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.

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.

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

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.
OUR WORK IN URBAN SPACES

WE BELIEVE THAT COMMUNITY ADVOCACY IS MOST POWERFUL WHEN LED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS THEMSELVES.

OUR WORK WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS IN CITIES

In Varanasi and Mumbai, activated groups of women and girls partner with city officials to link adolescents to local vocational training and employment opportunities in their districts. We fund innovative interventions designed by these committed citizen groups to promote hyperlocal child safety initiatives, all with the aim of preparing young people for safe and secure futures in cities.

In Varanasi and Mumbai, we work with groups of citizens activated to keep children safe. These groups of women and girls partner with city officials to:

- Link adolescents to local vocational training opportunities
- Design innovative interventions to promote hyperlocal child safety initiatives
- Prepare young people for safe & financially secure futures
COMMUNITY SAFETY WORK IN CITIES

ALUMNI OF OUR SAFETY GROUPS LIAISE WITH CITY OFFICIALS TO RAISE LOCAL NEEDS AROUND CHILD SAFETY & COLLABORATE TOWARD SOLUTIONS.

In Mumbai, our women volunteers lead child safety projects in 15 hotspots for child harm, using art-based activities to initiate dialogue on safety with children and their communities. Through these projects, the women and children liaise with local officials and advise them on child-friendly decision-making in their bastis.

This system of a shared responsibility between different state and non-state actors towards child safety does not develop overnight, but is nurtured and reinforced by our volunteers through regular interactions with stakeholders across the board. Our women volunteers from Mumbai facilitate successful cross-department initiatives to keep children in their communities safe, truly embodying Aangan’s vision to make child safety everybody’s business.

In Varanasi, we work with leaders of women self-help groups (SHGs), who form “next-generation SHGs” comprised of adolescent girls, to impart messages of safety and financial security to young women in their communities. Through active engagement with city officials and the community on matters of safety and security, SHG women reinvigorate a city’s safety endeavors by making authorities and communities more responsive to child harm by facilitating increased interactions between them. Through this year-long partnership, girls from within their communities are put on the road to financial independence. The teachings, and positive influence of the SHG women on the girls, have far-reaching impacts, as the girls:

- Lead safety initiatives in their communities
- Get to school safely
- Enjoy safer access to public spaces
- Access vocational opportunities