

April 5, 2019

Greetings from the Compassion First Family.

For the last two weeks it has been a sacred privilege to walk alongside the Board Leadership of Door to Grace as they have journeyed through the very difficult decision of bringing their operations and organization to a close. We have watched our friends serve faithfully and selflessly at every turn, stewarding a process of releasing something they have dearly loved for several years into the hands of those who will run the next leg of the journey.

The purpose of this letter is for the sake of introduction, to inform you of the next steps, and to let you know how to continue to connect with and participate in the ongoing work.

About Compassion First and Safety Compass

Compassion First was founded in 2007 with a clear assignment to serve the anti-trafficking need in the developing world with specific focus on regions that did not have a strong western presence. In 2010 we opened our doors in Indonesia providing trauma informed aftercare, both residential and community-based, legal advocacy and human rights protection, peer-to-peer law enforcement training, and case managed intervention support. We have since scaled to several operations within Indonesia and continue to grow in both scope and influence.

In 2015 we had the opportunity to assist Esther Nelson in the launch of Safety Compass. Esther was the founder of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Unit (CSEC) of the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) here in Portland and is a nationally recognized leader in advocacy for survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation. She was a 2017 recipient of the FBI's Community Service Award, and, above all, is a sincere gift to us at Compassion First and the anti-trafficking community as a whole. Compassion First has participated in the underwriting of her salary since the opening of her first office and we enjoy several facets of partnership including a shared employee in Sgt. Mike Geiger (ret.), Founder of the Portland Police Bureau's Anti-Trafficking Unit. Safety Compass has now expanded to four offices in four counties, currently serving more than 288 girls in the last year alone.

Next Steps

- Safety Compass will immediately take on the Door to Grace caseload. An introduction and explanation of services has already been made, in-person, to each remaining Grace Girl.
- Safety Compass Advocacy Training will be made available for all volunteers who would like to continue in their service. You are very much needed in this effort.
- Compassion First will be hiring a full-time position that will be placed in the Safety Compass offices to serve as the faith-based extension of the Safety Compass service profile. This enhances efforts that were already underway between Safety Compass and the faith-based community following a Family Justice Center Model that recognizes the need for the faith community as a strong contributor to solution and a point of access for survivors who see their faith journey as a part of their recovery.

You are Still Needed

While we can only hope that the need for our services declines over time; we are realistic that our presence is currently very necessary. As co-workers in a field that Door to Grace has served, this expansion of service will require the help of all who are willing to jump in or stay in.

As this work continues, you will receive communication from Compassion First. We will provide landing pages for giving and ways that you can specifically designate to local work. You can also indicate accordingly on your checks and we will enthusiastically honor the designation. In time, we would only hope to be able to do even more. If, at any time, you would prefer to no longer receive communication from us, whether specific to non-local work or communication overall, please do not hesitate to select the opt-out/unsubscribe links in the emails or contact us directly and we will take care of it right away.

While we believe that God's hand has been on this process for all involved, we sincerely pray that you would know the same in this season. We have reached out to a network of friends in the last few days asking them to pray for Door to Grace, their leadership, their girls, and also for you. We love you for how you have supported this work and pray that you are truly blessed in the days to come.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any of us. You can find our contact information below. Also, please see an enclosed list of answers to potential Frequently Asked Questions. We hope they are helpful.

Very Gratefully,



Mike Mercer
President/CEO
Compassion First
mcm@compassionfirst.org

Esther Nelson
CEO
Safety Compass
esther@safetycompass.org



Sgt. Mike Geiger (ret.)
Compassion First/Safety Compass
mgeiger@compassionfirst.org
michael@safetycompass.org



Frequently Asked Questions	Answers
Where will the Grace Girls go?	Each Grace Girl has been introduced to Esther Nelson and the services of Safety Compass. Esther is a known person to them and Safety Compass is already familiar with all of the girls and their stories.
Why did Door to Grace choose to go this direction?	Compassion First and Safety Compass are both known leaders in this field.
I recently donated. Where is my funding going?	Your funding is going directly to the faith based extension work of Safety Compass.
Door to Grace is faith based. Are these other organizations faith based and will they care for the girls spiritually?	Compassion First is a Christian Relief and Development organization specializing in solutions for survivors of sex trafficking. Safety Compass is faith neutral but employs many people who identify as Christians and has been a bridge builder between the faith community and the anti-trafficking community since its inception. The new position being placed in the Safety Compass office is tasked with purposefully creating space for survivors to begin or continue their spiritual journey.
What counties will the girls be served in?	Safety Compass works in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, and Marion counties.
What is happening to Door to Grace Seattle?	Door to Grace Seattle has paused their operations and is coming under Simple and Just, a like-minded non-profit organization.
What is happening to the staff?	Remaining staff was let go this week. Two employees were already in self-initiated transition.
What is happening to the mentor volunteers?	Safety Compass is welcoming each of the Mentor Volunteers, is offering additional training, and is hopeful that they will continue in their service.
Will the girls age out?	Safety Compass works with both minors and adults.
What experience does Compassion First and Safety Compass have?	Compassion First is a respected best practices leader, and a pioneer of Resilience Building in a strengths based, trauma-informed wraparound system of aftercare. They have trained 24 additional groups/organizations in their model worldwide. Safety Compass is the first call for law enforcement when they identify a survivor in the four county area and the co-chair of each trafficking task force in three of the four counties served. They offer training, consultation, and technical assistance to criminal justice professionals and advocacy service providers through the United States.
Will there continue to be familial communal gatherings?	Safety Compass will be providing weekly meetings for each client during this transition.