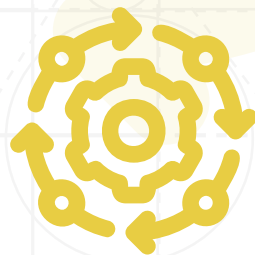




Survivor Engagement Safety Plan

Safeguarding survivor advocates



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SAFEGUARD SURVIVORS WHO WANT TO ENGAGE AS ADVOCATES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION?

In the challenging and often risky landscape of anti-human trafficking work, the safety and protection of survivors are paramount concerns. Survivor advocates play a crucial role in providing the necessary support and assistance to those who have experienced the horrors of trafficking. However, this work comes with inherent risks that must be carefully managed to ensure the well-being of both survivors and advocates.

Being safe and protected for survivors of human trafficking entails ensuring their physical safety and emotional well-being by providing supportive environments for expression, psychological safety through empowerment and autonomy, legal and institutional safety with access to justice and support systems, financial security to meet basic needs and maintain independence, and social safety through supportive relationships and community networks.

This guide is developed by Beyond Survivors in cooperation with Protection International. Beyond Survivors is a cluster of survivor-led organizations and its overall goal is to strengthen, structure and safeguard survivor engagement in the field of trafficking and exploitation of children. For more information please visit www.beyondsurvivors.org.

Common threats faced by survivors

Online attacks and abuse directed towards survivors

Being attacked physically or psychologically by traffickers, pimps, sex buyers, sex lobbyists, opponents or other people in the community

Media using language that is traumatizing for the survivor

Media supporting a negative narrative which can indirectly cause harm

Media using your real name

Being exploited as a survivor by other actors in the field

Being detained or blacklisted by the Government

Common risks faced by survivors

*Personal
physical harm*

*Physical harms
extended to family
friends, or others*

*Psychological
harms (personal)*

*Psychological risks due
to stress, triggering
questions, speaking
about past trauma, etc*

Analyze Your Context:

Understand the social, cultural, and political environment, and the forces and actors that oppose or support you.

Opposing forces (the ones behind the threats you are facing)

Traffickers, abusers, political opponents, otherssex buyers, pimps.

The lack of acknowledgement for the need of survivor input and inclusion and of survivors as experts, stigma and negative narrative of survivors

Supporting forces (the ones that support you and make you safer)

Social support services, including social psychological support

Community, family and friends and other individual support mechanisms

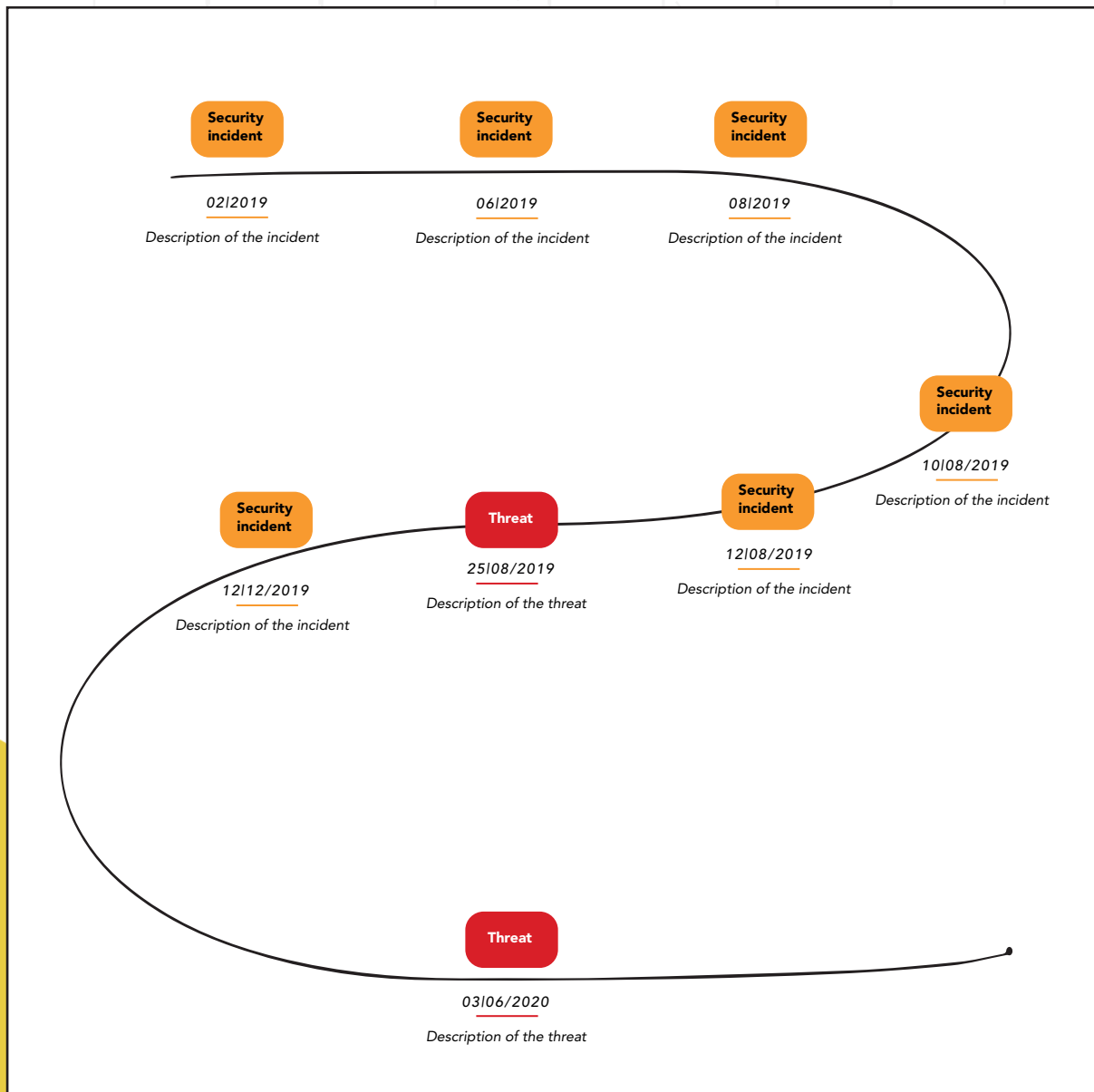
Neutral or forces of unknown intentions (the ones that you are not too sure about or the ones that are part of your context but do not have any negative or positive impact)

Media, intentionally or unintentionally harming or inducing trauma or otherwise using harmful language or narratives, but also recently more awareness and supportive media actors.

Draw a Timeline of Incidents:

Document past incidents to spot patterns.

Consider potential future threats.



Determine risk situations

Identify specific activities, locations and situations where risks arise.

Assess risk level:

Identify your own vulnerabilities and capacities in relation to the threats and reflect on whether your gender and other individual characteristics have an impact on your risk.

Consider existing security measures as capacities.

Turn Vulnerabilities into Capacities, and strengthen existing capacities.

Evaluate the likelihood and impact of threats in order to reach a conclusion about the level of threats.

When to analyze risks:

Before and after engaging in activities.

In shared spaces with other survivors.

Learn from past experiences.

Mobilize supporting actors:

Engage stakeholders for support: your support network is key to your protection and safety.

Collaborate with others to enhance protection measures.

Take security measures:

Implement physical, digital, and personal safety protocols.

Update measures regularly.

By following these steps, protect yourself and your community systematically.

Assessing the objective towards the risk and alternative actions involving less risks:

Considering alternative ways of reaching the same objective if it involves less risks.

Is it worth taking that level of risk to achieve these objectives? Levels of risk vs. sense of achievement. After assessing risk levels, think about how to mitigate risks and if that's not possible, think about alternative ways in order to achieve your objectives.



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