

## Apply for a Grant to Participate in an Advocacy Event!

Support for survivor activists and survivor-led organizations attending and participating in specific, time-bound advocacy events. These grants are part of the Survivor-Led Activism Fund created to contribute to efforts to prevent child sexual abuse and violence in Europe.

# Apply for Funding to Participate in an Advocacy Event!

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**Welcome to the Survivor-Led Activism Fund, a fund created for survivor-led change to contribute to efforts to prevent child sexual abuse and child sexual violence in Europe.**

## Who are we? What is GFC?

**Global Fund for Children (GFC) works to build a world where all children and youth are safe, strong, and valued.** We partner with innovative, community-based organizations, helping them deepen their impact and build their capacity for social change. Since 1994, we have supported more than 1,000 local partners to fight for basic human rights, shift social norms, and champion policies that foster lasting change, reaching over 11 million children. We continue to center young people as leaders and changemakers.

We create space for communities to drive systemic change. We know that our partners are closest to their communities, which gives them the possibility of unparalleled insight into local strengths and evolving needs and how to navigate complex local systems. We believe that meaningful change must be guided by the needs and priorities of those most affected by an issue, including survivors of child sexual abuse and violence.

That's why we have launched the **Survivor-Led Activism Fund: a fund that works in partnership with survivors, to support survivor-led initiatives.**

## What is the Survivor-Led Activism Fund?

The Survivor-Led Activism Fund primarily supports survivor-led efforts. Its purpose is to provide financial support to both individual survivor activists and survivor-led organizations or groups engaging in activism.

**Please note: If you are currently experiencing violence or need support, please reach out to a local organization in your area. We do not provide direct support or crisis services for people currently experiencing abuse.**

GFC's role as a funder is to support activists and survivor groups doing activism to prevent child sexual abuse and/or violence.

## What are the Advocacy Events Participation Grants?

Global Fund for Children is offering Advocacy Event Participation Grants to support survivor activists and survivor-led groups to take part in important advocacy opportunities.

These grants provide financial support to enable participation in specific advocacy moments that can help strengthen survivor voices, build connections, influence decision-makers, share expertise, or increase visibility for survivor-led efforts.

The grants are intended to support participation in one specific event or opportunity with fixed dates. They are not designed to provide core funding or support ongoing projects or campaigns.

## What do we mean by an "Advocacy Event"?

For this grant, an advocacy event is a specific, time-bound opportunity where participation can contribute to influencing policies, systems, professional practice, public awareness, or movement building related to preventing child sexual abuse and child sexual violence.

We will fund travel, accommodation, registration, visas, access/accessibility costs in advocacy events that are:

- Clearly defined events (e.g. conference, convening, advocacy week, policy meeting)
- Have confirmed dates and location
- Take place over a shorter timeframe (for example, a few days or up to one week)
- Involve clear participation (e.g. attending, participating speaking, facilitating, contributing)

We are not able to fund broader or ongoing opportunities via this specific grant, such as general advocacy campaigns, long-term projects.

## What are we looking for?

All applications are welcome, and there is no scoring of your personal story. When we read an application, we look for:

- A clear link between the event and efforts to prevent child sexual abuse and/or child sexual violence
- How the work is survivor-led, described in your own words
- Realistic timing, with an event that has confirmed dates and open registration.

## Grant details

- Grant size:
  - Up to £9,000 pounds for survivor-led groups or survivor-led organizations
  - Up to £4,500 pounds for individual survivor activists.
- Number of grants: We will fund up to 10 grants in total
- Implementation period:
  - The grant should cover participation in a specific, short-term event (rather than activities over several months).
  - The event can happen over the course of the next 6 months from time of your application.
- The applications will be assessed on a rolling basis every month.
- The final deadline will be until November 2026. We may close this call for applications earlier than the final deadline in November if all the 10 grants are selected. Once all the 10 grants are made, then we will close before the deadline.

## What can the grant cover?

The grant can be used flexibly to make taking part in the advocacy event possible. Depending on your situation, this can include:

- Economy class travel and accommodation
- Event registration or participation fees
- Visa costs, where these are needed
- Accessibility costs, such as interpretation or support from a personal assistant or companion
- Care costs, such as childcare, while you are away

- Wellbeing or support costs connected to taking part in the event
- Training or coaching specifically for the event attendees to prepare their participation (for example, public speaking training or coaching)
- For individuals, a contribution towards income lost while attending
- If something you need in order to take part isn't listed here, you are welcome to ask — we will assess your request.

## Can I Apply?

You can apply if:

- You are over 18 years old\*
- You are an individual survivor activist or you are survivor-led group or organization
  - You can see definition of “Survivor-Led” below)
  - (You do not need to have disclosed that you are a survivor or your story or publicly).
- You are based in one of the eligible countries listed below
- You have a clear plan to participate in a specific, time-bound advocacy event

We welcome applications from:

- Individual survivors doing activism or advocacy
- Survivor-led groups (registered or unregistered) including activist circles, peer networks, or grassroots campaigns

We especially encourage applicants from survivors from marginalized backgrounds, including but not limited to people of colour & racialized people, LGBTQIA+ people, migrants, people with disabilities, and those with lived experience of poverty, people from working class backgrounds, people with experience of institutional care or residential care homes.

*\*Over 18 years old explanation: For this pilot phase, the Fund is only accepting applications from people aged 18 and over so we can ensure our safeguarding and support systems are appropriate.*

## Eligible countries:

You should be based in one of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

You may apply to participate in an advocacy event **in any country, including countries not listed above**. The event does not need to take place in your country of residence or within the list of eligible countries.

## Who can't apply?

Grounded in our values, we have decided not to support:

- Local offices, affiliates, or projects of large INGOs, governments, or intergovernmental organizations
- Efforts to support or oppose candidates for public office
- Evangelism or proselytizing, or programs that require adherence to or conversion to religious doctrine
- Organizations that, in policy or in practice, discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation
- Groups that conduct or support violent activities or violate criminal law

## What do we mean by Child Sexual Abuse and Violence?

We say child sexual abuse and child sexual violence (CSA/CS V) to describe any sexual violence experienced by a person under the age of 18. It can include many experiences, including (but not limited to):

- Grooming - online or in person
- Coercion, manipulation, or abuse of power
- Trafficking or sexual exploitation
- Sexual assault or sexual abuse

This violence can happen in families, in institutions, in communities, or online, and can be committed by adults or peers. It exists in systems of inequality and silence like patriarchy, racism, ableism, classism, and others. Its impact can continue throughout life and across families and communities.

We honor and recognize all survivors - across every gender, sexuality, race, culture, ability, and background. Each survivor's story and understanding of their experience is valid and deserves to be heard and believed.

This is a preliminary definition for the purpose of this call for applications. We recognize that definitions of survivorship and child sexual abuse/violence are complex and personal. There is no one way to identify as a survivor.

## What do we mean by Survivor & Survivor-Led Organizations?

### Survivor

When we say "survivor," we mean someone who experienced sexual abuse or violence as a child or teenager (under 18). We chose this word because it recognizes strength and resilience. However, we understand that not everyone uses the word "survivor" to describe themselves - some may prefer "victim," "person with lived experience," or other terms. Whatever word feels right for you is valid.

### Survivor-led

Survivors have real, voluntary and safe roles and decision-making power. Their lived experience is respected as real expertise. This can look different for everyone. For example, survivors might:

- Ideally have a majority of survivors in decision making
- Be part of the team running the work
- Help make decisions about goals and priorities
- Guide the work using their experience
- Be visible - or prefer to stay anonymous and lead quietly

We do not ask for details of your personal experience. Instead, we ask you to describe how your work is survivor-led in your own words.

## If I apply or receive funding, who will know I am a survivor?

If you apply for an Advocacy Event Participation Grant, some staff members and consultants for Global Fund for Children will know you are a survivor. We will share our confidentiality policy with you if you are selected to receive a grant.

If you're invited to take part in public materials (such as photos, interviews, or communications about the Fund), it is always entirely your choice. It is not a requirement to receive funding. You can choose to stay anonymous, use a pseudonym, or not participate at all, and we will fully respect whatever feels right for you.

## Why are we prioritizing survivor leadership?

Survivors of child sexual abuse and violence bring experience, deep insight, and clarity to the work of ending violence. Survivor leadership is grounded in an understanding of the realities of harm and the root causes of the issue.

We believe that survivors are experts in what change is needed and change is most possible when those affected lead the way.

## How to apply?

To apply for funding, please apply through this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XFKY73P>

Please apply at least 2 month in advance of your advocacy event, as it may take some time to process your application and arrange the grant.

We will review applications on a monthly basis on 10th of each month.

We will close this round of applications on 10 November 2026. We will fund up to 10 grants in total. Once all available grants have been awarded, this call will close, even if this is before the final deadline. We are currently only able to receive applications in English. If you apply in a language other than English, we may need to use automatic translation software.

Feel free to provide a reference in your application - this can be a peer, mentor or someone who knows your values or community work. If you prefer, we can contact your reference without specific mention of the Fund, simply asking them to speak to your values and experience in collaborative spaces without specific mention of the Fund.

If you receive a grant, we will ask for a short reflection on how the event went, what you learned, and what the experience meant for your work.

## **Still have questions? Or feel unsure if this is for you?**

**You're welcome to reach out, we're here to answer any questions you may have.**

Contact us: [survivoractivism@globalfundforchildren.org](mailto:survivoractivism@globalfundforchildren.org)

Please feel free to also share any feedback you may have.



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