

WeProtect Global Alliance Policy Board Meeting

Summary, December 2021

The WeProtect Global Alliance Policy Board met on 7 and 8 December 2021. Four Board papers were circulated in advance, presented at the virtual meeting, and discussed among Board members. The Board papers covered the following topics:

- Membership Engagement
- Global Summit
- Governance
- Alliance Sustainability

These four topics were presented in turn, the first two on Day One and the second two on Day Two. The following actions and/or next steps were agreed with respect to each paper:

Membership Engagement

Discussion focused on the results of the membership survey, new membership commitments and proposed membership application and due diligence process. There was also discussion on the potential added value the Alliance could bring to facilitating/coordinating training for members on the Model National Response.

- The Board approved the [new membership commitments and new membership application and due diligence process](#).
- The Secretariat will publish the new commitments and ensure all members are aware of the expectations.
- The Secretariat will explore for facilitating future training on the Model National Response and discuss next steps with relevant partners.
- The Secretariat will develop a structured process to facilitate members to mentor and support others.

Global Summit

This item focused on progress made with planning for the 2022 Global Summit in Brussels and online. Discussion centred around the proposed agenda and the ongoing uncertainty regarding COVID-19 and associated local and international restrictions. The Board agreed that in-person interaction at the summit was critical and should be a strong determining factor when assessing possible contingency options.

- In order to maximise the chances of in-person participation, the Board decided to postpone the summit to June 2022.

- To maintain momentum and help lay the foundations of the Summit, the Secretariat will organise a separate virtual feeder event in March 2022.
- The Secretariat will consult with the Summit Steering Group on proposed revisions to the agenda and breakout themes.
- The Board will promote and support the planning of the Summit, as required.
- The Secretariat will liaise with the European Commission and Oak Foundation to agree next steps on advocacy.

[NB: a decision to host the Summit on 1 and 2 June 2022 has since been made. It will involve both a live event and virtual participation. A new invitation has been issued to all WeProtect Global Alliance members]

Governance

The governance agenda item focused on the main recommendations from the recently completed governance review, which had been conducted by an experienced independent consultant.

- The Board agreed to add an adult survivor representative to the Board and decided to put the recommendations to increase the civil society and industry seats by one each on hold while the benefits, value and need were considered further.
 - The Secretariat will liaise with the Brave Movement regarding potential survivor Board representation.
- The Secretariat will establish a Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The Secretariat will issue Board members with new Terms of Reference setting out roles, responsibilities and term limits.
- The Secretariat will explore options for a youth council, building on work that has been undertaken by other partners, and evolve an approach that is appropriate.
- The Board supported the recommendation to introduce three-year terms, starting on 1 April 2020 for existing non-permanent Board members, once renewable. This would help ensure continuity, but it would be important to stagger future terms to avoid disruption.

Alliance Sustainability

The final paper set out the importance of co-creating the Alliance's future strategy with the membership to secure long-term credibility and sustainability. As a key element of the discussion, the Board agreed that the Alliance should not expand its remit and should maintain its current focus on child sexual abuse online. However, it was acknowledged that online/offline was seen as a false distinction by many stakeholders and that a clear narrative should be developed to show how online interacts and connects with offline child sexual abuse and how the Alliance's work assists with tackling all aspects of child sexual abuse.

- The Secretariat will establish a Strategy Working Group, to support the development of a three-year strategy.
- The Alliance will keep its current focus on child sexual abuse online, while recognising the links and synergies with other forms of child sexual abuse, violence against children and online harms.