



*Global Initiative to*  
**End All Corporal Punishment  
of Children**

## **NORWAY – COUNTRY REPORT**

### **Summary of necessary legal reform to achieve full prohibition**

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all settings, including the home.

# DETAILED COUNTRY REPORT

## Legality of corporal punishment

### Home

Corporal punishment is prohibited in the home. The 1926 right of parents to use moderate physical punishment was removed from the Criminal Code in 1972. The Parent and Child Act (the Children Act) (1981) was amended in 1987 to state (article 30): “The child must not be subjected to violence or in any other way be treated so as to harm or endanger his or her mental or physical health.” This was interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment of children. However, in 2005, while upholding the conviction of a man under the Penal Code for smacking his stepsons on their bare bottoms with his hand, the Supreme Court stated that lighter smacks would be permitted (30 November 2005, HR-2005-01865-A). Following a review of the law, further amendments to legislation were passed in April 2010 which confirm prohibition of all corporal punishment. Article 30(3) of the Act, as amended in 1987 and again in 2010, now states: “The child must not be exposed to violence or otherwise be treated so that its physical or mental health is endangered. This includes violence used in raising the child. The use of violence and frightening, harassing or otherwise inconsiderate behaviour towards the child is forbidden.”

### Schools

Corporal punishment has been unlawful in schools since 1936, but we have no details of prohibiting legislation.

### Penal system

Corporal punishment is unlawful as a **sentence for crime**. It is not among permitted sentences in the Criminal Code.

Corporal punishment is unlawful as a **disciplinary measure** in penal institutions, but we have no details of prohibiting legislation.

### Alternative care

Corporal punishment is unlawful in alternative care settings under the Parent and Child Act (see above).

## Prevalence research

None identified.

## Recommendations by human rights treaty bodies

### *Committee on the Rights of the Child*

(21 September 2005, CRC/C/15/Add.263, Concluding observations on third report, paras. 27 and 28)

“The Committee is concerned that children who are exposed to violence within the family do not always receive sufficient care and assistance.

“The Committee recommends that the State party continue to strengthen its efforts to provide adequate assistance to children who are exposed to violence within the family or whose parents are psychiatric patients and/or drug abusers, including through: ...

d) public education campaigns about the negative consequences of ill-treatment and preventive programmes, including family development programmes promoting positive, non-violent forms of discipline.”

*European Committee of Social Rights*

(Conclusions 2005, vol. 2, page 560)

*“Protection of children from ill treatment and abuse*

The Committee notes that the situation which it has previously considered to be in conformity with the Charter, i.e. all forms of violence against children are prohibited, has not changed.”

*European Committee of Social Rights*

(1 January 2001, Conclusions XV-2 vol. 2, pages 398-400)

“Section 30 of the Children’s Act prohibits corporal punishment in connection with child rearing.”

## **Universal Periodic Review**

Norway was examined under the Universal Periodic Review process in 2009. Full prohibition of corporal punishment was achieved in 1987.

*Report prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children*

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