



June 1, 2018

Alan Hanson  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs

Darlene Hutchinson Biehl  
Director, Office for Victims of Crime

VIA EMAIL

**RE: 2018 Human Trafficking Funding Restriction**

AAG Hanson and Director Hutchinson Biehl:

We, the undersigned survivors of human trafficking in the US, write to express extreme concern about the new restriction on using Trafficking Victims' Protection Act funds for vacatur and expungement representation. Being survivors of extreme violence, threats and other abuse by our traffickers as well as suffering from trauma of the entire experience we are often arrested and convicted of crimes our traffickers force us to commit. We therefore rely upon vacate laws to remove the barriers of arrests and convictions. Having access to lawyers and social services support during this process allows us to access housing, education, and employment. **We beseech you to immediately remove this restriction from the FY18 funding Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking RFP.**

Vacatur and Expungement are Critical to Survivor Success

Criminal records are a barrier to federal financial assistance for higher education, employment with government agencies, and housing programs. In 2016 the NSN surveyed its members and of the 130 respondents only 9 had never been arrested and/ or convicted of crimes during their trafficking. Please see attached survey for additional details. Employers and landlords conduct background checks in order to deny employment and housing. Vacatur and expungement allow justice systems to correct the record, and to recognize these individuals as survivors, not perpetrators, of a crime. Having to beg for understanding as to why we were forced to commit crimes in order to obtain housing, education, and a job is not an easy burden. Having to carry conviction documentation and try to explain our victimization is an undue burden. The law does not require, or even suggest, that for the remainder of our life we will be condemned by society for the audacity of not dying at the hands of our trafficker.

<https://nationalsurvivornetwork.org/>

When we have a lawyer help us with the difficult judicial process we are more likely to obtain justice and have our lives rightfully put into a place we can move past our victimization and be integrated back into society. We look forward to discussing these recommendations with you and working collaboratively with OJP to further strengthen and expand your human trafficking victim services.

Sincerely,

Nat Paul, US Advisory Council on Trafficking, Survivor of sex trafficking, NY

Ann Marie Babb, Executive Director Springhaven, Survivor of sex trafficking, OH

Shanna Kay Parker, HUMAN TRAFFICKING EXPERT, Survivor of sex trafficking, AZ

Alicia Cohen, Survivor of sex trafficking, DE

Christine Cesa, Survivor Leader, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Delores Day, Executive Director, Survivor of sex trafficking, WI

Tori Jean Thompson, Survivor of sex trafficking, CO

Avelino Reloj, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Tabitha Groat, Survivor of labor trafficking, MI

Angela Guanzon, Resilient Voices Committee Chair of CAST LA Leadership Program, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Jadine C. Justice, Survivor of child sex torture image trafficking, CA

Shelia Simpkins, Sr. Case Coordinator, Survivor of sex trafficking, TN

Ima Matul, Survivor Leadership Program Coordinator - Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Ruth Rondon, Survivor of sex trafficking, MI

Amy Engle, MFT, Survivor of sex trafficking, AZ

Staysha L. Hackmann, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, OR

Abel Tejada Nunez, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, IL

Evelyn Chumbow, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, MD

Yvonne Chapoloko, Survivor of labor trafficking, IL

Wendy Barnes, Survivor of sex trafficking, WA

Vishal Dasa, Membership Chair at National Survivor Network, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Marlene Carson, Survivor of sex trafficking. OH

Bukola Oriola, Survivor of labor trafficking, MN

Aishah Amatullah, Survivor Advocate, Survivor of sex trafficking, TX

Jamie Rosseland, Survivor Mentor, Survivor of sex trafficking, FL

Mark (Marq) Daniel Taylor, Founder and CEO, Survivor of sex trafficking, GA

Barbara Amaya, Author, Advocate, Trainer, Survivor of sex trafficking, VA

Stephanie Ong, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Kelly Wells, Survivor of sex trafficking, MD

Norma Bastidas, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Russell G. Wilson, Subject Matter Expert/Consultant, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

La Toya L. Gix, CSEC LIAISON, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Sarah Zalonis, Consultant, Survivor of online sexual exploitation (webcam) trafficking, DC

Cecile M Nikiema, Survivor of labor trafficking, VA

Ebony Jones, Survivor Leader, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Dana Willey, Development Team/Leadership Intern, Survivor of sex trafficking, MI

Holly Austin Gibbs, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Toni Mckinley, Survivor of sex trafficking, TX

Jennifer L Brooks-Hardy, Peer Support Coordinator, Survivor of sex trafficking, IL

Kathy Bryan, Director of Elevate Academy at Rebecca Bender Initiative, Survivor of sex trafficking, AR

Tracy Rowland, Survivor of sex trafficking, TX

Allison Franklin, Survivor of sex trafficking, TX

Darlene Pawlik, Survivor Speaker, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, NH

Cara Clark, Survivor of sex trafficking, OR

Emily Hollerbach, Survivor of sex trafficking, WA

Christina Nichole Burrell, Survivor of sex trafficking, GA

Jolene, Survivor Advocate, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Kimberly Foster, Dance instructor, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Tomitra Fluker, Survivor of sex trafficking, IL

Lisa Pous, Survivor Peer Support Specialist Manager, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, TX

Kelly Patterson, Survivor of sex trafficking, SD

Gina Maria Salazar, Survivor of sex trafficking, UT

AnnaMarie Katherine Fritschi, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, CA

Robin Michelle Miller, Case Manager, Survivor of sex trafficking, WA

Erin Wright, Survivor of sex trafficking, NV

Jacqueline S. Homan, Software Developer, Survivor of sex trafficking, PA

Leona Skye, Survivor Champion, Survivor of sex trafficking, Ontario Canada

Amber Copeland, Survivor of sex trafficking, WV

Angela Rae Clark, Survivor Leader, Survivor of sex trafficking, CO

Margaret Ann Howard, LCSW, Survivor of sex trafficking, MO

Lara Powers, Survivor of sex trafficking. OH

Fainess Lipenga, Anti-Trafficking Survivor Advocate, Survivor of labor trafficking, MD

Annika Huff, Survivor Advocate, Survivor of sex trafficking, NV

Adrianna Marie Griffith, Resource Navigator, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Lorena Barrios, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Minh Dang, Executive Director at Survivor Alliance, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Dunia Zelaya, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Jasmine Grace Marino, Director at Bags of Hope Ministries, Survivor of sex trafficking, MA

Timothy M Hackmann, Survivor of sex trafficking, OR

Sri Yatun, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Andrew Codner, Survivor of sex trafficking, OR

K.D. Roche, Author, Survivor Leader, educator, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, IN

Rilynn Zarate, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Jessa Dillow Crisp, Survivor of sex trafficking, CO

Cheri D. Crider, Survivor of sex trafficking, NH

Lynn Sweetland, Advocate, Survivor of sex trafficking, GA

Tatyana Foltz, Commissioner & Psychotherapist, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Tammy Bitanga, Peer Support Specialist, Survivor of sex trafficking, HI

Marti MacGibbon, CADC-II, ACRPS, Speaker, Author, Mental Health Professional, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Josephine Feemster, Case Manager, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Rafael Bautista, Survivor Advocate, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Yeni Purnama Dewi, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Erica Nicole Napier, Survivor of sex trafficking. OR

Shannon Lawson, Survivor of sex trafficking, OR

Diana Cisneros, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Dawn Schiller, Survivor/Leader, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, CA

Elis Kinanti, Survivor of labor trafficking, CA

Anne Kinsey, Survivor of sex trafficking, NC

Harold D'Souza, Co-Founder of Eyes Open International, Survivor of labor trafficking, OH

Kimberly Ann Landsverk, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, FL

Noel Gomez, Survivor Leader, Survivor of sex trafficking, WA

Kimlin Lenore (Landers) Dice, Survivor of sex trafficking, FL

Jessica Torres, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Kristine Harper, Survivor of sex trafficking, WA

Sarai Smith-Mazariegos, Executive Director, Survivor of sex trafficking, CA

Lanie Georhe, Executive Director, Survivor of sex trafficking, NC

Lisa Pasco, Survivor of sex trafficking, NY

Brittany Wieand, Survivor of sex trafficking, NY

Irma Mesa-Linares, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, CA

Jeremy McLean, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, NY

Amy Smith, JD, HT Survivor Consultant, Survivor of labor and sex trafficking, FL & VA

Suleman Masood, Field Expert, Survivor of Labor Trafficking, CA

Anonymous, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, VA

Lauren Simpson, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, NC

Dana D, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, NY

Ingrid D. Guerrero Rodriguez, Survivor of Labor Trafficking, TX

Marjorie Patricia Garcia, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, FL

Theresa Nietzel, Detective, Survivor of Labor and Sex Trafficking, NY

Danielle Adymy, Deputy-Sheriff, Survivor of Labor and Sex Trafficking, NY

Arabelle Alonto, Survivor of Labor Trafficking, NJ

Mrs. Billie McIntire, MA, LPC, LAC, Psychotherapist, Survivor of Labor and Sex Trafficking, CO

Brigette R., Survivor of Sex Trafficking, MI

Katherine McGibbon, Program Director, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, TX

Kristen Tebow, President of Youth Trust Project, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, KS

Kelly Wells, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, MD

Deborah Pembroke, Consultant Network Chair of the NSN, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, CA

Amy Andrews SME, CCA, CHTA, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, CA

Elizabeth Mae Jacobs, Field Trainer Truckers Against Trafficking, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, MN

Keith Hannon, Survivor of Labor Trafficking, MN

Misty Collen McKinney, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, OR

Veronica Torres, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, CA

Dianne "dee" Clarke, Founder Survivor Speak USA, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, ME

Dezara Michelle Niski, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, ME

Chelsea Leigh Depietro, Survivor of Labor and Sex Trafficking, ME

Cary Stuart, President of Survivor Speak, Survivor of Sex Trafficking, ME

Shawnee Love HHD, PhD, Holistic Health Doctor, Legal Adviser, Advocate, Sister Survivor, Warrior etc., Survivor of Labor and Sex Trafficking, They also stole my identity and trust funds, using and investing for decades while, drugging, abducting, torturing and trafficking me to the highest bidders, NY