

2026 Advocacy snapshot: Colombia

Overview of findings:



(global average: 52.6/100)

Point of recognition: Colombia ranks 1st in the Prevention pillar, leading all other countries by three points. It is also one of only two countries, alongside Kazakhstan, that require healthcare providers who work with children to receive training on sexual violence against children.

Explore Colombia's full results in the 2026 Out of the Shadows Index at: outoftheshadows.global/colombia

"It is not enough to have laws on paper if there are no real guarantees of protection, gender-responsive justice, comprehensive support, and a national action plan that puts the experiences of victims/survivors at the center."

— Sofía Vela Mejía, Director of Fundación Las Guaguas and survivor

Calls to action

**brave
movement.**

- **Establish a national survivor council** to leverage the lived experience and expertise of survivors and strengthen policy development. Read more about why, and how, your government should institute a National Survivor Council at bravemovement.org/campaigns/national-survivor-councils.
- **Strengthening statutes of limitation reform by closing remaining gaps** —particularly by eliminating limitation periods for all related crimes such as child trafficking, and ensuring that Concordat agreements do not create barriers to accountability for clergy or restrict access to evidence — in line with global best practice and as outlined in the [Brave Movement Report Criminal Statutes of Limitation in Latin America 2024](https://cdn.bravemovement.org/files/criminal-sols-latin-america_2025-06-04-094631_xnkz.pdf).¹
- **Strengthen legal protections**, ensuring laws criminalizing child sexual abuse by family members and people in positions of authority or trust extend to a broad range of relationships/positions.

¹ https://cdn.bravemovement.org/files/criminal-sols-latin-america_2025-06-04-094631_xnkz.pdf

Governance and accountability

44.6/100 (6th in the region)

Area of progress: Colombia received full points for **child engagement in national policymaking** and for the **national data collection on the prevalence of sexual violence against children**, having conducted a Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS) in 2018.²

Opportunity for change:

Colombia has not yet established a government-supported **National Survivor Council** to ensure survivor-led input into planning and policymaking related to sexual violence against children. The country also lacks a **national action plan** on sexual violence against children.

Prevention

83.3/100 (1st globally)

Area of progress: Colombia received full points for having a **child helpline** and **legislation requiring training for healthcare providers** working directly with children.

Opportunity for change:

Colombia could strengthen **life-skills-based sexuality education** by expanding curriculum content to explicitly address online safety and the risks of sexual abuse and exploitation through digital technologies.

Tip: Your country made pledges at the First Global Ministerial to End Violence Against Children in 2024. Use the Index findings to show your government where more action is needed to deliver on those pledges. Explore pledges at endviolenceagainstchildrenconference.org

About the Out of the Shadows Index:

The Out of the Shadows Index is the global benchmark of national governments' efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents. The Index is researched and developed by Economist Enterprise, with advocacy and engagement efforts led by Together for Girls. Learn more at outoftheshadows.global.

Healing

75/100 (Tied for 2nd in the region)

Area of progress: Colombia received full points for having **health sector guidelines** for the clinical and forensic evaluation of children who experience sexual violence and for providing **government-funded legal aid for victims and survivors**.

Opportunity for change:

Colombia has developed some **integrated victim and survivor services**. However, service delivery remains fragmented, with coordination occurring primarily through referral pathways rather than through integrated or co-located service models.

Justice

74.5/100 (2nd in the region)

Area of progress: Colombia received full points for **prohibiting corporal punishment**, setting the **minimum age of marriage at 18** with no exceptions, **criminalizing sexual violence against children**, and **eliminating statutes of limitations**. Colombia has also established **child-sensitive law enforcement mechanisms** and comprehensive **legislation addressing child sexual abuse material**.

Opportunity for change: Colombia could strengthen its legal framework by explicitly criminalizing **intrafamilial sexual abuse** and sexual offenses committed by individuals in **positions of authority or trust**.

Explore our digital advocacy tools to support your advocacy efforts at outoftheshadows.global/en/advocacy-tools

² <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/en/resources/colombia-vacs-report-2020>