

Progress towards prohibiting all corporal punishment in member states of the Council of Baltic Sea States

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org), February 2017



Global Initiative to
End All Corporal Punishment
of Children

The following table summarises the legal status of corporal punishment of children – and progress towards achieving prohibition – in all settings in all Council of Europe member states. As at February 2017, ten states have achieved prohibition in all settings, including the home. All 11 states have prohibited corporal punishment in schools, penal institutions and as a sentence for crime.

States with full prohibition in legislation

The following ten states have prohibited corporal punishment in all settings, including the home.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Denmark	YES ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Estonia	YES ²	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Finland	YES ³	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Germany	YES ⁴	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Iceland	YES ⁵	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Latvia	YES ⁶	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Lithuania	YES ⁷	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Norway	YES ⁸	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Poland	YES ⁹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Sweden	YES ¹⁰	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

¹ Prohibited in 1997 amendment to Parental Custody and Care Act 1995, reiterated in Danish Act on Parental Responsibility 2007

² Prohibited in Child Protection Act 2014, in force January 2016

³ Prohibited in Child Custody and Rights of Access Act 1983

⁴ Prohibited in 2000 amendment to Civil Code

⁵ Prohibited in Children's Act 2003

⁶ Prohibited in Children's Rights Protection Law 1998

⁷ Prohibited in 2017 amendments to Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child 1996

⁸ Prohibited in 1987 amendment to Parent and Child Act 1981, confirmed in further amendments 2010 following 2005 Supreme Court decision supportive of “lighter smacks”

⁹ Prohibited in 2010 amendment to Family and Guardianship Code 1964

¹⁰ Prohibited in 1979 amendment to Parenthood and Guardianship Code

States without a clear commitment to law reform

The following state has yet to make a clear commitment to prohibiting all corporal punishment.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Russian Federation	NO	NO	SOME ¹¹	YES	YES	YES

Note

The above information is based wherever possible on examination of national legislation; additional information is gathered 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 assisted us in our research. We welcome corrections and updates: email info@endcorporalpunishment.org. For further details on all states see the individual state reports at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

*Analysis prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
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¹¹ Unlawful in preschool provision