



Global Initiative to
End All Corporal Punishment
of Children

Progress towards prohibiting all corporal punishment in West and Central Africa

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org), July 2011

Note: The above information has been compiled from many sources, including reports to and by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed. We are very grateful to government officials, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions, and many individuals who have helped to provide and check information. Please let us know if you believe any of the information to be incorrect: info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence for crime	As disciplinary measure	
Benin	NO	NO ¹	YES	[YES]	NO
Burkina Faso	NO	YES	YES	YES ²	SOME ³
Cameroon	NO	YES	YES	[YES]	NO
Cape Verde	NO	NO ⁴	YES	NO	[YES]
Central African Rep.	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Chad	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
Congo, Republic of	NO	[YES]	YES	NO	NO
Cote d'Ivoire	NO	NO ⁵	YES	YES ⁶	NO
DR Congo	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
Equatorial Guinea	NO	NO	???	???	NO
Gabon	NO	YES	???	???	NO
Gambia	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Ghana	NO	NO ⁷	YES	SOME ⁸	NO

¹ Government circular advises against corporal punishment in formal education, but no prohibition in law

² But possibly no explicit prohibition

³ Prohibited in institutions; not prohibited in foster care

⁴ Ministry of Education guidelines advise against corporal punishment, but no prohibition in law

⁵ Ministerial circular states corporal punishment should not be used, but no prohibition in law

⁶ But no explicit prohibition

⁷ Ministerial directive possibly advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal system		Prohibited in alternative care settings
			As sentence for crime	As disciplinary measure	
Guinea	NO	YES	[NO]	???	NO
Guinea-Bissau	NO	YES	YES	[YES]	[NO]
Liberia	NO	NO	YES	???	NO
Mali	NO ¹⁰	YES	YES	YES ¹¹	NO
Mauritania	NO	NO ¹²	NO	NO	NO
Niger	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Nigeria	NO	NO	SOME ¹³	NO	NO
Sao Tome & Principe	NO	[YES]	[YES]	???	NO
Senegal	NO	YES	YES	YES ¹⁴	NO
Sierra Leone	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
Togo	NO ¹⁵	YES	YES	YES	[YES]

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⁸ Prohibited in prisons; no explicit prohibition in borstal institutions and industrial institutions

⁹ Prohibited in prisons, but legality in other penal institutions unknown

¹⁰ Draft Family Code would remove the right of correction but not explicitly prohibit corporal punishment (2009)

¹¹ But no explicit prohibition

¹² Ministerial Order states that corporal punishment should not be used, but no prohibition in legislation

¹³ Prohibited as sentence in 2003 Child Rights Act, but this not enacted in all states and other legislation not amended; lawful as a sentence in some areas under Shari'a law

¹⁴ But no explicit prohibition

¹⁵ Possibly prohibited in 2007 Children's Code