

Press release

Survivor Alliance, A Modern Approach to Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault

October 31, 2017. San Francisco, CA. For the past few weeks, our newsfeeds have been overflowing with people speaking out about their experiences of sexual harassment and assault, with new allegations arising daily. We cry out with rage against the perpetrators, share tweets about how we too have been affected, then move on to the next part of our feed. What happens to the survivors afterwards? From our experiences and many others, long-term support is virtually nonexistent for survivors of sexual assault. This is why we've created Survivor Alliance.

On October 12th, Survivor Alliance, LLC launched its crowdfunding campaign to introduce its modern approach to the age old issue of sexual assault by combining partnerships, an online community, and monthly self-care kits. Formed by Drusilla (aka Dru) Cowan and Asehli Howe, Survivor Alliance is on a mission to redefine what it means to be a survivor of sexual assault.

Both having experienced rape, Dru and Asehli understand that healing is a non-linear process which takes different forms for everyone. Survivor Alliance aims to match each person's' needs by providing long-term, survivor-centered support through a more friendly, community-based approach.

“Many people we've spoken with who have experienced sexual assault described the healing period afterwards to be almost as difficult as the incident itself. We aim to change that dialogue.”

- Asehli Howe

Support System

After sexual assault, there seem to be few options. Go to the hospital, police, counseling, or to get over it. These resources aren't enough. There are many people in the world doing work to support survivors of sexual assault in other ways, from coaching to movement to artistic expression. These professionals often have a difficult time reaching survivors who don't even know they exist. Survivor Alliance's Support System aims to connect these two groups by creating an online resource library of trauma professionals and organizations. Once live, the library will be publicly available for any survivors or allies looking for support.

“We're changing the way survivors find and access what they need. For us, it's not about creating new resources or products; it's about bringing together all that already exists but might be hard to find.”

- Drusilla Cowan

The Alliance

In addition to making resources more accessible, Survivor Alliance is developing an online community where survivors can support one another through forums or direct messages. They will be able to ask questions to the community, or form small groups that meet locally for dinner, craft nights, or sunny days in the park. It's about more than dealing with sexual assault. The Alliance is about celebrating love, loss, and life in a safe community that gets it.

Self-care kit

Healing from sexual assault is a lifelong process, and not everyone can afford or access professional support the entire time. As part of Survivor Alliance's mission to transform the guilt and shame survivors feel, the Self-Care Kit has been designed to take the stress out of self-care. This subscription box will be delivered monthly with self-care essentials like journals, candles, art projects, and feminist zines, all packaged in a coloring box that can be incorporated into one's self care routine. Plus, the kit's contents are sourced from survivor or women-run small businesses. Though geared for survivors, the box can be purchased by anyone, with the option to keep or gift to someone else. Proceeds from purchased kits will be used to bring self-care kits at free or discounted prices to survivors in need. At least 10% of boxes will be donated each month.

Availability

The Support System is in ongoing development. Some resources are already being listed, but the team hopes to build out more functionality and add new resources by the end of 2017. Both the Self-Care Kit and The Alliance will roll out in early 2018 (tentatively: January and April respectively). Professionals interested in listing their services through the Support System or individuals looking to pre-order self-care kits can do so through Survivor Alliance's crowdfunding campaign on iFundWomen: bit.ly/SAcrowd

Funds collected through the campaign will be used to order supplies for Self-Care Kits and build functionality into their website for the Support System and The Alliance.