

Policy brief:

Brave Movement's G20 call to action 2025:

Abolishing Statutes of Limitations
for child sexual abuse cases



Policy brief: Abolishing Statutes of Limitations (SOLs) for child sexual abuse cases

A G20 call to action for justice and accountability (2025)

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Mission: To end childhood sexual violence through survivor leadership

Executive summary

Statutes of limitations (SOLs) on child sexual abuse are a systemic denial of justice.

- 52 years old is the average age of disclosure (*Justice Unleashed Report, 2023*).
- SOLs allow serial predators to evade accountability, putting more children at risk.
- G20 nations must abolish SOLs for all child sexual abuse cases criminal and civil to ensure:
 - a) Survivors can seek justice when ready.
 - b) Institutions are held accountable for cover-ups.
 - c) Predators are stopped before harming others.

The G20 must act: Justice delayed is justice denied.

1. The problem: How SOLs perpetuate abuse

Key evidence

52 = Average age of disclosure

- Trauma, shame, and fear silence survivors for decades.
- 80% of survivors never report (*ChildUSA, 2024*).

SOLs protect predators, not children

- 93% of child sex offenders are repeat offenders (*NSOPW, 2023*).
- SOLs erase evidence, enabling abusers to exploit new victims.

Global inconsistency = Injustice

- Some G20 nations (e.g., Canada, Australia, South Africa) have abolished SOLs for child sexual abuse.
- Others (e.g., Japan, Italy) retain restrictive limits as low as 5–10 years.

2. Policy solutions for G20 nations

1. Fully abolish SOLs for child sexual abuse

- No time limits for criminal prosecution or civil suits.
 - Retroactive repeal to allow historical cases (like Ireland's 2022 law).
2. Special provisions for institutional abuse
- Extended liability for organizations that enabled abuse (e.g., churches, schools).
 - State compensation funds for cases where perpetrators evade justice.
3. Strengthen evidence preservation
- Mandate indefinite storage of DNA, victim testimonies, and case files.
 - Expand "discovery rule" (clock starts at disclosure, not abuse date).
4. Global accountability
- G20 Justice Ministers Task Force to align SOL reforms.
 - Monitor compliance via the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

3. Why G20 leadership is critical

Moral imperative

- Survivors deserve dignity and redress regardless of when they come forward.

Public safety crisis

- Predators abuse 60+ children on average (*Darkness to Light, 2023*). SOLs enable this cycle.

Economic cost

- Unprosecuted abuse costs economies \$1.4 trillion/year (*WHO, 2024*) in healthcare, lost productivity, and crime.

4. Call to action for G20 leaders (2025)

Demands for the 2025 summit:

1. Pass a G20 resolution abolishing SOLs for child sexual abuse.
2. Launch a justice fund to support survivors in historical cases.

5. Case studies and resources

- Ireland's 2022 SOL reform: unlimited time to sue abusers and institutions.
- USA: 23 states fully abolished SOLs after Pennsylvania's 2019 Grand Jury Report.
- Justice Unleashed Report (2023): Survivor-led roadmap for SOL abolition.

7. Recommendations for G20 action

Legal reform:

- Pass laws removing SOLs for child sexual abuse.
- Create dedicated prosecution units for historic cases.

Survivor support:

- Fund legal aid & mental health services for adult survivors.
- Establish reparations and memorial initiatives.

Global coordination:

- G20 Justice Ministers Task Force to monitor compliance.
- Aligned with UNCRC and Bogota Declaration (2024).