

# Immediate opportunities for law reform in West and Central Africa



Global Initiative to  
End All Corporal Punishment  
of Children

Prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children  
([www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)) Last updated: May 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 If you believe any of the information to be incorrect or out of date, please email [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

| State                    | Opportunities for enacting prohibition   | Prohibition included |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Burkina Faso             | Criminal Code and Code on the Person and the Family under review (2012); draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2014)   | YES                  |
| Cameroon                 | Draft Code of the Person and the Family under discussion (2014); Civil Code under review (2014)  | [NO]                 |
| 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]                |
| 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)  | ?                    |
| DR Congo                 | No known opportunities   | -                    |
| 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)   | ?                    |
| 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    |
| Ghana                 | Constitution under review (2015); amendments to the Children's Act and the Juvenile Justice Act under discussion (2016)  | ?     |
| 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] |
| Liberia               | Draft Domestic Violence Act and amendments to Constitution under discussion (2015)   | [NO]  |
| Mali                  | No known opportunities   | -     |
| Mauritania            | Law on violence against women being drafted (2015); draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2017)  | [YES] |
| 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) | ?     |
| 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)   | ?     |
| 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)  | ?     |
| Sierra Leone          | Constitution under review (2015)   | ?     |

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