



Global Initiative to
**End All Corporal Punishment
of Children**

Ending Corporal Punishment of Children: Africa E-Newsletter

FRENCH VERSION ALSO AVAILABLE

Issue 16: September 2014

In this issue

We are pleased to announce that Cabo Verde has joined the list of states enacting legislation which prohibits all corporal punishment of children including within the family. There are now 40 states worldwide prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings.

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1. Who we are

The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which aims to act as a catalyst to encourage more action and progress towards ending all corporal punishment in all continents. We support national campaigns with relevant information and assistance (www.endcorporalpunishment.org). The Africa project of the Global Initiative aims specifically to increase the number of states in Africa committed to and actively pursuing the prohibition and elimination

of all corporal punishment of children, in the family, schools and all other settings. For more information, please contact Sonia Vohito at: vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Through this newsletter we aim to keep civil society organisations and other stakeholders informed and encourage networking around the issue of corporal punishment of children. We encourage organisations to show their support for the prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment of children by signing up to the aims of the Global Initiative at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

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2. Recent developments in Africa

Prohibition achieved

Cabo Verde: The Law on Children and Adolescents 2013, in force 2014, states in article 31 (unofficial translation):

“(1) The family must provide a loving and safe environment that allows the full development of children and adolescents and protects them from any actions affecting their personal integrity.

“(2) In exercising the right to correction parents must always keep in mind the rights of children and adolescents to an upbringing free from violence, corporal punishment, psychological harm and any other measures affecting their dignity, which are all inadmissible.”

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all public and private institutions under the Civil Code, but prior to this reform it was lawful in the home and in non-institutional forms of care. Cabo Verde is the sixth African state to achieve law reform. For further information, see the detailed country report on [Cabo Verde](#).

Positive moves

Comoros: While accepting recommendations to prohibit all corporal punishment made during the Universal Periodic Review, the Government of Comoros reported that the new Criminal Code “contains provisions to criminalise corporal punishment”; the Global Initiative is researching this. If you know of any information, please contact: vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org

South Africa: During a conference on corporal punishment hosted by the South African Human Rights Commission, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, stated that the South African Government has taken the decision to outlaw corporal punishment in order to protect children’s rights as well as break the cycle of violence in South African society. “Children are impressionable and when those in positions of authority use violent means to encourage discipline, the children understand this as saying violence is permissible.... This is why we are going to forge ahead with banning corporal punishment even in the home environment,” said Minister Dlamini. ([Media statement of the Department of Social Development, 3 June 2014](#))

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3. Campaigns

National campaigns and positive discipline

Ethiopia: Save the Children International (SCI) in Ethiopia organised a Positive Discipline in Everyday parenting (PDEP) training in Adama, from 28 July to 1 August 2014. The training was designed for

facilitators who are working directly with parents and children. Participants came from different parts of Ethiopia where Save the Children is implementing its child Protection Projects. SCI is also implementing a new project on physical and humiliating punishment, which aims to incorporate Positive Discipline methods/issues in the curriculum of Kotebe University College in Ethiopia. For more information, please contact: Getachew.Desale@savethechildren.org

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4. Human rights monitoring

The [African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child](#) will be meeting at its 1st extraordinary session from 7 to 11 October 2014, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the session, the African Committee will consider the initial reports of Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa.

Key decisions and recommendations, etc

The **Human Rights Committee** held its 111th session in July 2014. The Committee recommended abolition of corporal punishment (flogging and amputation) in the penal system to **Sudan**. For further information, see the Global Initiative's country report for [Sudan](#).

The **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women** held its 58th session in June/July 2014. To **Swaziland**, the Committee recommended that corporal punishment of children be prohibited in all settings, particularly in schools. For further information, see the Global Initiative's country report for [Swaziland](#).

Briefing the human rights bodies

The Global Initiative regularly briefs human rights treaty monitoring bodies prior to examination of state parties, and encourages national NGOs and human rights institutions to do likewise. We are particularly trying to identify "key" NGOs and human rights institutions in each state with whom we can work more closely in briefing the treaty bodies: if you/your organisation is interested please contact vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org.

The following deadlines for briefing the treaty bodies are based on information available at the time of writing: please note that information is subject to change at short notice. We are always willing to advise NGOs and human rights institutions on the practical details of how to submit briefings (email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org).

Committee on the Rights of the Child:

(1) Session 70 Pre-Sessional Working Group (2-6- Feb 2015). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for the **Central African Republic** and **Eritrea**: the deadline for submitting briefings is **1 November 2014**.

Committee Against Torture:

(1) Session 53 (3-28 Nov 2014). The Committee will examine **Burundi**: the deadline for submitting briefings is **17 October 2014**.

(2) Session 54 (20 Apr – 15 May 2015). The Committee will examine **Congo**: the deadline for submitting briefings is **6 April 2015**.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

(1) Session 54 Pre-Sessional Working Group (1-5 Dec 2014). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for **Sudan** and **Uganda**: the deadline for submitting briefings is **1 October 2014**.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women:

(1) Session 59 (20 Oct – 7 Nov 2014). The Committee will examine **Ghana**: briefings should be submitted by **2 weeks before the session (exact date to be confirmed)**.

(2) Session 61 Pre-Sessional Working Group (10-14 Nov 2014). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for **The Gambia, Namibia** and **Senegal**: briefings should be submitted by **2 weeks before the session (exact date to be confirmed)**.

Human Rights Committee:

(1) Session 113 (16 Mar – 9 Apr 2015). The Committee will examine **Cote d'Ivoire**: deadlines for briefing are not yet available.

The Universal Periodic Review

The obligation to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children continues to be raised with states in the Universal Periodic Review of their overall human rights records. The Global Initiative submits briefings on every state being reviewed, sharing advance draft briefings with relevant organisations to encourage submissions at national level. We also conduct a follow up programme, pursuing the issue with states that accept recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment by writing to key NGOs, NHRIs and Government ministers, and undertake ongoing analysis of coverage of the issue in all aspects of the UPR process (for further information email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

States that were reviewed in the 18th session of the Universal Periodic Review, held in Jan/Feb 2014, responded formally to recommendations on corporal punishment during the 26th session of the Human Rights Council, 10-27 June 2014. As noted above, **Comoros** accepted recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment, including in the home, and reported that the new Criminal Code being adopted criminalises corporal punishment.

The deadline for submitting briefings for the 24th session (Jan/Feb 2016) is provisionally **22 June 2015**: **Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Seychelles, Sierra Leone** and **Somalia**.

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5. Resources: Research/Reports/Publications

NEW BRIEFING FROM GLOBAL INITIATIVE

New briefing for organisations promoting young children's rights

The Global Initiative has produced a new briefing, [Young children's right to an end to all violent punishment](#). Young children are among the most likely to experience corporal punishment and are most vulnerable to its many negative effects. Yet despite widespread concern about violence against young children in the home and elsewhere, the legal and social acceptance of violent punishment is rarely highlighted in child protection work in the early childhood sector. Similarly, the legality and practice of violent punishment is seldom explicitly addressed in the promotion of early childhood care and education services or in efforts to improve young children's health and development. The briefing urges organisations promoting improved conditions for young children to incorporate advocacy for the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment into their work on violence against children, early childhood care and education, children's health and development and other related topics. Download the briefing here: [pdf/Word](#). Hard copies are available; email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

International and regional reports

A major new UNICEF report, [Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children](#), highlights that violent discipline is the most common form of violence against children and that more than two billion children worldwide are not legally protected from all corporal punishment. Drawing on data from 62 countries or areas – including 23 African states, the report states that about four in five children aged 2-14 are subjected to violent discipline in the home, and 17% experience severe physical punishment (being hit on the head, ears or face or being hit hard and repeatedly). In eight countries – including Egypt, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and Nigeria – more than one in three children is subjected to severe physical punishment. The report highlights that children in all regions are “at risk” of violent discipline, and that the levels in the low- and middle-income countries in this report are comparable to those in some high-income countries. It states that in almost all countries, parents and other caregivers are the most commonly cited perpetrators of physical violence against adolescent girls.

Another new UNICEF report, [Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action](#), highlights that legislation outlawing corporal punishment sends a strong social message that violence is unacceptable and draws attention to the prohibition of all corporal punishment.

A new report from the [African Child Policy Forum \(ACPF\)](#) launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19 September 2014 reveals that Africa's children are still subjected to levels of physical and emotional violence, some in alarming proportions, despite more than a decade of efforts by governments. [The African Report on Violence against Children](#) was commissioned at the 15th ordinary session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2010 to follow up on the UN Study on Violence against Children, to provide a detailed perspective on the situation in Africa. The report's findings are principally informed by large-scale surveys undertaken in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and a review of more than 75 studies and reports. In Zimbabwe, for instance, the report reveals that 59% of female children and 43% of male children experienced physical violence perpetrated by their mothers. Conversely, males (46.3%) were more likely to experience physical violence perpetrated by their fathers than females (27.9%). Overall, mothers were cited as those most frequently practicing physical punishment in the home.

National resources

East Africa: The new Children's Rights Education in East Africa ([CREATE](#)) online curriculum for health workers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda [includes](#) information on progress towards prohibition of corporal punishment in the four countries. The curriculum, which is designed to provide health workers with a general introduction to children's rights and their application to day to

day work practice, has been developed through a partnership between the MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation based in Arusha, Tanzania, the Open University in the UK and Child Rights Education for Professionals (CRED-PRO), an international programme committed to strengthening understanding and application of children's rights in professional practice.

Namibia: The Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) in Namibia has produced an animation on alternatives to corporal punishment, based on a comic produced by the organisation. The animation is being screened on national television and at workshops and outreach initiative hosted by the LAC and partners. It is also available on the LAC website and via social media platforms. The animation is the latest tool in the set of materials on alternatives to corporal punishment produced by the organisation. For more information see <http://www.lac.org.na/projects/grap/grapecp.html> and <http://www.lac.org.na/projects/grap/grapani.html>

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6. Media watch

Egypt: An orphanage manager was referred to prosecution for assaulting children. The man was caught on camera while beating and kicking children who resided in the orphanage. He reportedly admitted beating the children under the pretext of “disciplining” them. (*Aswat Masriya*, 7 August 2014)

South Africa: During a two-day conference organised by the SA Human Rights Commission (see section 2 above), the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) announced that it would not protect any teacher caught administering corporal punishment in a school. “SADTU is not going to protect anybody dismissed for administering corporal punishment,” said SADTU representative Magope Maphila. (*The Citizen*, 31 May 2014).

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7. Events in the region

Past events

Child Safeguarding Conference, 3 – 5 September 2014, Cape Town, South Africa

Over 200 participants from Africa, Europe, Australia and the United States gathered in Cape Town for this three day conference to discuss the measures they take to prevent abuse and the challenges they have in doing so. Participants included Prof. Julia Sloth-Nielsen, 2nd vice-chair of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The Global Initiative made a presentation on the challenges of ending corporal punishment of children in Africa. For more information, please visit the [Keeping Children Safe website](#).

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8. Can you help?

Promoting positive, non-violent discipline

We are collecting resources for the promotion of positive discipline in homes, schools and other settings in Africa for listing on the website. Contact elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org to suggest resources for inclusion. Resources which promote positive discipline as part of a campaign for law reform or which are clearly linked to prohibition that has already been achieved are especially welcome.

Research on corporal punishment of children

Evidence of the nature and prevalence of corporal punishment gathered through national studies is important to keep the issue visible and to assess the effectiveness of implementation of prohibiting laws and of measures to change attitudes and practice. Please send us any recent research findings relevant to corporal punishment of children in Africa at the following address: vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org

And ...

Other ways to contribute to the work of the Global Initiative include:

- sending us information on laws prohibiting or authorising corporal punishment
- letting us know about opportunities for promoting law reform (e.g. if draft legislation is being considered) and when new laws are passed which prohibit corporal punishment
- providing contact details for organisations actively working to promote the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children.

If you can help with any of the above, please email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful and welcome your comments: please email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org. We are sending the newsletter to supporters of the aims of the Global Initiative and others who we think will be interested. If you do not want to receive future editions, please tell us at info@endcorporalpunishment.org. If your organisation is not listed as supporting the aims of the Initiative, please consider signing up (online at www.endcorporalpunishment.org or email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

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