

2026 Advocacy snapshot: Nigeria

Overview of findings:



(global average: 52.6/100)

Point of recognition: Nigeria ranks 3rd among 16 countries in the Eastern and Southern Africa & West and Central Africa region.

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

“Brave Nigeria is well positioned to stand with the Government of Nigeria as a bold, survivor-informed movement for child safety—mobilizing evidence, public will, and cross-sector action to protect every child from violence, whether online, offline, or in the face of displacement and crisis.”

- Dr. Bukola Ogunkua, 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. Read more about why, and how, your government should institute a National Survivor Council [here](https://www.bravemovement.org/campaigns/national-survivor-councils).¹
- **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.
- **Increase accessibility of the Child Helpline** for all children by putting in place text and chat options for children who cannot safely make calls.
- **Strengthen legal protections**, including banning corporal punishment in all settings and establishing special procedures for child victims in the criminal justice system.

¹ <https://www.bravemovement.org/campaigns/national-survivor-councils>

Governance and accountability

46.6/100 (4th in the region)

Area of progress: Nigeria scored highest in the Eastern and Southern Africa & West and Central Africa region for ratifying 6 out of 8 **key international instruments** to protect children.

Opportunity for change:

Nigeria has not collected **nationally representative data** on violence against children, including sexual violence, in the past 10 years.

Prevention

30/100 (Tied for 8th in the region)

Area of progress: Nigeria has home-visiting and center-based **caregiver and parenting support programs**.

Opportunity for change:

Nigeria has not yet put in place **life-skills-based sexuality education**², including sexual abuse identification and help-seeking, and online safety, or mandated **background checks**³ for all adults working in direct contact with children. Nigeria's **helpline**⁴ accessibility could be improved by adding chat or text functions.

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

Healing

50/100 (Tied for 3rd in the region)

Area of progress: In Nigeria, children who experience sexual violence are entitled to government-funded **legal aid**.

Opportunity for change:

Nigeria has not yet issued **health sector guidelines** for the clinical management of sexual violence against children, including forensic evaluation and evidence preservation.

Justice

60.8/100 (4th in the region)

Area of progress: Nigeria has established the **legal age of marriage** at 18 with no exceptions and has **criminalized child sexual exploitation, trafficking, and child sexual abuse material**.

Opportunity for change:

In Nigeria, laws against childhood sexual violence could be strengthened by **criminalizing intrafamilial sexual abuse** and sexual abuse by persons in **positions of authority**. **Grooming** laws should also be strengthened to apply regardless of intention to meet and to define grooming as a pattern of behavior intended to build trust with a child for sexual purposes.

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.

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

³ <https://outoftheshadows.global/en/indicators/background-checks>

⁴ <https://outoftheshadows.global/en/indicators/availability-of-helpline>