WHY WE EXIST

Nobody wants to see children harmed or hurt, yet in India, nearly 100,000 children go missing every year. Over a million children are reported to be victims of trafficking, 45% of girls marry before the age of 18, and a child is sexually assaulted every 30 minutes. Protecting a child from being harmed rarely features in the mainstream of development dialogue. This has to change.

WHAT WE DO

In hotspot districts, where the incidence of child harm is high, Aangan builds and strengthens child protection systems to ensure that the most vulnerable children are safe, supported, in school, and assured of childhoods free from trafficking, child marriage, hazardous work, violence, and exploitation.

WHERE WE WORK

Our work is located in 7 hotspot districts where child harm is high:

- Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Patna, Bihar
- Gaya, Bihar
- Pakur, Jharkhand
- 24 North Parganas, West Bengal
- Mumbai, Maharashtra

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2002, Aangan worked for 10 years with rescued child survivors in government shelter homes in 16 states across India. We saw the brutality children experienced, and it inevitably drove us to the urgent work of prevention, to keeping children safe before they encounter harm. We are a diverse team of 108 people, passionate about what we do.

In 2018, we trained 6,163 women and engaged 1,854 officials to impact 1,60,484 children.

WE BELIEVE THAT CHILD PROTECTION SHOULD BE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS SO THAT EVERY CHILD IS SAFE EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY.
Aangan’s community-based model for the prevention of child harm makes women the owners of a process that assures girls a childhood free from marriage, trafficking, exploitation. Because these women know what it means to be a scared child bride; and they want a different life for the next generation of girls.

A one-year participatory training program empowers women to lead the formation of child safety networks and promote child protection in the communities where they live. They equip adolescent peer networks to understand and identify harm and how to get help; they collect and analyze hyper-local data on child harm and develop practical methods to prevent it; they engage families and the community to be aware and to adopt strategies to mitigate risk; and most importantly, they form the bridge between vulnerable girls and relevant government authorities.

Through participation in child safety groups and our initiatives like SuperSmart Shakti Girl, we strive to ensure that each of the girls we work with becomes empowered to identify early warning signs, and stays safe from child harm.

Girls are members of Community Safety Groups comprised of 5-6 girls, a woman volunteer, and a local official.

In a number of the communities where we have implemented our programs, we find girls and women who are now starting child safety initiatives of their own. Girls report that they want their peers to feel the kind of freedom and fearlessness that they have come to know since working with Aangan’s curriculum and learning about their rights.

This year, Aangan will train 5000 women in 500 locations to keep 150,000 girls safe from harm.
OUR WORK WITH BOYS & MEN

YOUNG MEN FROM MUMBAI’S URBAN SETTLEMENTS ARE LEADING INITIATIVES FOR BOYS TO THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT WHAT TOXIC MASCULINITY TAKES AWAY FROM THEM.

Forced into labor at a young age, boys become men at a time and in a way that alienates them from themselves. In workshops with young men who want to change this and other rigid gender narratives, we’ve adapted Promundo’s acclaimed Program H curriculum so that boys in India’s cities can have another way of being.

Using rap, dance, theater, weightlifting and gardening as entry points to having deeper conversations, these youth leaders are setting up community groups - safe places where adolescent boys can explore and reflect on the strict norms of manhood that are thrust on them.

Aangan’s Asli Champion program builds on a decade’s worth of work with boys and aims to transform the stereotypes that make boys men. We are raising INR 1 Cr (USD 150,000) for 300 young men to run adolescent boy groups in Mumbai, Varanasi, Gaya and Patna.

DONGRI COMMUNITY GARDEN
One of our alumni uses urban gardening as a tool to teach boys from the Dongri Observation Home about threats to safety.

FUTURE RIGHT DECISION
Dance & rap make boys in Malwani aware of prevalent risks and connect them with mentors.

GAME ZONE
Boys will congregate twice a month to participate in sports tournaments, undergo safety sessions and be linked with vocational and employment opportunities.

HIMMATWALA GYM
Boys will exercise together while learning about safety, to provide an alternative to spending their free time in unsafe spaces in Antop Hill.

SAFETY FIRST
A young artist who spent time in Aangan’s boys safety networks as a teen will use graffiti, street art and the visual arts to have conversations with boys about gender and safety.

BOYS ONLY THEATER TROUPE
Boys in Dharavi will use theater as a medium to hold safety sessions and spread awareness on risks faced by boys in their neighborhood.
AWARDS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY HERO AWARD
Aangan was the 2010 recipient of the Thomson Reuters Foundation Community Hero Award.

GLOBAL FUND FOR CHILDREN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
Aangan received this honor from the Global Fund for children in 2008.

REX KARAMVEER GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP
In 2015, Aangan Director Smita Dharmamer received the prestigious Rex Karamveer Global Fellowship for her work to give women a voice.

CII FOUNDATION WOMAN EXEMPLAR AWARD
In 2016, Aangan field team member Kalpana Mistry was the CII Foundation’s Woman Exemplar.

MUMBAI MIRROR MUMBAI HEROES
In 2015, Aangan-trained women volunteers were voted winners of Mumbai Mirror’s Mumbai Heroes award.

CNBC TV YOUNG WOMEN’S SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR LIST
Aangan founder Suparna Gupta was named one of CNBC’s Top 20 Young Women’s Social Entrepreneurs in 2016.

NDTV WOMEN OF WORTH IN SOCIAL IMPACT
Cupta was named one of L’oreal and NDTV’s women of worth in social impact in 2015.

JUBILANT BHARTIA SCHWAB FOUNDATION SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
Cupta received this honor in 2014.

ASIA 21 YOUNG LEADER
Aangan founder Suparna Gupta received this award in 2011.

EDWARD S. MASON FELLOWSHIP FROM HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL
Founder Suparna Gupta was the recipient of this fellowship for 2012-2013.

HARVARD ASH CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE & INNOVATION
Cupta was a finalist for this award from the Ash Center in 2016.

ASHOKA FELLOWSHIP FOR LEADING SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS
Cupta was awarded this fellowship in 2009 for the innovative model she created for child protection in India.