



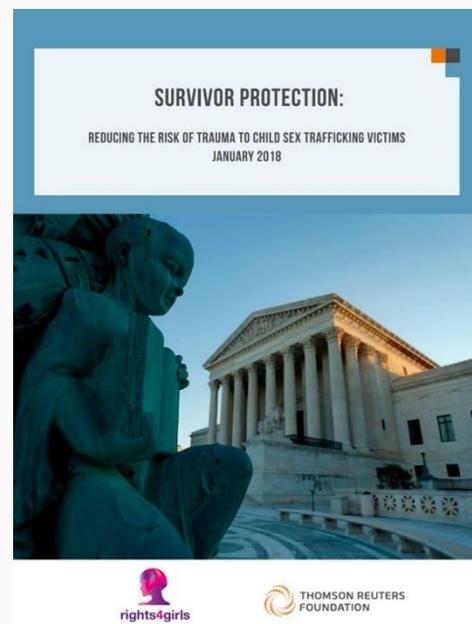
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Friends,

2017 was a remarkable year for Rights4Girls and 2018 is off to a running start! Check out some highlights from our busy winter:

## Report Release

As part of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Rights4Girls, in partnership with the Thomson Reuters Foundation's Trust law, released a ground-breaking report promoting innovative court protections for child sex trafficking victim witnesses. The report, [Survivor Protection: Reducing the Risk of Trauma to Child Sex Trafficking Victims](#), describes ways to extend existing courtroom protections afforded to other victims of gender violence and child abuse, to survivors of child sex trafficking who testify at trial. Read our recent opted about the report [here](#).



## Rights4Girls in the News

Rights4Girls' Yasmin Vafa was featured on NPR's [All Things Considered](#) and NPR's [1A](#) to discuss the case of Cyntoia Brown, a child sex trafficking survivor currently serving a life sentence for protecting herself against her exploiter.



## Legislative Wins

Success! This week the **House voted overwhelmingly to pass the most significant anti-trafficking legislation in almost twenty years**. The FOSTA-SESTA package, which passed by a margin of 388-25, will finally allow trafficking survivors to pursue legal remedies against websites that facilitate their exploitation. We are grateful to Members of Congress who listened to survivors and fixed this legal loophole that has denied victims justice for years. To learn more about this important victory read our statement [here](#).

Another major legislative win came this month with *The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017* (S.534) getting **signed into law!** In the aftermath of the USA Gymnastics and MSU abuse scandal, this new law establishes more stringent reporting and training requirements that will help protect child athletes from abuse and violence.



Rights4Girls at a Congressional briefing in support of legislation to prevent online exploitation.

## Youth Workshops

This winter, we celebrated the launch of two workshop series for youth. In January, Rights4Girls launched **Protect our Youth** in partnership with Black Swan Academy and Melanin Uprising, two community-based racial justice organizations. This six-part workshop series seeks to empower D.C. youth with the tools to advocate for their needs and for each other. Our next workshop is scheduled for March 31st and is focused on historical trauma, the sexual abuse to prison pipeline, and sex trafficking.

In February, Rights4Girls partnered with Georgetown Law's Juvenile Justice Initiative to launch **L.O.U.D Brown Girls** – a workshop series inspiring girls to Lift their voices, Overcome obstacles, and Unite for Decriminalization. This eight-part advocacy series is focused on girls of color who have been touched by the juvenile or criminal justice systems. Our first session is scheduled for March 3rd and is focused on providing girls of color with tangible and effective advocacy tools.

## Other News

- Rights4Girls' Yasmin Vafa **delivered the keynote address** on the impacts of race, gender and economic inequality at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at an event hosted by Gates Foundation and Stolen Youth in Seattle, WA.
- Rights4Girls' EJW Fellow Rebecca Burney **testified before the D.C. Council** on the harmful effects of exclusionary school discipline policies on girls in the District.
- Rights4Girls staff conducted trainings, webinars, and workshops **reaching over 300 people** on topics ranging from juvenile justice, alternatives to detention, sex trafficking and violence against girls.

**As always, we thank you for your continued support of our work to defend the rights of our most vulnerable girls and young women.**

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