

# Freedom United

## Stance on LGBTQ+ Lifestyle

ALL emailed Freedom United and asked for their stance on abortion, contraception, and LGBTQ+. This was their response:

**Our mandate is strictly modern slavery, and we don't have any statements regarding the issues you mentioned.** That said, our approach to fighting modern slavery is human rights based and we therefore, via social media mainly, have made efforts to raise awareness of the fact that many runaway and homeless youth, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in the United States, are usually thrown out of their houses due to discrimination by their families because of their gender identities or sexual orientation.

<https://www.freedomunited.org/my-story-my-dignity-guidelines/>

This is Freedom United's definition of modern slavery:

Modern slavery is when one person possesses or controls another person in such a way as to significantly deprive that person of their individual liberty, with the intention of exploiting that person through their use, profit, transfer or disposal. We use this as an umbrella term under which contemporary and emerging forms of slavery can apply, and to differentiate from traditional and historic forms of slavery, such as the transatlantic slave trade. Furthermore, we believe the term modern slavery has the power to mobilize the public to take action by communicating the severity of the worst kinds of exploitation.

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CQOb\\_VbrF-W/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CQOb_VbrF-W/)

While Freedom United says they do not have a statement on the LGBTQ+ lifestyle, they did post this for Pride Month:



### **Stance on Abortion/Contraception**

<https://www.freedomunited.org/news/teen-changing-lives-volunteering-bangladesh/>

Freedom United featured an article about a college student who is offering sex education classes to women in Bangladesh. The site says:

Working alongside a team of young Bangladeshi and British volunteers, Tia delivers sex education classes to local youth groups during “courtyard sessions” to provide a safe space for young people to talk openly about sexual health. These sessions give young people information about contraception, as well as covering topics including prevention of child marriage, domestic violence and female empowerment.

<https://www.freedomunited.org/allies/field-allies/>

Freedom United lists their “field allies” on their website, which includes Amnesty International, the Salvation Army, and the United Nations of NY.

<https://www.freedomunited.org/news/young-mothers-in-nigeria-pushed-to-sell-babies-by-human-traffickers/>

The above is an article from Freedom United about their work in Nigeria. They note that limited access to abortion is a detriment to women in the region because they are often trafficked until the baby is born:

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (Naptip) said that as a result of cultural pressures, many young women are afraid to tell their families that they are pregnant. **With little access to abortion and antenatal care**, many are easily drawn to baby-sellers who keep them hidden—and captive—until the baby is born.

<https://www.freedomunited.org/coalition-to-end-forced-labour-in-the-uyghur-region-faq/>

Freedom United provides a FAQ about their coalition to end forced labor in Uyghur. They state the following as abuses: “The widespread forced labor regime for Uyghurs is an integral part of a broader Chinese government strategy of repression, which includes other egregious abuses: arbitrary detention, political indoctrination, **forced sterilization and forced abortion**, family separation, torture, sexual violence and a pervasive surveillance apparatus.”

<https://www.freedomunited.org/interview-ji-hyun-park/>

This interview between Freedom United and a North Korean human rights activist Ji Hyum, however, shows the horror of abortion in North Korea. Ji Hyum tells what she witnessed:

They sent us to a concentration camp and we stayed there. Pregnant women who are sent back to North Korea are subjected to forced abortions

because the North Korean government won't accept that child. **So they kill these unborn babies.** After being subjected to this, women are forced into hard labor in the mountains. Some women don't medically recover from the abortion procedure and end up dying. It is unspeakable that this is happening inside North Korea and that detention camp systems exist today.

### Other

<https://www.freedomunited.org/freedom-united-responds-to-australias-draft-online-safety-basic-online-safety-expectations-determination/>

While advocating against human trafficking, Freedom United also supports sex workers to continue their work “safely online” without concern of human trafficking. The site states:

To be clear, we believe that online content depicting abuses of human trafficking victims should be removed and that traffickers be held accountable. However, these cases are different from adult, consensual sex work and it remains unclear how the government will differentiate between actual cases of trafficking and false or misleading reports by end-users. **This distinction is essential in order to help trafficking victims and ensure sex workers can communicate with each other in order to work safely online—a crucial harm reduction strategy.**

<https://www.freedomunited.org/taking-the-trafficking-out-of-sex-work/>

This 2020 Q&A about advocating for “safe” sex work among consenting women without the concern of human trafficking was between Freedom United, Empower Foundation Thailand, and the English Collective of Prostitutes.



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