SURVIVOR REENTRY PROJECT

Human trafficking survivors are often forced to engage in illegal activity as part of the trafficking scheme, leaving them with criminal records. These records limit survivors’ ability to obtain employment, housing, education, public benefits and financial assistance, immigration status, and family stability. A criminal record also acts as a constant reminder of their trafficking experience. Survivors are routinely burdened with numerous records in multiple jurisdictions, requiring a comprehensive national approach.

The Survivor Reentry Project (SRP) is the only national clearinghouse solely dedicated to supporting criminal record relief for trafficking survivors. Survivors and service providers rely on SRP for critical assistance with analyzing criminal records, creating a strategy for clearing eligible offenses, and expanding access to criminal record relief through training, technical assistance and mentoring, legislative expertise, and direct survivor support. A preliminary analysis of the data collected by SRP shows that survivors are burdened with complex criminal legal system involvement, that female identifying people of color are disproportionately impacted by criminalization, and that the criminalization of sex work is the primary criminal charge.

In analyzing the survivors supported by SRP to date, we have found that:

Survivors have trafficking-related criminal records in an average of: 3 states

These 46 survivors have a combined 674 convictions, an average of: 15 convictions each

SRP by the numbers.

In 3 years the SRP pilot has:

- Provided legal information
- Helped survivors assess the eligibility of their criminal records
- Responded substantively to outside requests for technical assistance
- Facilitated legal representation for record relief cases
- Cleared charges for survivors
- Cleared entire records for survivors

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Analyzing the Criminalization of Survivors
While the majority of records were related to prostitution, criminal record relief cannot stop there. Survivors served by SRP were burdened with a range of convictions.

Convictions date from 1976 to 2021.

Nearly 55% of survivors served identify as women and people of color.

Survivors were arrested primarily between the ages of 18 and 24.