

Immediate opportunities for law reform worldwide

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org) Last updated: May 2017



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of Children

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 If you believe any of the information to be incorrect or out of date, please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.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
Afghanistan	Comprehensive Law on Children being drafted (2014); Penal Code, Civil Code and Juvenile Code under review (2014); draft Shiite Personal Status Law under discussion (2014); draft Family Protection Law under consideration (2013)	?
Algeria	Code of Criminal Procedure under review (2017)	[NO]
American Samoa	No known opportunities	-
Angola	Draft Penal Code under discussion (2014); Family Code being revised (2010); draft Code of Criminal Procedure under discussion (2009); legislation on the prison system being drafted	?
Anguilla	OECS draft bills under discussion (2012); Domestic Violence Bill under discussion (2011); Child Justice Bill, Status of Children Bill and Family Law (Guardianship, Custody and Access to Children Bill) under discussion (2016)	NO
Antigua and Barbuda	No known opportunities	-
Armenia	New Criminal Code being drafted (2015); draft amendments to Family Code, draft Law on Domestic Violence and draft Law on the Rights and Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities under discussion (2015)	[YES]
Aruba	Civil Code being revised	[YES]
Australia	No known opportunities	-

Azerbaijan	Draft Law on Protection of Children against All Forms of Corporal Punishment prepared (2011); Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2015)	YES
Bahamas	Constitution under review (2013)	NO
Bahrain	Law on Civil Society, Law on Personal Status and amendments to Constitution under discussion (2014)	[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]
Belarus	Draft domestic violence law under discussion (2015)	?
Belgium	Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2016)	YES
Belize	No known opportunities	-
Bermuda	Education Act and Rules under review (2014)	?
Bhutan	No known opportunities	-
Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba	No known opportunities	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Law on Social Protection and Law on Protection of Families with Children being drafted (2012); new domestic violence legislation being drafted in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2012); amendments to the Family Law, the Law on Social and Child Protection, the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence, the Criminal Code, the Law on Health Care, the Framework Law on Preschool and Primary Education and Upbringing and the Sports Law under discussion (2017)	YES
Botswana	Adoption Act under review (2016)	?
British Virgin Islands	Status of Children Bill and Maintenance of and Access to Children Bill under discussion (2013); new Prison Law and Prison Rules being drafted (2012); OECS draft bills possibly under consideration	NO
Brunei Darussalam	No known opportunities	-

Burkina Faso	Criminal Code and Code on the Person and the Family under review (2012); draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2014)	YES
Burundi	Draft Code on Child Protection under discussion (2014); Code on Children's Rights being drafted (2016); Code of Persons and of the Family being revised (2016)	NO
Cambodia	Law on Child Protection being drafted (2014)	?
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
Cayman Islands	Education Bill under discussion (2016)	SOME
Central African Republic	Draft Family Code and draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2014); Criminal Code being revised (2013)	[YES]
Chad	Draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2014); draft Code on the Person and the Family, Bill to amend Criminal Code and draft revised Code of Criminal Procedure under discussion (2014); Bill on violence against women under discussion (2010)	[YES]
Chile	Bill Protecting the Rights of Children and Adolescents and Bill to amend Civil Code under discussion (2015); Constitutional reform under way (2015)	[YES]
China	New child protection laws being drafted (2014)	?
Colombia	No known opportunities	-
Comoros	Amendments to Criminal Code under discussion (2014)	[YES]
Cook Islands	Crimes Act Amendment Bill and Family Law Bill under discussion (2015)	?
Cote d'Ivoire	Personal and Family Code and Criminal Code being revised (2015); draft new Family Code under discussion (2011); draft Criminal Code under discussion (2013)	?
Cuba	Draft Family Code under discussion (2011)	?
Czech Republic	No known opportunities	-
Djibouti	Family Code under review (2013)	?
Dominica	Juvenile Justice Bill and draft domestic violence law under discussion (2014)	NO

Dominican Republic	Civil Code and Penal Code being revised (2014); prohibiting legislation being drafted (2015); Family Code being drafted (2015)	[YES]
DPR Korea	No known opportunities	-
DR Congo	No known opportunities	-
Ecuador	Bill on a Childhood and Teenagehood Free from Physical Punishments and Degrading Treatments (2017)	YES
Egypt	No known opportunities	-
El Salvador	Draft reforms to the Law for the Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents 2009 under discussion (2016); Penal Code under review (2017)	SOME
Equatorial Guinea	Draft Family Code and draft Law on Gender Violence under discussion (2014); law on children being drafted (2011); Criminal and Civil Codes under review (2015)	?
Eritrea	New Constitution being drafted (2015)	NO
Ethiopia	No known opportunities	-
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	Drafting of new Criminal Code planned (2012)	?
Fiji	Draft Disability Decree under discussion (2014)	?
France	No known opportunities	-
French Guiana	No known opportunities	-
French Polynesia	No known opportunities	-
Gabon	Code of Social Action being drafted (2012); Family Code and Children's Code being drafted (2015)	NO
Gambia	Amendments to Children's Act under discussion (2015); Disability Bill under consideration (2015)	NO
Georgia	Draft law on Adoption and Foster Care, draft law on Early Learning and Preschool Education (2016)	[NO]
Ghana	Constitution under review (2015); amendments to the Children's Act and the Juvenile Justice Act under discussion (2016)	?
Gibraltar	No known opportunities	-

Grenada	Juvenile Justice Act, Child Protection Act and Education Act under review (2013); draft new Constitution under discussion (2015)	?
Guadeloupe	No known opportunities	-
Guam	No known opportunities	-
Guatemala	Draft Law against corporal punishment or other forms of cruel punishment under discussion (2016)	SOME
Guernsey	No known opportunities	-
Guinea	Draft revised Civil Code under consideration (2014); Bill on gender equality and Bill to revise Criminal Code under discussion (2015)	?
Guinea-Bissau	Bill to prohibit corporal punishment being drafted (2013); drafting of a comprehensive Code on Protection of Children planned (2013)	[YES]
Guyana	Education Bill and Regulations under discussion (2014); Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2015)	SOME
Haiti	Family Code Bill, draft new Criminal Code, draft Children's Code, Child Protection Bill and Bill on violence against women and girls under discussion (2016)	YES
Hong Kong	No known opportunities	-
India	No known opportunities	-
Indonesia	Draft Criminal Code under discussion (2013)	NO
Iran	Children and Adolescent Protection Bill, draft Bill on The Provision of Women's Security against Violence, draft Bills on Juvenile Justice and Child Protection and draft Charter of Citizens' Rights under discussion (2014)	NO
Iraq	Draft new Personal Status Law under discussion (2014); law on children and law to prohibit corporal punishment possibly being drafted (2014); law for child protection within the family being drafted in Kurdistan (2015); draft Child Protection Act, draft Juveniles Act and draft law on domestic abuse under discussion (2015)	?
Isle of Man	No known opportunities	-
Italy	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

Japan	Civil Code being revised (2012)	?
Jersey	No known opportunities	-
Jordan	Children's Rights Bill and Protection from Domestic Violence Bill under discussion (2014); Bill amending the Criminal Code and Bill on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under discussion (2017)	?
Kazakhstan	No known opportunities	-
Kiribati	Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2015)	[SOME]
Kuwait	No known opportunities	-
Kyrgyzstan	Bill on protection from domestic violence under discussion (2015)	?
Lao PDR	Draft amended Constitution under discussion (2015); Penal Code being amended (2015)	?
Lebanon	Penal Code and Law 422 on Juvenile Justice under review (2015); Child Protection Bill under discussion (2010)	NO
Lesotho	Domestic Violence Bill under discussion (2015); Regulations and Court Rules under Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2011 being drafted (2015)	?
Liberia	Draft Domestic Violence Act and amendments to Constitution under discussion (2015)	[NO]
Libya	Draft Juvenile Justice Law under discussion (2014); new Constitution being drafted (2015); laws allowing flogging under review (2015)	?
Macau	Draft domestic violence law under discussion (2014)	NO
Madagascar	Criminal Code under review (2015); Bill on the protection of children in conflict with the law under discussion (2012)	NO
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
Maldives	Child Rights Bill, Education Bill and Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2015)	NO
Mali	No known opportunities	-

Marshall Islands	No known opportunities	-
Martinique	No known opportunities	-
Mauritania	Law on violence against women being drafted (2015); draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2017)	[YES]
Mauritius	Children's Bill, Juvenile Justice Bill and Disability Bill under discussion (2015)	YES
Mayotte	No known opportunities	-
Mexico	No known opportunities	-
Micronesia	Criminal Code under review (2014); Pohnpei Family Violence Bill under discussion (2015); Family Protection Bills being drafted in Yap, Pohnpei and Chuuk (2016)	?
Monaco	No known opportunities	-
Montenegro	No known opportunities	-
Montserrat	OECS draft bills under consideration (2007)	?
Morocco	Domestic Violence Bill under discussion (2014)	?
Mozambique	Penal Code to be reviewed (2016); Constitution under review (2015)	NO
Myanmar	Child Law being revised (2015); amendments to Constitution under discussion (2015); Bill on Violence against Women being drafted (2015)	?
Namibia	Child Justice Bill under discussion (2013); regulations under Child Care and Protection Act being drafted (2015)	NO
Nauru	Constitution under review (2013)	?
Nepal	Child Rights Bill, Civil Code Bill and Criminal Code Bill under consideration (2015)	?
New Caledonia	No known opportunities	-
Niger	Draft Children's Code under discussion (2014); Family Code being drafted (2011)	YES
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)	?

Niue	Family Law Bill under discussion (2015)	[YES]
Northern Mariana Islands	No known opportunities	-
Oman	No known opportunities	-
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]
Palau	No known opportunities	-
Panama	Drafting of a law on the promotion and integral protection of the family under discussion (2011)	?
Papua New Guinea	Regulations under the Family Protection Act 2013 being drafted (2014); Education Act being revised (2015)	?
Philippines	Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill and other Bills which would prohibit corporal punishment under discussion (2015)	YES
Puerto Rico	No known opportunities	-
Qatar	Amendments to Law on Persons with Special Needs under discussion (2015); Children's Bill under discussion (2016)	?
Republic of Korea	Laws being drafted for day care centres (2010)	?
Reunion	No known opportunities	-
Russian Federation	Law on Domestic Violence being drafted (2014)	[NO]
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
Sao Tome and Principe	Family Law being revised (2013); Civil Code under review (2010); Early Education Bill being discussed (2016); Juvenile Justice Law and other child protection laws under review (2017)	?
Saudi Arabia	Draft Alternative Penalties Act under discussion (2013); draft juvenile act (2015)	[NO]

Senegal	Juvenile justice law under revision (2014); draft Children's Code under discussion (2013); Family Code and Penal Code under review (2013); legislation under consideration to regulate Koranic schools (2017)	?
Serbia	Draft Civil Code Law and amendments to Family Law under discussion (2015); draft Law on the Rights of the Child and Law on Juvenile Offenders and Protection of Juveniles in Criminal Proceedings being discussed (2017)	[YES]
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	-
Slovakia	New Civil Code being drafted (2015)	[YES]
Solomon Islands	Child and Family Welfare Bill, Police Bill and draft Federal Constitution under discussion (2015)	SOME
Somalia	Child Act under discussion in Somaliland (2016); Family Code being drafted for Somaliland (2011); Puntland juvenile justice law being drafted (2009)	?
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 Barthelemy	No known opportunities	-
St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	No known opportunities	-
St Kitts and Nevis	No known opportunities	-
St Lucia	Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2014); Constitutional reform under way (2015)	NO
St Martin	No known opportunities	-
St Pierre et Miquelon	No known opportunities	-
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Child Justice Bill under discussion (2016)	[NO]

State of Palestine	Draft Constitution, draft Social Affairs law, draft amendments to Child Law, draft Penal Code and draft Juvenile Justice Law under consideration (2009); draft family violence prevention law under discussion (2014)	?
Sudan	Rules under the Child Act 2010 being drafted (2012); state child bills under discussion in Blue Nile, North Darfur and Gezira (2010)	?
Suriname	Civil Code being revised (2014); Framework Bill on Care Institutions and draft law on foster care under discussion (2014)	NO
Swaziland	Education legislation being reviewed (2012); Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill under consideration (2015)	?
Switzerland	No known opportunities	-
Syrian Arab Republic	Child Rights Bill on penal and correctional facilities under discussion (2011); review of laws relating to juvenile justice planned (2011); review of Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure (2016)	?
Taiwan	Amendments to Constitution under discussion (2015)	NO
Tajikistan	No known opportunities	-
Thailand	Child Protection Act under review (2015)	?
Timor-Leste	Draft Child Code, draft Tutelary and Education Law for Minors aged 12-16 and draft Law on a Special Penal Regime for Minors aged 16-21 under discussion (2015); Draft Law on Punitive-Educational Measures for Minors (2016)	[SOME]
Tokelau	No known opportunities	-
Tonga	No known opportunities	-
Trinidad and Tobago	No known opportunities	-
Turkey	No known opportunities	-
Turks and Caicos Islands	OECS draft bills possibly under discussion; review of Education Ordinance planned (2015)	NO
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

United Arab Emirates	No known opportunities	-
UR Tanzania	Proposed Constitution under discussion (2016); Zanzibar Education Act 1982 under review (2015)	NO
US Virgin Islands	Bill to prohibit corporal punishment in schools under discussion (2014)	SOME
USA	Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Bill 2015 under discussion (2015)	SOME
Uzbekistan	Amendments to Family Code possibly under discussion (2013); Juvenile Justice Act being drafted (2012); draft law on domestic violence under discussion (2015)	?
Vanuatu	Comprehensive law on children being drafted (2014); Family Protection Act under review (2014); Young Offenders Bill possibly under discussion (2013)	?
Viet Nam	Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Law being reviewed (2017)	[NO]
Wallis and Futuna Islands	No known opportunities	-
Western Sahara	No known opportunities	-
Yemen	Draft Child Rights Act under discussion (2015); new Constitution being drafted (2015)	SOME
Zambia	Draft Children's Code under discussion (2016)	?
Zimbabwe	Legislation authorising corporal punishment in schools under review (2011); General Amendment Bill to harmonise laws with the Constitution under discussion (2015); Children's Act and Education Act under review (2016); draft Juvenile Justice Bill (2016)	?

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