

End Violence Partnership

2022 Open Call: Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

Prior to completing your proposal, please review this FAQ carefully. Questions or clarifications during the application period can be submitted [here](#). Answers to all questions submitted will be shared publicly periodically.

2022 OPEN CALL: Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund

- KEY FACTS

1. What is End Violence?

[The End Violence Partnership](#) is a public-private partnership launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2016 to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16.2: ending all forms of violence against children by 2030. End Violence comprises 600+ partners, including governments, civil society organisations, United Nations agencies, the private sector and research institutions, and acts as a global platform for advocacy, evidence-based action, and investments to end all forms of violence against children.

The [End Violence Fund](#) is a flexible funding vehicle that: a) identifies and addresses new and emerging challenges that threaten achievement of SDG 16.2; b) invests in innovative initiatives that have the potential to replicate and scale, and c) generates evidence, data and learning to inform policy and increase the impact of programmes.

Through its [Safe Online initiative](#), End Violence provides funding, policy and advocacy guidance, and coalition-building to significantly advance national, regional and global efforts to prevent and respond to online child sexual exploitation and abuse (online CSEA). In 2020, End Violence's Safe Online investment portfolio reached US\$68 million in grants to 80 projects achieving tangible results in over 75 countries. The Safe Online's grant portfolio can be [found here](#).

Both the End Violence Partnership and the End Violence Fund are financially and administratively hosted by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

2. What is the primary focus of this 2022 Open Call?

We are looking for solutions that can help achieve one or more of the three specific objectives below:

- a. **Prevention and deterrence of online CSEA.** To prevent harm to children we must identify ways to promote safety in digital environments and put in place deterrence measures that identify and disrupt risky situations before harm happens.

2. **Detection and reporting of online CSEA.** To quickly and accurately identify and remove child sexual abuse material (CSAM), detection technology must quickly evolve. This includes detecting CSAM within new technological environments as well as increasing the ability to detect complex interactions like grooming or solicitation. Alongside technological measures, effective reporting (by or on behalf of children) both to and by technology companies is a crucial tool in identifying and removing CSAM, and identifying offenders.
- b. **Response and support to the full ecosystem, especially victims.** Coordinated, collective response is necessary to maximise impact of interventions. Support systems and resources need to be accessible to victims in their differential experiences of online CSEA, children and families in navigating digital environments, professionals working with children's digital safety (e.g. content moderators, law enforcement, direct service providers, etc.), as well as potential and actual offenders.

3. What types of research will End Violence support?

The Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund is interested in receiving Expressions of Interest from legally-registered not-for-profit organisations that are developing innovative research that produces actionable insights that can impact product and policy development, with a priority given to research that can help inform the technology industry's approach to combatting online CSEA. If your organisation is aligned with the 2022 Open Call selection criteria, we would like to hear about your proposed research.

4. What are the funding modalities for this Open Call?

The 2022 Tech Coalition Safe Online Open Call funding of ~US\$800,000 will be made available as grants from End Violence Safe Online. The funding was contributed by the Technology Coalition as part of their Project Protect. There are two streams of funding for awards under this Open Call:

Main Funding Stream A: above US\$ 50,000 - up to US\$ 200,000

Award amounts above US\$ 50,000 and up to US\$ 200,000 will be made available under this stream. All organisations that meet the [Eligibility criteria](#) may apply under this stream. All eligibility criteria elaborated in this request for EOIs apply to applicants in this stream. Tailored support is not offered under this stream for the Full Application in the case of a successful Expression of Interest.

Please note that of the available funds ~US\$ 600,000 aim to support proposals in this funding stream.

Alternative Funding Stream B: up to US\$ 50,000

Award amounts of up to US\$ 50,000 will be made available under this stream. All organisations that meet the [Eligibility criteria](#) may apply under this stream. End Violence would like to encourage applications from underrepresented applicants, including but not limited to applicants with: i) more limited organisational capacity (i.e. micro and small-sized organisations, up to 19 full-time employees), ii) recently established research experience (organisation founded in the past 5 years or research not yet published in peer-reviewed journals), iii) organisations based in [countries eligible for ODA support](#), iv) teams led by underrepresented groups such as BIPOC, LGBTQI+, or those with relevant lived experience



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including survivors of online CSEA, v) and others who would appreciate tailored support and a briefer/adapted application.



Please note that of the available funds ~US\$ 200,000 aim to support proposals in this funding stream.

Safe Online initiative encourages applications that fall anywhere within this range. Proposals will be evaluated for alignment of the scope and activities outlined with the proposed budget. Payment will be made to the applicant's institution, and in the case of a consortium, to the main grantee organisation. Grantees' installments are determined based on their proposed budgets, with 1-2 installments depending on project duration and budget. Indirect costs are limited to 7% for grants, to be co-shared by all the grantees and sub-grantees within each proposal.

5. What is the **geographical focus** of the Open Call?

This Open Call is global. We encourage proposals from organisations, or collaboration with organisations, that are based in or with situational awareness of the country/countries where the solution is developed/implemented. End Violence's Safe Online initiative encourages applicants from diverse contexts, countries and cultures, as well as applications with representation from or inclusion of Global South countries.

6. Do all components of the research used or proposed to be developed need to be **open access**?

Safe Online initiative and the Tech Coalition encourage research projects that are open access, where appropriate to the research and governed by the necessary data and ethical frameworks. If this is not possible given the sensitivity of this research area, please elaborate why in the proposal. Please note the following text in the Grant Confirmation Letter that all applicants are expected to countersign should they be selected as grantees for further clarity: "Except as otherwise expressly provided for in the Programme Document and Budget and/or Grant Confirmation Letter, all intellectual property and other proprietary rights including, but not limited to, patents, copyrights, and trademarks, with regard to products, processes, inventions, ideas, know-how, or documents and other materials which the Grantee develops using the Grant will be managed in a way that maximises public accessibility and allows the broadest possible use."

ELIGIBILITY

7. What **types of organisations** are eligible to submit a proposal?

For this open call we are actively seeking submissions of proposals from non-profit, such as civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations, research institutes and academic institutions. Consortia of organizations with different strengths and expertise are highly encouraged. However, the organisation submitting the application will be considered the main grantee, bearing all the contractual responsibilities vis-à-vis End Violence. Collaboration with other stakeholders such as private companies, law enforcement, government, etc. is encouraged. We encourage maximising synergies across jurisdictions/sectors/communities, as well as awareness of and sharing with existing research.

8. Can my organisation develop a **joint application** in partnership with another organisation?

Yes. Joint applications with other organisations that form part of a consortium are encouraged.

The application should identify a primary organisation applicant that meets the eligibility criteria as specified and is willing and able to sign a Grant Confirmation Letter with UNICEF.

9. Can an organisation submit **multiple Expressions of Interest (EOI)?**

Yes, as long as the eligibility criteria are met for each EOI. Multiple EOIs from the same institution are acceptable. An organisation can submit EOIs under either or both funding streams. An organisation can be the main applicant in one EOI and part of consortium in another one(s). However, consideration will be given to ensure diversity of grant recipients and therefore applications from the same institution will be carefully evaluated with this in mind.

10. Can I submit an Expression of Interest from **anywhere in the world?**

Yes. The organisation must be legally registered in the corresponding country. In addition to this, letters of support from local authorities and organisations will also be required. End Violence's Safe Online initiative encourages applicants from diverse contexts, countries and cultures, as well as applications with representation from or inclusion of Global South countries. As stated in the Open Call documents, Safe Online will have a clear preference for EOIs which are able to show active involvement of local partners and authorities in the design and delivery of activities including strengthening of local capacity through the project.

11. Can current or past **End Violence grantees apply for this Open Call?**

Yes. Safe Online initiative welcomes applications from current and past grantee organisations if their projects align with the objectives of the Open Call and they have the technical, financial, and human resource capacity to meet the requirements of this Open Call.

12. Can I submit an Expression of Interest for funding as an **individual?**

No. Individuals cannot submit proposals. The entity submitting the proposal needs to be a legally registered organisation. Consortia are also encouraged to apply; however, the organisation submitting the application will be considered the main grantee, bearing all the contractual responsibilities vis-à-vis End Violence.

13. Do I have to have a **degree or a university qualification to qualify?**

No. End Violence will assess the suitability of the team and key personnel to implement the project. The team members' formation and experience in similar projects will be an asset for the proposal. At minimum, the team should have demonstrated relevant prior research experience and/or methodological expertise. Qualifying criteria include at least two previous research outputs. To provide evidence of this criterion, you should include links or direct uploads of attachments.

14. Can applicants outsource the **technical expertise in my project?**

Yes, but if the core team does not have the necessary technical expertise, the organisation should explain in response to the relevant application questions in their EOI what type of technical expertise their partners or advisors are able to provide. As per UNICEF rules, all sub-contracting of activities described in the grantee's Programme Document require the prior approval of the UNICEF Funds Support Office. Advance approval is not required if partners sub-contract out general services such as general office IT support, bookkeeping, cleaning services, etc.

15. Is there a **maximum number of people I can have on the team?**

No. Suitability of the team to the proposal will be evaluated as well as if the budget is commensurate with the proposed scope of activities.

16. Can I submit my application in a **language other than English?**

No. If applicant organisations would like to write the EOIs in a local language, Safe Online initiative would be pleased to receive the English translation of such proposals. We recommend that you use translation tools if you're unable to complete the proposal in English. However, applicants should keep in mind the due date for all applications and ensure that the English translation is as accurate to the extent possible.

17. What is the **duration of the supported initiatives?**

Safe Online initiative will support initiatives that last for a maximum of 24 months. There is no minimum requirement but consideration will be given to feasibility of the timeline. A detailed description of the methodology and milestones with associated timeline is required as part of the application process.

18. What is the maximum **budget my organisation can apply for?**

The grants awarded will be up to US\$ 200,000 in funding stream A and up to US\$ 50,000 in funding stream B.

19. How does the tailored support for funding stream B work?

Under funding stream B there is the opportunity for tailored support by the [Advisory Board](#). This tailored support would be provided in the case of a successful EOI applying under funding stream B for the completion of the Full Proposal phase. **Applicants who are interested in this support should include in their [Expression of Interest application](#) the request to be considered for tailored application support if successful in the EOI phase and 1-2 sentences on the need for support and qualifying criteria of the organisation and/or team.**

End Violence would like to encourage applications from underrepresented applicants, including but not limited to applicants with: i) more limited organisational capacity (i.e. micro and small-sized organisations, up to 19 full-time employees), ii) recently established research experience (organisation founded in the past 5 years or research not yet published in peer-reviewed journals), iii) organisations based in [countries eligible for ODA support](#), iv) teams led by underrepresented groups such as BIPOC, LGBTQI+, or those with relevant lived experience including survivors of online CSEA, v) and others who would appreciate tailored support and a briefer/adapted application.

20. What is a **due diligence assessment?**

As Fund Custodian and Administrator, UNICEF is the entity that sends out money to grant recipients of this Open Call. Prior to receiving a grant from End Violence via UNICEF, UNICEF will conduct a due diligence assessment by ensuring that all grantees selected are reviewed with respect to their (i) core values screening and (ii) fiscal management capacity assessment. The core values and integrity assessment are to ensure alignment with UNICEF's core values, whilst the financial management capacity assessment determines eligibility for funding in terms of institutional, managerial, financial and technical expertise.

21. What is a child **safeguarding policy**?

End Violence requires each of its grantees to either already have in place or develop a robust child safeguarding policy before grant confirmation. However, it's not just about having a policy – it's also about ensuring there are procedures in place to put that policy into practice, and that all information on those procedures are easily accessible to practitioners, parents and children. Importantly, any children affected or included in the research also need to be made aware of those procedures and practices, therefore these need to be available in a child-friendly language. The policies and procedures must also address power dynamics within and across organisations, and explicitly understand the role of gender in how we do our work. Acknowledging these factors contribute to the creation of child-safe organisations.

End Violence is committed to supporting organisations' efforts to improve their safeguarding capacity and practice. End Violence's Safe Online investment initiative allows grantees to include a budget line for safeguarding and protection within their proposal budget (up to 5% of the total direct costs). This can include (but is not limited to) costs for capacity building, policy development, a proportion of costs for specialist personnel, as well as costs associated with managing safeguarding/protection concerns. The End Violence's Safeguarding Policy is available for all the grantees to consult [here](#) on our website.

APPLICATION PROCESS

22. How does the **application process** work?

Applicants are expected to **submit a Full Proposal** using this online [Application Form available at End Violence Safe Online 2021 Open Calls webpage](#) starting from **30 September 2021**. The last day for submissions of Proposals is **15 November 2021 11:59 PM EST**. Submissions to this Open Call will be reviewed by technical experts at End Violence as well as a group of external experts, as applicable. Please note that your organisation may be invited to provide more details before funding decisions are final.

23. What are the different **STEPS** in the application process?

STEP 1: Check that your organisation/company and project meet the eligibility criteria:

- your organisation is a **legally registered not-for-profit entity**
- the research addresses one or more of the **four areas** of the 2021 Open Call
- all funding will be directed to an **institution**, not to individuals
- the research project lead may submit only **one proposal**, although project leads may be a supporting researcher on another application.
 - at minimum, the applicant organisation should have **demonstrated relevant prior expertise and/or research experience**
 - the organisation has a **safeguarding policy** in place (including data privacy) or is willing to develop a policy

STEP 2: Any questions?

Please ensure you have thoroughly reviewed the [End Violence Safe Online 2022 Open Call webpage](#) before beginning your application. Please review the Full Request for

Expressions of Interest and download a version of the Application Form to use in developing your application, but **the final submission must be made in the online portal.**

Please ensure you have thoroughly reviewed the [End Violence Safe Online 2022 Open Call webpage](#) before beginning your application. Please review the Full Request for Expressions of Interest and download a version of the Application Form to use in developing your application, but **the final submission must be made in the online portal.**

Carefully review these Frequently Asked Questions. You can also [submit questions](#) that you may have through the form provided on the site. We will endeavour to upload new questions and answers every two weeks.

STEP 3: Submit your Full through the [End Violence Safe Online 2022 Tech Coalition Safe Online Research Fund webpage](#) where you will find the [Apply](#) button that will direct you to the Jotform application portal. All submissions must be made in English.

24. What are the [scoring criteria](#)?

Technical experts at End Violence Safe Online as well as an [Advisory Group](#) of external experts, as applicable, will review the EOIs based on an objective assessment of the following criteria:

1. Relevance of research for tackling online CSEA
2. Novelty and feasibility of research
3. Applicability and inclusivity of research
4. Suitability of the team to implement the research project
5. Alignment between budget ask and research project goals

Priority will be given to research that has applicability to the technology industry. The Safe Online initiative has a clear preference for proposals that can demonstrate:

- research that addresses the given area(s) from **cross-platform or cross-sector lenses** for broader actionability and strengthening collaboration among all sectors working to end online CSEA. We encourage research to consider applications to industry with respect to safety-by-design, age-appropriate design and transparency considerations;
- research that increases nuanced **understanding of contextual factors and differential user-experience** for improved efficacy and localisation. This includes racial/ ethnic/ cultural/ gender/ geographic diversity in online CSEA prevention, detection and response. This also includes the interlinkages between online violence and other forms of abuse against children. We encourage research in all areas to consider heterogeneity of childhoods and cultural diversity.¹

End Violence will assess EOIs per similar criteria to the Full Proposals if selected for the RFP phase.

¹ This should consider the (i) age, gender, disability, literacy, geographical location and socio-economic status of the child victims and perpetrators and/or the adults with sexual interest in children; (ii) links with other types of violence against children; (iii) socio-economic, technological and cultural drivers that underpin online harmful practices and protective factors; and, (iv) the types of digital tools and platform used to abuse the child or disseminate the child abuse material.

It is not expected that EOIs will cover in depth or provide full details of each criteria, however specificity and clarity will be assessed. It is not necessary to elaborate the state of the field or scope of the problem being addressed in the EOI.

In this EOI phase, the most qualified applicants will address all criteria in their EOI and demonstrate they meet or exceed the criteria as well as bring a diverse and inclusive perspective or expertise that will result in innovative and impactful research.

25. Is it possible to [contact someone](#) at End Violence about this Open Call before applying?

Questions or clarifications during the application period can be submitted through the [FAQ Form](#). Answers to all questions submitted will be shared publicly periodically on the [FAQ page](#).

SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

26. What are the [next steps](#) for successful EOI applicants?

Successful EOI applicants will be invited to submit Full Proposals. There will be 4-6 weeks for the development of the Full Proposal.

Applicants who apply under funding stream B and indicate their interest and need for tailored support in the Full Proposal stage will be notified if they were selected for tailored support from the Advisory Group in this stage.

27. What is the [timeline](#) for the application process?

The deadline for submission of EOIs is 31 May 2022.

Successful applicants in the EOI stage will be notified in mid-late June 2022 and invited to submit a Full Proposal. These successful applicants will have 4-6 weeks from June-July to develop their Full Proposals.

The deadline for submission of Full Proposals for those invited to apply is mid-late July 2022.

Awards will be granted to successful Full Proposal applicants towards the end of 2022. Once awards have been granted, organisations may begin their work.

KEY DEFINITIONS

28. What is **online child sexual exploitation and abuse**?

Unless otherwise indicated, the definitions provided below are from the [Luxembourg Terminology Guidelines](#) for the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation (2016).

Online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) refers both to the sexual abuse of children that is "facilitated by information, communication and technology (ICT) and to sexual abuse of children that is committed elsewhere and then repeated by sharing it online through, for instance, images and videos."¹

Child sexual abuse material (CSAM) is used to describe a subset of "child sexual exploitation material" where there is abuse or a concentration on the anal or genital region of the child. Both terms refer to material that depicts and/or that documents acts that are sexually abusive and/or exploitative to a child.

Livestreaming of child sexual abuse of a child in real time occurs when a child is forced by an offender(s) to appear in front of a webcam to engage in sexual behaviour or to be subjected to sexual abuse. These acts are then live streamed over the Internet to a paying customer (also an offender(s)) who uses and/or requests a particular type of abuse to be perpetrated over the webcam in real-time.² It is also very possible that the offender is also the one perpetrating the abuse against the child physically.

Online sexual grooming refers to the process of establishing and building a relationship with a child through the use of the Internet or other digital technologies to facilitate either online or offline sexual contact with that child.

Sexual extortion of children, also called "sextortion", is the blackmailing of a child with the help of images of that child in order to extort sexual favors, money, or other benefits from her/him under the threat of sharing the material beyond the consent of the depicted child.

¹ For more information on the definition of online CSEA and its many types, please refer to the Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016 (<http://luxemburgguidelines.org>).

² ECPAT International Factsheet (2016).

29. How does End Violence define a 'child'?

End Violence refers to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which defines a "child" as a person below the age of 18, unless the relevant laws recognise an earlier age of majority. On some issues, States are obliged to provide for minimum ages, such as the age for admission into employment and completion of compulsory education; but in other cases, the Convention is unequivocal in prohibiting life imprisonment without possibility of release or capital punishment for those under 18 years of age.