

The Freedom Partnership

End Modern Slavery



MEDIA RELEASE

2 DECEMBER 2014

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

Sydney – Today [The Freedom Partnership](#) marks the [United Nations International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#) by sharing “[Sandra’s Story](#)” of slavery as a domestic worker in Australia and the freedom she has found after leaving her situation.

Most people are unaware that slavery and slavery-like conditions can occur in Australian agriculture, construction, retail, hospitality, domestic work, sex work and any industry where workers are vulnerable. It can also occur in the form of underage, forced and slave-like marriages.

Jenny Stanger, National Manager of The Freedom Partnership says, “Today our government has also released its National Action Plan outlining how it will address slavery in all of its forms for the next three years and we look forward to implementation. Sandra’s achievements exemplify community and government collaboration to support right-based outcomes for people who have been seriously exploited here in Australia.”

The Freedom Partnership will focus on ensuring:

1. Consultation with people who experienced slavery-like conditions on policies and programs designed to assist them
2. Ratification of the International Labour Organisation’s Domestic Worker Convention C189
3. Engagement and investment in ending slavery by state and local government
4. Access to support, services and rights information before and after vulnerable migrants/victims arrive in Australia via and NGO-operated national Slavery HelpLine
5. Action by the broader community to mitigate the risk of slavery in supply chains

ENDS

For media enquiries and more information please contact:

The Salvation Army Media Office – (02) 9266 9820

<http://endslavery.salvos.org.au/>

BACKGROUND

The Freedom Partnership is an expansion of The Salvation Army’s existing anti-slavery work in Australia. The Salvation Army has privately operated Australia’s only [Safe House](#) for victims of slavery for the past six years as well as outreach case management service. The Salvation Army has collaborated with the Australian Institute of Criminology on slavery research, advocated for passage of the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Bill 2012*, and is a member of the Australian Government’s *National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery* convened by the Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department. In 2011, The Salvation Army received a Freedom Award from the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, Brendan O’Connor. Staff have consulted for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, US State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and International Labour Organisation on international training and capacity building projects.