

Freedom Rising

Building an anti-slavery movement led by women and survivors



Freedom Rising is the Freedom Fund's new effort to equip and connect frontline leaders, especially women and survivors, to accelerate the movement to end slavery.

Over 70% of the people in slavery around the world are women and girls, yet few women are supported to become leaders in the anti-slavery movement.

As a leader in the global movement to end modern slavery, the Freedom Fund recognises the need to incorporate marginalised voices and challenge unequal power structures. Through Freedom Rising, we aim to address historic power imbalances and expand and strengthen the movement of frontline anti-slavery leaders at local, national and international levels.

The lack of female representation in leadership across anti-slavery organisations is glaring. To ensure that the movement reflects the communities it serves and effectively addresses the gender bias and discrimination that are a key cause of slavery, women and survivors must have greater access to resources, support and leadership opportunities.

The power of Freedom Rising

We believe that a powerful frontline movement led by women and survivors is key to advancing the fight against slavery.

Freedom Rising builds on the Freedom Fund's existing programs and enables us to scale our impact by equipping individuals with the necessary skills, networks and support to lead more effective organisations and build collective power.

Freedom Rising is unique and transformative due to its:



Explicit focus on elevating woman and survivor leaders who have traditionally been excluded from positions of leadership



Grounding in local context, with local training in leaders' own languages



Emphasis not only on developing skilled and strategic frontline leaders but on strengthening and diversifying organisations



Ultimate goal of building a stronger and more inclusive movement, through an emphasis on collaboration and the development of an alumni network.



Program structure

Freedom Rising is designed to build connections and capacity among frontline leaders in communities most affected by slavery. Due to covid-19, the pilot program will begin with an online learning phase, followed by in-person training when safe to do so. Each cohort of leaders will receive 12 months of mentoring, leadership and technical skills training, after which they will join a growing network of Freedom Rising alumni. The training will be complemented by ongoing efforts to strengthen leaders' networks and support them to play more active roles in the global anti-slavery movement. After an initial pilot in India, the Freedom Fund envisions scaling the program to Nepal, Thailand, Ethiopia and beyond.

Supporting and promoting woman and survivor leaders

The program aims to directly address the lack of support for and representation of women and survivors in the anti-slavery movement. Women and survivors' leadership and lived experiences will be central to the program's design, facilitation and implementation. The recruitment process will prioritise female and survivor candidates and focus on reducing barriers to their participation. Course content will cover issues such as bias, discrimination, challenging social norms, and the value of lived experience. All participants will be equipped to identify and understand power structures and become advocates for gender justice and survivor leadership both within and beyond their organisations.

Join Freedom Rising

A thriving network of diverse frontline activists is emerging, and through Freedom Rising, we have the opportunity to reach a critical mass. An investment in the development of woman and survivor leaders is an investment in their collective power to end modern slavery. The Freedom Fund is actively seeking support for this initiative. Please join us in ensuring that freedom rises around the world.

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