



2025 Annual Report- Woodhull Freedom Foundation

Executive Summary

In 2025, the Woodhull Freedom Foundation operated in one of the most hostile political and legal environments for sexual freedom in our 22-year history. Amid sweeping federal and state-level attacks on free expression, privacy, bodily autonomy, and LGBTQIA+ rights, accelerated under the Trump Administration's second term, Woodhull remained a consistent, strategic, and credible force defending sexual freedom as a fundamental human right.

Across **education, advocacy, coalition leadership, and public discourse**, Woodhull expanded its reach, deepened its expertise, and increased its impact. We published record volumes of original research, participated in a growing number of court cases and legislative interventions, expanded training and leadership development for directly impacted advocates, and significantly increased our media footprint, all while stewarding resources responsibly and building new long-term funding infrastructure.

By the Numbers: 2025 Impact Snapshot

Education & Public Engagement

- 30+ virtual programs hosted
- 2,000+ total registrants and viewers across live and recorded events
- 35 educational classes delivered through Spokes Hub
- 18 public panels, conferences, guest lectures, and film screenings
- ASL interpretation was included in all major public programs

Fact Checked by Woodhull

- 11 new Fact Checked articles researched and published

- Two new modules launched debunking the lies and misconceptions about:
 - transgender and gender-nonconforming people, and
 - free speech and the First Amendment
- Expanded Fact Checked team - We now have five staff members working exclusively on Fact Checked.: 4 writers + expert reviewer

Advocacy & Policy

- 0+ legislative letters and testimonies submitted
- 6 amicus briefs filed across federal and state courts
- 2 Federal Trade Commission public comments submitted
- Active advocacy in 10+ states
- Weekly coalition coordination on age-verification and censorship legislation that resulted in the creation of a opposition letter signed by over 17 organizations and sent to multiple statehouses.

Spokes Hub (with New Moon Network)

- 35 total classes hosted
- 31 total graduates
- 126 acts of advocacy or public education completed
- \$28,105 distributed directly to advocates through the Awards Pool

Media & Public Narrative

- 23 media mentions across national and niche outlets

- Coverage included: *The New York Times, Mashable, Yahoo Tech, Reason, 404 Media, Tech Policy Press, XBIZ*, and more
- Letter to the Editor published in *The New York Times*

Strategic Priorities in Action

1. Fact Checked by Woodhull: Exposing Truth in a Post-Truth Era

In 2025, Fact Checked by Woodhull became the backbone of our education and advocacy strategy.

- Published 11 rigorously researched, publicly accessible Fact Checked articles
- Completed the Sex Work myths module, addressing pervasive falsehoods around trafficking, consent, and public safety
- Launched new research on free speech and transgender and gender nonconforming people
- Integrated Fact Checked content into:
 - Legislative advocacy packets
 - Lobby days
 - FTC public comments
 - Spokes Hub training
 - Public education campaigns

To support this growth, we expanded the Fact Checked team, onboarding:

- Two new PhD-level writers
- One expert reviewer specializing in human sexuality and gender
- Continued collaboration with trained interns and consultants

This investment increased both volume and speed in producing this vital research, positioning Fact Checked as a durable, long-term infrastructure for movement-wide truth-telling.

2. Advocacy: Courts, Legislatures, and Federal Agencies

Woodhull maintained a robust advocacy presence across legislative, judicial, and regulatory arenas.

Legislative Advocacy

- Conducted multiple lobby days in New York State
- Submitted testimony and letters opposing:
 - Age-verification laws
 - Drag bans
 - Public Bathroom bans
 - Restrictive abortion regulations
- Supported privacy protections and sex worker immunity legislation
- Coordinated multi-organization coalition letters with up to 90 civil rights groups

Federal Engagement

- Submitted two formal FTC public comments in 2025:
 - Social media censorship
 - Gender-affirming care
- Responded publicly to the U.S. withdrawal from the Universal Periodic Review, including:
 - UN-directed letters

- Oral statements
- Educational blogs and social media campaigns

Litigation & Courts

- Participated in **6 amicus briefs**, including:
 - Online age-verification cases
 - Social media moderation and free speech challenges
 - Backpage appellate litigation
- Continued leadership on post-FOSTA legal strategy

3. Education & Programming: Reaching People Where They Are

Censorship Series

- Hosted monthly programs throughout 2025
- Reached thousands of registrants
- Maintained below-budget production costs
- Provided ASL interpretation at every event
- Successfully sunset the series at year's end to realign with 2026 priorities

Freedom Forum

- Launched a new flagship interview series hosted by Ricci Levy
- Featured leading advocates and movement strategists

- Expanded distribution via simultaneous multi-platform streaming

Sexual Freedom Month (September)

- 4 Instagram Live conversations
 - 2,474 combined views
- Multiple live and virtual events
- Integrated fundraising campaign focused on monthly giving
- Coordinated social media, email, and web strategy

4. Spokes Hub: Building Power with Impacted Advocates

Spokes Hub continued to be a national model for leadership development, centering sex workers and directly impacted advocates.

In 2025:

- We hosted our 7th graduation
- We now have 50+ program graduates
- Hosted 34 classes
- Spokes Hub graduates engaged in 135 unique acts of advocacy, and in turn were rewarded a total of \$27,805 in "Awards Pool" payments.
Graduates testified, met with lawmakers, published op-eds, trained peers, and engaged media

Spokes Hub graduates also:

- Appeared as panelists in Woodhull programs
- Informed Fact Checked research priorities
- Strengthened local and national coalitions

5. Media, Narrative, and Public Presence

Woodhull significantly expanded its public footprint in 2025:

- 23 media mentions, up from prior years
- Coverage in national outlets and key industry publications
- New York Times Letter to the Editor authored by Ricci Levy
- Expanded press infrastructure:
 - New media advisory templates
 - Press release systems
 - Dedicated communications strategy support

Public speaking and outreach included over a dozen appearances at:

- Universities
- Law schools
- Industry conferences
- Film screenings
- International forums

Organizational Capacity & Sustainability

Staffing & Consultants

- Employed a mix of full-time staff, part-time consultants, interns, and volunteers

- Added specialized capacity in:
 - Advocacy
 - Communications
 - Grant writing
 - Research and expert review
- Transitioned staffing strategically to align with evolving priorities

Financial Stewardship

- Programs routinely delivered under budget
- Sponsorships offset major program costs
- Launched the Vanguard Society, establishing a new recurring revenue infrastructure
- Maintained independence from government funding, preserving advocacy flexibility

Looking Ahead

2025 reaffirmed what Woodhull has known since its founding: sexual freedom work is democracy work.

As we move into 2026, Woodhull is positioned to:

- Expand Fact Checked as a central movement resource
- Deepen coalition leadership through leadership roles in multiple coalitions
- Focus programming on research-driven education
- Continue high-impact advocacy across courts, legislatures, and federal agencies

- Grow sustainable, values-aligned funding through monthly donors and major supporters

We are profoundly grateful to our funders, donors, Board, partners, and community. Your investment made this work and these results possible.