



## Guidance for submitting a proposal for a Mastermind session at the Melbourne 2026 Rise Up Policy Forum

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal for a Mastermind session at the Rise Up Policy Forum in Melbourne, Australia on 27 August 2026. We are delighted that you are considering joining us in this work!

The programme will include a series of around 60-minute sessions organised by partners. Any partner organisation or individual, including governments, can propose a session. We are calling them Mastermind sessions because we want everyone to bring their best minds to the critical child protection issues facing us.

**The deadline for submitting a proposal for a Rise Up Policy Forum Mastermind session has been extended to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.**

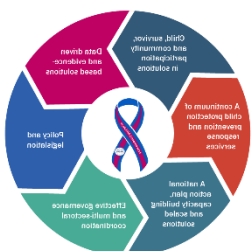
We will let you know if your proposal has been accepted by the end of April. (Governments can continue to propose sessions or country presentations beyond this date.)

Proposals should be submitted via the Melbourne Congress webpage: [Rise Up Panel Session Portal](#)

### Overview

The **ISPCAN Rise Up Policy Forum** is a global initiative to catalyse progress in advancing child protection through a public health and system strengthening approach<sup>1</sup>. It aims to build on momentum and help translate into practical action the country pledges made during the 2024 Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children by bringing together governments, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, survivors, advocates, funders and more, to share knowledge, integrate research with practical policy response, drive innovation, and advance bold evidence-based solutions to prevent and address child abuse and neglect more effectively across diverse regions and systems.

The forum will serve as a community of practice and learning, where countries and partners can engage in knowledge and capacity building, cross-sector collaboration, and the co-creation of child protection strategies. It supports system strengthening by aligning with global frameworks such as INSPIRE, the CRC, SDGs and the Child Protection System Strengthening Framework for Action, and providing actionable solutions grounded in local data and realities. The annual forums will create a sustained global dialogue aimed at transforming child protection into a more robust, data-informed, collaborative, innovative and preventive system.



**<sup>1</sup> Six pillars of a public health and system-strengthening approach to preventing child abuse and neglect:**

1. Advance data driven and evidence-based solutions to ending violence, abuse and neglect of children.
2. Improve policies and legislation.
3. Ensure effective governance and multi-sectoral coordination.
4. Invest in national action plans, capacity building and bringing solutions to scale.
5. Ensure child rights through universal access to a continuum of child protection prevention, early intervention, and response services.
6. Establish mechanisms for child, survivor, and community participation in solutions.

Aligned with: <https://childprotectionsystems.com/framework-for-action/>

Find out more about the Rise Up Policy Forum initiative [here](#), and see the highlights and programme from the first Rise Policy Forum in Vilnius in 2025 [here](#).

### **Session requirements**

All Mastermind sessions must:

- Include government perspective, ie. A government speaker (most likely technical, at any level of government)
- Be interactive (see below in 'Session format')
- Advance public health and system-strengthening approaches to child protection, addressing one or a combination of the six fundamental pillars (see footnote on page 1)

### **Session public health/system strengthening themes**

1. Advancing data driven and evidence-based solutions to ending violence, abuse and neglect of children.
2. Improving policies and legislation.
3. Ensuring effective governance and multi-sectoral coordination.
4. Investing in national action plans, capacity building and bringing solutions to scale.
5. Ensuring child rights through universal access to a continuum of child protection prevention, early intervention, and response services.
6. Establishing mechanisms for child, survivor, and community participation in solutions.

It is likely that sessions will relate to more than one public health/system strengthening theme - we ask that you choose one as the overarching theme.

### **Priority sub-themes**

We would welcome proposals that address the following sub-themes:

- Country progress case studies presented by governments and their cross sectoral partner(s)
- Asia Pacific regional child protection priorities
- Critical current issues, including prevention of online/IT/AI facilitated child abuse and child protection in conflict and crisis settings
- Investment case and cost/benefit analysis of child protection interventions
- Best-practice examples of bringing together policy, research and practice to address a child protection issue
- High impact/breakthrough strategies to end violence against children (ie. parenting support, safe schools and multi-sectoral child protection responses)
- The role of faith and cultural communities in child protection
- Development and experience of unique models of multi-sectoral coordination

### **Mastermind session format**

We welcome proposals of sessions in a range of creative and engaging formats, for example, problem solving workshop, multi-sectoral briefing, interactive case study activity, presentation of best practice with Q&A, discussion among a group of countries and sectors on a particular topic with audience interventions, round table policy discussion, etc. Please consider the best format for your topic.

A priority objective for the policy forum is to enable active participation and exchange among all delegates. All sessions should include audience interaction for a minimum of 40% of the time and have a maximum of three speakers.

We will prioritise proposals that provide for audience participation, multi-sectoral dialogue, collaboration and shared learning; and address how we can come together across sectors, and across research, practice and policy, to practically address child protection challenges.

Online participation will not be possible; all speakers must attend in person. (The exception is where a government speaker becomes unavailable at late notice, and if a replacement can't be found then a short video of their intervention can be included.)

### **Presentations, audio/visual material, interactive platform**

Session organisers will be asked to upload session presentations near to the event. Short videos can be included. An interactive platform such as Slido will be used throughout the day to support active participation. Session organisers can include Slido in their session plans.

### **Mastermind session output resources**

Each session should produce a concise output, ideally a policy brief using the Rise Up Policy Brief template.<sup>1</sup> However other resources such as an infographic, video, collective statement or plan, or other may also be welcome.

### **You will be asked to provide the following information about your proposed Mastermind session:**

1. Name, organisation and email address of the session organiser
2. Title of the session
3. Organisation(s) hosting the session
4. Which country or region the session relates to
5. What child protection challenge(s) the session addresses
6. Which public health/system strengthening theme the session falls under
7. Which sub-theme the session addresses
8. What practical solution(s) will be provided
9. What 1-3 key questions the session will address
10. What format the session will take, and how it will be interactive
11. Which contributors or speakers are expected to take part in the session
12. What output resource will accompany the session
13. Session aims (maximum of three bullet points)
14. Session description (maximum 150 words)

**Please submit your Mastermind session proposals here: [Rise Up Panel Session Portal](#)**

**Thank you for your interest!**

**Please feel free to contact Bess Herbert at [policy@ispcan.org](mailto:policy@ispcan.org) if you have questions or need help.**

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<sup>1</sup> Copyright would be jointly owned by ISPCAN and the author organisations.