



# SURVIVORS CONNECT

EMPOWER • ADVOCATE • NETWORK  
END SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING

Survivors Connect is a collaborative project to build global advocacy & support networks of survivors and activists working to end modern-day slavery and human trafficking. We use innovative instruments such as social media, new technologies and other interactive media to empower and enhance protection, prosecution and prevention efforts.

Our mission is to **empower** the survivor and activist, **advocate** the movement and **network** to build a globalized response to modern-day slavery and human trafficking using the power of technology. We make ourselves part of advocacy teams by trying to find creative ways technology can be used to support anti-trafficking efforts.

## Examples of our work include:

### The Survivors Quilt:

The mission of The Survivor's Quilt is to raise awareness about modern-day slavery and to honor the survival of slaves globally. The Survivor's Quilt provides survivors with a creative medium of expression, healing and a space to directly participate in their own awareness movement. The Survivors Quilt is also evolving into a Digital Archiving project to preserve the art and stories of modern-day slavery survivors.

Aims of The Survivor's Quilt include:

- To effectively **raise awareness** about the varied nature of human trafficking and modern day slavery as the Quilt tours the U.S. and other countries in governing institutions, places of worship, schools, conferences and more.
- To **link international anti-trafficking initiatives** through out the world through a partnership program and provide information exchange and programs.
- To assist in creating Survivor's Quilt initiatives in countries to **break the silence about slavery**.
- To provide rehabilitation programs the opportunity to engage in **art therapy**.

- To offer opportunities for fundraising, empowerment, technical assistance, quilt-making activities and information-sharing for anti-trafficking organizations globally.
- To create a permanent archive of preserved memoirs and art by former slaves.
- To establish a **global network** of anti-trafficking organizations and provide program continuity to increase the growth and development of the international Survivor's Quilt.
- To **reveal the stories** of those trafficked, share the message of hope and courage and inspire the growth of more abolitionists in the anti-slavery movement.

## **Connection GeoMap**

Connection GeoMap seeks to create a space to share critical information about trafficking and anti-trafficking activity globally, promote transparency in our efforts, engage communities and learn best practices, current challenges and needs in our global effort.

Powered by a web-mashup called Ushahidi, approved users contribute direct email, twitter and web reports on issues related to trafficking and modern-day slavery. The platform will aggregate these direct reports with news, blog posts, photos, videos and tweets that are related to existing sources, all in one place on this interactive Google map. Currently, major US-based anti-trafficking task forces, international organizations, and advocates are using this platform. Organizations that are currently conducting community outreach and education projects, all the way to raids and assessing risk areas can plot their work on the map to demonstrate the scale and scope of their work.

The platform allows for multiple things to happen:

- Connect: with other individuals and organizations through the map, email or Twitter
- Visualize: the location of other organizations, risk areas, latest news etc, all on the interactive map
- Report: what you know about slavery and trafficking in your area, and share it with others
- Receive: alerts and latest news happening around you
- Network: with other organizations and campaigns.

We hope that this web-platform will allow us to understand the scale and scope of the problem, provide a space for local and national networking as well as understand existing efforts dedicated to resolving this egregious crime

## **Web Community**

Many of us call this the "Facebook" of Survivors Connect. Here, we're building a web-hub for the growing community of activists fighting trafficking and slavery. We combine best practices learned from organizations around the world with some social networking tools. We're using this space to work together, share information and resources, innovate and coordinate efforts.

This site is a public meeting place that provides members of Survivors Connect with a shared calendar, discussion forums, member profiles, photo gallery, resource library, subgroups and more.

Here are all the great functions of our site:

- Discussion Forum: If you're one of our MAP users, or have been involved with the QUILT project, join our subgroups and discussion forums to post questions and engage in the dialogue
- Member Profiles: Meet other abolitionists in your town and abroad!
- Photo Gallery: Check out images of the QUILT, and other anti-trafficking activities. Anyone can post!
- Resource Library: Hundreds of documents live here to support your research, activism and more!
- Subgroups: There are topic-specific groups such as service providers, survivor support networks etc. Some of these are member-invitation only while other subgroups are public.

### **Helpline SMS Networks**

We are developing a new model of usage for SMS/cell phone technology to combat modern-day slavery and trafficking. In this model, small teams or networks of vigilant community members are trained and equipped with cell phones/SMS capability raise awareness about common trafficking scams and address trafficking in vulnerable areas. We identify these people based on: our existing network of anti-trafficking advocates, their location, grassroots organization members, etc. The SMS team is aimed to facilitate information and documentation of trafficking and other violations, diminishing reporting time and facilitating flow of information both on a national and international level.

SMS messaging tools can act as an advocacy, prevention and response tool, highlighting the severity and pervasiveness of a problem. With the help of open source software such as Frontline SMS, we are working with grassroots anti-trafficking groups in Nepal, India, Cameroon and Vietnam to create Helpline SMS teams. Frontline SMS enables large-scale, two-way text messaging using only a laptop, a GSM modem and cell phones. Our helpline SMS teams will be able to send/receive text messages with groups of people through mobile phone about anti-trafficking activity, understand who is doing what, and keep up with cases. It also allows villagers to text back and ask questions and be a part of the dialogue. Other system benefits include: mapping of texts to do geospatial ground-truthing and allow users to verify/refute/update information from the field.

Rather than operating as a traditional hotline (ex. Victim calls hotline), this project operates on a community level as a helpline to spread information. It harnesses the power of a small communication tool that all village leaders/families have, and the power of education to create an alert and response system. It is an effective way to break down barriers to information, reduce costs, respond immediately to a situation, identify potential victims, and prevent trafficking one SMS at a time.

## **How to Get Involved**

We're a global group of technology experts, researchers, activists, survivors and organizations working to develop a holistic understanding and response to modern-day slavery and human trafficking. Our team researches the latest tools in social networking, mobile and web technology and innovations in campaigns and uses them to strengthen anti-trafficking efforts, networks, build community resilience against slavery and improve our responses to combating slavery. With new, free and open source technologies emerging globally, we work together to find ways these can be used to reduce trafficking, support anti-trafficking efforts and empower survivors and activists to advocate.

We are a non-partisan, all-volunteer collaboration between. We're always seeking volunteers and fresh ideas. To learn more, check out, [www.survivorsconnect.org](http://www.survivorsconnect.org) or contact us at [hello@survivorsconnect.org](mailto:hello@survivorsconnect.org)