

Overview: Freedom Fund support for inclusive convenings

JULY 2022

Convenings are critical venues for movement building in the anti-slavery space. However, survivors and other marginalised individuals are often excluded from opportunities to attend, lead and shape their agendas – resulting in convenings that reinforce existing power imbalances and, ultimately, preventing the development of a more cohesive and powerful movement. The Freedom Fund provides small grants to **promote more inclusive convenings** and **ensure meaningful inclusion of survivors**.

This funding takes two forms, *support for convenings* and *support for individual survivor participation*, each of which are detailed below. If you have questions or wish to make a funding request, please contact **Antonia Musunga**, Program Manager for Movement Building, at amusunga@freedomfund.org.

Please note that due to funding constraints, we may not be able to fulfil all requests for funding. The following guidelines apply even if you have previously received funding from the Freedom Fund.

1) Support for convenings

This funding is provided to organisations who host convenings, with the goal of supporting anti-slavery convenings that contribute to a more global, diverse and inclusive movement.

Criteria

- Convening must have clear objectives, included among them an intention to build the global anti-slavery movement.
- Convening must be regional or international (including participants from more than one country).
- Convenings must be associated with one or more organisations (not solely individuals).
- Individuals with lived experience of modern slavery and/or from communities impacted by modern slavery must be substantively included in the planning and execution of the event. Individuals with lived experience should not be limited to speaking about survivorship or traumatic experiences (see section on ethical conduct below).
- We prioritise funding for convenings that are international or regional in scope, especially those taking place in the Global South. If the event has an international remit, convenings must actively aim for individuals based in the Global South to comprise at least 50% of attendees. Organisers must be able to articulate the

steps they are taking to ensure that the event is accessible and inclusive of attendees with a diverse range of experiences & identities.

- Organisers must sign onto the following two pledges: [Survivor Alliance Pledge to Interact Ethically with Survivors](#) and [My Story, My Dignity](#). Organisers are strongly encouraged to provide free or discounted admission to survivors and to compensate survivor speakers.
- Organisations may request up to \$30,000 per year. Funding can be used for any costs associated with conference planning, execution or attendees.
- Requests for funding must be submitted at least 2 months in advance of the planned event.
- To receive funding, organisations must undergo the Freedom Fund's standard due diligence process and sign a grant agreement which includes a commitment to the requirements detailed above.
- After the convening, funding recipients are requested to share brief outcomes.

2) Support for survivor participation in convenings

This funding is provided to organisations who host anti-slavery convenings OR individuals with lived experience of modern slavery, with the goal of improving the ability of survivor leaders, especially those lacking access to funding, to contribute their expertise, ideas and experience to convenings.

Criteria

- Convening must include content on modern slavery. Survivors can be participating as speakers or attendees.
- Organisations may request funding to specifically cover the costs of survivors participating in their convening.
- Individuals with lived experience of modern slavery may request funding to cover their own participation costs. Special preference given to applicants based in the Global South.
- Funding can be used for costs associated with attendance, including but not limited to event tickets, flights, hotels, visas, subsistence, interpreters, presentation supplies, childcare or other support needed to facilitate effective participation.
- Organisations may request up to \$30,000 per year. Individuals may request up to \$3,000 per year.

Process

- Requests for funding must be submitted at least 2 months in advance of planned event.
- Due to financial policies, the Freedom Fund cannot issue advance payments to individuals. Thus, preference will be given to conference organisers and to individuals who can receive funding via their home institution/ organisation. In special situations, we may consider retroactively reimbursing an individual's expenses.
- To receive funding, organisations must undergo the Freedom Fund's standard due diligence process and sign a grant agreement.

How to Apply

Send a one (1) page application to Antonia Musunga [-Amusunga@freedomfund.org](mailto:Amusunga@freedomfund.org) outlining the following. This should not exceed 300 words.

1. Name of the event /convening /conference and the objectives .
2. Number and profile of expected convening participants (sector, geography etc.)
3. The role (s) of people with lived experience in the convening (including planning, speaking and participation).
4. Budget.