

[Roads of Success](http://www.roadsofsuccess.com)

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ATTN: Boldline Accelerator

The U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street, NW.  
Washington, DC 20520

**RE:** Proposal for Boldline Religious Freedom

**Title of Idea**: Tech Over Trauma **(“TOT”)**

**Name of Organization and Status**: Roads of Success (“ROS”) is a humanitarian, not-for-profit organization since 2007, recognized as tax-exempt by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) pursuant to Section 501C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

**Industrial Affiliation**: Humanitarian organization, ROS, works to empower Middle-Eastern women and persecuted minorities through media, education, advocating for equal rights and freedoms, and supporting their needs to maximize their future potential.

**Partner Status with US Government**: ROS is an approved partner of the Department of Defense to ship humanitarian aid through the Denton Cargo program to Iraq. The ROS team has testified in the US Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee providing evidence that actions committed by ISIS against Christians, Yazidis, and other minorities constituted a genocide. The team has also submitted policy recommendations to protect and maintain religious minority communities in the Middle East.

**Stage of Partnership Business Plan**: TOT is an existing program that we are scaling and expanding. The program was partly initiated in 2015 for survivors who were under ISIS captivity. The launch was featured on a BBC documentary and received significant media attention reaching millions. For over a decade, our initiatives have had a Middle Eastern focus, however, we are now ready to leverage our teams niche expertise, global reputation and media presence to springboard and scale-up TOT operations globally.

**Problem Statement**

Religious intolerance is a deepening global crisis driving instability, religious conflicts and terrorism. Minority communities across the globe are systematically targeted solely because of their religious beliefs.  Perpetuated conflicts have resulted in fear of exercising belief causing drastic declines of many ancient communities. Violence has created a clear divide and planted mistrust. Countries with a rich diversity of ethnic and religious populations present both a treasure and a challenge. As demographics fluctuate, survivors facing persecution have no other option but to unite.

Survivors are calling on the world to prevent the complete destruction of their communities. Yet, they rarely have the means to share their stories and get the help needed. Others fear possible retaliation. Many organizations that offer services to survivors do not know the cultural complexities, and have not built enough trust within the community or with leaders to affect positive permanency. ROS continues to support aspirations to freely exercise religious beliefs by empowering persecuted minorities through media, education and advocating for rights and freedoms.

ROS collects evidence and urges the international community to initiate prosecutions against the perpetrators of such targeted crimes.  We must stand with survivors who have made that choice to stay in their homelands, as this is their birth right. It is time for the restoration of their homes, minds, bodies and souls. We must not compromise for just their mere survival.  Individual and regional development and international unity will prevent religious persecution against minorities and support survivors to thrive.

**Idea**

ROS is proposing the creation of a revolutionary online platform and social network called TOT that empowers, educates and rebuilds the lives of survivors of religious persecution.

TOT has three operational categories:

1. **Individual Development (“The Mentorship”):**  Using the online platform to equip and empower survivors by offering programs such as language learning, motivational sessions, arts, psychological development, identity development, character development, career development, mentorship, leadership, and counseling to overcome trauma and support their futures.
2. **Regional Impact (‘The Gathering”):** The online network will provide a platform for interreligious regional (and local) action. Expert leaders in the community will draw on their collective experience to build solidarity and unity amongst survivors and their local communities.  These online and in-person gatherings will encourage communities to build trust between diverse groups and create a functional understanding of the dignity and worth of survivors. Furthermore, they will focus on the prevention of terrorism through the use of media and civil society, the formation and implementation of safeguards, freedoms and guarantees for minority groups including survivors and spark unity movements between ethnic and religious groups.

**c)      Global Impact (“The Story”):** The testimony outlet allows survivors to share their stories, connect with one another and freely express their experiences for awareness campaigns, a survivor support network and for gathering legal evidence.

Our network growth/sustainability would be directly correlated to the number of subscribers, analogous to the successful and powerfully disruptive and revolutionary past examples of social networks and technology platforms such as Facebook.

**Resource Requirements**

In order to create this network, we will need capital to invest into the technological platform.  We will need investment capital from either/or the private and/or public sectors.

We currently do have private investment for our ongoing operations; however, a capital raise will be required for the successful execution of this endeavor.   Part of the capital would be utilized for research and development (R&D) purposes, specifically for the creation of a proprietary technology platform (including a mobile/tablet app).

Part of the capital raised would be used to purchase laptops, mobile devices, tablets and other technological devices, which would incorporate the proprietary technology platform (mobile/tablet app).  These technological devices would then be distributed to refugee camps and other locations where survivors are rampant.

Additionally, part of the capital would be used to maintain the online platform through hiring a full-time team of professionals (including marketing, legal, financial, operational and technological professionals).

We would seek investors and/or private/public organizations which understand these resource needs.  We would be glad to provide an equity-sharing structure – thereby providing a healthy incentive for our partners to grow with us on this endeavor.  We believe in this endeavor and understand the long-term opportunity in fulfilling a need which has been largely ignored by the private sector.  We seek to change this by developing a resource allocation mechanism tailored to both the private and public sector, thereby leveraging the strengths of each in co-managing a unique technological platform for survivors.

**Best Potential Partners**

The survivors can choose to connect with teachers, counselors and psychologists through the online network. Teachers, counselors and psychologists are crucial for the program’s development.

An innovative and cutting edge proprietary online video conferencing and educational platform would be built to facilitate teaching and mentorship through laptops, mobile phones and other devices.  Additionally, the development of an online app is needed to provide this efficiently and with ease.

TOT needs to amplify the scope of its technological platform to use technology as a force for good.  There is an ongoing *war of the minds* of survivors. We must fill the minds of the survivors with good in order to see long-term changes. We are seeking ideal partners in the educational and technological sectors.  By interweaving these sectors, we will be able to create a unique platform unlike anything that has been developed.

ROS has a track record in sponsoring grassroots and social movements promoting interfaith unity and reconciliation. This has established strategic partnerships with local authorities, communities and religious leaders of all backgrounds. These local partnerships must continue.

We currently have ongoing live classes with U.S. based mentors, translators and educators which use Skype and Google Hangouts with girls and boys we mentor in Iraq, Lebanon and Germany.  Our partners include: Google, Wells Fargo, Iraqi-Kurdistan Regional Government, Department of Health of Dohuk, Iraq and the Minister of Displaced Persons in Lebanon. Current partners for testimony collection include the Center for International Justice and Accountability and Latham & Watkins law firm.

**Ideal End State**

We seek to assist in the rebuilding of lives of survivors by connecting them with individuals and organizations which are customized to each individual’s needs.  We envision this as a platform which can also safeguard future survivors in the event of disasters and wars in the future.

Through this online network, we will provide emotional and educational support to survivors.  By sharing their stories, this will stir hearts and lead influencers to action, consequentially shifting policy and eventually transforming society.

As more survivors share their stories, a complete mosaic of a fuller picture for evidence gathering is built.  We believe the power in this network is revolutionary and we are fully committed to seeing this through.

Our vision is to create an online platform for survivors, founded on the premise of freedom of expression, testimony and resilience aimed at establishing an online network for survivors of religious persecution globally.