AANGAN

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.

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HEARING FIRSTHAND ABOUT RISKS FACED BY WOMEN AND CHILDREN ALLOWS POLICE TO INCORPORATE CHILD-FRIENDLY POLICING PRACTICES INTO THEIR WAY OF WORKING.

An inclusive police force works closely with the community on the basis of trust. Hearing first hand about risks faced by women and children allows police to incorporate child-friendly policing practices into their way of working.

Through the Bharosa program, we create structures for police in Rajasthan and Bihar to engage regularly with women and girls, building trust between community and the police in the process. Our objective is to create pathways to increase early reporting of child harm to the police.

In each location, we support police officials to host public safety open houses at local stations, present to children through school safety sessions, and engage with children presenting the risky spaces and times that they experience in their communities. We also facilitate workshops for police on domestic violence, trauma-informed first response, and gender-sensitive communication.

This increased facetime with police allows women and children in the hotspots where we work to approach the police without hesitation or fear. Women report that they often begin to see police officials as partners with whom they can collaborate by sharing concerns about potential risks present in their communities. Over time, the safety networks of community women volunteers that facilitate these interactions between the police and children, evolve into structured mechanisms for identifying early warning signs of harm in their communities.

“All of us went and attended the open house that was organised in our police thaana. It was the first time that I felt so confident and courageous to set foot in a Police Thaana. The meeting was quite inspirational because we could share our problems with the police and they assured us that they would take action. All this has been possible only because of our women and girls network.”

-- Shobha, Patna, Bihar