

Brave Movement's G20 call to action 2025



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- **1 in 2 children is a victim of violence.¹**
- **1 in 5 girls, and 1 in 7 boys, experience sexual violence.²**

The impact of this violence is devastating and long-lasting. In addition to the human cost, violence against children imposes significant economic burdens across countries, regardless of income status, region or cultural context. National-level estimates of the overall direct and indirect costs of violence are as high as 11% of national gross domestic product (GDP)³.

This crisis is grossly undermining the mission of the G20 to foster global economic cooperation and address major international economic issues. In response, the Brave Movement, a global survivor led and centered movement to end childhood sexual violence calls on G20 leaders to take decisive and ambitious action against sexual violence against children and adolescents. This moment presents a unique opportunity to translate commitments into tangible financial investments for measurable and sustained systemic change.

We, the children who your previous policies failed to protect, and our allies, call upon G20 leaders to demonstrate decisive leadership and make concrete policy and financial commitments to keep children safe.

Policy priorities for G20 action

Ahead of the 2025 G20 Summit, the Brave Movement is calling on all Member States to leverage this opportunity for government action through the following evidence-based proposals:

1. Invest in keeping children safe

The direct and indirect costs of violence arise in different ways. Child victims of violence more often struggle to reach their full education and health potential, limiting their

¹ [Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: a systematic review and minimum estimates](#).

Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, Kress H. Pediatrics 2016; 137(3)

² Together For Girls, 2024. [Break the Record](#).

³ [Building the Investment Case For Ending Violence Against Children](#), UN Special Representative of Violence Against Children, 2025

future income and productivity. Governments incur direct costs in responding to the impact of violence on the short- and long-term health of its victims. There are substantial costs associated with the child protection and justice systems' responses in providing rehabilitation to victims and enforcing the law against perpetrators.

Violence against children also has indirect, long-term costs, as it undermines investments in children's health, education and the other social sectors. National-level estimates of the overall direct and indirect costs of violence are as high as 11 % of national GDP. The scale of the cost becomes clear when benchmarked against, for example, total government health expenditures: the annual costs of violence against children exceed annual government expenditure on health in several countries, in some cases by up to six times.⁴

We call on all G20 governments to invest in children, and their future. Increase public spending within national child protection and violence prevention structures, and take a child rights-based approach to budgeting by:

- **Ensuring national budgets** reflect the urgency of protecting children as part of growth and social progress.
- **Making financial data on child protection** transparent and trackable.
- **Committing catalytic funding for digital safety**, supported by co-investment from the private sector and international partners.
- **Leveraging international financial institutions** to offer grants, loans, and technical support embedding children's online safety into larger digital transformation agendas.
- **Boosting official development assistance (ODA)** to level the playing field globally supporting tech-led solutions and pooling investments through collaborative mechanisms like Safe Online.

2. Enhance online safety provisions

Technology is fast-moving but digital safety is lacking behind. The scale and complexity of digital risks and harms to children and young people have far outpaced the resources available to combat them, leaving millions of children exposed, unsupported,

⁴ Ibid.

and unheard. Failure to invest now not only endangers individual children but also undermines the collective social and economic progress of communities and nations.

We are witnessing a terrifying increase in child sexual abuse material (CSAM) circulating online, with more than **105 million images detected online in 2023** and online grooming cases increasing by over 300% in the same period.

We call on G20 nations to enact globally-aligned legislation, prioritising children's safety, and ensuring coordination across government, law enforcement, the tech industry, and civil society in building a safer internet.

This legislation must mandate tech companies to detect and remove content from their services. They must also commit to design and put in place safety measures to prevent child sexual abuse online and specific regulations addressing emerging technologies, particularly around generative AI and the utilisation of available software designed to tackle online dissemination.

3. Establish national survivor councils

National survivor councils make sure that survivors aren't just heard - they lead the way as coarchitects of meaningful change. By shaping policies to end childhood sexual abuse, we shatter the silence and create lasting change.

National survivor councils center lived experience to guarantee the solutions we build are not only informed, but truly transformative. Survivors have firsthand experience and insights into the complexities, challenges, and needs of those who have suffered from childhood sexual violence. Their direct experiences provide invaluable perspectives and expertise that policymakers may lack.

Through the creation of national survivor councils (NSCs), governments are better equipped to effectively address violence against children, especially childhood sexual violence, while ensuring that survivors play a central role in all such efforts. These councils don't just give feedback; they help shape the actual policies that impact how we prevent and respond to childhood sexual violence.

We further call on G20 leaders to endorse and take up the Council of Europe Policy Guidelines for ensuring survivor engagement across all sectors. This document, written by survivors, sets out ways to increase transparency and accountability in engaging survivors in policy, reform and service delivery design.

We call on all G20 countries to establish a survivor council.

4. Abolishing statutes of limitations (SOLs)

The journey of healing and justice often requires decades, with studies showing that **52 is the average age of disclosure**. This makes arbitrary time limits on legal action particularly harmful and deprives survivors of their right to access justice. Similarly, support systems for historical cases must be established, with special provisions for institutional abuse cases. When missed prosecution deadlines leave serial predators free to continue abusing children, the consequences are devastating—but by abolishing statutes of limitations, we can build safer environments for children by stopping these individuals from causing further harm and ensuring they are held accountable.

Building on the findings of the 2023 "Justice Unleashed" report co-authored by two of our Brave Movement survivor leaders and Child Global, **we are calling for the complete removal of criminal and civil statutes of limitations for child sexual abuse cases.**

"To our world leaders out there—we need you to hold hands as different countries and fight this pandemic of sexual violence, especially against children. Those children are our future."

- Sheila

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This call to action is anchored in the expertise, voices and experience of survivors and allies, including our fellow youth activists. It is also building on the political momentum and landmark commitments from the Bogota **Global Ministerial Conference on Violence against Children** in November 2024 and leveraging the collaborative leadership of strategic partners.