

CONVENING FUND

Frequently Asked Questions

The aim of this fund is to support organisations and individual survivor leaders (people with lived experience of exploitation, including human trafficking, forced labour, bonded labour, child labour or forced marriage) with small grants to promote more inclusive convenings and ensure meaningful inclusion of survivors.

Who can apply?

Organisations and individual survivor leaders (people with lived experience of exploitation, including human trafficking, forced labour, bonded labour, child labour or forced marriage) are eligible to apply.

How much are the grants awarded?

Grants of up to US \$30,000 will be awarded to organisations to organise and hold convenings, and grants of up to US \$3,000 will be awarded to individual survivor leaders to attend convenings.

What do we mean by “convening”?

For the purposes of this Fund, a convening is a conference, workshop or discussion forum that brings together a variety of stakeholders in the anti-slavery movement to share knowledge or learning and to build relationships and collaboration. A convening should involve more than ten people from more than two organisations, networks or collectives. Convenings should be international or regional in scope. Project meetings, staff meetings and training programmes do not constitute convenings for the purposes of this fund.

What do we mean when we say that the convening should be focused on modern slavery or human trafficking?

Convenings supported under this fund should either be entirely focused on addressing issues of modern slavery (including forced labour, child labour, bonded labour, forced marriage, human trafficking) or that have multiple sessions dedicated to the issues.

What do we mean when we say survivors or people with “lived experience of exploitation”?

For the purposes of this fund, “lived experience of exploitation” means having personally experienced forced labour, bonded labour, child labour, human trafficking or forced marriage.

What kind of organisations can apply?

The Fund is primarily aimed at not-for-profit organisations. Worker collectives or survivor networks will also be considered. Faith-based organisations may be eligible if compatible with The Freedom Fund’s policy.

Can my organisation apply for more than one grant through this fund?

Individuals and organisations can only receive one grant per year. If you are successful, you may re-apply for further funding in the following year.

What can I use this grant for?

Organisations: Organisations can use this grant for any costs associated with conference planning, execution or attendees, including venue hire, translation, travel costs, and hiring survivors and consultants to plan and participate in the event. However, the grant cannot be used to fund the organisations' staff costs or other organisational costs not associated with the convening.

Individuals: Funding can be used for costs associated with attending a convening, including but not limited to event tickets, flights, hotels, visas, subsistence, interpreters, presentation supplies, childcare or other support needed to facilitate effective participation.

What reporting will be required for this grant?

Organisations: Grantees are required to submit a short narrative and financial report within two months of the convening.

Individuals: No report is required from individuals.

Does my organisation need to be registered?

Yes, your organisation needs to be registered and provide proof of registration.

I am a survivor wanting to attend a convening that is funded by The Freedom Fund, but I am not part of that organisation – can I apply as an individual?

Yes. You can also apply to attend a conference that is already funded by The Freedom Fund through the Convening Fund. However, please note that The Freedom Fund seeks to create balance in grant-making under the Fund and may not make further grants if numerous grants have already been made in relation to a particular convening.

I don't have reliable access to the internet. Can I submit an application on paper or via email?

Yes, please email convening@freedomfund.org and ask for a paper application form. We will work with you to figure out the best way to get the application form to you in a timely manner.

When can I expect to hear from the Freedom Fund about my application?

If you have successfully submitted your application either online or via email by the deadline, we expect applicants to hear back within a month about their application. Applicants may be requested to provide further information or documentation before a decision is made on their application.