

Press Release



LIFT and Hagar International Unite in the Fight Against Slavery

LIFT International joins Hagar International to free more victims of trafficking, slavery and exploitation.

May 26, 2023 – Human trafficking and modern-day slavery continue to threaten vulnerable people every day. Over the past five years, exploitation and abuse have not decreased but grown significantly so that today, 50 million people – double Australia’s population - are victims of human trafficking and forced labour around the world.

With these dire numbers in mind, LIFT joins Hagar International to increase global impact in the fight against human trafficking.

“As LIFT joins the Hagar family, we know that our collective impact will only grow,” says Hagar International Board Chair, Phil Badger. “Hagar and LIFT share common values and complementary skills. By joining forces in this integration, we will expand Hagar’s holistic survivor care and community prevention models and LIFT’s multidisciplinary investigation and prosecution work. This integration will have a great, positive impact on the lives of human trafficking survivors, their communities, and the systems that perpetuate abuse.”

“We are thrilled to integrate with Hagar International,” says LIFT Board Chair, Robin Hughes. “By uniting together with Hagar, we optimize our complementary geographic footprint in Asia and will be positioned to expand critical anti-trafficking programming across the Mekong subregion and beyond.”

Together, Hagar International and LIFT will impact more women, children, and men who have survived the horrors of trafficking, slavery, and abuse.

LIFT will retain its name and remain registered locally in New Zealand and Thailand. Its programs will be integrated into Hagar International’s portfolio throughout 2023.

Hagar International

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About Hagar International

Hagar International's mission is to free and heal individuals and communities from the trauma of trafficking, slavery, and abuse. For nearly 30 years, Hagar has walked the journey of restoration and healing with thousands of individuals. Through survivor care, community prevention, and systems change, Hagar does whatever it takes for as long as it takes to restore life and dignity among the most abused, victimized, and vulnerable people in the world.

About LIFT International

LIFT leads anti-human trafficking work in Southeast Asia that strengthens systems, supports survivors, and holds offenders accountable for crimes of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Over the past 10 years, LIFT has become renowned for its operational expertise and impact, and agile and progressive approach to combatting human trafficking.

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FAQ



Who Is LIFT International?

LIFT International is a non-governmental organization committed to ensuring freedom for the exploited, justice that protects and a world in which human trafficking is not tolerated. To achieve this, LIFT assists in the prosecution of offenders and prevents human trafficking by strengthening justice systems.

What Is LIFT's Impact?

Since its inception in 2011, LIFT International has: achieved a powerful impact:

- Supported removing 602 victims from harm
- Arrested 334 offenders
- Secured 176 convictions leading to 3,474 years of jail sentences for offenders

Who Is Hagar International?

Hagar International is a not-for-profit organization that started in Cambodia in 1994 and is registered in Switzerland. Hagar's vision is for communities to be freed and healed from the trauma of human trafficking, slavery and abuse. Hagar has programme offices in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Singapore; and works with partners in Myanmar and the Solomon Islands. Hagar has support offices in Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

What Is Hagar's Impact?

Since 1994, Hagar has supported thousands of women and children on their journey to healing and empowerment after experiencing human trafficking, slavery and abuse. In 2021, Hagar supported 664,310 direct and indirect beneficiaries and reached over 8.8 million people with awareness-raising activities via social and traditional media.

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Why Integrate?

The integration of LIFT with Hagar will help achieve a greater impact in the world through our shared vision: more communities free and healed from the trauma of human trafficking, slavery, and abuse.

By integrating the two organizations, we leverage our complementary skills and optimize our combined geographic footprint throughout Asia Pacific. By expanding Hagar and LIFT's programme models into each other's areas of focus, we ensure more women, men and children receive comprehensive services that healing, freedom, and hope.

Will LIFT Maintain its Name and Brand?

Yes. LIFT will remain registered in New Zealand, with its Board of Directors controlled by Hagar. In Thailand, LIFT will remain registered through the Family Connection Foundation (FCF) in Chiang Mai. LIFT's brand image and programmes in Thailand, Solomon Islands, and Fiji, will remain recognized as LIFT programmes but form part of Hagar's portfolio.

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