

2026 Advocacy snapshot: Nepal

Overview of findings:



(global average: 52.6/100)

Point of recognition: Nepal is tied for 1st place on the Healing pillar globally, alongside Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, and Sri Lanka.

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

“Nepal has an opportunity to strengthen efforts to end child marriage, prevent sexual violence, invest in trauma-informed services, and ensure every child can grow up safe, heard, and supported.”

- Suresh Chhetry, Survivor leader

Calls to action

**brave
movement.**

- **Establish a National Survivor Council** to leverage the lived experience and expertise of survivors and strengthen policy development.
- **Eliminate Statutes of Limitations for childhood sexual violence**¹. Many children never tell someone about an experience of sexual violence, or only report abuse when they are much older. Perpetrators must be held accountable regardless of timelines.
- **Increase accessibility of the Child Helpline 1098** for all children by putting in place text and chat options for children who cannot safely make calls.
- **Increase budget transparency**, to make public your budgetary commitments to prevention and response programs for children, adolescents, and survivors. Find tailored recommendations at internationalbudget.org.
- **Strengthen legal protections** by:
 - **Criminalizing all forms of intrafamilial sexual abuse** and abuse by persons in positions of authority for all children (e.g., update the definition of statutory rape to include boys).
 - **Setting the age of consent at 18** for boys as it is for girls, with a close-in-age exemption.
 - **Banning sexual exploitation and online grooming** of children.
 - **Requiring internet service providers to report** suspected child sexual abuse material.
 - **Connecting to INTERPOL's database** on international child sexual exploitation crimes.

¹ <https://www.bravemovement.org/our-priorities/abolish-statutes-of-limitation>

Governance and accountability

28.6/100

Area of progress: Nepal participated in the 2015 Global School-based Student Health Survey and should continue this strategic investment through an updated **population-level study** on the problem of violence against children, including both online and in-person sexual violence.

Opportunity for change:

Nepal does not have a current **national action plan** addressing prevention and response to sexual violence against children. An action plan detailing specific activities, responsible agencies, and costs would help translate political commitment into coordinated action.

Prevention

30/100

Area of progress: Nepal is one of only 15% of countries in the Index to receive full credit for **life-skills-based sexuality education**² with content on online safety, as well as how to recognize and seek help for sexual abuse.

Opportunity for change:

Nepal does not yet provide **parenting and caregiver support** through home-visiting or center-based programs, require **background checks** for all adults working in direct contact with children, or require **training for general medical doctors** on identifying and responding to sexual violence against children.

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

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

85/100 (tied for 1st globally)

Area of progress: Nepal received full credit for **health sector guidelines** for the clinical and forensic evaluation of children who experience sexual violence. Nepal also has government-funded legal aid and victims' **compensation** mechanisms.

Opportunity for change:

Nepal can continue to work to expand access to and availability of quality **medical care** for sexual violence in childhood and **integrated victim and survivor services**.

Justice

51.2/100

Area of progress: Nepal received full credit for **criminalizing corporal punishment** in all settings and setting the **minimum age of marriage** at 18 with no exceptions.

Opportunity for change:

In Nepal, **laws against sexual violence in childhood and online sexual abuse** should be strengthened.

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

² <https://outoftheshadows.global/en/indicators/education-for-students>