

FREEDOM CONNECT



Phones 4 Freedom Fundraising Kit For SMS: Freedom

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About Freedom Connect, Phones 4 Freedom & SMS: Freedom

Org Profile: Freedom Connect is an organization working to build global advocacy & support networks of survivors and activists working to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking. We use innovative instruments such as social media, new technologies and other interactive media to empower and enhance protection, prosecution and prevention efforts. Our mission is to empower the survivor and activist, advocate the movement and network to build a globalized response to modern-day slavery and human trafficking using the power of technology.

Cell Phones?

Global use of mobile phone technology is developing and spreading at a rapid pace. Mobile phones have fundamentally changed how we communicate in society – it is instant, cost-effective and global.

Despite the widely acknowledged “digital divide” between the West and the developing world, the impact of mobile phones can be argued to have a greater impact in developing countries. Cell phone use is the primary telecommunications infrastructure for some nations. In many places, cell phones are easier to access than Internet, most families own at least one, and are using their phones in different ways.

At Freedom Connect, our recent work has looked at how cell phones can be integrated into anti-trafficking efforts. While most countries have human trafficking hotlines, these have not been adequately utilized or publicized to community members, law enforcement and other parties involved in addressing trafficking. Additionally, rural areas that are prone to trafficking do not have regular access to Internet or awareness that these resources exist. Victims do not usually have access to a phone to call in emergencies, and hotlines go ineffective. Organizations from the cities often travel to vulnerable areas to raise awareness, however these areas still remain disconnected from advocates and resources, and vulnerability continues.

SMS: Freedom Networks

We are developing new models of use for SMS technology to prevent and combat human trafficking. The mission of the SMS: Freedom Network model is to advance anti-trafficking networks in underserved/vulnerable communities using innovative mobile technology. In this model, small teams/networks of vigilant community members are trained on an open-source software called Frontline SMS, which allows you to text message large groups of people wherever there is a phone signal. Using this software, 1 laptop and cell phone become a 2-way messaging hub that the SMS: Freedom network uses to raise awareness and address trafficking in vulnerable areas. These SMS: Freedom network consist of: anti-trafficking advocates, law enforcement, social service providers, and community leaders. The SMS Helpline network is aimed to facilitate information and documentation of trafficking and other violations, diminishing reporting time and facilitating flow of information both on a national and international level.

The SMS: Freedom teams are able to send/receive text messages with groups of people through mobile phone about anti-trafficking activity, understand who is doing what, and keep up with cases. The SMS Helpline network stays in regular communication with vulnerable communities about common trafficking scams and respond to emergencies. It also allows villagers to text back, ask questions and be a part of the dialogue.

Rather than operating as a traditional hotline (ex. Victim calls hotline), this project operates on a community level as a helpline to spread information. The SMS: Freedom program allows networks and organizations to stay in regular communication with communities, save money and several hours of travel time, and significantly increase the number of people reached. It harnesses the power of a small communication tool that all village leaders/families have, and the power of education to create an alert and response system. It is an effective way to break down barriers to information, reduce costs, respond immediately to a situation, identify potential victims, and prevent and stop trafficking one SMS at a time.

Freedom Connect has launched the Phones 4 Freedom Campaign to raise funds and cell phones to support the development of SMS: Freedom Teams around the world. We are working in Nepal, Cameroon, Ghana, Vietnam and potentially many more with your help!

How Your Phone Makes an Impact

Every cell phone given to a member of a Community Vigilance Committee or Anti-Trafficking advocate in our partnering organizations connects rural and vulnerable communities to resources to prevent slavery. For example, in Nepal, a \$10 cell phone will give over 25 families in vulnerable border villages access to anti-trafficking advocates in Katmandu, human rights information, access to the 24/7 alert-response system and other resources.

Our SMS: Freedom teams are able to use these phones to regularly stay in touch with rural communities vulnerable to trafficking, provide regular updates at a low cost, and respond to emergencies and prevent human trafficking one SMS at a time.

When you donate your old phone, the recycling center gives it a value. This value is used to purchase appropriate phones for our anti-trafficking advocates and shelters. The average donated phone in the US will allow us to purchase 2-3 phones for SMS: Freedom Networks.

Here's an example. In Vietnam, within months, thousands of individuals in over 100 communities could received educational material and presentations about trafficking and received the SMS Helpline#. The Helpline Network doubled and saved 550 hours of travel time for future rural visits, which they used to visit more communities to raise awareness about the SMS: Freedom Network and trafficking. The number of cases identified and stopped before they became "trafficked" more than doubled and our implementing partner saved money in fuel, administrative and other costs which were then used to further anti-trafficking prevention!

We need your help to collect phones for Helpline Networks who need them!

Stay tuned on our website to read interviews with SMS: Freedom Network members, statistics about the impact of cell phones on trafficking prevention, and stories from users.

For more information about Freedom Connect and our work, visit freedom-connect.org

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does it cost money?

If you're shipping in the US then absolutely not! The shipping labels are prepaid, thanks to our generous partner Ecophones. If you wish to donate from outside the US, email us at hello@phones4freedom.org to explore possibilities.

2. Does my phone's condition matter?

Doesn't matter one bit. Send us any and all phones, beat up and old. Our recycling partner will take care of them.

3. What happens to my phone?

We have partnered up with Ecophonesf to recycle and process your phone. They will either refurbish or fully recycle the phone. Phones 4 Freedom will receive "credits" or "points" for every phone you send it, which will then allow us to purchase appropriate phones for our anti-trafficking advocates and community vigilance committees around the world. 100% of the value of your cell phone is used to obtain the right phones for the networks. Because we use very simple GSM phones, your PDA or advanced-technology phone could help us obtain 5-7 phones for anti-trafficking networks.

4. How can I start a collection campaign (at my school, in my office, around town)?

Reading this KIT is the first start. Go to the end of the PDF and print out our flyers, and feel free to use our logo and image on a poster. Grab a box, start a collection campaign for people to drop phones. You can either print prepaid individual shipping labels for folks, or put it on your collection box.

5. I have personal information on my phone, how do I get rid of it?

Removing your SIM chip is step 1. This will remove all contacts. However, you may still have

contacts, notes, and pictures saved on your phone's memory. Ecophones can also help do that for you.

Fast Facts about Modern-Day Slavery & Human Trafficking

Our SHORT Version:

Tell the World that:

- Slavery is the condition where someone is forced to work, not paid, suffering violence and is unable to walk away
- There are an estimated 27 million people enslaved in every corner of the globe.
- More than half of those people are children.
- 8 of 10 modern-day slaves are females.
- In the 21st century, Slaves are held not by chains but by force, fraud and coercion.
- Human Trafficking is the second most profitable illicit trade in the world.
- The business of buying/selling people is the second largest illicit trade next to drugs.

Our LONG Version:

Definition of Human Trafficking: Human trafficking is the illegal trade in human beings, through abduction, the use or threat of force, deception, fraud, or "sale" for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. This horrific human rights abuse is modern-day slavery. Modern-day slavery comes in many different forms. The most common forms of slavery are sex slavery, child soldiers, sweatshop labor, agricultural labor, domestic labor, and organ harvesting.

Slavery Today: Human trafficking is a very serious social problem because it poses a threat to basic human rights – the right to life, to free movement and right to be free of torture. Human trafficking is a complete disregard of human rights, and as a result of growing globalization (at different rates and levels around the world), human trafficking is a global problem. People often say that human trafficking occurs when all else has gone wrong – when issues of poverty, increase in population, corruption and lack of access to education, health care and jobs/markets. When all happen at once, people become more vulnerable to trafficking and slavery.

Today, slavery is outlawed in every country because historical abolitionists like William Wilberforce, Harriet Tubman and Fredrick Douglass risked their lives to save those enslaved. While they worked to bring legal slavery to an end, unfortunately the practice of enslavement did not. Today there is an estimated 27 million enslaved around the world today. 14-17 thousand are trafficked into the US each year, and hundreds of thousands more are domestically

trafficked.

Researchers have developed many ideas as to why we have ended up in a world where slavery has exponentially increased, but exists in shadows where we can't see, unless we look deeper beneath the surface. Many argue that "human trafficking" is a byproduct of a globalized economy, which has broken down barriers to trade and created mass economic growth for developed countries. Wealth today is unevenly distributed around the world, and there are billions of people still that live on less than a dollar a day. Dire poverty, coupled with lack of other options and the rule of law failing to protect them, traffickers can often easily manipulate people. Nothing is easier than to prey on one's deepest wishes for a better life. While raising awareness of this issue helps in preventing people from becoming enslaved, it is important to take into account the demand by which this industry is enabled. Traffickers and pimps who commit these crimes have little fear and operate in impunity because officials often don't understand trafficking, it is a black-market business, and hard to trace and prosecute. We are dealing with a global problem that truly is the intersection of broader concerns of poverty reduction, governance building and much more.

While modern-day slavery is larger than it has ever been in human history, we should not lose hope. We have every reason to believe that we can see serious ends made in our lifetime. Unlike our predecessors, we do not have to fight a moral battle against institutionalized slavery. It is illegal everywhere and no one agrees that slavery is okay (except for a few traffickers!). Additionally, there is no one government, economy, business or industry that is dependent on slavery. If slavery were to end tomorrow, nothing would collapse. We also know that freeing people out of slavery is not charity, but good for the economy. Once a person is free to live, work and learn, he/she is able to contribute to their local economy, which ends up helping everyone.

This is an investment we need to make. We are working to pull this issue from the shadows and bring it to the fore. We have so much power in freedom and solidarity. Together we can succeed in fighting human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

How to Fundraise

Fundraising for "Phones 4 Freedom" could not be easier. Here are the basic steps for any individual or group:

1. Print out the shipping label at the end of the PDF. Print out labels for multiple packages.
2. Deactivate your phone and leave the batteries in. Also, clear your personal data. Include the charger if you have it, but it's not necessary!
3. Put the phones in a padded envelope or box (and wrap securely), paste the prepaid

shipping label and drop it off at any US Post Office Box.

4. And there you have it! You can get further involved with Phones 4 Freedom by telling your friends, family, colleagues and classmates. Print out shipping labels for them, and pass on our information.

Ideas for Group Fundraisers:

1. Set up a large donation box in a local store, on campus or at work. Put a sign supporting the cause and regularly check the box.
2. Print out the shipping labels and stack a few by the box for people to pick up, if they decide to send the cell phone on their own.
3. Print out Freedom Connect Info Cards below

Materials

Our Logo:



Slavery did not end in the 1800s. There are millions enslaved in the world today.

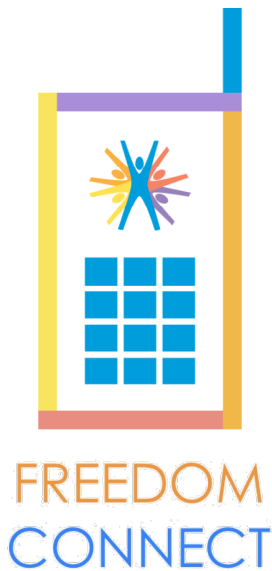
Men, women and children forced to work, receive no pay, suffer violence and abuse and are unable to walk away.

In the US alone, 14-17,000 are trafficked each year, forced to work in homes, restaurants, fields, brothels and more.

How can YOU stop this?

DONATE your old phone to

PHONES 4 FREEDOM!



We're using mobile technology to stop slavery one SMS (text) at a time. Your old phone will help Freedom Connect build SMS Freedom Networks that connect and protect rural and vulnerable communities from human trafficking.

Get your **FREE** shipping label and learn more at
Phones4Freedom.org

All made possible by



Don't trash your old phone.
Recycle and make it a
Phone for Freedom!

FROM: _____

 POSTAGE DUE COMPUTED BY
 ACCEPTANCE POST OFFICE

POSTAGE _____
 TOTAL POSTAGE AND FEES DUE \$ _____


NO POSTAGE
 NECESSARY
 IF MAILED
 IN THE
 UNITED STATES

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MERCHANDISE RETURN LABEL

Permit No. 131
 Freedom Connect Processing

Dallas TX 75220
 2828 Anode Lane

 FREEDOM
 CONNECT

POSTAGE DUE UNIT
 US POSTAL SERVICE
 2341 W NORTHWEST HWY
 DALLAS TX 75220-9998



Phones4Freedom

Thank you for donating your used cell phones & smart phones!

Shipping Instructions:

1. Print the prepaid shipping label (above).
2. Deactivate your phones and leave the batteries inside the phones.
3. Put the phones in a padded envelope (or box) and wrap securely.
4. Attach the prepaid shipping label and put it in your mailbox or drop it off at any US Post Office Box.

And there you have it! You can get further involved with Phones4Freedom by telling your friends, family, colleagues and classmates. Are you a Group/Business/School/Place of Worship interested in starting a Phones4Freedom Drive? Email us at hello@phones4freedom.org.

What Happens Next?

1. EcoPhones (Phones4Freedom's processing partner) will receive, test and clear your personal information from the phones if you have not already done so.
2. All phones will be recycled in accordance with the R2 (Responsible Recycling) Standard as well as all Federal, State and Local laws and regulations.
3. The proceeds from the recycling of the device will be sent to Phones4Freedom to help end slavery & trafficking.