

Immediate opportunities for law reform in Commonwealth states



Global Initiative to
End All Corporal Punishment
of Children

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
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Note: The dates given in brackets indicate the most recent information held by the Global Initiative, but to our knowledge all bills, draft laws, etc. referred to below are currently still “live” and still present opportunities for enacting prohibition of corporal punishment. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed. If you believe any of the information to be incorrect or out of date, please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

State	Opportunities for enacting prohibition	Prohibition included
Antigua and Barbuda	No known opportunities	-
Australia	No known opportunities	-
Bahamas	Constitution under review (2013)	NO
Bangladesh	Law to prohibit corporal punishment in educational institutions and workplaces being drafted (2015); Draft Children Rules under the Children Act 2013, draft Child Education Act and amendments to Disabled Persons Protection and Rights Act 2013 under discussion (2015); new Family Code under discussion (2013)	?
Barbados	Penal System Reform (Amendment) Bill, amendments to the Offences Against the Person Act under discussion (2016); Education Act and Regulations possibly being reviewed (2015); Juvenile Justice Bill being drafted (2016); Children's Act under discussion (2017)	[YES]
Belize	No known opportunities	-
Botswana	Adoption Act under review (2016)	?
Brunei Darussalam	No known opportunities	-
Cameroon	Draft Code of the Person and the Family under discussion (2014); Civil Code under review (2014)	[NO]
Canada	Bill S-206 which would repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code and prohibit under discussion (2016)	YES

Dominica	Juvenile Justice Bill and draft domestic violence law under discussion (2014)	NO
Fiji	Draft Disability Decree under discussion (2014)	?
Ghana	Constitution under review (2015); amendments to the Children's Act and the Juvenile Justice Act under discussion (2016)	?
Grenada	Juvenile Justice Act, Child Protection Act and Education Act under review (2013); draft new Constitution under discussion (2015)	?
Guyana	Education Bill and Regulations under discussion (2014); Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2015)	SOME
India	No known opportunities	-
Jamaica	Child Care and Protection Act, Domestic Violence Act and Offences Against the Person Act under review (2015), amendments to the Education Act being drafted (2017)	YES
Kiribati	Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2015)	[SOME]
Lesotho	Domestic Violence Bill under discussion (2015); Regulations and Court Rules under Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2011 being drafted (2015)	?
Malawi	Child Care, Protection and Justice (Amendment) Bill, Penal Code (Amendment) Bill and Adoption of Children Bill under discussion (2015); Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2006 and Prisons Act under review (2015)	?
Malaysia	Bills which would allow implementation of Islamic (hudud) punishments at state level under discussion in Kota Baru and Kelantan (2014)	NO
Mauritius	Children's Bill, Juvenile Justice Bill and Disability Bill under discussion (2015)	YES
Mozambique	Penal Code to be reviewed (2016); Constitution under review (2015)	NO
Namibia	Child Justice Bill under discussion (2013); regulations under Child Care and Protection Act being drafted (2015)	NO
Nauru	Constitution under review (2013)	?

Nigeria	Violence Against Persons Bill, Administration of Criminal Justice Bill, Prison Reform Bill and Domestic Violence Bill under discussion (2013); child rights laws under consideration in a number of states (2012); Children and Young Persons Law, Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Shari'a Penal Code under review (2010); Elimination of Violence against Women in Society Bill under discussion (2012)	?
Pakistan	Juvenile Justice System Bill being drafted (2017); National Commission of the Rights of the Child Bill under discussion (2017); Islamabad Capital Territory Child Protection System Bill, Punjab Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, Balochistan Child Protection Bill and Balochistan Corporal Punishment Bill under discussion (2014); Zina laws being reviewed (2011)	[YES]
Papua New Guinea	Regulations under the Family Protection Act 2013 being drafted (2014); Education Act being revised (2015)	?
Rwanda	Penal Code 2012, Civil Code 1988 and Law No. 54 Relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child 2011 under review (2016); Family Code under review (2015)	NO
Samoa	Child Care and Protection Bill, Infants Amendment Bill and Teachers Bill under discussion (2015)	NO
Seychelles	Civil Code under review (2015); Domestic Violence Bill, Education (Amended) Bill and amendments to Children's Act 1970 under discussion (2015)	SOME
Sierra Leone	Constitution under review (2015)	?
Singapore	No known opportunities	-
Solomon Islands	Child and Family Welfare Bill, Police Bill and draft Federal Constitution under discussion (2015)	SOME
South Africa	Amendments to Children's Act being drafted (2015)	YES
Sri Lanka	Amendments to Children and Young Persons Ordinance under discussion (2014); laws being drafted for inspection of childcare institutions and on early childhood care and development (2013); amendments to Orphanages Ordinance planned (2013); Children (Judicial Protection) Bill under discussion (2013)	?
St Kitts and Nevis	No known opportunities	-
St Lucia	Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2014); Constitutional reform under way (2015)	NO

St Vincent and the Grenadines	Child Justice Bill under discussion (2016)	[NO]
Swaziland	Education legislation being reviewed (2012); Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill under consideration (2015)	?
Tonga	No known opportunities	-
Trinidad and Tobago	No known opportunities	-
Tuvalu	Education Act under review (2013)	?
Uganda	Marriage and Divorce Bill under discussion (2015)	NO
UK	Offences Against the Person Act 1861 under review (2015); consultations on the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill under way (2017)	SOME
UR Tanzania	Proposed Constitution under discussion (2016); Zanzibar Education Act 1982 under review (2015)	NO
Vanuatu	Comprehensive law on children being drafted (2014); Family Protection Act under review (2014); Young Offenders Bill possibly under discussion (2013)	?
Zambia	Draft Children's Code under discussion (2016)	?

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