

2017 Highlights from the National Survivor Network



The National Survivor Network (NSN) is a Survivor Leadership Program of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) that began in February 2011. NSN's mission is to bring together a community of survivors of human trafficking by creating a platform for survivor-led advocacy, peer-to-peer mentorship, and empowerment that embraces all survivors, regardless of gender/gender identity, age, ethnicity, nationality or type of trafficking experience.

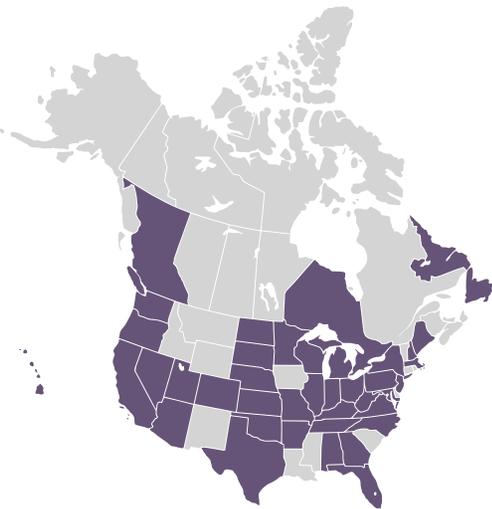
MEMBERSHIP



Membership to the National Survivor Network (NSN) is open to any survivor of human trafficking, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender/ gender expression, sexual orientation, or trafficking experience. The NSN aligns itself with the “United States Federal Definition of Human Trafficking” as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). In 2017, the NSN grew by 23% from 180 members to 223 members. The table to the right shows the NSN’s growth

since it began in 2011.

In 2017, members of the NSN were located in over 37 US states and 3 Canadian provinces. The graphic to the left highlights the states/provinces where NSN members reside. In addition to geographical diversity, NSN members represent survivors of various forms of trafficking, with 25% of members being survivors of labor trafficking, 74% being survivors of sex trafficking, and 1% being survivors of both sex and labor trafficking. In 2017, NSN members identified as 85% female, 14% male, and 1% transgender. In addition, NSN members were from 24 different countries of origin including the United States, with 68% of the members being US Citizens and 32% of the members being foreign nationals.



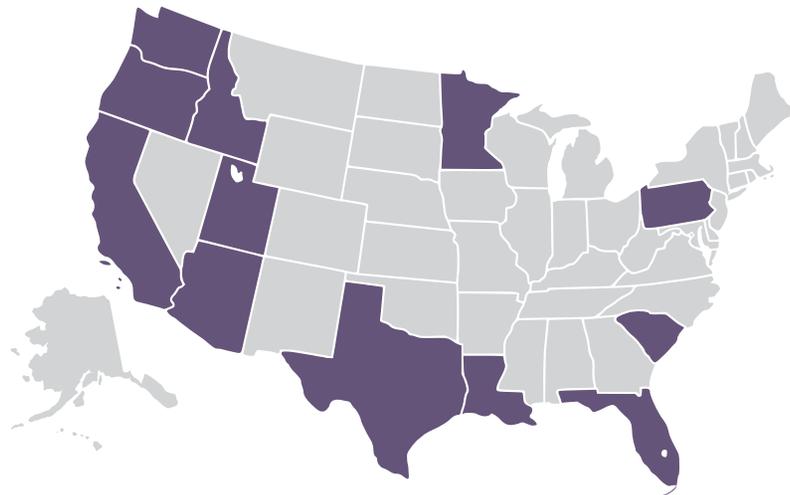
MENTORING PROGRAM

The NSN completed its first Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Pilot Program in 2017 which matched new NSN members with peer mentors/survivor leaders within the NSN to provide support in leadership development (e.g. public speaking, presentation skills, training, advocacy, etc.) as new members work towards their personal and professional goals. This Pilot Program was developed due to feedback from NSN members that more professional mentorship was desired. The goal of the pilot program was to support survivors in further developing leadership skills and to increase the impact of the voice of survivors in the anti-trafficking movement. During the pilot cycle, three mentor-mentees were paired. The NSN received feedback from each of the pairings after the completion of the program regarding the matching process, training needs, and ongoing support, and will implement these lessons learned into the Program in 2018.

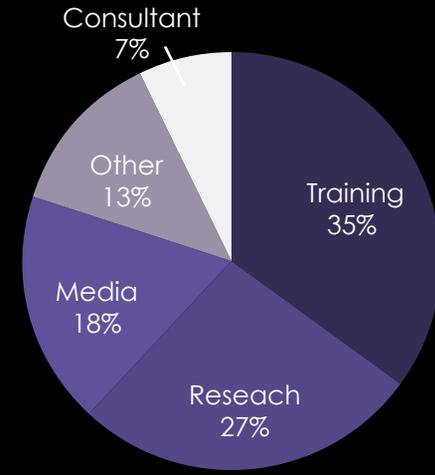
Every two years, the NSN votes on the policy priorities in which the members would like to place their advocacy focus. One of the policy priorities, the Trafficking Survivor Relief Act of 2017 (S.104/H.R.459), was of particular focus in 2017. This bill removes the barriers of criminal charges from offenses committed as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking. This law builds on state laws already present in Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Washington, Wyoming, and Connecticut.

In order to advocate for the policy priorities, the NSN conducted bi-monthly teleconference meetings with representatives. In 2017, seventeen members participated in teleconference meetings and in-person meetings with 18 representatives from 12 states (Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Washington). Four of the representatives signed on to support the Trafficking Survivor Relief Act of 2017.

In addition, NSN conducts an annual visit to Washington DC in order to advocate for the policy priorities. During the DC Trip, the NSN advocacy team and selected members participate in three days of meetings on Capitol Hill with U.S. State Senators, States Representatives, and various government agencies including the Dept. of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Dept. of State Bureau of Consular Affairs, Dept. of Justice Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, and Dept. of Health and Human Services Office on Trafficking in Persons.



Consultant/Speaker's Bureau



The NSN coordinated 45 engagements through the Consultant/Speaker's Bureau, and provided opportunities to NSN members for research participation, training/presentations, media interviews, consulting, and more. The chart to the right demonstrates the diversity in the type of requests the NSN received in 2017. This number does not include the many requests that NSN members receive directly or through their own organizations, as NSN members represent a broad range of expertise in the anti-trafficking movement.

Website Revamped

The NSN Executive Committee worked diligently in 2017 to revamp the NSN Website to better reflect the robust Survivor Leadership program and community of the National Survivor Network. You can access the new NSN website at: www.nationalsurvivornetwork.org

