



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

GLOBAL INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER 10 **(DECEMBER 2009)**

This edition of the newsletter coincides with the publication by the Global Initiative and Save the Children Sweden of the 2009 global progress report, *Ending legalised violence against children: Global report 2009 – Following up the UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children*. We are also pleased to announce that Luxembourg has joined the list of countries which have achieved full prohibition of all corporal punishment of children. Read on for more....

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1 GLOBAL PROGRESS

****For a full picture of global progress to date see the new 2009 global progress report****

Luxembourg achieves prohibition

In December 2008, Luxembourg enacted the Law on Children and the Family, article 2 of which prohibits all physical violence and inhuman and degrading treatment within families and educative communities. Following a detailed review of the law, official statements and relevant parliamentary debate, we can confirm that this provision is interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment, however light, including by parents, bringing the number of countries worldwide which have achieved prohibition to 25.

The law in Luxembourg does not include a legal defence for the use of corporal punishment in childrearing, which means that provisions against assault in the Penal Code apply to children as to adults. During debate on the bill, it was argued that corporal punishment was therefore already prohibited. However, referring to the Council of Europe's recommendation on prohibition of corporal punishment, MPs decided that it was necessary to confirm in the new law that corporal punishment of children within families is unlawful.

A note on New Zealand

The high media profile given to the views and activities of opponents of prohibition in New Zealand appears to be resulting in some confusion about the status of the law in New Zealand. The situation is that in 2007, legislation was passed which prohibited (and still prohibits) corporal punishment of children by parents. Prior to this, section 59 of the Crimes Act had allowed the use of "reasonable force" in disciplining children. The new Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Act removed this defence so that the criminal laws on assault apply equally to adults and to children. As reported in our last newsletter, opponents of the new law organised a referendum to challenge the new law. Its outcome was not binding on government. Turnout was low and the question on which people were asked to vote was leading and much-criticised. The Prime Minister ruled out a change to the law but announced a review of its implementation. Regular police reviews of the law have repeatedly demonstrated that it is working well and parents are not being unnecessarily prosecuted in cases of minor infringement. The reviews are available on the [NZ police website](#), including the [most recent review](#) in August 2009.

Following the outcome of the referendum, a "March for Democracy" was organised by opponents of the law ostensibly to protest against government refusal to overturn the law. The turnout was again very low, and people in fact protested about many different, often contradictory, issues. In light of this continued pressure by a minority of lobbyists opposed to repeal of section 59 of the Crimes Act, EPOCH New Zealand produced an excellent [briefing for politicians](#) summarising the evidence against corporal punishment and how the law prohibiting it is working, and identifying the source of opposition to the law among certain religious fundamentalist groups. EPOCH NZ makes recommendations to parliamentarians on how to move forward constructively in a way which ensures the safety and wellbeing of children. For further information see www.epochnz.org.nz.

Moves towards prohibition elsewhere

A conference was held in Cairo, Egypt, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, organised by the Ministry of State for Family and Population of Egypt and co-sponsored by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and UNICEF. Representatives from

most OIC member states were among the participants, who renewed their commitment to implementing the Convention, including prohibition of corporal punishment. The resulting Cairo Declaration on the Convention and Islamic Jurisprudence includes the following specific recommendation: “Participants to the Conference recommend that OIC Member States prohibit all corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment or treatment of children, in all settings including within schools and within the family, linking law reform with the promotion of positive, non-violent forms of discipline.”

The role of Latin American parliaments in tackling violence against children was discussed at a meeting in San Jose at the end of August, hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica with the support of the inter-Parliamentary Union and UNICEF. The three-day event was attended by parliamentarians from Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Seven priority recommendations were agreed, which parliamentarians pledged to follow on returning to their assemblies and congresses, including: “Expressly prohibit in national legislation all forms of violence against children and adolescents, including corporal punishment in the home, and promote protective measures in judicial processes so as to avoid re-victimization.”

Other significant moves include:

Bhutan: The National Commission for Women and Children Rights announced that a childcare protection bill is under discussion which would prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings. It is expected to be passed in 2010.

France: Paris MP and paediatrician Edwige Antier has proposed a bill which would prohibit smacking.

Kenya: The new Harmonised Draft Constitution has been released for public debate. It includes the right of every child “not to be subjected to violence or to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading manner in schools and other institutions responsible for the care of children” (article 41) and the right of every person “not to be subjected to corporal punishment or to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading manner” (article 46).

Poland: The Office of the Ombudsman in Poland confirmed that a law prohibiting all corporal punishment is in its final stages and the signs are that it is likely to be passed by the end of 2009.

Slovenia: A new Family Code which prohibits all corporal punishment has been introduced to Parliament.

And ...

China: The Ministry of Health has produced guidelines on the use of the internet by teenagers which state that the treatment of internet addiction should not involve limiting the freedom of the child or imposing physical punishment.

Cote d’Ivoire: The Minister of Education signed a provision against corporal and other humiliating punishment in schools. The minister has indicated that the provision will be adopted as law when the National Parliament becomes functional next year.

Republic of Korea: The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is introducing tougher disciplinary measures in revisions to laws governing teachers, including to prevent teachers who use corporal punishment from being re-hired. (*Korea Times*, 23 November 2009) Draft legislation that was being discussed in March 2009 included prohibition of corporal punishment in schools, but we have no further information.

But ...

Indonesia: Debate continues over the status of the new law in Aceh, the Qanun Jinayat, which provides for Islamic corporal punishments for a wide range of offences. The law was enacted by the former Aceh Legislative Council but the Aceh government refused to endorse it. Some officials say that the bill nevertheless automatically became law 30 days after being passed by the council; others say it remains a bill until it is approved by the government. (*The Jakarta Globe*, 2 November 2009)

Tanzania: The new Law of the Child Act 2009 has been passed but it does not fully prohibit corporal punishment. We have yet to examine a copy of the final text.

US, Tennessee: Policy on corporal punishment in some school boards has been changed following a grievance by Tennesseans for Non-Violent School Discipline that provision for taking into consideration a child's sex when administering corporal punishment was discriminatory. Rather than abolishing corporal punishment altogether, the boards concerned have revised the considerations that must be taken into account to exclude the child's sex. (*Herald-Citizen*, 17 November 2009)

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2 CAMPAIGNS AND CALLS FOR PROHIBITION

****For details of active campaigns in all regions see the new 2009 global progress report****

Campaigns

Canada: The Repeal 43 Committee, campaigning to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code which provides a defence for the use of corporal punishment, marked the 20th anniversary of the UNCRC by emailing 400 MPs in the Senate and the House of Commons with a message calling for explicit prohibition. For further information see www.repeal43.org.

Hong Kong: During the launch of its annual report on the International Day on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, director of the NGO Against Child Abuse, Priscilla Lui Tsang Sun-kai promised to step up the campaign against corporal punishment of children after handling 169 physical abuse cases in 2008-9. (*The Standard*, 20 November 2009)

Nigeria: The Child Rights Network has boosted its campaign against corporal punishment by producing newly designed stickers and posters, and distributing a statement of support and appeal for prohibition which has been endorsed by over 1,000 people and organisations. The latest issue of the bulletin *Discipline* was published in September. For copies and further information, email info_chirn@yahoo.com

Pakistan: To mark the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child issued a statement drawing attention to the repeated recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including repeal of the defence for corporal punishment in section 89 of the Penal Code. (*Scoop*, 23 November 2009)

UK: The Children Are Unbeatable! Campaign to repeal the legal defence of "reasonable punishment" launched a quarterly newsletter. The first issue is available on the [CAU website](#).

A five day multi-faith event was organised by the Churches Network for Non-violence,

supported by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Children Are Unbeatable! Campaign. The aim is to work with faith communities to change attitudes and practises that perpetuate violence against children.

US: The Hitting Stops Here!, Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education and San Jose City College student members of an Associated Student Club, American SAFEPASS (Student Alliance For Education in Peaceful American Schools) are currently involved with the office of the Dept of Education and Labor Chairman George Miller, having met with a representative of his team on Nov. 18, 2009. For regular updates of progress see www.blogtalkradio.com/paula-flowe

Calls for prohibition

Jamaica: MP for North East St Catherine Gregory Mair called for an end to flogging and whipping in schools. Parliament subsequently announced that a taskforce is to be set up to deal with school-based violence and indiscipline. Government Senator Hyacinth Bennett expressed surprise at the number of professional people supporting the use of corporal punishment, with an informal survey of 320 adults finding that 84% say they would rather apply corporal punishment on children now than “pay psychologists to correct that errant child later on”. (*Jamaica Observer*, 29 November 2009)

Malta: Speaking at a seminar organised by the Maltese Association of Social Workers, child rights lawyer Dr Cailin Mackenzie called for the removal of the “reasonable chastisement” defence from the Criminal Code. The call was supported by the Commissioner for Children Carmen Zammit who is in favour of abolition of all corporal punishment of children. (*Times of Malta*, 14 November 2009)

NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAW REFORM

The new global progress report for 2009 is launched this month. This fourth report, published by the Global Initiative and Save the Children Sweden, reviews progress towards prohibition of corporal punishment of children throughout the world in the context of follow up to the UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children. It includes an up to date table of the legality of corporal punishment of children in all settings in all states and a major new section outlining active campaigns in all regions and identifying countries where there are immediate opportunities for the promotion of law reform to achieve prohibition. The report documents the increasing ownership of the issue by international and regional human rights bodies and celebrates the advances that have been made, but also highlights the lack of progress in many countries. *Ending legalised violence against children: Global report 2009* can be downloaded from the Global Initiative website and is available in hard copy from info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Other useful resources

The Global Initiative’s series of **law reform briefings** has been translated into Arabic. The briefings cover all aspects of campaigning for law reform, including how to review current legislation, how to build a national campaign strategy, and how to work with government and parliament. The Arabic and English versions are available in the resources section of the Global Initiative website.

Barnardos New Zealand and the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society, with the support of the Ministry of Social Development, have published a **new booklet on positive parenting**. *A Theology of Children*, written by Reverend Nove Vailaau, aims to give Pacific Island parents living in New Zealand a

positive theological message about non-violent parenting. The booklet argues against the selective use of Biblical quotes and demonstrates that the Bible does not support corporal punishment. It then presents what the Bible says about children and about parental responsibilities. It gives a Samoan perspective on cultural ideas about children and parents, and considers the churches' role with children.

Olivier Maurel's **book about corporal punishment**, *Spanking – Questions and answers about disciplinary violence*, with a foreword by Alice Miller, is now available in English on the website of [Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education](#).

Professor Dr Kai-D. Bussman has conducted **comparative research** examining the effect of banning corporal punishment in five European countries – Austria, France, Germany, Spain and Sweden. The survey was carried out in 2007, when prohibition had been achieved in Austria, Germany and Sweden, and in Spain public debate was underway but prohibition had not yet been achieved. France has not prohibited corporal punishment by parents. The research looks at the effects of prohibition in law and of public education on the acceptance and use of corporal punishment. It concludes that prohibiting corporal punishment by law leads to a demonstrable decline in violence against children, and that public information campaigns in the absence of law reform are less effective. For further information contact familiengewalt@jura.uni-halle.de.

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3 RESEARCH AND REPORTS

A new global report was published in October by UNICEF. The *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Child Protection* documents the high prevalence rates of corporal punishment of children in countries across the world, demonstrating the need for prohibition as an essential element of child protection systems. It also highlights the particular vulnerability of disabled children to corporal punishment, and the widespread acceptance by women and girls of violence against them by men within the home.

Other new reports include:

Bangladesh: A report by UNICEF, published in October, documents a high prevalence of corporal punishment of children at home and school. *Opinions of Children of Bangladesh on Corporal Punishment* involved nearly 4,000 families. The research found that 87.6% of schools use switches and sticks to discipline students; 23% of students said they faced corporal punishment every day, 7% reported injuries and bleeding as a result. In the home, 99.3% of children reported being verbally abused and threatened regularly by their parents, 70% were usually slapped, and 40% were regularly beaten or kicked.

Lebanon: Research into the situation of Palestinian refugees living in Southern Lebanon included a focus on violence in the home, schools and community. The report, *Community Perspectives on Protection: A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Analysis of Palestinian Communities in Southern Lebanon*, reveals widespread use of corporal punishment at home and in schools. The report is written by Samaa Abu Sharar and published by the Danish Refugee Council and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department.

Macedonia: Research into perceptions of children's rights, discrimination and children's exposure to violence was conducted by the First Children's Embassy in the world-Megjashi among 2,234 primary and high school students. Only 9.1% were familiar with their right to protection from abuse. Over half (57.4%) said they know children who have been hit by the teacher, 63%

slapped, 34% caned, 15% kicked. In the family, 41.6% said they had been hit. The full report is available [here](#). For further information see the [website](#).

New Zealand: The Families Commission has published the results of its research into what kinds of discipline strategies parents from 100 families use with their pre-school children. *Discipline in context: Families' disciplinary practices for children aged under five* reveals that parents and carers were three times more likely to use positive techniques than punishments; only 9% thought smacking was effective.

Pakistan: According to the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), 35,000 high school students in Pakistan drop out of school every year due to corporal punishment. The dropout rate is one of the highest in the world, at 50% during the first five years of education. A study conducted by Plan Pakistan in the Punjab found a prevalence rate of 89%, with corporal punishment being widely used in both rural and urban settings. (Reported in *Daily Times*, 13 October 2009)

Peru: A survey of 1,000 people in 15 cities by Ipsos Apoyo, published by El Comercio, found that 42% of Peruvians agree with using corporal punishment “occasionally” to discipline children. Over half (56%) are against physical punishment. (Reported in *Living in Peru*, 27 September 2009)

South Africa: A study by the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention found that young people who were raised in homes where there is violence, including corporal punishment, are more likely to commit criminal offences than young people who were not physically punished by caregivers. The project found that more than half of those interviewed had been subjected to corporal punishment at school, despite its prohibition. For further details see the research bulletin *Building Resilience to Crime and Violence in Young South Africans* and the full report *Walking the Tightrope: Youth Resilience to crime in South Africa*.

Turkey: The Education Reform Initiative of Sabanci University has published the results of a review of primary education from the perspective of legal rights and in light of international human rights agreements. The review involved 14 NGOs and was supported by the European Commission. It found that regulations protecting children from violence are ineffective, there is no prohibition of corporal punishment, and courts have not taken a clear stance on banning corporal punishment in their judgments. The review recommends amendments to the Civil and Penal Codes to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment. The full report is available in [Turkish](#); a summary is available in [English](#).

US: Research by Murray Straus and Mallie Paschall shows that children aged 2-9 who were not spanked had higher IQs four years later than children who had been spanked. The more often children were spanked, the slower the development of their mental ability, but even small amounts of spanking made a difference. Further information is given [here](#). The research is published in *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, vol. 18(5), July 2009, pp.459-483.

BabyCenter.com released the results of its discipline survey in November. Of 1,300 mothers surveyed, 81% were spanked as children, and 49% admitted to hitting their own children. The most common age for parents to introduce “the swat” is between 12 and 23 months. A full report is available [here](#).

Zimbabwe: A baseline study has been carried out by Plan on violence in schools in preparation for the launch of the Learn Without Fear campaign in the country. The research found that 67% of children and 35% of teachers surveyed agreed that corporal punishment was inflicted by all teachers at one point or another, usually unrecorded and unreported. (Reported in *The Zimbabwean*, 14 October 2009)

4 MEDIA WATCH

A selection of media reports on corporal punishment:

- Botswana:** Newly appointed minister of education Pelonomi Venson-Moitoi announced that misbehaviour of students and teachers in schools is a top priority. She reportedly said that no teacher is justified in assaulting a student but evidently does not view corporal punishment as assault as the ministry has issued a reminder to teachers not to go beyond the corporal punishment specified in the Education Act. (*Mmegi Mobile*, 18 November 2009)
- Fiji:** The National Co-ordinating Committee on Children used the International Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect to emphasise again the unacceptability of corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the family home. (*Fiji Times Online*, 19 November 2009)
- Gambia:** Speaking at a press conference, former treasurer of the Voice of the Young, Yassin Nyan, called for more action to ensure respect for the rights of the child in Gambia and drew attention to physical punishment in schools and homes. (*FOROYYA Newspaper*, 24 November 2009)
- Ghana:** Corporal punishment was one of the issues raised by children during a roundtable discussion between children and parliamentarians organised by UNICEF and the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (*UNICEF*, 16 November 2009)
- India:** A primary school student was hospitalised after being beaten with a stick by his teacher for pointing out a mistake (*The Times of India*, 25 November 2009). Another pupil died after being beaten by the college principal (*The Times of India*, 13 November 2009). And a student set himself on fire and died after allegedly being beaten by his school principal (*Deccan Herald*, 13 November 2009).
- Indonesia:** The chief of the Indonesian Teachers Union said that more teachers are being sued for administering corporal punishment in schools than ever before. The Union has urged the government to pass a law to protect teachers from such lawsuits. The National Commission for Child Protection (Komnas Anak) opposed the call, saying the union should instead be telling teachers not to use violent punishment in the classroom (*Jakarta Globe*, 23 November 2009). An earlier report said that the Union had told teachers to avoid punishing their students, either by bullying or corporal punishment (*The Jakarta Post*, 17 November 2009).
- Japan:** The Fukuoka District Court's Kokura Branch has ordered the Kitakyushu city government to pay 8.8 million yen to the parents of an 11-year-old boy who hanged himself in March 2006, citing a direct link between the boy's suicide and corporal punishment inflicted by his teacher. (*News@AsiaOne*, 3 October 2009)
- Jordan:** A workshop on child abuse held under the auspices of Her Majesty Queen Rania was timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and drew attention to corporal punishment in the home and schools. (*The Jordan Times*, 23 November 2009)
- Pakistan:** A private school pupil was beaten with a stick for being unable to explain the meaning of a poem. He was taken to hospital and treated for fractures to his arm. (*Daily Times*, 21 November 2009)

Poland: The number of reported cases of physical abuse of children by teachers in the classroom is reportedly growing. In 2009 in the city of Lublin, six teachers have been reprimanded for using corporal punishment, and numbers have risen in other cities too. (*The New Poland*, 13 November 2009)

Sudan: A 16 year old girl in Khartoum was given 50 lashes because her knee length skirt was considered to be indecent. (*Mail Online*, 28 November 2009)

United Arab Emirates: The government introduced school inspections for the private sector this year. The inspection reports revealed the use of corporal punishment in schools, despite its prohibition in law. (*The National*, 28 November 2009)

Viet Nam: To avoid corporal punishment, 25 students at a secondary school swallowed tablets to induce feelings of sleepiness that enabled them to go to the school clinic instead of attending classes. (*Viet Nam Net*, 16 November 2009)

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5 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

Key decisions and recommendations, etc.

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** held its 52nd session in September/October, and made strong recommendations for comprehensive law reform to prohibit all corporal punishment. To Bolivia, Mozambique and the Philippines, the Committee drew attention to the insufficient progress since its previous recommendations on the issue. Law reform is currently under way in the Philippines and the Committee urged the speedy adoption of the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill, which would achieve prohibition in all settings. The Committee expressed concern that in Mozambique and Bolivia, recently enacted laws do not prohibit all corporal punishment of children and urged the governments to enact explicit prohibition in all settings. The Committee paid particular attention to the dual legal system of positive law and indigenous customary law in Bolivia, stressing that corporal punishment should be prohibited under both systems. Noting the commitment of Pakistan to prohibition, the Committee recommended repeal of the legal defence for the use of corporal punishment (section 89 of the Penal Code) and enactment of prohibition as a matter of urgency. With regard to Qatar, the Committee noted that measures are being taken to address the problem of corporal punishment and urged the state party to take into account the Committee's General Comment No. 8 while drafting new legislation.

The **Committee Against Torture** held its 43rd session in November. It welcomed the achievement of full prohibition in Spain. To Slovakia, the Committee expressed concern that corporal punishment is not explicitly prohibited in the Act on the Family and recommended prohibition supported by awareness raising and educational campaigns.

The concluding observations of the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** were published following its 43rd session in November. The Committee expressed concern at the legality of corporal punishment in Poland and recommended that amendments to the 2005 domestic violence law include prohibition of corporal punishment in the home.

The **Human Rights Committee** held its 97th session in October. In its concluding observations on the fifth/sixth report of Ecuador, the Committee expressed concern at the legal and social acceptance of corporal punishment in the family and other contexts and recommended steps to abolish corporal punishment.

The **African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child** published its first set of recommendations after examining state party reports on implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The Committee noted the resistance to ending corporal punishment in Egypt and recommended that the government “take the necessary measures to abolish the practice”. The Committee requested that Nigeria include information about corporal punishment in schools in its next periodic report.

Briefing the Committees

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 always willing to advise NGOs and human rights institutions on the practical details of how to submit briefings (email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

The *Committee on the Rights of the Child* is holding its 53rd session in January 2010 and is examining the following states: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* – Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mongolia, Norway, Paraguay, Tajikistan; *Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* – Ecuador, Israel, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, Sierra Leone; *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* – Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Mongolia, Sierra Leone.

At the same session, the Pre-Sessional Working Group of the Committee will be drafting lists of issues and questions for future examination of: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* – Argentina, Belgium, TFYR Macedonia, Grenada, Guatemala, Japan, Nigeria, Tunisia; *Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* – Argentina, Colombia, Japan, TFYR Macedonia, Serbia; *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* – Belgium, Colombia, TFYR Macedonia, Japan, Serbia. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 5 January 2010.**

The *Committee Against Torture* will be holding its 44th session in April/May 2010 and will examine: Austria, Cameroon, France, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic.

At the same session, the Pre-Sessional Working Group will be considering issues and questions for future examination of: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ireland, Mongolia, Turkey. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 19 April 2010.**

The *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* will be holding its 44th session in May 2010 and will examine: Algeria, Colombia, Mauritius, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan.

At the same session, the Pre-Sessional Working Group will consider issues and questions for future examination of: Sri Lanka, Yemen, Russian Federation, Turkey, Republic of Moldova, Mali. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 30 April 2010.**

The *Human Rights Committee* will be holding its 98th session in March 2010 and will examine: Mexico, Argentina, Uzbekistan, New Zealand.

At the same session, the Country Report Task Forces will consider issues and questions for future examination of: Serbia, Poland, Jordan, Hungary, Belgium. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 1 March 2010.**

The *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* will be holding its 45th session in January/February 2010 and will examine: Botswana, Egypt, Malawi, Netherlands, Panama, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan.

At the same session, the Pre-Session Working Group will consider issues and questions for future examination of: Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Czech Republic, Malta, Tunisia, Uganda, and possibly Chad, Comoros, Lesotho. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 5 January 2010.**

The Universal Periodic Review process

Countries to be examined by the **Human Rights Council** in the 7th session of the Universal Periodic Review, February 2010, are: Angola, Egypt, Madagascar, Gambia, Qatar, Fiji, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Bolivia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. **The deadline for submitting briefings on these countries has passed.**

Countries to be examined in the 8th session, May 2010, are Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Armenia and Belarus. **The deadline for submitting briefings on these countries has passed.**

The 9th session will take place in December 2010. The deadlines for submission of briefings are:

By 12 April 2010 for Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritania, Lebanon, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia

By 19 April 2010 for Mongolia, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, the US, Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia.

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6 CAN YOU HELP?

Please let us know if you have any information on laws prohibiting or authorising corporal punishment in the following countries and settings (email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

Penal system (sentence of the courts) – Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Oman

Penal system (disciplinary measure in penal institutions) – Bahrain, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niue, Sao Tome & Principe, Syrian Arab Republic

Alternative care settings – Guinea-Bissau, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful and welcome your comments: please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org. We are sending the newsletter to supporters of the aims of the Global Initiative (for the full list, click on “Supporters” on the [website](#)) 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 (email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

To receive the latest developments between newsletters, please sign up to the RSS news feed at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

“Our goal is clear and the progress already made demonstrates how readily it is achievable. The urgency of the goal is poignantly underlined by the imperative of narrowing the gap between political commitments to the realization of children’s rights and the persisting distress and hurt of so many children across the world.”

Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, in *Ending legalised violence against children: Global report 2009*, published jointly by the Global Initiative and Save the Children Sweden, December 2009