

6 Spotlights from the countries surveyed

1

Limitation periods

Sweden and Ireland were the only countries surveyed to have completely abolished limitation periods for rape of minors or child sexual abuse. Consequently, perpetrators can always be convicted of this offence.



4

Consent-based definition of rape

Sweden and Spain both have a consent-based definition of rape (“Only Yes Means Yes”) in their criminal law. Such a definition was also recently introduced in France.



2

AI-generated sexual abuse material

France has introduced a specific criminal offence relating to AI-generated sexual abuse material. Spain is introducing a similar criminal offence, too.

5

Institutional abuse

Since 2025, Ireland has a specific law for supporting survivors of residential institutional abuse. This was developed in collaboration with those affected.

3

Survivors’ Board

Since 2015, there has been a voluntary Survivors’ Board in Germany supporting the Independent Commissioner for Child Sexual Abuse (UBSKM) in her work. The Survivors’ Board has been operating on a legal basis since 2025.



6

Nationality

In Spain, all minors, regardless of their nationality and residence status, have legal protection against sexual violence.

You can find more information in
our Overview (in German)



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