

GUIDANCE • GD-01

Your Country Can Build a Safe Place for Children Online

A short guide for advocates — no global permission required

You do not need to wait for a company, a treaty, or an international body to act. Your country already has everything it needs to create a protected online space for its children. This guide explains, in plain terms, what to ask for and why it works — so you can bring the request to your own government with confidence.

1. You already hold the power

Every country runs its own corner of the internet — its national domain, the letters at the end of a web address that belong to your nation (*your country's own suffix*). Your government, or the body it authorises, decides the rules for that space. It does not ask permission from any global authority to set those rules, because the national domain is already yours by sovereign right.

This is the whole foundation of what follows: a safe space for children can be built **inside your own national domain**, under your own authority, beginning now. It does not depend on the slow international process that governs the global internet. That process matters for a worldwide version — but your country does not have to wait for it.

2. What to ask for — in one sentence

You are asking your government, or your national domain authority, for one thing:

A dedicated, protected area within our national domain, where a website may only be admitted if it meets a published child-safety standard — so that families who choose this space find nothing harmful in it, because nothing harmful was ever let in.

That is the entire request. Everything else in this guide explains why it works and what each party does — but the ask itself is that simple.

3. Why this works without the global process

The ordinary approach to online safety is *subtraction*: let everything exist, then try to block or remove the harmful parts afterwards. It fails because there is always more harm than anyone can catch, and because filters can be worked around.

This approach is the opposite. It is *addition*: begin with an empty space, and let a website in only if it meets the standard. There is no harmful content to filter, because none was ever admitted. A protected area within your national domain is the natural home for this, and creating it is an act of national registry policy — the same kind of rule-making your domain authority already does every day. No global application. No waiting for an international window to open.

4. Choose your own name — this is where ownership begins

There is no fixed name for this space, and there should not be. **Your country chooses its own** — a word in your own language that carries the right meaning for a place that is safe, trusted, and for children. The word that feels protective and warm in one language and culture is rarely the literal translation of another. This choice is not a technical detail; it is the first act of ownership, and it should be made by the people who understand what the word will mean to the families who use it.

Everything a family sees is yours to shape — the name, the language, the judgment about what belongs in a children's space. That is as it should be. The only thing shared across countries is the invisible format underneath, explained in section 7.

5. What your government or domain authority does

Their role is limited and familiar. They designate the protected area within the national domain. They adopt the published standard as the condition a website must meet to be admitted. And they oversee admission — a website that applies is checked against the standard, and let in only if it conforms, exactly as other kinds of restricted spaces are already managed. They are not asked to watch

every family, verify every child's age, or police the open internet. They set a clear rule and apply it at the door.

For a government, this is relief rather than burden. Instead of trying to regulate the whole internet for the sake of children, it maintains one clean space that families may choose — and the open internet is left entirely unchanged for everyone else.

6. What your community builds — the standard, in your language and culture

The heart of the work belongs to you and your community: deciding what a children's safe space should and should not contain, and writing that down as a clear standard in your own language, reflecting your own culture's judgment about protecting children. This is not handed to you by anyone abroad. Categories that are obvious the world over — no gambling, no pornography — sit alongside judgments that are properly local, and your community is the right author of them.

This is the work you can begin immediately, even before the space is formally created: gathering the right voices, and drafting the standard that will define what your protected space admits.

7. Why a shared format matters — and what “shared” really means

If every country did this in complete isolation, each safe space would be an island, and no country could learn from another's work. So there is one — and only one — thing held in common: the **format** in which each country records its safety decisions. Not the decisions themselves. The format.

Think of how a date is written. Around the world, **2026-07-11** means the same day to every computer, in every language, regardless of how people speak or write the date aloud in their own country. The common format does not tell anyone what to put in the date — it only makes every date readable everywhere. The shared safety format works exactly the same way: your country decides *what* belongs in its children's space, in its own language and values; the shared format simply makes that decision *readable* alongside every other country's, so all this national work connects into something larger instead of fragmenting into disconnected islands.

This is the balance the whole idea depends on: **everything visible is local — your name, your language, your cultural judgment — and only the invisible plumbing is shared.**

8. You will not be building alone

The shared format, and the growing body of national experience behind it, is coordinated by an international foundation whose purpose is exactly this: to help each country build its own safe space, in its own way, on a common format, so that no advocate has to start from nothing. When you bring this request to your government, you are not proposing an experiment no one has tried — you are joining a coordinated international effort and giving your country a place in it.

Begin the conversation. Choose your word. Gather your voices. The protected space your children deserve is within your country's power to create — and there is a community ready to help you build it.

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