

Immediate opportunities for law reform in Latin America and the Caribbean



Global Initiative to
End All Corporal Punishment
of Children

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

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 If you believe any of the information to be incorrect or out of date, please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.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 | - |
| Bahamas | Constitution under review (2013) | NO |
| 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 | - |
| Chile | Bill Protecting the Rights of Children and Adolescents and Bill to amend Civil Code under discussion (2015); Constitutional reform under way (2015) | [YES] |
| Colombia | No known opportunities | - |
| Cuba | Draft Family Code under discussion (2011) | ? |
| 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] |
| Ecuador | Bill on a Childhood and Teenagehood Free from Physical Punishments and Degrading Treatments (2017) | YES |
| 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 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|------|
| Grenada | Juvenile Justice Act, Child Protection Act and Education Act under review (2013); draft new Constitution under discussion (2015) | ? |
| Guatemala | Draft Law against corporal punishment or other forms of cruel punishment under discussion (2016) | 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 |
| 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 |
| Mexico | Bills under discussion to amend the federal Civil Code and the General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents 2014 (2017) | YES |
| Panama | Drafting of a law on the promotion and integral protection of the family under discussion (2011); Bill on establishing a system of guarantees and comprehensive protection for the rights of children and young persons being drafted (2017) | ? |
| 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] |
| Suriname | Civil Code being revised (2014); Framework Bill on Care Institutions and draft law on foster care under discussion (2014) | NO |
| Trinidad and Tobago | No known opportunities | - |

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
www.endcorporalpunishment.org; info@endcorporalpunishment.org

Last updated: September 2017