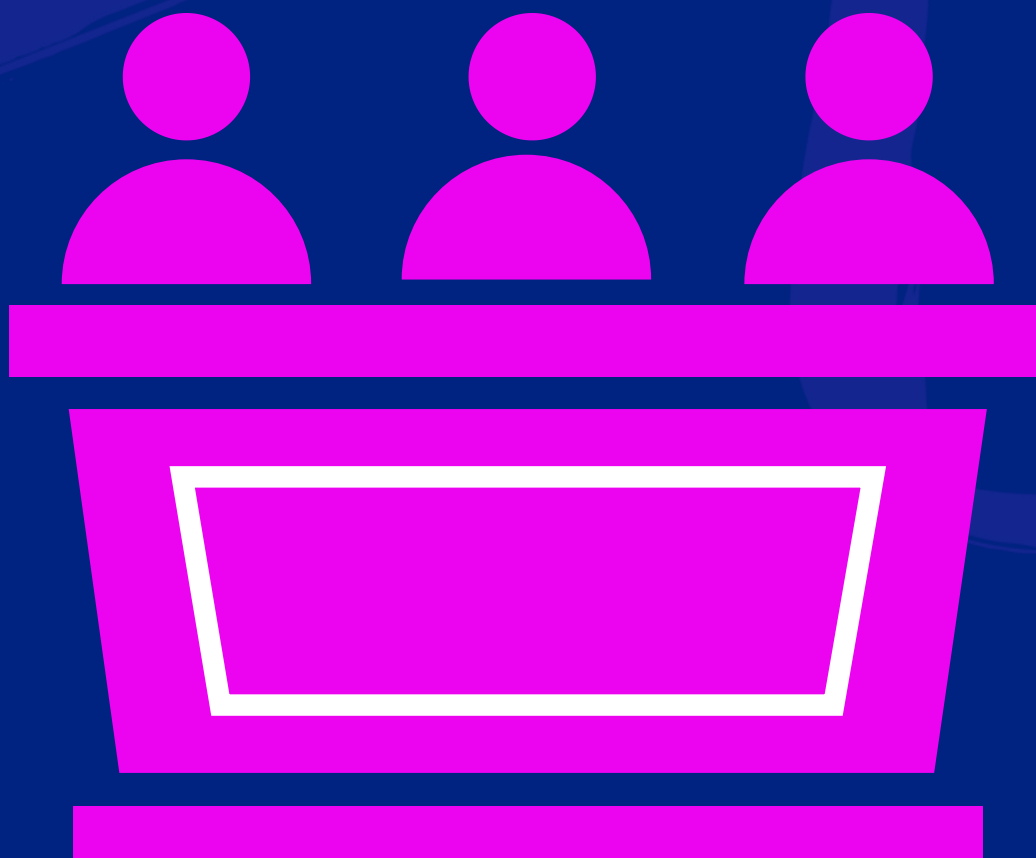


Policy brief:

**Brave Movement's
G20 call to action 2025:**

Establishing national survivor councils
to end childhood sexual violence



Policy brief: Establishing national survivor councils to end childhood sexual violence

A G20 call to action (2025)

Prepared by: Brave Movement

Mission: To end childhood sexual violence through survivor leadership

Executive summary

Survivors of childhood sexual violence are not just victims they are experts. Yet their voices remain systematically excluded from policymaking. National Survivor Councils (NSCs) institutionalize survivor leadership, ensuring policies are co-designed by those with lived experience, transforming theory into real-world impact.

Why survivor leadership matters:

- 1 in 5 children globally experience sexual violence (WHO, 2024).
- Policies fail when survivors aren't at the table, perpetuating gaps in prevention, justice, and support.
- Germany, France, and the UK (via G7 commitments) have pioneered NSCs now the G20 must scale this model worldwide.

Brave Movement's demands for G20 leaders:

- Commit to establishing National Survivor Councils in all G20 countries by 2027?
- Endorse the Council of Europe's Survivor Engagement Guidelines for ethical, transparent inclusion.
- Fund and institutionalize survivor-led policymaking at all government levels.

"Survivors of child sexual violence have been seen and heard here in Bogotá; now we need to make sure survivors are also part of the process of accountability. Our lived experience is vital in being able to say how we have come, and what still needs to be done. That is why every government should commit to forming a national survivor council, as we build a safe future for our children." — Lydia Matioli, Freely in Hope Kenya, speaking at VAC Ministerial, Nov 2024

1. The case for national survivor councils

The Problem: policies without survivors fail

Most child protection laws are designed without survivor input, resulting in:

- Weak prevention strategies that miss real risks (e.g., digital exploitation).
- Inaccessible justice systems that retraumatize victims.
- Tokenism (one-off consultations ≠ sustained leadership).

The solution: Institutionalizing survivor leadership

NSCs ensure:

- Trauma-informed, practical policies.
- Accountability to those affected.
- Prevention strategies grounded in lived experience.

Global success stories:

- Germany: Independent Federal Commissioner Against Child Sexual Abuse (survivor-led since 2022).
- France: National victims council project pledged by the former Prime Minister François Bayrou. Process underway to implement this pledge.
- UK: G7 commitment (2025 pledge to launch an NSC).

2. How G20 countries can establish NSCs

Step 1: Legal mandate and funding

- Legislate NSCs via child protection reforms.
- Dedicate national budget lines for NSC operations.
- Sensitisation, community dialogue, and localisation of solutions.

Step 2: Ethical recruitment and support

- Recruiting with the diversity of survivor / lived experiences in mind to prevent a monolith
- Compensate survivors for expertise (no unpaid labor).
- Provide trauma-informed training for members and officials.

Step 3: Decision-making power

- NSCs must co-draft laws—not just review them.
- Mandate NSC seats in government task forces (e.g., AI/digital safety).

Step 4: Transparency and accountability

- Publicly report on NSC impact (annual progress to parliament).

- Adopt the Council of Europe's Guidelines to prevent tokenism.

3. G20 action plan

Immediate steps for leaders

- Announce NSC commitments at the 2025 G20 Summit.
- Launch a G20 Survivor Councils Working Group to share best practices.
- Pool funding via World Bank/IMF to support lower-income countries.

Long-term success metrics

- By 2026: All G20 nations draft NSC laws.
By 2027: 50% of child protection policies co-written by survivors.

4. Survivors' call to action

"We refuse to be siloed and tokenised. We demand a seat where decisions are made".

Key resources:

- Brave Movement's NSC Framework (How to build ethical councils).
- Council of Europe's Survivor Engagement Guidelines.
- Case Studies: Germany, France, UK models.