conditional grants total \$22,027,103. These conditional grants will be recognized as revenue when the respective conditions are met in future years.