hollaback!

STATE OF THE STREETS
2013
Dear Supporters,

The global movement to end street harassment is stronger than ever. In Egypt, people are banding together, going into crowded areas and literally removing women from situations where they are trapped and surrounded by men. In India, thousands took to the streets after the brutal Gang rape in Delhi. At Hollaback!, we’ve grown from a NYC-based group of kids into a global movement powered by local volunteers in 71 cities and 24 countries speaking 14 different languages.

This year at Hollaback!, we trained leaders in 24 new cities and hosted the first international speakers series on street harassment, HOLLA::Revolution. In July, before a sold out crowd of 150 people, 17 speakers from around the globe gave inspiring talks on the impact of street harassment and the future of the movement. For many of our site leaders, this was the first time they were able to convene and work together in person and, as a result, we’re seeing innovations like Baltimore’s “Safer Spaces” campaign scale abroad to Croatia, and Ottawa’s street harassment survey scale to our sites in Boston and Philadelphia. We provided site leaders with three new written resources this year, including a global “Know Your Rights” guide outlining street harassment laws, a guide on how employers can support employees being harassed, and a “#HarassmentIs” guide on how identity impacts people’s experience of harassment.

The explosive demand for Hollaback! is increasing - and we need your continued support. Your donation today will help us train the waiting list of activists from 60 cities globally who want to bring Hollaback! home. Give generously, and we’ll be able to further develop and launch some of the projects featured at the back of this report.

Everyone deserves to feel safe and confident when they walk down the street, and with your support, this human right is closer than ever before!

Emily and Sam
Emily May, Co-Founder and Executive Director, & Sam Carter, Co-Founder and Board Chair

“Because of Hollaback! I’m more assertive and confident. I don’t feel as scared as I used to. I really, truly know that I deserve to navigate public space safely and I make sure that other people know that, too.”

Britni de la Cretaz (Hollaback! Boston)

“We work on ending street harassment on so many levels: awareness raising, movement building, mobile technology, online feminism, offline activism, arts and creativity and empowerment. And all of those things together make up the Hollaback! movement, which is pretty amazing.”

Julia Brilling (Hollaback! Berlin)
History, Mission, Vision

Our history Hollaback! began as a conversation among four young women and three young men in 2005. As the women told story after story of street harassment, the men became increasingly concerned. Samuel Carter, who is now Hollaback!’s Board Chair, said quite simply, “You live in a different city than we do.” Collectively, the group resolved to create a better city that would be safer for everyone.

“I want people to know that we’re capable of so much more than they even know! And we’re going to take over the world.”

Britni de la Cretaz (Hollaback! Boston)

“I Hollaback! mostly changed the way I felt. I learned that I wasn’t alone in feeling unsafe on the streets. That was a really big step.”

Ilse (Hollaback! Gent)

“Hollaback! is a safe place for women to tell their story without being judged, mansplained, or ending up feeling worse.”

Talya (Hollaback! Israel)

Around the same time, a woman named Thao Nguyen bravely stood up to her harasser. This man was an older, upper middle class owner of a raw-foods restaurant and he terrified Nguyen by masturbating across from her on the subway. She photographed him and presented the evidence to the police. When the police ignored her, she posted the photo on Flickr. Eventually, the photo appeared on the front page of the New York Daily News, where it ignited a city-wide conversation about street harassment. Inspired by Thao’s story, the youth who were to become the founders of Hollaback! decided to apply her model to combating all forms of harassment in public space, and to document these experiences of harassment on a public blog.

In 2010, co-founder Emily May became Hollaback!’s first Executive Director and expanded the Hollaback! network internationally.

Mission Hollaback! is a movement to end street harassment powered by a network of local activists around the world. We work together to better understand street harassment, to ignite public conversations, and to develop innovative strategies to ensure equal access to public spaces.

Vision We envision a world where street harassment is not tolerated and where we all enjoy equal access to public spaces.
“What makes the work that Hollaback! is doing all over the world so unbelievably critical is the way they’re using a smart combination of technologies and relationship development to radically shift social norms. Before Hollaback!, we were sheepish, hurt and seething about the public harassment we received, and we accepted it as a part of public life. Now, thanks to Hollaback!’s work on connecting the dots and showing us that we don’t have to take it, we are outraged, activated and making change.”

Deanna Zandt

The Movement

Culture of Badass  Hollaback! is more than a nonprofit organization—it’s a movement. We believe that movements start with people sharing their stories, grow with diverse, on-the-ground leadership, are legitimized by research, and are ultimately institutionalized through policy change and government investment.

How We Work  Hollaback! doesn’t function like other nonprofits. With an international, decentralized model that inspires local activists to make change in their communities, Hollaback! has sites in 71 cities, 24 countries, and 6 continents! Each of these sites has a site leader or leaders who set up the website, Facebook, and Twitter for their Hollaback! location and translate Hollaback! material into their language. Then, in each different community, those site leaders lead debates, participate in grassroots activism, collect stories, and speak to government officials to enact change. Each site is trained by the mothership, AKA our home office in New York City.

By The Numbers

Transparency & Honesty

Hollaback exists in 71 cities and in 24 countries operating in 14 different languages

We have...

- 27,363 Facebook Fans
- 10,425 Twitter Followers
- 5,412 Stories Shared Online
- 23 Partnerships

Over the past year, Hollaback! has been featured in 274 media outlets and has held:

- 82 Rallies and Marches
- 57 Discussion Groups
- 9 Film Screenings
- 70 Workshops
- 12 Awareness-Raising Parties
- 35 Meetings with 68 Elected officials

Our site leaders are...

- 78% under the age of 30
- 36% LGTBQIA
- 29% people of color, and 17% have disabilities
In Their Own Words

**WE’VE GOT YOUR BACK** Everyday, Hollaback! sites from around the world receive submissions from people describing their experiences with street harassment. These are a few stories among the thousands that Hollaback! sites received in 2013.

**Kathmandu, Nepal** It happened 3 months ago. I was returning from Jawalakhel with my best friend. Suddenly we heard a voice from the back. We thought someone was calling us and we looked back. There was a guy masturbating to us. We were very afraid and started running. Eventually, the guy was running and following us. We ran as fast as we could and at the end he was not following us anymore. Our legs were shivering and hearts were beating fast. Our faces turned completely blue. I was extremely shocked for I had never experienced such a thing in my life. For some days I was even afraid to go out of my house. But now I can Hollaback! I can speak against such types of violence. I can speak against the harassment.

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** I work in the suburbs and do the reverse commute on Septa daily. I never thought I would dread the 10 minute walk down 11th street to my apartment more than sitting on a Septa train for 45 minutes. One day last week, there was an inappropriate comment to me on every single block. I couldn’t take it anymore. I walked into my apartment and threw myself in tears onto the couch. How could it be possible that I couldn’t walk down a single block in peace? The verbal sexual harassment I now encounter in the city on a daily basis makes it hard to move forward, as I feel victimized over and over and over again. The stories shared through this forum have helped me understand the magnitude of the problem and that we are not alone.

**Richmond, Virginia** One evening I was approaching the intersection and had just turned onto a dark road. There was a car full of guys with loud music coming down the road. They stopped on the other side and started harassing me. They yelled at me. I don’t remember exactly what they said, but it was infuriating and embarrassing and scary. I had the courage to flip them off and continue biking. To this day, I’m extremely glad that they were on the other side of the road. If they were on my side, I am positive they would have followed me. I am so grateful for this site, and for the support, validation, and empowerment it brings!

**Israel** I was at a bus station in Tel - Aviv. When I went to move, a man stood in front of me and cut me with his belly. Yes, just like that, touched me with his belly, and said - “Hey sweetie.” I quickly push it and slip away, shuddering from head to toe. I kept thinking about this little incident for many more hours. Like so many others. The time I was on a bus and spreading sunscreen on and some guy told me - “It’s not illegal you rub lotion in sexy like that” and I wanted to throw it. Like the time someone pinched my ass on the light rail. Like the time that the two men were in the vehicle and shouted at me from the window things on my genitals, and when I answered they started to chase after me and I went to the police. Like the time that… what does it matter? There is so much “that time.” This time it was so fast. And I did nothing, and did not tell him anything. Right now, I cannot do anything, and I am helpless. Just me and anger. And feeling so lonely. But there is this site, and that gives me hope.
With 71 sites in 24 countries, Hollaback! has a lot to be proud of. To give an idea of our work around the world, we selected four sites to highlight. Each is taking the anti-street harassment movement by storm!

Hollaback! New York City, Brussels, Chandigarh, and Philly have furthered the fight against street harassment with their hard work, creativity, and dedication to the movement. Each site has designed unique programs, given talks, and engaged their communities in many different ways in order to combat everyday gender violence. In the next few pages we’ll explore just what these sites have been up to in 2013.

**Hollaback! NYC, United States of America**

**Leaders**

Emily May  
Executive Director

Debjani Roy  
Deputy Director

Jae Cameron  
Program Associate

Hollaback! NYC is the home office of the Hollaback! movement (and for this reason, is often referred to as Hollaback!’s “mothership”). This year, Hollaback! published three new texts: a global “Know Your Rights” guide, a comprehensive employer’s guide to handling street harassment, and “#HarassmentIs”, an intersectional guide to ending street harassment. The “Know Your Rights Guide” was developed in partnership with TrustLaw, who coordinated over 10 international legal teams to develop a resource guide including all local laws that address street harassment. The employer’s guide provides resources and information to employers, union members, service providers, and human resource departments regarding support and assistance they can offer to those who have reported instances of street harassment. “Harassment Is: An Exploration of Identity and Street Harassment”, expands definitions of harassment and includes over 40 stories from the Hollaback! sites. Following the launch of the guide, Hollaback! NYC held a Tweetup to discuss intersectionality and street harassment. Our Tweetup trended on Twitter, generating more than 1,400 posts.
I find it so troubling that our society often seems only to be outraged by sexual harassment when it occurs in the workplace. Public street harassment has such harmful impacts, but is wrongly considered by so many to be merely an inconvenience that women, LGBTQ folks, people of color, and persons with disabilities should just put up with. Hollaback!’s work is empowering individuals and communities to take street harassment from “inconvenience” to “unacceptable.”

Sandra Fluke
“Hollaback! is a great platform for talking about this issue, whether as a survivor or as a bystander, and there’s this wonderful community of supportive individuals out there, ready to hear your stories, and to welcome more people in the fight against street harassment.”

Shakthi Manickavasagam (Hollaback! Chennai)

**January**

4 - Launched the “Pledge Project” in response to a violent gang-rape

**March**

1 - Spread the word about the Police’s new initiatives to increase accessibility

1 - Engaged in the Chandigarh debate, “Do Women Have Too Much Power?”

8 - Condemned police attacks of a sexually assaulted woman in Chandigarh

15 - Marched in first ever Queer Pride March

**May**

2 - Featured in Feminia

**August**

7 - Launched weekly “mainstream media reports” on sexual harassment in Chandigarh

15 - Organized monthly meetings for GLBTQ support group

**September**

18 - Represented Hollaback! in Sexuality Counselling Skills Training with TARSHI (Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues)

**October**

15 - Began an extensive research survey on street harassment in Chandigarh

**November**

15 - Organized YOUNIQUE GLBTQ support group

**February**

19 - “Day of Action” working in partnership with various UN affiliated organizations

**March**

8 - Represented Hollaback! at the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women

23 - Met fundraising goal for the comic book!

**April**

5 - Anti-street harassment ads went up in the SEPTA trains

**May**

2 - Posted video tour of Hollaback! Philly’s Anti-Street Harassment Chalk Walk

25 - Launch street harassment comic book at Locust Moon Comics

**June**

7 - Tabled at WizardCon

14 - Featured on NPR’s segment “Cat Calling: Ignore It or Enjoy It?”

15 - Panelled at the Trans Health Conference in Philadelphia

**July**

26 - Presented at the HOLL.A: Revolution Speaker Series

**September**

8 - Ran Cosplay ≠ Consent at Baltimore Comic Con

28 - Marched to end rape culture

28 - Collaborated with Tatiana Fazlalizadeh on her Stop Telling Women to Smile public art project

29 - Held a mobile anti-harassment unit at Granite State Comic Con

**October**

5 - Tabled at Locust Moon Festival

12 - Attended New York Comic Con to tackle street harassment; promoted Cosplay ≠ Consent

20 - Presented on inclusivity in Geek Culture at a panel during GeekGirlCon

**November**

7 - Held a public hearing on street harassment with City Council

In early April, Hollaback! Philly’s anti-street harassment ads went up in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) trains all over the city. The ads gained international attention and were covered by Clutch Magazine and Generocity (the platform for social good in Greater Philadelphia), among other news outlets. On May 25th, Hollaback! Philly celebrated the launch of their comic book, Hollaback: Red, Yellow, Blue! They tabled at WizardCon, donning outfits that read “Cosplay ≠ Consent.” The comic book received an outpouring of support (overfunded by seventy-five percent) and was featured in Glamour Magazine. Site Leader Rochelle Keyhan has been making waves herself, representing Hollaback! at the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women and speaking on an NPR segment, “Cat Calling: Ignore It Or Enjoy It?” Her research is being formatted for a chapter in a forthcoming book from ITSR and Springer Publishing. Hollaback! Philly looks forward to upcoming comic book conventions on the east coast, hosting workshops at local high schools and colleges, and hosting an anti-human trafficking conference with Temple University in Spring 2014.

**Hollaback! Chandigarh, India**

**Leaders**

Rubina Singh
Ana Gupta
Paayas Pandit

**Volunteers**

Rochana Choudhary
Bhoomi Aggarwal
Paayas Pandit

**Launched in the early summer of 2011, Hollaback! Chandigarh (Hollaback! Chandergh) was born! A conservative city, Chandigarh had a huge problem with street harassment and a population that was silent about its presence—that is, until Hollaback! Chandigarh launched. Now, thanks to Rubina, the story has completely changed. In 2013, Rubina says her site was focused on two main issues, “One: encouraging men and women to come together to end gender based violence and not look at street harassment as simply a women’s issue; and two: building a safe space for the LGBTQIA community in and around the city.”

Both of these initiatives were met with great success by the Hollaback! Chandigarh team. On March 15th, Hollaback! Chandigarh organized the first ever Queer Pride March in the city, bringing out over 200 supporters. It was the first time LGBTQIA issues were addressed publicly in Chandigarh. On May 2nd, Rubina was featured in Feminia, an extremely well-known national magazine in India, chronicling her success as a Site Leader for Hollaback! Her commitment to the Chandigarh community—from breaking down national sexual harassment laws into easier language on Hollaback! Chandigarh’s blog, to launching the Pledge Project, encouraging greater bystander intervention after a woman was brutally gang-raped in India—have brought a lot of attention to her work. She is particularly excited for Hollaback! Chandigarh’s future, “a space for the LGBTQIA community in and around the city.”

“Hollaback! is a great platform for talking about this issue, whether as a survivor or as a bystander, and there’s this wonderful community of supportive individuals out there, ready to hear your stories, and to welcome more people in the fight against street harassment.”

Shakthi Manickavasagam (Hollaback! Chennai)
**New This Year**

**Launched the first-ever Employer Guide to Ending Street Harassment**
Launched in late May, the guide outlines options for employers, unions, and service providers for addressing street harassment. It has become an incredibly valuable tool for workplaces in raising awareness and addressing street harassment in support of their clients and employees. It provides an understanding of what street harassment is, what it looks like, how it affects employees, union members and clients, what can be done to support an employee, union member or client who has experienced it, and where to refer an employee, union member or client who may need further assistance and support as a result of their experience.

**9 New Sites during the Spring Launch**
On April 15th, Hollaback! launched nine new sites. Who are our new street harassment avengers? Hollaback! Antwerp (Belgium) Hollaback! Appalachia (Ohio, USA) Hollaback! Athens (Georgia, USA) Hollaback! Belfast (Northern Ireland) Hollaback! Bosnia and Herzegovina Hollaback! Chemnitz (Germany) Hollaback! Hamilton (Ontario, Canada) Hollaback! Los Angeles (California, USA) Hollaback! Toronto (Ontario, Canada)

**15 New Sites during the Fall Launch!**
On November 19th, Hollaback! launched fifteen new sites, including: Hollaback! Austin (Texas, USA) Hollaback! Bengaluru (Bangalore, India) Hollaback! Durham and Chapel Hill (North Carolina, USA) Hollaback! Guyana (Georgetown, Guyana) Hollaback! Houston (Texas, USA) Hollaback! Iran Hollaback! Mumbai (India) Hollaback! Muncie (Indiana, USA) Hollaback! Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania, USA) Hollaback! Korea (South Korea) Hollaback! Niagara (Niagara, ON, Canada) Hollaback! San Francisco (California, USA) Hollaback! Tucson (Arizona, USA) Hollaback! ULU (University of London Union) Hollaback! Vancouver (BC, Canada)

**Launched “Harassment Is: An exploration of identity and street harassment”**
On October 15th, Hollaback! launched the first-ever guide discussing intersectionality and street harassment: “Harassment Is: An exploration of identity and street harassment.” The guide encourages readers to approach street harassment with an intersectional understanding, recognizing how multiple identities and oppressions change how we walk down the street. Following the launch of the guide, Hollaback! organized a Tweetup, #harassmentis, to discuss intersectionality and harassment.

Hollaback! won both the TedxCity 2.0 Prize and “Top 3 Safety Apps of 2013,” major accomplishments in the movement.

**Resources**

- Blue Ridge Foundation - $10,000
- Catapult Blue Ridge Foundation - $45,000
- Eileen Fischer - $26,000
- Knight Foundation Prototype Fund - $40,000
- Lifeway Keir - $1,000
- New York City Council - Government - $39,000
- New York Women’s Foundation - $60,000
- Towbes Foundation - $750
- Up the River Endeavors - $21,000
- Vitamin W - $2,000

**Hollaback!**
- Facially sponsors #femfuture and Hollaback!
- Philly with resources from: Dobkin Family Foundation - $50,000
- Pro Bono Team
  - We receive the equivalent of more than half a million per year in in-kind support.
  - We want to take a moment to thank a few of our volunteers:
    - Corinne Colgan, videographer
    - Krista Bedosky, photographer
    - Alexis Grenell, communications strategist
    - Debra Guckenheimer, evaluation consultant
    - Rochelle Keyhan, legal advisor and researcher
    - Lisa Levy, human resources management
  - Thank-Yous
    - In addition, I want to thank our blogging team: Krista Bedosky, Nicola Briggs, Rita Pasaarell, and Tanisha Love Ramirez, as well as our interns: Stacy Bullard, Maya Flippen, Lindsey Lovel, Sarah Scriven, and Julia Winer.

**Thank-Yous**

- Sally Mandler, grant writer
- Beth McCabe, digital strategist
- Kristen Meloche, art director
- Morgan Stanley, strategic consultant
- Morrison and Foerster, legal counsel
- Trust Law, legal council
- Brad Perry, marketing strategy
- Caitlin Rodgers, infographic design
- Raphi Rosenblatt, evaluation consultant
- Allison Sesso, legislative strategist
- Jose Valenzuela, graphic design
- KC Wagner, researcher Erin Weed, speaking coach
- Colleen & Eric Whitley, interior office design consultants

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**Emily May**, Executive Director

When feminist icon Gloria Steinem was asked “What women today inspire you and make you feel that the movement continues?” Her response was, “Emily May of Hollaback! who has empowered women in the street, literally.” In 2005, at the age of 24, she co-founded Hollaback! (hollaback.org) in New York City, and in 2010 she became the first full-time executive director. Emily holds a Master’s Degree from the London School of Economics in Social Policy, was named one of twelve women to watch in 2012 by the Daily Muse, one of 20 women “leading the way” by the Huffington Post, a “Hero Among Us” in People Magazine, an AOL “Next Maker,” and one of Jezebel’s “25 kick-ass and amazing women we love.”

**Debjani Roy**, Deputy Director

Debjani Roy has advocated for women’s rights and equality in the US and UK for ten years. Before joining Hollaback! she was the Program and Development Manager at Manavi, an organization working to end violence against South Asian women in the United States. Her areas of expertise include domestic violence, sexual assault, forced marriage, ‘honor’ based violence, sexual trafficking/forced prostitution, widows’ rights and immigrant rights. She holds a BS degree from the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at NYU and a MA in Cultural Studies with a focus on Feminist Theory from Goldsmiths, University of London.

**Jae Cameron**, Program Associate

Jae Cameron, our Program Associate, has recently completed her Masters in Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of British Columbia. She also holds a BA in Women’s and Gender Studies and English Literature from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Her research concentrates on LGBTQIA life writing and performance art and on Critical Race perspectives on tourism. Jae’s recent publications include “The ‘Experience’ of the Border: Discourses of Authenticity and Violence within the Illegal Border Crossing Experience” in Surfacing and her set of poems, “Spilling”, in The Misadventures of Awkward Queers.
Next Steps: Followers Are The New Leaders

At Hollaback!, we envision a world where street harassment is not tolerated and where we all enjoy equal access to public spaces. In 2014 we plan to:

1. Develop a Guide and Training for Schools to address street harassment. At Hollaback!, we’ve received reports of students not wanting to go to school or not being able to concentrate in class for fear of harassment. The guide will be localized to cities around the world and used to train teachers and administrators how to respond.

2. A bigger and better HOLLA::Revolution, site leader retreat and public event. Our sites met for the first time in New York July 25-28, 2013 – where they gave short speeches at a public event attended by over 150 people, and then engaged in a three day retreat. In 2014, we want to increase attendance and expand access by providing travel grants to site leaders who would not otherwise be able to attend.

3. Launch and Train 75 new leaders from 25 new sites. We currently have a waitlist of people in over 70 cities interested in bringing this movement home. Each site we launch costs the organization $2,500 and includes comprehensive, three-month online training, technical assistance, and resources.

And although these projects are not currently funded, here is our project wish list for 2014:

1. Upgrading the apps to allow for one-touch reporting and personal data collection. In 2014, we want to double the number of stories in our bank to 10,000, by relaunching our apps so that simple reports including time and location can be made on-the-go with the touch of button. The app will store your personal data and allow you to share it with others. This will demonstrate the extent of the problem to the public, and inspire empathy worldwide.

“I want people to know that Hollaback! is inclusive. It recognizes that street harassment isn’t a uniquely female issue. Hollaback! isn’t just about a platform to share your experiences. It’s a community that offers support, resources and is an agent of change.”

Renee Cabana-Marshall (Hollaback! Alberta)

2. Anti-harassment, pro-technology craft kit. Research in computer science education demonstrates that context is important to encourage women and minorities in learning computer science concepts. The kit would contain a Hollaback T-shirt upon which participants could sew and program LED lights or electroluminescent wire to craft a customized response to street harassment. The kit offers an approach to learning computing through crafts and embeds an empowering motivation: to learn about and stop street harassment, something that, unfortunately, most girls have experience with.

3. Spreading innovation. Innovation is a central component to creating large-scale cultural change, and an area where Hollaback! has demonstrated expertise. We want to establish a pilot program within the Hollaback! community. The pilot program will run two contests for site leaders: one on technological innovation and one on innovation within political systems. During this process Hollaback! staff will work closely with each applicant to develop strong, well-researched proposals. We will provide webinars on existing innovations, public speaking, and proposal writing.
“Hollaback! is AMAZEBALLS! Yep, there you have it. We are one badass group of people, changing the world, making the streets safe for everyone. Don’t just stand there, join us.”

Ilse (Hollaback! Gent)