



Newsletter 39 March 2018



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

Contents:

- [Global news and developments](#)
- [Advocacy resources](#)
- [Updates from the UN and regional human rights systems](#)

Welcome to your quarterly e-newsletter from the Global Initiative. We hope you find this update useful; please share it with your networks and email us with any comments, contributions or feedback at info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Global news and developments

Solutions Summit encourages commitment to end corporal punishment

The first [Agenda 2030 for Children: End Violence Solutions Summit](#) took place on 14-15 February 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden, bringing together governments of Pathfinding and other countries, the UN, civil society, private sector and children themselves to share solutions for preventing and responding to violence against children. In her opening address to the Summit, UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed (pictured below right), highlighted the extent of corporal punishment of children worldwide.

The Summit included a workshop highlighting the need to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children. Ahead of the event, the Global Initiative published a [report analysing progress in Pathfinder countries](#) of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (see Resources below).



Child Rights Conference highlights need to end corporal punishment

An International Child Rights Conference organised by the [World Future Council](#) was held in Zanzibar in November 2017 to share best practice and policy on child protection, justice and participation. Participants from 12 countries committed to take action to eradicate all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment in all settings. Sonia Vohito, Africa Project Coordinator for the Global Initiative (pictured below right), highlighted prohibition of corporal punishment as a means of raising the status of children in society. *(Photo credit Miriam Petersen / World Future Council.)*



Non-violent childhoods: learning from the Baltic Sea Region

The Global Initiative has partnered with the Council of the Baltic Sea States on a two-year project to promote the full implementation of legal bans on corporal punishment, drawing on the significant experience of states in the Baltic Sea Region. Following five national consultations in 2017, expert meetings were recently held to develop guidance related to service provision (in Latvia in February) and communications and campaigning (in Poland in March). Further

meetings are scheduled to address parenting programmes (in Estonia in April) and implementing the ban in the best interests of the child (in Sweden in May), with an International Conference planned to launch the guidance materials later in the year. Read more on the [project website](#).



African e-newsletter

The latest edition of the Global Initiative's African newsletter was published in January in [English](#) and [French](#) – sign up to [receive future editions](#).

Steps towards prohibition

El Salvador: Bills introduced in 2016 which aimed to prohibit corporal punishment were all archived by October 2017, meaning no further Bills can be introduced on the subject for six months – that is until April 2018.

France: A Bill modifying the Civil Code to prohibit anyone with parental authority from using physical violence, corporal punishment, moral suffering or any other form of humiliating treatment of a child (unofficial translation) was introduced in the National Assembly on 22 February. The Minister for Health supports the Bill.

Mexico: One Bill amending article 423 of the Federal Civil Code was approved by the Chamber of Deputies in December 2017 and passed on to the Senate for examination. It amends article 423 with the apparent aim to prohibit corporal punishment and all other humiliating and degrading treatment of children, but it seems to qualify corporal punishment as “repeated” use of force.

Philippines: Clarification on the status of Bills: HB 516 and SB1477 are fairly similar in content and are each in the Committee stage in their respective houses, with the aim to pass the second reading by June 2018. SB1477 is also currently under the period of interpellation where Senators are welcome to ask questions about the bill in plenary for possible amendments before its approval on second

reading.

Seychelles: Corporal punishment has been prohibited in all schools in Seychelles under article 68(3) of the Education (Amendment) Bill, passed by the National Assembly on 19 December 2017. In January 2018, the Government reported to the Committee on the Rights of the Child that the Department of Social Affairs “continues to push” to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and that “discussions have been set for early next year with the new Attorney General”.

UK (Wales): A 12-week consultation on proposals to remove the defence of reasonable punishment and give children equal protection from assault opened in January and will close on 2 April 2018. In March, Children’s Minister Huw Irranca-Davies [reiterated](#) the Government’s intention to remove the defence, saying physical punishment of a child is “no longer acceptable” in a modern, progressive Wales.

UK (Scotland): Drafting of the bill to remove the legal defence of ‘justifiable assault’ against children is ongoing and it is anticipated that it will be introduced to Parliament for consideration before the start of the summer recess, at the end of June 2018.

USA (Tennessee): Parallel Bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate aiming to prohibit the use of corporal punishment against students with disabilities in public schools.

USA (Kentucky): A Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives to prohibit corporal punishment in schools, care settings and in correctional institutions.

Other positive news

Ghana: The Government [supported](#) recommendations made during its Universal Periodic Review to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings. This commitment is confirmed by other recent declarations, particularly in light of the upcoming review of the Children’s Act, bringing the number of states clearly committed to achieving full prohibition to 56.

India: Goa State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights is holding [workshops](#) for primary teachers on corporal punishment and other aspects of keeping children safe at school.

Kazakhstan: UNICEF Kazakhstan's new three-year [campaign](#) to end violence against children includes addressing violent discipline and developing "positive methods of upbringing in the family".

Sierra Leone: Government representatives at the 30th ordinary session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which took place in Khartoum, Sudan, in December 2017, announced that the upcoming review of the Child Rights Act 2007 would provide an opportunity to repeal the legal defence for the use of corporal punishment of children.

Zambia: President of the Zambia Civic Education Association, Judith Mulenga, recently [called](#) for prohibition of corporal punishment in homes.

[Back to contents](#)

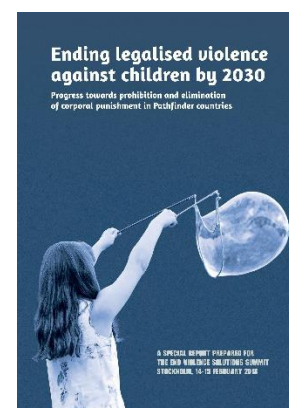
Advocacy resources

New resources from the Global Initiative

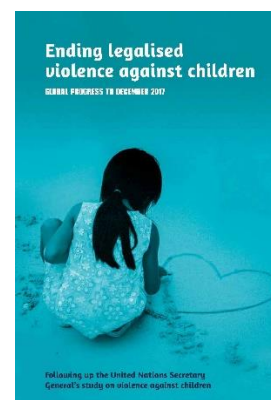
[Pathfinders report 2018](#): Prepared for the *End Violence Solutions Summit* held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 14-15 February 2018 (see above), this report highlights the centrality of ending corporal punishment to ending all violence against children (SDG 16.2) and analyses progress in Pathfinding countries of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

For each Pathfinding country, it sets out the legality of corporal punishment and what needs to be done to achieve prohibition, any government commitment to achieving prohibition, any prevalence data and examples of good practice, and any relevant recommendations from UN and regional treaty monitoring bodies.

Limited hard copies are available for advocacy use:
email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.



[Global report 2017](#): In collaboration with Save the Children Sweden, the Global Initiative launched its annual global report tracking progress towards universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment. The report, [Ending legalised violence against children: Global progress to December 2017](#), highlights the major achievements of 2017 – most notably, 53 states worldwide now prohibit all corporal punishment of children; another 56 states globally have clearly committed to doing so.



[Answers to frequently asked questions](#): This series of booklets answers common questions about prohibiting all corporal punishment of children: does corporal punishment really hurt? Will banning its use criminalise more parents? Already available in English, Albanian, French, Russian and Spanish, the booklets have now been launched in [Mandarin](#). Look out for more languages in the coming months, and if you are interested in translating the booklets into your language, contact info@endcorporalpunishment.org.



Other resources to support advocacy

[Violence Against Children: Making Human Rights Real, edited by Gertrud Lenzer, Routledge, 2018](#): This book examines the prevalence and prevention of violence against children in a number of regions worldwide. It includes a chapter by Joan Durrant on the global movement to end all corporal punishment of children, and a chapter by Sonia Vohito, Africa Project Coordinator for the Global Initiative, on

violence against children in Africa, which highlights corporal punishment of children in Africa and action taken to end its use.

[Back to contents](#)

News from the UN and regional human rights systems

Note: All of these and previous recommendations by treaty bodies are available in full in the relevant [country reports](#) and on the [treaty body pages](#) on our website.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

At its 77th session in January 2018, the Committee on the Rights of the Child issued recommendations on corporal punishment to all the states examined. To the **Marshall Islands**, the **Seychelles** and **Sri Lanka**, it highlighted corporal punishment of children as an area on which urgent measures must be taken and recommended enactment of legislation as a matter of urgency to prohibit its use in all settings. It also recommended prohibition to **Guatemala**, **Palau**, **Panama**, and the **Solomon Islands**, and effective implementation of the ban to **Spain**.

Committee Against Torture

At its 62nd session in November/December 2017, the Committee Against Torture recommended to **Rwanda** that the Government monitor disciplinary practices inside prisons and ensure corporal punishment is strictly prohibited. To **Timor-Leste**, it welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan for Children's Rights 2016-2020 which commits to prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings by 2018, and recommended the Government enact prohibiting legislation to fulfil that commitment.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

At its 68th session in November 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women recommended that **Kuwait** repeal the Penal Code provision allowing parents to physically discipline their child. It raised a similar issue during the dialogue with **Oman**, stating that the Penal Code provision allowing the "disciplining" of a child was "no longer acceptable" – but did not issue

a recommendation on the issue. To **Singapore**, the Committee recommended the revision and/or repeal of relevant legislation in order to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children in all settings.

Universal Periodic Review outcomes

The obligation to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children continues to be raised with states in the Universal Periodic Review of their overall human rights records. The Global Initiative submits briefings on every state being reviewed, sharing advance draft briefings with relevant organisations to encourage submissions at national level. We also conduct a follow up programme, pursuing the issue with states that accept recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment by writing to key NGOs, NHRIs and Government ministers. For further information email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

During the UPR's 28th session, **Ghana** supported recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and made a clear commitment to enacting law reform. **Sri Lanka** reiterated its commitment to enacting prohibition by supporting a clear recommendation to do so. **Gabon, Guatemala, Japan** and the **Republic of Korea** also supported recommendations on the prohibition of corporal punishment – we are seeking official confirmation from their Governments of their commitment to full prohibition. The **Czech Republic** supported recommendations to put an end to corporal punishment of children, but “noted” recommendations to explicitly prohibit its use in all settings. **Switzerland** received two recommendations to prohibit all corporal punishment and gave a mixed response, supporting one and “noting” the other. **Pakistan** supported a recommendation to “consider the implementation of the necessary safeguards for the protection of children against corporal punishment”. **Argentina**, despite having already enacted prohibition in 2014, supported a recommendation to prohibit in law.

Most states examined during the UPR's 29th session received recommendations on corporal punishment: the **Bahamas, Barbados, Burundi, France, Serbia** and the **United Arab Emirates** all received recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and will respond by the 38th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2018. **Tonga** supported a recommendation to prohibit judicial corporal punishment and another to abolish the provisions which authorise corporal punishment – we are seeking to establish the Government's intentions in supporting these recommendations. **Botswana** “noted” several recommendations to prohibit in all settings. **Montenegro**, where prohibition was achieved in 2016, supported a recommendation to raise awareness of the ban.

Submitting information to the UN human rights system

The Global Initiative regularly briefs human rights treaty monitoring bodies prior to examination of state parties, and encourages national NGOs and human rights institutions to do likewise. We particularly seek “key” NGOs and human rights institutions in each state with whom we can work more closely in briefing the treaty bodies: if you/your organisation is interested please contact info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Information on individual states’ upcoming treaty body and UPR examinations and the deadlines for submitting briefings are available on the [individual country reports](#).

[Back to contents](#)

“We now know that physical punishment can have negative long term impacts on a child's life chances and we also know it is an ineffective punishment.

If there is any potential risk of harm to a child then it is our obligation as a Government to take action.

Physically punishing a child is outdated, and is no longer acceptable in a modern, progressive Wales. This is why we are committed to removing the defence of reasonable punishment, which reinforces our long standing commitment to children's rights, based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

Huw Irranca-Davies, Children's Minister, speaking at a conference on "Promoting positive parenting" in Cardiff, Wales, 14 March 2018

