



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

GLOBAL INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER 12 **(MAY 2010)**

The pace of law reform to prohibit corporal punishment continues to gain momentum with the addition of Liechtenstein to the list of countries achieving full prohibition and reforms in progress in many other states. Pressure from international and regional human rights bodies is also growing, as governments are increasingly examined on their efforts to give children full legal protection from assault. Reports to these bodies from national organisations play a significant role in maintaining this pressure. If your country is listed in this newsletter as coming up for examination on its implementation of human rights instruments, please consider submitting a briefing – we are always pleased to help. Read on for more details....

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1 GLOBAL PROGRESS

Liechtenstein achieves prohibition

Liechtenstein has joined the list of countries which have passed legislation to completely prohibit corporal punishment of children, including by parents in the home. Article 3(1) of the Children and Youth Act 2008 (in force 2009) states: “Children and young people have the rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to ... (b) education/upbringing without violence: corporal punishment, psychological harm and other degrading treatment are not accepted....” (unofficial translation). This brings the number of countries worldwide which have achieved full prohibition to 26, including 21 Council of Europe member states.

Moves towards prohibition elsewhere

Estonia: The newly formed Department of Children and Family Policy in the Ministry of Social Affairs announced its intention to prohibit corporal punishment as a priority task. Draft legislation was expected to be introduced in April 2010.

Norway: Norway achieved prohibition of all corporal punishment in 1987, but a Supreme Court ruling in 2005 stated that light smacks remained lawful. The law was reviewed and in April 2010 amendments were passed to confirm that all corporal punishment of children, however light and whoever the perpetrator, is prohibited.

Poland: A bill “On the Prevention of Family Violence”, which would prohibit corporal punishment by parents, has now passed to the Senate. If accepted without amendments, it will be signed by the President and should come into force in July.

And ...

India: The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, which prohibits corporal punishment in schools, came into force on 1 April 2010. Rules implementing the Act were expected to be ready by April/May, and various state laws are being reviewed to comply with the prohibition of corporal punishment.

Kenya: The Attorney-General has published the draft Constitution which includes the right of every person “not to be subjected to corporal punishment” (article 29). There is to be a national referendum on the draft Constitution in August.

US: A federal bill banning corporal punishment (paddling) in schools was under consideration by the US House Education and Labor Committee. More than 50 national organisations oppose corporal punishment in schools, including the National Education Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association. The bill is expected to be presented to Congress in June 2010.

In Florida, legislation has been passed which prohibits corporal punishment in prekindergarten programmes.

Other indications of progress

Bangladesh: Some elements of a draft national child policy were announced, including rejection of corporal punishment in schools. Previously, the government stated its commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, at the July 2006 meeting of the South Asia

Forum, following the 2005 regional consultation of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children.

Canada: The Catholic Church published a new protocol – the Covenant of Care – for the Archdiocese of Halifax and the Diocese of Yarmouth following recent highly publicised cases of abuse in past decades. It explicitly states that staff and volunteers “shall not engage in corporal punishment”.

Uganda: During examination of its initial report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the government stated its intention to prohibit corporal punishment in schools when it reviews the Children Act.

But ...

Australia: A review of legislation on corporal punishment of children by the New South Wales Department of Justice and Attorney-General rejected calls for prohibition.

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2 CAMPAIGNS AND CALLS FOR PROHIBITION

Alice Miller

We are sad to note the death in April of [Alice Miller](#), who wrote extensively on the negative impact of corporal punishment of children, including the book *For Your Own Good: Hidden Cruelty in ChildRearing and the Roots of Violence* (1983).

“People still hit their children, and the effects are disastrous. A strict ban on such crimes would finally make people aware that every child MUST be respected and has the right to protection from the state. Otherwise we will be rearing young people who will think nothing of starting wars in the future. Beaten children lose their natural compass.”

(Alice Miller in interview, October 2009)

Campaigns

The **Council of Europe** is campaigning hard for law reform in all 47 member states. In April, together with Save the Children Sweden, the Council held a [high level debate](#) in Strasbourg, marking the 30th anniversary of prohibition in Sweden. The debate generated substantial international media coverage, particularly concerning states which have yet to achieve prohibition. In May, in cooperation with the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children, Marta Santos Pais, and the Austrian government, the Council of Europe hosted an [international conference](#) in Vienna on ending violence against children, including corporal punishment, involving 50 participants from over 20 countries worldwide. Inspired by the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, there was a strong emphasis on prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings, including by parents in the home. For further information on the Council of Europe's efforts to end corporal punishment, see the [campaign website](#).

Other campaign news:

Australia: Save the Children Australia published a [position statement](#) on corporal punishment. It defines corporal punishment and details its negative impact on children. Noting the progress worldwide towards prohibition and the current legality of corporal punishment in Australia, it

calls on governments to review their laws to ensure that all corporal punishment is prohibited, however mild.

Uganda: [Plan Uganda](#) launched a child protection campaign against sexual harassment, bullying and corporal punishment in schools.

UK: The [Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance](#) has issued its second edition of the [campaign newsletter](#) (April 2010), covering legal developments in the UK, growing support for prohibition among professionals working with children and among faith groups, and new research with children and young people.

US: SpankOut Day USA was initiated in 1998 to raise awareness of the need to end corporal punishment and to promote positive parenting, and is held on 30 April each year. Participants must teach positive discipline to parents and carers, and evaluate their event. For further information about the day and information on events in 2010, see the website of the [Center for Effective Discipline](#).

Calls for prohibition

Australia: The Australian Education Union called on the Government in the Northern Territory to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in schools. But Education Minister Chris Burns said the Education Department does not endorse corporal punishment and there is no need for law reform. The call for prohibition came following publication of a [report](#) by the Australian Institute of Family Studies which identified Northern Territory law as allowing corporal punishment by teachers.

Guyana: Following reports of violence against primary school students, the NGO Help and Shelter called on the Ministry of Education to develop and implement a clear policy on alternative, non-violent methods of discipline. It also stated its readiness to work with schools and families to change attitudes towards the use of violent discipline. (*Stabroek News*, 12 March 2010). During the Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review of Guyana, the government delegation stated it would consider the recommendation to prohibit corporal punishment of children. (*Stabroek News*, 18 May 2010)

Ireland: The [Children's Rights Alliance](#), a coalition of more than 90 NGOs, called for immediate law reform to prohibit corporal punishment. The [Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children](#), a member of the Alliance, issued a [press release](#) similarly calling for prohibition.

Senegal: A report by Human Rights Watch calls on the government to amend the law to prohibit corporal punishment in schools. [“Off the Backs of Children”: Forced begging and other abuses against Talibés in Senegal](#) documents the exploitation and abuse faced by boys (talibés) forced to beg on the streets by abusive teachers (marabouts) in residential Quranic schools (daaras), based on interviews with 175 current and former talibés, and 120 others including their teachers, families, Islamic scholars and government officials.

Turkey: In the context of calls from the Council of Europe to prohibit corporal punishment, advocates called on the government to reform the law. Öztürk Türkdoğan, chairman of the Human Rights Association said: “The dominant culture of violence in our society is rooted in domestic violence. Corporal punishment of children starts with the mentality of ‘educating children’ but brings about the legitimisation of violence.” Emrah Kirimsoy, from the children’s rights group Agenda: Child! stated: “Violence and its legitimisation start from home, and when we hear stories like we’ve been hearing recently, we look at each other and ask the question ‘Who is responsible?’ We all are, and realising this starts with realising the harms of corporal punishment.” (*Today’s Szaman*, 30 April 2010)

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NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAW REFORM

The **Global Initiative** in partnership with the **African Child Policy Forum** is launching an All-Africa e-newsletter. It covers developments in the region and new resources to support law reform, and highlights opportunities for engaging with law reform processes in African states. The first edition is being distributed at the same time as this edition of the global newsletter, to individuals and organisations we know to be interested. To subscribe, please email vohito@africanchildforum.org.

The **Council of Europe** has published new *Policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence*. The guidelines are based on eight general principles – protection against violence, the right to life and maximum survival and development, non-discrimination, gender equality, child participation, a state’s obligations, other actors’ obligations and participation, and the best interests of the child. They are intended to promote the development and implementation of holistic national frameworks to safeguard children’s rights and eradicate violence against children, including all corporal punishment.

New Zealand continues to keep implementation of full prohibition high on the agenda, through ongoing monitoring of the law and the promotion of positive parenting, producing resources that can also be used to support campaigns for law reform in other countries. The [sixth review of police activity](#) following prohibition is now available. Covering the period June to December 2009, it demonstrates that the law continues to be implemented well, with a range of responses to reports of “smacking”, and prosecution kept to a minimum. In addition, the Ministry of Social Development has published a report on community based initiatives that encourage the use of community development approaches to promoting positive parenting. The report – *SKIP: What it is and why it works* – is based on research into [SKIP](#) (Strategies with Kids: Information for Parents), a government funded initiative that supports positive, non-violent childrearing.

Other new positive parenting resources to support the promotion and implementation of prohibition include:

- a 40-page manual published by the **Instituto Promundo** in Brazil, in partnership with **Save the Children Sweden** and the **Bernard Van Leer Foundation**. *Ending Corporal and Humiliating Punishments: A manual to inform and empower fathers, mothers and caregivers of children* contains educational activities to promote reflection on the use of physical and other humiliating punishment of children. It is available in [Portuguese](#), [English](#) and [Spanish](#);
- the [latest newsletter](#) (Vol. 3, no. 1) of the [Working Group on Positive Discipline](#) of the **Southern African Network** to End Corporal and Humiliating Punishment of Children includes details of publications and past and future events to support the promotion of positive parenting; and
- a series of new [leaflets on positive parenting](#) from the **UK’s NSPCC**.

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3 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

Key decisions and recommendations, etc.

The **Committee Against Torture** held its 44th session in April/May, and made recommendations to Switzerland and Yemen to prohibit corporal punishment.

The **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** held its 44th session in May. It recommended prohibition of corporal punishment of children, including in the home, to Afghanistan, Algeria and Mauritius.

The **Human Rights Council** held the 8th session of the Universal Periodic Review in May 2010. Recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment of children were made to Armenia, Belarus, Grenada, Guyana, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho and Turkey.

The **UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**, Manfred Nowak, produced a [Study on the phenomena of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the world](#), including an assessment of conditions of detention, in which he devoted a number of pages to the problem of corporal punishment. Noting the different forms such punishment can take, he stated (para. 209): “What is common to all these forms of corporal punishment, however, is that physical force is used intentionally against a person in order to cause a considerable level of pain. Furthermore, without exception, corporal punishment has a degrading and humiliating component. All forms of corporal punishment must therefore, be considered as amounting to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment in violation of international treaty and customary law.” Before focusing on corporal punishment as a sanction for crime and as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions, he asserted the importance of dealing with corporal punishment of children in the home and schools, and endorsed the findings recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children and the Committee on the Rights of the Child on this issue. In another [report](#), on follow up to his previous recommendations, he noted the problem of corporal punishment in penal systems, including in Indonesia, Jordan and Nigeria. In a [statement](#) on his visit to Jamaica, he drew attention to the poor conditions in St Andrew Juvenile Remand Centre for boys, which “demonstrated a disturbing system of repression and regular corporal punishment”.

The **African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child** held its 15th meeting in March. At a special session on violence against children, the African Child Policy Forum highlighted the lack of prohibition of corporal punishment in schools and homes. Marta Santos Pais, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Violence Against Children, called on the Committee to develop an “advocacy campaign to call for an explicit ban on all violence against children, including corporal punishment”.

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. Current opportunities to submit advance briefings on states coming up for examination are listed below. 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* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 55th session in September/October 2010 to consider the issues to raise in its forthcoming examinations of Denmark, Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, Czech Republic, Finland, Lao PDR and New Zealand. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted before 13 August 2010.**

The *Committee Against Torture* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 45th session in November 2010 to consider the issues to raise in its forthcoming examinations of Ghana,

Ireland, Kuwait, Monaco, Slovenia and Turkmenistan. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted before 2 August 2010.**

The *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 45th session in November 2010 to consider the issues to raise in its forthcoming examinations of Cameroon, Estonia, Germany and Israel. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted before 1 November 2010.**

The *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 46th session in July 2010 to consider the issues to raise when it examines Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Israel, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka and South Africa. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted by 14 June 2010.**

The *Human Rights Committee* country report task forces will be meeting at its 100th session in October 2010 to consider the issues to raise when the Committee examines Jamaica, Bulgaria, Kuwait, Guatemala and Iran. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted by 12 July 2010.**

The 10th session of the *Universal Periodic Review* will take place in January 2011. The deadlines for making submissions on the countries involved are:

5 July 2010 for Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Myanmar, Nauru and Nepal

12 July 2010 for Oman, Paraguay, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Australia, Austria, Estonia and Georgia

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4 RESEARCH AND REPORTS

An **international study** of practices and perceptions of discipline in six countries – China, India, Italy, Kenya, Thailand and the Philippines – was carried out by researchers at the University of Michigan and five other universities. Published in the March/April issue of the journal *Child Development*, the research examined associations between the discipline techniques of 292 mothers and their children's aggressive and anxious behaviour. It included the views of the children (aged 8-12). It found that time-out, smacking, expressing disappointment and shaming were significantly related to greater child anxiety symptoms. Smacking, expressing disappointment and yelling were linked to child aggression.

Other new research and reports include:

Australia: A new book on physical punishment of children has been published by researchers at Monash University. *Physical Punishment in Childhood: the Rights of the Child*, written by Dr Bernadette Saunders and Professor Chris Goddard, was launched by Justice Alastair Nicholson, Family Court of Australia, who called for law reform to give children equal protection from assault. The book explores the relationship between lawful corporal punishment and unlawful abuse, and includes children's own views and responses.

A research paper by Bronwen Naylor and Bernadette Saunders examines the state of Australian law on physical punishment of children and the politics of the debate around prohibition. *Whose Rights? Children, parents and discipline*, Monash University Faculty of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 2009/37, concludes that governments must address the problem of physical punishment because children are bearers of human rights which should be fully respected.

An online poll of more than 500 parents of toddlers found that 47% have hit their children but only 5% say they use “physical discipline” on their child; 7% say they threaten punishment, e.g. with a spoon, but rarely carry it out. (Reported in *The Daily Telegraph*, 14 May 2010)

Hong Kong: In a survey of more than 100 children aged 6-15 and 126 parents, carried out by the NGO Against Child Abuse, 58% of parents admitted to smacking or caning their children in the previous 12 months. Almost half (47%) of children who had been physically punished said it had hurt them badly and a third thought it had damaged their relationship with their parents. (Reported in *Earth Times*, 4 May 2010). Publication of the surveys led to calls for law reform to prohibit all corporal punishment.

Ireland: In an online poll of 826 people, 67% of parents admitted smacking their children. Most said they do it rarely, but 4% said they do so regularly. A third said they never smack their children. When asked how they would advise their children to deal with violence from another child, one in five said they would tell them to hit back. (Reported in *Newstalk*, 4 March 2010)

Jamaica: A government sponsored attitudinal survey of 1,000 people, carried out by Market Research Services Limited, revealed that the majority – regardless of socio-economic status – believe beating a child is necessary in correcting bad behaviour; 30% supported ending the beating of children. More than half (51.8%) did not agree that acts such as pinching, hitting the head, biting, kicking and thumping a child constituted corporal punishment. (Reported in *The Gleaner*, 17 February 2010)

UK: New research into the views of very young children on family discipline has been published by the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance. Over 40 children gave their views, as a storybook with pictures was used to introduce the topic. The report, *I don't get sad, only when my mum smacks me: Young children give advice about family discipline*, reveals that the children condemned smacking as a form of parental discipline and suggested alternative discipline strategies, including talking, removing privileges and giving rewards for good behaviour. They spoke about how smacking hurts them, both physically and emotionally.

A survey on children's views on rights and responsibilities by the Children's Rights Director for England, Roger Morgan, ranked children's rights according to how important children felt they were. Top of the list was the right to be protected from abuse; the fifth most important was the right “not to be treated or punished in a way that is cruel or meant to make me feel bad about myself”, which received over 2,000 votes.

US: A study by Catherine Taylor and colleagues at Tulane University, the University of New York, and Wayne State University, found that more frequent use of corporal punishment at age 3 is associated with increased levels of child aggression at age 5. Almost, 2,500 mothers were surveyed. About half had not spanked their child in the previous month, 27.9% had spanked once or twice, and 26.5% more than twice during the period. Even after controlling for all relevant factors, three year old children who were spanked twice or more in the previous month had a 50% increased chance of being aggressive when they turned five, a statistically significant correlation. The paper is published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

The CS Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health 2010 presented various scenarios to over 1,500 parents of 2-17 year olds and asked how likely they were to use different discipline strategies. A third said they were very likely to spank or paddle their child (38% of parents of 2-5 year olds, 34% for 6-12 year olds, and 25% for 13-17 year olds). The researchers concluded that parents already use a variety of disciplinary approaches and are avoiding corporal punishment, and that research is needed as to how effective the methods are perceived to be.

In an online poll by *The Ottawa Herald* (Kansas), 83% of respondents said they believed in using corporal punishment in “disciplining” children. (Reported in *The Ottawa Herald*, 21 May 2010)

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5 MEDIA WATCH

A selection of media reports:

Australia: Western Australia Child Protection Minister Robyn McSweeney supported the decision to bar a couple from fostering because they admitted to physically punishing their own children, but many MPs and foster parents said that smacking by foster parents should be allowed. (*The West Australian*, 13 March 2010)

Bangladesh: Eight children received hospital treatment after being caned by their head teacher. The parents have complained to the local education authority, which has pledged to take action. (*heraldsun.com.au*, 11 March 2010)

Belize: A school principle was charged with harm after whipping a pupil with a rope. (*Love FM*, 20 April 2010)

Botswana: Assistant Education Minister Keletso Rakhudu urged teachers to avoid inflicting corporal punishment on students in favour of other measures. He said that when corporal punishment is used it should be administered in accordance with the regulations under the Education Act. (*Botswana Press Agency*, 3 March 2010)

China: A new circular was issued by Fujian’s provincial education department reminding teachers that they must not physically punish or insult children. (*China Daily*, 13 May 2010)

Fiji: A three day workshop on positive discipline was held by Save the Children Fiji for communities in Lami. Participants included pre-school education committee members, teachers, police officers and young people. (*Fiji Times Online*, 28 April and 1 May 2010)

Students from around the country submitted a manifesto to the Education Ministry on “Having a say on school in Fiji”. It called for an end to corporal punishment in schools. (*Fijivillage.com*, 9 March 2010). Corporal punishment is unlawful in schools under a 2002 High Court ruling, but this has yet to be confirmed in legislation.

India: Many cases of corporal punishment in schools were reported, even leading to death and often with apparent impunity. According to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the number of complaints concerning the treatment of children in schools, including of corporal punishment, has risen over the last year (*Press Trust of India*, 19 April 2010; *DNAIndia.com*, 9 March 2010; *The Times of India*, 22 May 2010)

Jordan: A 12-year-old boy lost his right eye after being hit by his teacher. The teacher, who has since been fired, slapped him, causing him to fall and hit a closet. Corporal punishment is unlawful in schools but it continues to be used; it is also widely used in the home. (*globalpost*, 8 May 2010)

Malaysia: Dr Lai Fong Hwa, a child and adolescent psychiatrist from Penang Hospital, speaking at a seminar on “Spare the Rotan, Praise More” at the Caring Society Complex in Penang, called

for an end to indiscriminate use of the cane (rotan) in childrearing, but did not advocate abandoning it altogether. (*The Star Online*, 21 April 2010)

Nigeria: A group of NGOs led by the Germany-based Nigerian artist Chidi Kwubiri organised workshops on the theme of “Whip Not Child” to raise awareness among teachers and parents of the dangers of whipping their children. Pupils in schools in Lagos were given the opportunity to share their views and experiences on corporal punishment through visual art, music, photography and the spoken word. These were later shown at a public exhibition in Lagos. A final exhibition will be held in Germany in late summer 2010. (*Daily Independent*, 2 March 2010)

Pakistan: A grade 6 student was beaten unconscious by a teacher in the Punjab. The incident was condemned by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Ministerial directives state that corporal punishment should not be used in schools, but there is no prohibition in law and it remains widely used. (*Daily Dawn*, 6 March 2010)

The Punjab Education Foundation (PEF) and Plan International in Pakistan are to work together to protect children from violence in schools, including corporal punishment. PEF schools in 29 districts will end the use of corporal punishment, and awareness will be raised among teachers and school administrators of the Punjab government’s stance against corporal punishment in schools. (*The International News*, 21 May 2010)

The Peshawar provincial government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child for providing training to teachers to end the use of corporal punishment in schools and adopt non-violent disciplinary methods in its place. (*Daily Dawn*, 18 March 2010)

South Africa: A 9-year old died after allegedly being beaten by a teacher with a plastic pipe for making a noise in the classroom. The teacher was suspended pending an investigation. (*Sowetan*, 21 April 2010)

Sri Lanka: A 13-year old girl was hospitalised after being caned and forced to eat inedible food, despite corporal punishment being unlawful. (*Asian Human Rights Commission*, 7 May 2010)

Taiwan: An elementary school teacher admitted slapping a 9 year old student nine times across the face. The teacher was suspended indefinitely. (*Taipei Times*, 27 March 2010)

Yemen: A four day workshop on positive discipline was held in March in Mukalla, Hadramout province, organised by the Yemeni NGOs Coordination Authority for the Protection of Child Rights in partnership with Democracy School and funded by the European Union. More than 40 teachers participated. (*Yemen News Agency*, 25 March 2010)

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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, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niue, Sao Tome and Principe, Syrian Arab Republic

[Alternative care settings](#) – Guinea-Bissau, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

We are also very keen to hear of law reforms that are currently being undertaken.

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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.

A legal ban [on corporal punishment] is not a crusade against parents: it is the definite push that society needs to start resorting to non-violent and more efficient forms of discipline. A legal ban neither erodes parental authority nor questions the need for discipline. It just challenges the use of violence.... I firmly believe that the existence of a legal defence for parents who “reasonably chastise” their children effectively halts the evolution towards a society more respectful of children’s rights and parents’ potential to improve their parental skills.

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary-General, Council of Europe,
letter to *The Telegraph* (UK), 4 May 2010