



2021-2022
Annual Report





I grew up in the Andes mountains, and to this day I love mountains and valleys. I love the moment you reach a summit and suddenly the world opens up before you. You can see the path behind you and the journey stretching before you. You relish the feeling of success for making it this far and gain perspective for where you need to go.

This year we climbed mountains and walked faithfully through valleys. I watched our team in India courageously press forward to new regions and rescue despite incredible odds. We shouted for joy over hard fought rescues

in Madhya Pradesh that brought 7 minors out of exploitation! In February, a wise judge convicted perpetrators in Uttar Pradesh in our first groundbreaking conviction in the region. Your partnership supported these victories in rescue, restoration and justice.

On this mountaintop, we mark milestones and refresh our vision. Looking back gives us courage for the road ahead. Together we continue to press forward to bring freedom and healing to each girl we serve.

Thank you for being a part of this team!
On the journey together,

Leah Henck
President, Freedom Firm USA

When knowledge and action meet, a beautiful journey begins.

As we keep looking for victims longing to be rescued, we want to pause and celebrate the girls who have been transformed through counseling, life skill classes, and employment opportunities.

My visits with two survivors in different locations left me encouraged and hopeful. One survivor has pursued an education so she can become a police officer. The other survivor, more than 1,000 miles away, leads a group of women and is bringing social change in her village. Both these women showed me the potential in the girls and women we love and care for. It showed me the goal post.

As I look back with a grateful heart, I look forward to seeing many girls keep their eye on the goal and run with all their might, filled with joy and confidence.

Thank you for making this journey with us,

Catherine Raja
National Director, Freedom Firm India



our mission

Freedom Firm seeks to eliminate child prostitution in India by **rescuing** minor girls, providing aftercare for effective **restoration** and bringing **justice** by prosecuting the perpetrators of sex trafficking.

Since our foundation in 2006, Freedom Firm has rescued over 800 young women from commercial sexual exploitation. Today we operate in 6 offices located strategically in India's most needy states and regions where trafficking is a major industry.

our pillars

sacrifice

We lay aside the expectation of comfort in pursuit of this mission.

dignity

We believe in the unique and intrinsic worth of each person.

stewardship

We are grateful for every resource and steward them in service of others.

our promise

Our ALL for every ONE

rescue

Freedom Firm undercover operatives locate minor girls in brothels and document the crime. The Freedom Firm team partners with local police to raid brothels, rescue the girls and arrest perpetrators. The rescued girls are then placed in government shelter homes.

426

Investigations

38

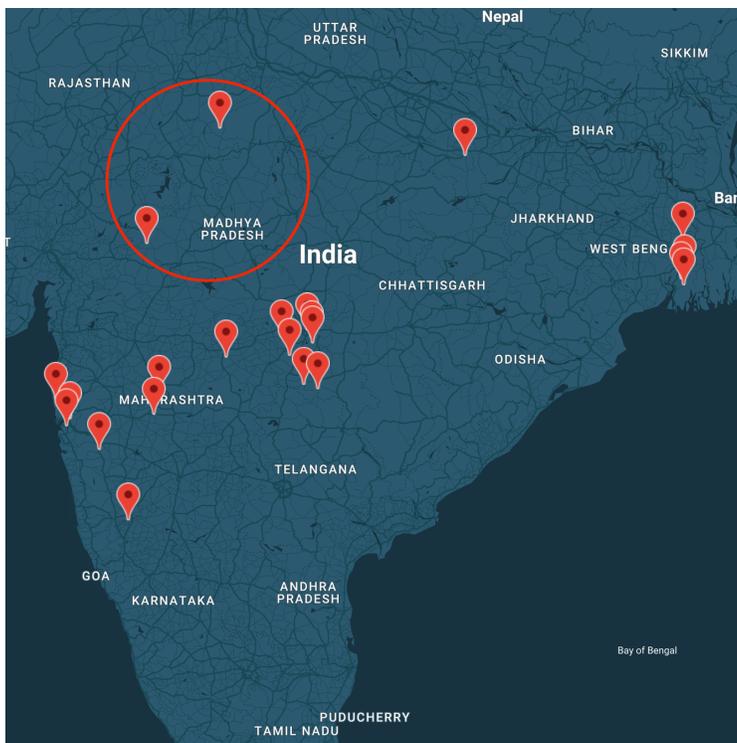
rescue
operations

61

victims
rescued



Saha (left) smiles after her rescue on March 23, 2022



22 Successful Raids

429 investigations led to 38 attempted rescue operations. As a result of these efforts, the 22 successful raids marked on this map brought freedom to 61 girls and young women. Even during the coronavirus lockdowns from April to June 2021, 10 survivors were rescued.

Freedom Firm persists in seeking out every girl exploited regardless of the distance or difficulty. Seven minors were rescued during the two raids circled in Madhya Pradesh, one of the most challenging regions we face.

2 Rescue Operations after a 5 Year Hiatus

The historic and cultural roots of prostitution in Madhya Pradesh run deep. For centuries, communities have sold their young daughters and now respond in anger when their income is threatened. Our last rescue in Madhya Pradesh was June 17th, 2016. Over the past 5 years, we persevered to sensitize local authorities to these crimes. These recent rescues show evidence of change.

November 14th, 2021



Freedom Firm social worker (left) comforts survivors after rescue

For 4 days our team asked the police to rescue a minor girl in prostitution. During the raid, 3 minors and 3 majors were rescued. Police arrested the brothel keeper, 3 pimps, and 5 customers. A mob started to form after the raid. Most of the mob were drunk and put pressure on the police to release the victims. The police stood firm, filed the criminal report and sent the minors to a protective shelter home. The police promised to respond seriously to child prostitution in Madhya Pradesh and coordinate future rescue operations with us.

February 24th, 2022

Our investigators identified minors while monitoring an area in Madhya Pradesh. They brought the information to the Deputy Superintendent of Police, and he was eager to plan a rescue with Freedom Firm! On February 24th, four young girls were rescued – ages 11, 12, 13 and 16.



The rescue operation took place at this rural brothel



The youngest survivor, Shilu, is only 11 years old

restoration

After a survivor is rescued, she begins a journey of restoration. Our social workers often walk with her for years to come. In partnership with shelter homes across the country, Freedom Firm provides rescued girls with counseling, job training, education and health care. Even when survivors return to their villages, our social workers visit them and connect over the phone to offer resources and encouragement.

49

home
investigations

273

life skill sessions
in communities
& villages

1,940

phone calls
and visits to
survivors

11

shelter homes offer
our life skills
sessions

302

life skills sessions
in shelter
homes



Home investigation in Rajasthan on February 22, 2022

Our social workers visit the homes of survivors to determine if the environment is safe. This important step combats the risk of re-trafficking.

Sonali Steps into Her Future

Sonali was lured into prostitution by one of her friends. After the police rescued Sonali on August 23rd, 2019, she was referred to Freedom Firm for our restoration program.

Sonali actively participated in our life skill sessions in the shelter home where she lived. She worked diligently to learn how to operate computers and gained confidence speaking English. In October 2020, Sonali earned the Maharashtra State Certificate in Information Technology (MSCIT), which many jobs require. She studied and completed 12th grade through the National Open School, passing her final exams on January 24th, 2022.

Sonali's goal is to become a police officer, and she currently trains at a police academy in Mumbai. Although she feels slightly nervous, Sonali is confident about passing the selection process and entering the police force.



Sonali smiles with pride and excitement

Deepti Starts a Business



Deepti and her husband celebrated their son's first birthday on September 29th, 2021

Our team helped the police rescue Deepti on June 13th, 2018. We have stayed in constant contact with Deepti during her restoration journey. Freedom Firm provided her with special formula to help her gain weight during her pregnancy and celebrated the birth of her son in September 2020. During both coronavirus lockdowns, our social workers helped connect Deepti with essential goods and provisions.

Deepti participated in life skills sessions on self-awareness, goal setting, women's rights, and emotional management. During one of our online workshops, Deepti learned how to make room freshener, floor cleaner and liquid hand soap. Our social workers have visited Deepti several times and she keeps her home tidy. She is a good mother who takes care of her son.

On February 9th, 2022, Deepti and her husband opened a food cart at a popular location in Mumbai.

justice

Freedom Firm actively pursues the conviction of those responsible for trafficking minor girls. Freedom Firm lawyers assist public prosecutors at each stage of the criminal trial. Rescued girls are empowered to testify against their abusers and bring them to justice. Every trial and every conviction creates a deterrent and raises the cost of sex trafficking in India.

47

perpetrators
arrested

36

bail applications
opposed

150

active cases



Rekha and her daughter in court after she bravely testified

Rekha's Case Continues

We highlighted Rekha's rescue in our annual report last year. Since her rescue in December 2020, Rekha has married and celebrated the birth of their first child.

Her case continues to progress through the court system. On March 29th, 2022 Rekha bravely testified. She shared that she was trafficked through the false promise of marriage and a good job. The woman posing as her mother in law and the man pretending to be her husband forced her into prostitution. The Freedom Firm team also testified and we hope to see a conviction in the near future.

Breaking New Ground: 1st Conviction in Uttar Pradesh!

On February 4th, 2022 Freedom Firm won its 12th conviction in a case against two brothel keepers who exploited minor girls. Not only is this our first conviction in Uttar Pradesh, it is also our first conviction outside the state of Maharashtra.

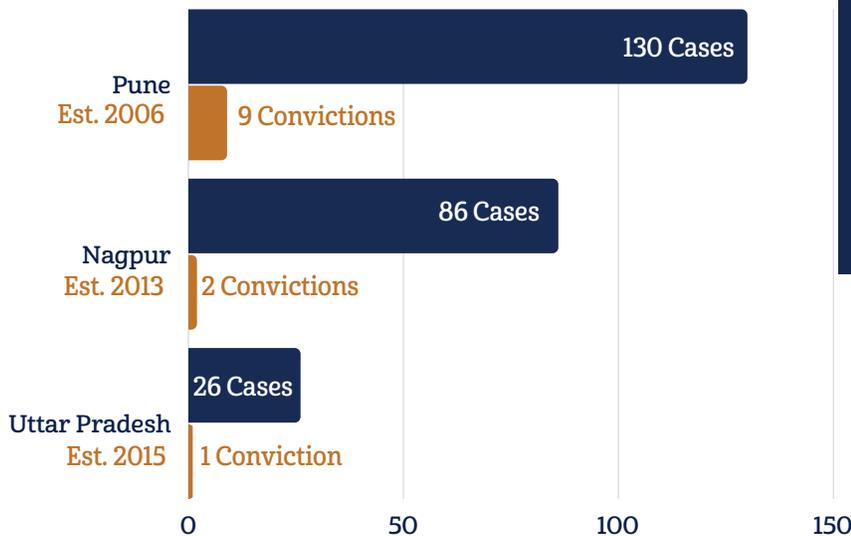


November 2021
Sneha testified that she was forced into prostitution by her grandmother. Sneha also testified against 7 others involved in her exploitation.



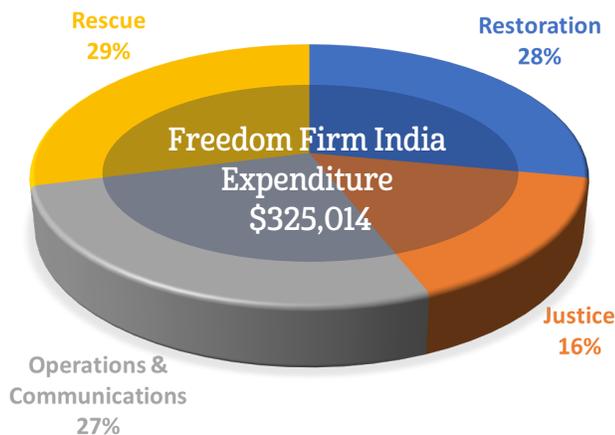
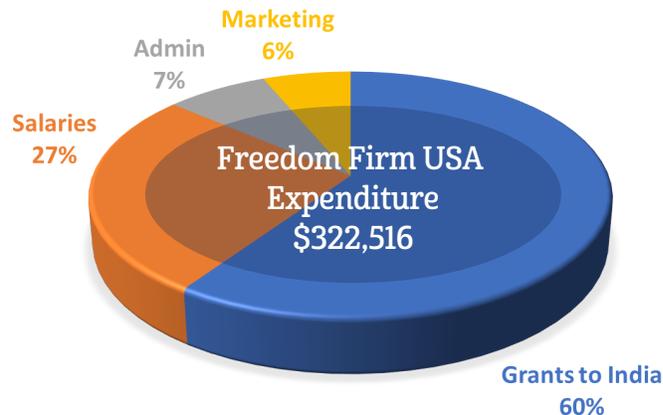
Pursuing Justice

Total Cases and Final Convictions by Regional Office



funding

Freedom Firm USA exists to support Freedom Firm in India by raising awareness and financial support for their work of rescue, restoration, and justice for the victims of sex-trafficking. Freedom Firm USA's total revenue in our 2021-2022 fiscal year was \$461,540. Our ending net assets were \$191,896. We steward these funds seriously, striving to accomplish our mission efficiently and effectively.



Freedom Firm India's total revenue from April 2021 to March 2022 was \$251,483. Freedom Firm USA contributed \$150,270 (60%) of those funds. The other sources of revenue were grants given through donors in Europe (22%) and India (18%). Many children and young women experienced hope and healing this year because of generous donations from individuals and foundations in the U.S., India and around the world. Thank you.

Funds received through Freedom Firm USA

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AlongSide Asia | Jernigan Foundation |
| Browncroft | Operation Blessing International |
| Crossroads | The Mary Lynn Richardson Foundation |
| Freedom 4/24 | Memorial Park |
| Girls Rights Project | Operation Mobilisation |
| Grace | Generous individual donors |

To contribute online, please visit

www.freedomfirm.org/give

Donations by check can be mailed to:

Freedom Firm USA
214 Cherry Street
Galax, Virginia 24333

To access Independent Auditor Reports and IRS Tax Forms 990, please visit www.freedomfirm.org/annual-reports

Freedom Firm USA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Tax ID: 20-5280075.
All donations are tax-deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

This annual report reflects the activities and financial details of Freedom Firm from April 2021 to March 2022. Freedom Firm is a charitable trust registered in Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu. Freedom Firm USA is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Minnesota, USA. Their fiscal year is from July to June. Freedom Firm and Freedom Firm USA are independent, legally distinct entities with two separate Board of Trustees.

who we are

Freedom Firm USA Staff

- Leah Henck, President
- Anne Walters, Grants Coordinator
- Sarah Mulley, Communication and Development Associate Director

Freedom Firm India Staff

- Catherine Raja, National Director
- Ashwin Rathod, Program Associate
- Jenitha Jayaveeran, Finance Director
- Pravena Prince, Finance Assistant
- Jacqueline Solomon, Communication and Development Associate Director
- Nagarajan, Administrator
- Susan Victoria, Communications Manager
- Godwin SM, Development Officer
- Asha Lokandhe, Nagpur Director
- Jyoti Gaur, Allahabad Director
- Proshanto Baroi, Kolkata Director

Social Workers

- Rupeli Singh
- Shilpa Wakande
- Bharti Katole
- Catherine Kekal
- Amy Abigail
- Seema Arole
- Archana Massey
- Nitendri Doharey
- Rakesh Kumar
- Shankar Kamble
- Anjana Rani
- Sarita Devi
- Shelly Pal Choudary
- Mamoni

Investigators

- Anonymous, Nagpur
- Anonymous, Nagpur
- Anonymous, Nagpur
- Anonymous, Pune
- Anonymous, Pune
- Anonymous, Allahabad
- Anonymous, Allahabad
- Anonymous, Kolkata

Liaison Officers

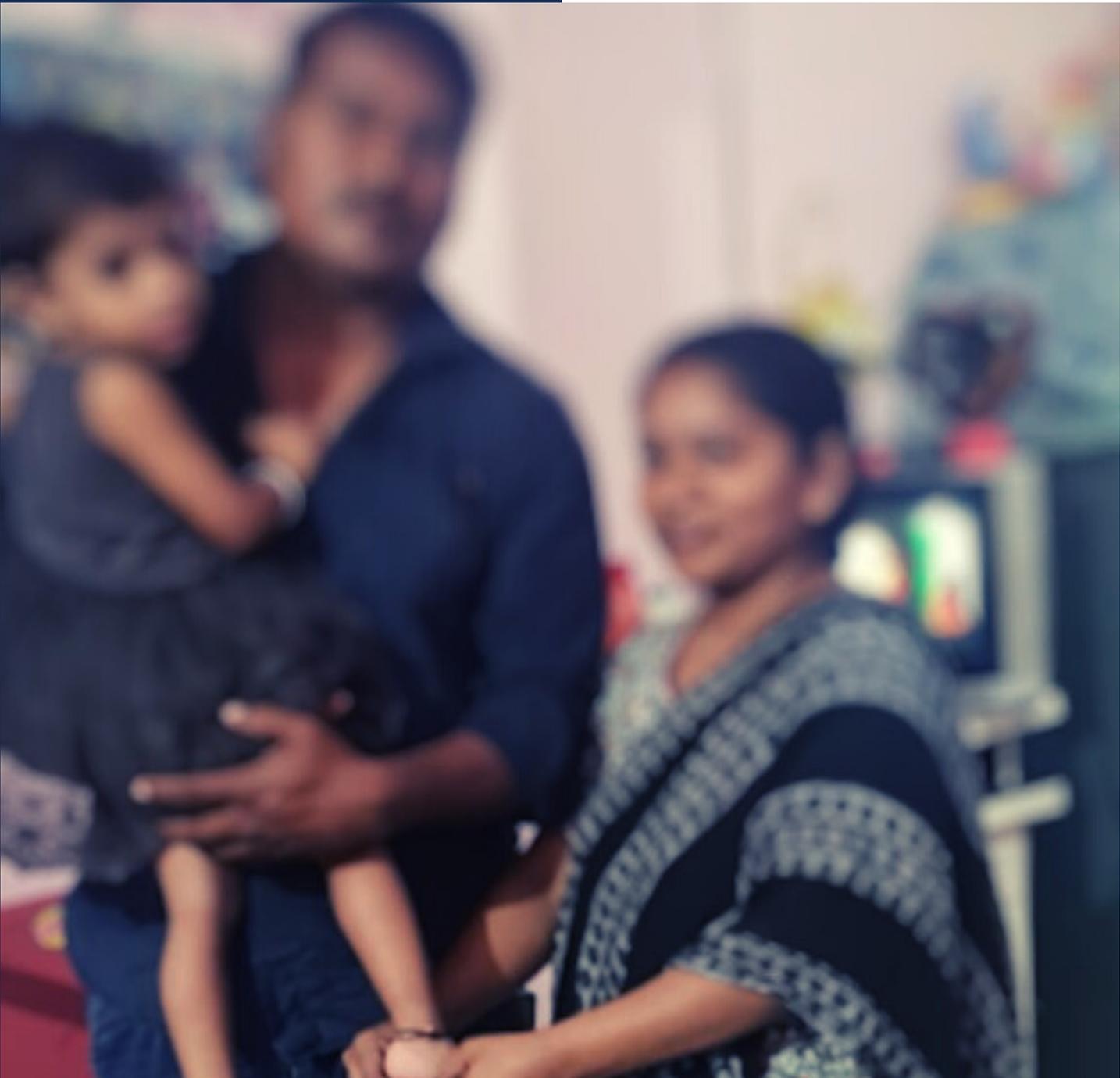
- Ashok Kumar
- Sandesh Jagerao
- Remin John
- Subhas

Freedom Firm USA Board Members

- Roger Rumer, Chairman
- Gaye Shepherd, Vice Chair
- Margie Gardner, Secretary
- Reuben Arulanandam, Member
- Brian Rightler, Member
- Amy Swanson, Member
- Anne Walters, Member
- Raghu Velaga, Member

Freedom Firm India Board of Trustees

- Pamela Clark, Chairperson
- Stephen George, Trustee
- Shirley Aaron, Trustee
- Richard Samuel, Trustee
- Nirmala Stephens, Trustee



Carulata with her happy family! February 2022 marked 15 years of freedom since Carulata was rescued.

Front Cover: Survivors in a shelter home in Nagpur learn about communication and conflict in a Freedom Firm life skills session.



FREEDOM FIRM
RESCUE | RESTORATION | JUSTICE

**214 Cherry Street
Galax, VA 24333**

freedomfirm.org