

**Please note that as the movement grows we are revising and updating guidance for platforms based on feedback. If you have any specific questions please contact Jen Bowie, Membership & Movement Building Manager [jbowie@bravemovement.org](mailto:jbowie@bravemovement.org)**

# Establishing a Brave Platform

## A Step-by-Step Guide

When establishing a Brave Platform at the national or regional level, it is crucial to follow a consistent approach to ensure alignment with the broader objectives of the Brave Movement. Here is a comprehensive guide to help you through the process.

### **PAUSE!**

Before you apply to set up a Brave Platform, it is important to understand what a Brave Platform is. Review this document before proceeding: [What is a Brave Platform?](#)

**Any questions? Do get in touch and we can support you!**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS: SEVEN STEPS

|                                                                                          |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Step 1: Initial Planning</b>                                                          | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Step 2: Ensure members of your platform register as Members of the Brave Movement</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Step 3: Draft your Governance Guidelines</b>                                          | <b>5</b> |
| <b>Step 4: Secure a Fiscal Sponsor (OPTIONAL)</b>                                        | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Step 5: Submit your Application</b>                                                   | <b>7</b> |
| <b>Step 6: Approval and Onboarding</b>                                                   |          |
| <b>Step 7: Launch the Platform</b>                                                       | <b>8</b> |

## Step 1: Initial Planning

Brave Platforms are powerful tools for taking action, but safe and effective advocacy takes time and effort. **Define your goals** - Clearly state your reason for establishing a Platform. What are the campaigning, movement-building, and communications goals you want to achieve?

1. **Form your Founding Team** – Identify EITHER two (2) organizations or five (5) individuals who can commit to the Platform. Your founding team must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Have submitted a [Membership Application](#) and are registered members of the Brave Movement.
  - b. Are based in the country/nation where the Platform is being established.
  - c. Are in good standing with the Brave Movement and other members by adhering to the Membership Pledge & Agreement and Brave Movement policies.
2. **Identify your Platform Representatives** – Each Platform MUST have two (2) people identified as primary points of contact.
3. **Map the Ecosystem** – Make a list of individuals and organizations that could engage with your Platform, such as survivor advocates, child protection experts, and relevant NGOs or community organizations.

## Step 2: Ensure members of your platform register as Members of the Brave Movement

All individuals and or organizations engaged in the platform should register to become a Brave Movement member. Ensure members of your platform fill out this [Membership Application](#) .

## Step 3: Draft your Governance Guidelines

Brave Platforms unite survivors and allies to advocate for ending sexual violence against children and adolescents. To ensure this work is safe, effective, and equitable, each Platform must develop governance guidelines.

**Governance guidelines** serve as the foundation for how a Platform is organized and operated. They promote transparency, fairness, and safety, while also strengthening impact.

While platforms should tailor guidelines to their local context, three core sections are required:

- **Leadership Structure:** Describe how leadership roles (e.g., Chair) are elected, including term limits and rotation.
- **Decision-Making Process:** Define how decisions are made, especially in the case of disagreement (e.g., majority vote).
- **Membership Management & Conflict Mediation:** Set procedures for managing membership and resolving conflicts, including how to handle breaches of the code of conduct.

*You can use the [Brave X Governance Guidelines](#) as an example and guide.*

## Step 4: Secure a Fiscal Sponsor (OPTIONAL)

**Brave Platforms are loosely formed coalitions, and not legal entities. You are NOT required to identify and secure a fiscal sponsor (or “host organization”) in order to apply to establish Brave Platform, but you may choose to do so if you wish to pursue funding as a Brave Platform.**

### What is a fiscal sponsor?

A fiscal sponsor provides essential support in financial management, legal compliance (including tax-exempt status), and organizational credibility, enabling your Platform to focus on achieving your advocacy goals and mission. Brave Platforms can only receive and utilize funds through a fiscal sponsor or host organization.

### How to Identify and Secure a Fiscal Sponsor

1. **Research potential fiscal sponsors** - Use online resources, local networks, non-profit associations, and recommendations to search for organizations that specialize in survivor engagement, child protection, human rights advocacy, or another similar area.
2. **Assess capacity and services** - Verify that the potential sponsor has the capacity to manage your financial, legal, and administrative needs.
3. **Establish contact and begin discussions** - Reach out to potential sponsors by sending a professional introductory letter/email to schedule a meeting.
4. **Negotiate a sponsorship agreement** - Work collaboratively to draft a fiscal sponsorship agreement that includes details such as financial reporting responsibilities, legal liabilities, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Define scope of services, fees, timelines, and expectations from both parties.
5. **Secure the official agreement** - Once terms are finalized, sign the agreement and obtain any official documentation required to formalize the sponsorship. Share the agreement with founding members of your Platform.

***The Brave Movement Action Team (MAT) can provide guidance for registered Brave members interested in securing a fiscal sponsor and establishing a Platform.***

## Step 5: Submit your Application

Your next step is to complete the [Brave Platform Application Form](#) and officially submit your plan and documentation.

### Review Process

The Brave Movement Action Team (MAT) will review your application and begin the assessment process. This process is intended to ensure you are set up for success while still moving forward quickly. **As part of Brave's commitment to transparency, here are the steps to the review process.**

1. **Existing Platform Check** - Brave only permits one (1) Platform per country. If another Platform is established in the country, your application will be denied.
2. **Initial Application Screening** - Brave will verify that your application has been properly completed and that you are eligible to apply (e.g. connection to the Platform's country, currently registered as a Brave member).
3. **Evaluation of Alignment with Core Values** – Brave will assess whether your vision and goals align with the Brave Movement's values.
4. **Review of Governance Guidelines & Code of Conduct** – Brave will ensure your governance guidelines and code of conduct meet the requirements.
5. **Interview with Applicants** – Brave will meet with applicants to deepen understanding of your vision and resolve any questions or concerns.

6. **Final Decision-Making** - Brave will make a transparent and informed decision and notify you whether your application has been approved.

## Step 6: Approval and Onboarding

Congratulations! If you have reached “Step 6”, that means your application to become a registered Brave Platform has been approved. You will receive a formal notice of approval, along with guidelines, training materials, and other resources.

The Brave Movement Action Team (MAT) will coordinate with you to begin onboarding and setting up your Platform.

1. **Meet for initial onboarding call** - The MAT will assign a liaison to guide you through the onboarding process and schedule ongoing checkpoints during the first six (6) months of operation.
2. **Announcement to Membership** - The MAT will notify Brave members in the country that a new Platform has been established and to contact the Platform representatives if they are interested in joining.

### ***Trial Period***

All Brave Platforms are subject to a six (6) month transition period – this is intended to support Platform representatives and ensure the success of your efforts.

During this time, you must engage in at least two (2) check-ins with a representative of the Brave MAT. Failing to engage the MAT during this period may result in the loss of your Platform status.

## STEP 7: Tell the world! Launch the Platform!