

Progress towards prohibiting all corporal punishment in the Caribbean

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org), July 2016



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 states in the Caribbean. As at July 2016 no state has achieved prohibition in all settings, including the home; the governments of one state has expressed a commitment to enacting full prohibition. Three states have prohibited corporal punishment in all alternative care settings, two in day care, three in schools, five in penal institutions and eight as a sentence for crime.

States expressing commitment to law reform in UPR

The Government in the following state has expressed a commitment to prohibition of all corporal punishment of children through unequivocally accepting recommendations to prohibit made during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

<i>States committed to law reform ...</i>						
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
Belize ¹	NO	SOME ²	SOME ³	YES	SOME ⁴	YES

States without a clear commitment to law reform

The following 13 states have yet to make a clear commitment to prohibiting all corporal punishment. Some of these states have accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit but have also indicated that they consider existing legislation adequately protects children from corporal punishment, in conflict with information collected by the Global Initiative. Some states have accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment but rejected other similar recommendations.

¹ Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2009)

² Prohibited in residential care facilities

³ Prohibited in day care centres

⁴ Prohibited in “Youth Hostel” detention centre

<i>States without a clear commitment to law reform ...</i>						
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
Antigua and Barbuda	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Bahamas	NO	SOME ⁵	NO	NO	[YES] ⁶	[NO] ⁷
Barbados	NO	NO	SOME ⁸	NO	NO	NO
Dominica	NO	NO	SOME ⁹	NO	NO	NO
Grenada	NO	SOME ¹⁰	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹¹
Guyana	NO	SOME ¹²	SOME ¹³	NO	SOME ¹⁴	SOME ¹⁵
Haiti	NO ¹⁶	[YES] ¹⁷	[YES] ¹⁸	YES	YES	YES
Jamaica	NO	YES	SOME ¹⁹	NO ²⁰	YES	YES
St Kitts and Nevis	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	[YES] ²¹
St Lucia ²²	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
St Vincent and the Grenadines	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Suriname	NO	NO	NO	NO ²³	YES	YES
Trinidad and Tobago	NO	YES	YES	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.

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⁵ Prohibited in residential institutions

⁶ But some legislation possibly still to be repealed

⁷ Prohibited in 1984 but reintroduced in 1991

⁸ Prohibited in day nurseries

⁹ Prohibited in early childhood education facilities

¹⁰ Prohibited in childcare homes

¹¹ Prohibited in Juvenile Justice Act 2012, not yet in force

¹² Prohibited in some but not all settings in Child Care and Services Development Act 2011

¹³ Prohibited in some but not all settings in Child Care and Services Development Act 2011

¹⁴ Prohibited for persons under 17

¹⁵ Prohibited for persons under 17

¹⁶ Bill which would prohibit under discussion (2015)

¹⁷ Prohibition in foster care unconfirmed

¹⁸ Prohibition in crèches and childminding unconfirmed

¹⁹ Prohibited in early childhood centres (“basic schools”)

²⁰ Prohibition under discussion (2015); see also note on day care

²¹ But some legislation still to be formally repealed

²² Government accepted some but not all UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015)

²³ Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in schools (2011)