



# LESSONS ON ENGAGING SURVIVORS IN THE PATHFINDER PROCESS OF ALLIANCE 8.7

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## SURVIVOR CENTERED APPROACHES

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### **Survivor Voices Add Authenticity to Roadmaps**

Survivors' lived experiences provide unmatched authenticity, ensuring policies address the complex realities of coercion, manipulation, and trauma. Their insights prevent theoretical solutions and ground strategies in practical, real-world applicability. This authenticity fosters trust and collaboration among survivors, government bodies, and stakeholders, ensuring a more unified approach to combatting modern slavery.

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### **Importance of Safe Spaces During the Process**

Creating safe physical and emotional environments is essential for survivors to share openly and feel valued. This includes providing private, non-judgmental spaces for confidential discussions. Regular check-ins and debrief sessions help build long-term trust, making survivors feel supported throughout the process.

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### **Trauma-Informed Approaches are Essential**

All interactions with survivors must prioritize their psychological well-being. This includes avoiding triggering topics, respecting boundaries, and offering emotional support mechanisms. Government and organizational staff need training in trauma-informed approaches to ensure survivor engagement is healing rather than re-traumatizing.

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### **Inclusive and Intentional Selection Processes**

A diverse survivor representation is critical to capture the full spectrum of experiences, including survivors of forced labor, sexual exploitation, child labor, and other forms of modern slavery. Selection processes should emphasize survivors' advocacy potential and their passion to contribute positively to both policy development and community impact.

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### **Empowering Survivor Leadership in the Process**

Survivors can take on meaningful leadership roles, such as leading task forces and facilitating workshops during the process. Leadership opportunities transform survivors into advocates, providing them with a platform to influence change while boosting their confidence and societal recognition.

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### **Fostering Survivor-led Networks**

Encouraging survivors to form support groups and alliances amplifies their collective voice and impact. These networks not only strengthen advocacy efforts but also provide emotional and logistical support for participants. Sustaining survivors' involvement beyond roadmap drafting is crucial and networks seem to provide a structured framework of doing so.

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### **Overcoming Barriers to Participation**

Survivors often face economic and logistical challenges, such as limited internet access, childcare needs, and financial constraints. Addressing these barriers ensures equitable participation. For example, providing allowances for childcare and transportation or offering blended engagement models (virtual and in-person) to accommodate survivors in remote areas.

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### **Importance of Partnerships**

Partnerships with local NGOs specializing in survivor support ensure that survivors receive counseling, legal aid, and other necessary services during their involvement. Collaborative efforts expand reach and provide survivors with access to resources that empower their participation, while also addressing barriers like childcare, financial constraints, and logistical challenges.

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### **Strengthening Government Capacity in Survivor Engagement**

Governments must integrate trauma-informed approaches and recognize survivors as key stakeholders in policymaking. This requires legal reforms to formalize survivor representation in task forces and advisory boards. Training government officials on survivor-centered approaches ensures policies are empathetic and informed.

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### **Managing Expectations is Critical**

Clear communication about the roles, timelines, and outcomes of survivor participation helps manage expectations, preventing frustration or disillusionment. Setting realistic milestones ensures survivors remain motivated and aware of their tangible contributions. The Pathfinder process often faces delays due to bureaucratic or administrative challenges. Survivor engagement strategies must adapt dynamically to these shifts to maintain progress.

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### **Tailored and Adaptive Training Methods**

Engaging survivors across diverse regions requires respect for cultural differences and tailored approaches to reflect local realities. Training programs must be adapted to suit survivors' diverse needs, such as language differences or varying literacy levels.

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### **Role of Technology in Sustaining Engagement**

Virtual platforms like WhatsApp and other online tools play a significant role in maintaining survivor networks and facilitating ongoing collaboration, especially in geographically diverse regions.

## EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP

## COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT

## SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION