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The Human Trafficking Legal Center Announces Seven Inaugural Harriet Tubman Fellows

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Human Trafficking Legal Center is honored to announce the Harriet Tubman Fellowship's inaugural class, seven labor trafficking survivors who prevailed after a rigorous application and interview process. The Harriet Tubman Fellowship, inspired by the brave abolitionist Harriet Tubman, will invest in labor trafficking survivors as they develop their leadership skills and pursue educational opportunities.

Evelyn Chumbow, the Human Trafficking Legal Center's Advocacy and Survivor Leadership Director, chaired the selection process, working with a dedicated committee of survivor leaders and allies. In all, the Human Trafficking Legal Center received 83 applications for the seven available Harriet Tubman Fellowships.

Harriet Tubman Fellows will receive a stipend of \$500 per month for two years. In addition, fellows will receive \$10,000/year for two years to fund educational or professional credentialing programs. Fellows will also participate in an annual, week-long advocacy and leadership training program in Washington, D.C.

Freedom without the opportunity to rise economically is freedom in name only.

The seven selected Harriet Tubman Fellows are:

Denisse Amezquita, a DACA recipient who has done extensive work with youth under the auspices of the National Hispanic Institute, plans to become a lawyer. Her long-term goal is to focus on immigration law to represent undocumented trafficking survivors. Amezquita intends to pursue paralegal training under the Harriet Tubman Fellowship, using the fellowship's resources to continue her education. Ultimately, she hopes to counsel and defend trafficking survivors facing the immigration system alone.

Grace Nara plans to use the skills she gains from the Harriet Tubman Fellowship to expand her work providing housing and education for children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. An entrepreneur, Nara is also developing a fashion brand to build financial resources to support services for children.

Richa Z. aspires to become a lawyer to represent trafficking survivors pursuing justice and immigration relief. She plans to use the Harriet Tubman Fellowship to obtain a paralegal

certification, the first step in her legal education. She is eager to continue her studies, as this will break the chains of trauma and allow her to support fellow trafficking survivors in her community.

Theresa Onya is currently completing her Bachelor's degree in nursing. She intends to use the Harriet Tubman Fellowship to develop her skills as a patient advocate. Her goal is to support trafficking-survivor patients with education and resources so that they can determine their next steps after escape.

Anthony Paco currently serves as the program coordinator for the Asian Association of Utah, where he supports labor trafficking survivors seeking services. He plans to use the Harriet Tubman Fellowship to hone his leadership and management skills. His ultimate goal is to establish a shelter dedicated to supporting male human trafficking survivors.

Naima M., a gifted teacher, is passionate about empowering labor trafficking survivors to assert their rights in the workplace. Silvina currently teaches English to refugees from Afghanistan, with a focus on empowering women. She plans to use the Harriet Tubman Fellowship to build her leadership skills, while continuing to provide education and language support to immigrant survivor communities.

Jameela S. Stewart intends to use the Harriet Tubman Fellowship to build her policy advocacy, leadership, and technical skills. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a career in cybersecurity, while using her technical capability to build a community forum for survivors. She describes herself as a servant leader, who uses her opportunities to support colleagues and fellow survivors.

The Human Trafficking Legal Center would like to thank all those who applied to the Harriet Tubman Fellowship. The applications were excellent, making the selection process a daunting challenge. Thank you to the seven members of the selection committee. The Fellowship could not have been implemented without the survivor leaders and allies who dedicated hours to reviewing and evaluating applications. Thank you, as well, to Clara Martin, Operations Manager at the Human Trafficking Legal Center, who managed the application and interview process. The Human Trafficking Legal Center looks forward to working with the Harriet Tubman Fellows, who inspire us with their strength, creativity, and will to lead in their communities.