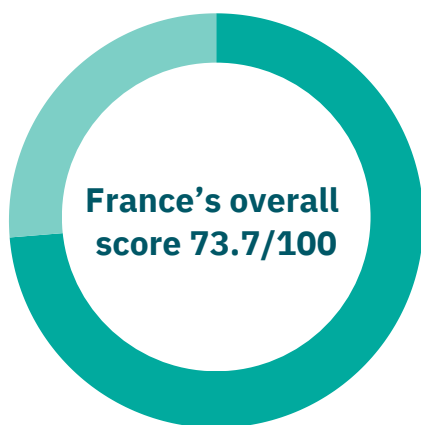


2026 Advocacy snapshot: France

Overview of findings:



(global average: 52.6/100)

Point of recognition: France tied with Italy for the highest score on laws against online childhood sexual violence in the Europe and Central Asia region, demonstrating clear leadership.

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

“France must demonstrate leadership in child protection by pairing political ambition with concrete investment. It is time for France to fully establish a National Survivors Council whose expertise and lived experience can help guide reforms, strengthen public policy, and hold public institutions accountable for delivering on their commitments.”

- Constance Bertrand, Survivor leader

Calls to action

**brave
movement.**

- **Formalize the National Survivor Council**, to establish a permanent, government-supported mechanism for lived experience to inform policy.
- **Fully eliminate statutes of limitation for sexual violence against children** to allow victims and survivors to access justice when they are ready to come forward.
- **Develop a national action plan that addresses online sexual violence against children and adolescents**, to ensure a strategic and coordinated national effort.

Governance and accountability

55.9/100 (6th in the region)

Area of progress: France is one of just two countries in the Index to receive partial credit for taking initial steps towards establishing a government-supported **National Survivor Council**.

Opportunity for change:

France's **national action plan** on sexual violence could be strengthened with clear budgets and by incorporating or developing a separate plan to address online safety.

Prevention

63.3/100 (Tied for 3rd in the region)

Area of progress: France received full points for its accessible **child helpline**.

Opportunity for change: There is no publicly available evidence that national legislation in France requires **pre-service or recurring training** on sexual violence against children for general medical doctors who provide primary care to children.

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

80/100 (Tied for 3rd in the region)

Area of progress: France has government-funded **compensation** mechanisms in place to support victims and survivors - something only one-third of countries in the Index have instituted.

Opportunity for change:

France's **national guidelines for the health sector** on care for children and adolescents who may have experienced sexual violence do not appear to include specific guidance on the collection and preservation of forensic evidence.

Justice

82.2/100 (2nd in the region)

Area of progress: France's national legislation **requires internet service providers to report suspected child sexual abuse material** to law enforcement or another mandated agency - a step that only two other countries in the Europe and Central Asia region have taken.

Opportunity for change:

France should raise the **age of consent** to 18, with a close-in-age exemption, and the legal **age of marriage** to 18, with all exceptions considered.

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