



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

GLOBAL INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER 16 **(APRIL 2011)**

This second newsletter of 2011 brings news of much action towards prohibiting corporal punishment – at regional and national levels – as well as pressure on states to reform their laws from international human rights bodies and new resources to support NGO involvement at this level. There are also many new research studies to report. Ultimately, though, what matters for children and societies is the enactment of laws giving a clear message that children’s protection from assault is no less than that enjoyed by other people, and comprehensive measures to eliminate corporal punishment in practice. We hope this newsletter will inspire and encourage you to persevere in the pursuit of law reform.

Contents (click on the links for further information)

- 1. Global progress** – regional progress in Africa, the League of Arab States and South Asia; progress at national level in Belize, Slovenia and the US; less positive developments in the Republic of Korea and Zambia
- 2. Campaigns and calls for prohibition** – news from Ireland, Pakistan, the UK and the US, plus a forthcoming international summit and new resources to support law reform
- 3. Human rights monitoring** – lots of news from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the SRSB on Violence against Children and the Human Rights Council; a new Global Progress Panel; information on states coming up for examination by human rights bodies and new resources to support NGO involvement
- 4. Research and reports** – major new research from UNICEF plus recently published international studies and reports from the Maldives, New Zealand, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Philippines, UK, United Arab Emirates and the US
- 5. Media watch** – selected news from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Macau, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Swaziland, United Arab Emirates, UK and US
- 6. Can you help?** – appeals for information on alternative care settings and more...

1 GLOBAL PROGRESS

Progress at regional level

Africa: The African Child Policy Forum and the Global Initiative, in collaboration with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, held a Strategic Consultation in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso 28 February – 1 March, attended by key stakeholders from across Africa. The objectives were to:

- review the status of corporal punishment across Africa and progress towards its prohibition and elimination (the [All Africa Report](#) published in December 2010 provides a basis for this);
- identify immediate and forthcoming opportunities for progress and how to make effective use of them;
- discuss the role of key partners and how to achieve accelerating progress effectively through collaboration;
- identify challenges and how to overcome them;
- agree practical ways forward.

The outcome is a detailed Strategic Plan which will be circulated shortly and also be available at www.endcorporalpunishment.org

League of Arab States: The Fourth Arab High Level Conference on the Rights of the Child, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, 19-21 December 2010, focused on “Promoting Arab partnership to enhance the Status of the child”. During the Conference, the “Marrakesh Declaration” was adopted by the League of Arab States, declaring determination to “enforce existing legislation and promulgate laws that incriminate the violation of the rights of the child and protect the child against all forms of exploitation, violence, neglect and ill-treatment especially with regards to female circumcision, sexual exploitation, early marriage, corporal punishment and trafficking of children...”.

South Asia: The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children ([SAIEVAC](#)) has published the *Report of the Technical Workshop on Legal Reform and Corporal Punishment*, held in November 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The three day workshop was held in collaboration with the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG) and involved over a hundred participants from Governments, INGOs and CSOs, together with children and other experts. During the workshop, participants developed action plans and strategies for each country to promote law reform to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home. The country presentations and the action plans are available on the [here](#).

Positive moves at national level

Belize: Education Minister Patrick Faber has made a commitment to sign a statutory instrument in May 2011 which will bring into force the prohibition of corporal punishment in the Education Act passed in 2010.

Slovenia: A new family law bill is under discussion in the parliamentary Committee of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. If passed without amendment it would prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home.

US: A bill to prohibit corporal punishment in schools in New Mexico has been passed and is now awaiting the governor's signature to bring it into law.

A bill which would prohibit corporal punishment in all school districts in Texas is under discussion.

In Mississippi, a law suit filed on behalf of a high school student is seeking to have corporal punishment banned in Mississippi schools on the grounds that its application is biased according to race and gender, with boys and black students far more likely to be "paddled".

Family NonViolence Inc is supporting a bill which would establish a public awareness campaign promoting positive, non-violent parenting in Massachusetts. The action is in response to a number of Massachusetts Supreme Court decisions which have held that beating a child with a belt is considered "reasonable force" and not abusive.

But ...

Republic of Korea: The government has reportedly approved a law allowing "indirect" forms of physical punishment in schools, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology plans to order education offices to distribute guidelines as to what punishments are acceptable. However, superintendents of some regional offices, including Seoul, oppose the decision and plan to enforce a blanket ban on all forms of physical punishment.

Zambia: The Education Bill which would have prohibited corporal punishment in schools has been withdrawn from Parliament because of concerns about another provision in the bill.

[Back to contents](#)

2 CAMPAIGNS AND CALLS FOR PROHIBITION

National news

Ireland: Ombudsman for Children Emily Logan has urged the Government to proceed as quickly as possible to hold a referendum on constitutional change to respect children's rights, including incorporation of principles from the UNCRC, and called for prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment.

Pakistan: The Child Rights Legal Centre (CRLC) launched the first ever online TV channel on child rights – childrights.tv – produced by the Centre for Creative Media. It provides access to quality productions on child rights – documentaries, TV shows, animations, etc – and a platform for learning, sharing and discussing child rights issues, including the right to protection from all corporal punishment.

UK: The Children's Commissioner has called for the abolition of the use of pain to control children in penal institutions. The call comes in a report published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner following research by User Voice into the views of 89 young people in conflict with the law.

US: A new campaign to end corporal punishment in schools is under way. Unlimited Justice sets out the facts about corporal punishment in schools and provides a number of ways people can become involved in action to promote prohibition in schools in the US, including through

twitter, facebook and a mobile app. Launched in March by fashion designer Marc Ecko, the campaign received wide media coverage.

And ...

An international summit is to be held in Texas in June 2011. The Global Summit on Ending Corporal Punishment and Promoting Positive Discipline will bring together leading activists, researchers, lawyers and policy makers from across the world and aims to (a) raise public awareness about the rights of children and problems associated with corporal punishment, (b) bring together individuals from different walks of life and professions who are committed to ending corporal punishment of children, and (c) develop strategies for advancing the worldwide movement to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children from all venues in all parts of the world.

NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAW REFORM

A new guide is available from the Global Initiative on involving children in efforts to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment. Written by Elinor Milne and based on research begun in 2009, the Guide to children and young people's participation in actions against corporal punishment is aimed at adults who work with children against corporal punishment, or who would like to start, and contains information about some of the different types of action that children and young people have been involved in worldwide, the problems they have faced, suggested solutions to those problems, and pointers to further resources.

Other resources ...

Afghanistan: A series of stories entitled *A Journey of Peace: Stories of hope and healing for those who live with war* is being used to foster reconciliation and conflict resolution in Afghan schools. The stories, written by Dr Mary-Jo Land and colleagues, describe how an Afghan family deals with the aftermath of a detonated landmine, and are part of a peace programme which is also helping to reduce the use of corporal punishment in schools. The materials are available here and may be copied freely.

UK: The award winning Kirklees Madressah Project has produced a new guide on protecting children in madressahs from violence and abuse and promoting effective behaviour management of pupils without using corporal punishment – Safeguarding Children: Guidance for Madressahs and Supplementary Schools.

US: In support of campaigns to prohibit corporal punishment in schools, Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education (PTAVE) has produced a short account of why prohibition is necessary, including disturbing images of the terrible injuries caused to children who have been “paddled” at school and model legislation which would achieve prohibition.

[Back to contents](#)

3 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

Key decisions and recommendations, etc.

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** has published its concluding observations on states examined at the 56th session, 17 January – 4 February 2011. The Committee examined the state party

reports of Afghanistan, Belarus, Denmark, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Singapore and Ukraine, and made recommendations concerning corporal punishment in all cases. To New Zealand and Ukraine, which have already achieved prohibition in all settings, the Committee recommended continued awareness raising and the promotion of positive, non-violent childrearing to ensure implementation of the law. To Denmark, the Committee recommended that the prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings be extended throughout its territory, including the Faroe Islands. To the remaining states, the Committee recommended law reform to ensure that corporal punishment is prohibited in all settings, including the home, together with measures to ensure full implementation.

The Committee has also adopted [General Comment No. 13](#) (2011) on “Article 19: The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence”. It builds on the Committee's previous work, including [General Comment No. 8](#) on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment. The Committee defines physical violence as including fatal and non-fatal physical violence, stating in para. 21: “The Committee is of the opinion that ‘physical and mental violence’ includes all corporal punishment and all other forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment...” In para. 22, the Committee recalls the definition of corporal/physical punishment in its earlier General Comment No. 8. The Committee also states that “harmful practices” include “corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment; ... amputations, binding, scarring, burning and branding”. The Committee outlines what is meant by the best interests of the child (article 3 of the Convention) and emphasises that it “cannot be used to justify practices, including corporal punishment and other forms of cruel or degrading punishment, which conflict with the child's human dignity and rights to physical integrity” (para. 54).

The tenth session of the **Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review** was held in January/February. Recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment of children were made to Australia, Estonia, Georgia, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia.

At the 16th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, March 2011, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro announced the creation of a new high-level panel focused on speeding the prohibition of all corporal punishment of children. The **Global Progress Panel**, led by Professor Pinheiro, will appeal to Heads of States to introduce legislation banning corporal punishment in all settings, including the home.

The UN Secretary-General's [Interim report on the situation of human rights in Iran](#) (A/HRC/16/75), submitted to the Human Rights Council 16th session, draws attention to media reports on the application of amputation and flogging and urges the Government to revise national laws, including juvenile justice laws, to comply with international human rights standards. In response, the Human Rights Council approved a resolution establishing a Special Rapporteur on Iran, the first such office approved by the Council since it was set up five years ago.

The [second annual report](#) of the **Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children**, Marta Santos Pais, was submitted to the Human Rights Council. It reports on the achievement of prohibition in all settings in Kenya, Poland and Tunisia as well as high level regional commitments to pursue law reform, and calls for increased efforts to introduce legislation to protect children from all forms of violence in all settings and, in countries which have achieved law reform, further efforts to narrow the gap between law and practice. Paragraph 20 states: “Legislation needs to permeate the work of institutions and shape the training and ethical standards of professionals working with and for children. Implementation needs to be supported by awareness raising and social mobilization initiatives for the public at large and children in particular...” Also, the first newsletter of the SRSG was published in March. For further information and to obtain a copy, email Miguel Caldeira at mcaldeira@unicef.org). A website for the SRSG is expected to be launched soon.

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.

Opportunities to submit advance briefings on states coming up for examination and to influence the lists of issues which are prepared for each state are listed below. The deadlines noted below concern briefing the pre-sessional working groups which prepare the lists of issues. 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 57th session in June 2011 to consider the issues to raise in its forthcoming examinations of Greece, Iceland, Italy, Madagascar, Panama, Republic of Korea, Seychelles and Syrian Arab Republic. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted before 30 April 2011.**

The *Committee Against Torture* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 46th session in May 2011 to consider the issues to raise in its future examinations of Bulgaria, Germany, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Tunisia. **The deadline for submitting briefings on these countries has now passed. Information on the next opportunity for briefing the pre-sessional working group will be included in the next newsletter.**

The *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 46th session in May 2011 to consider the issues to raise in its forthcoming examinations of Argentina, New Zealand, Peru, Slovakia and Spain. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted before 9 May 2011.**

The *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 49th session in July 2011 to consider the issues to raise in its future examinations of Algeria, Brazil, Comoros, Grenada, Jordan, Norway, Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. **Briefings should be submitted by 11 June 2011.**

The country report task forces of the *Human Rights Committee* will be meeting at its 102nd session in July 2011 to consider the issues to raise in future examinations of Angola, Maldives, Turkmenistan and Mozambique. **Briefings should be submitted by 21 April 2011.**

The 12th session of the *Universal Periodic Review* will take place in October 2011, the final session of the first cycle of the Review. The deadlines for making submissions have now passed. The second cycle of the Review is due to begin in June 2012. **We will include information on deadlines for submitting briefings at the earliest opportunity.**

NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT NGOs ENGAGING WITH HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

The [Global Initiative website](#) now includes a new section on the Universal Periodic Review. It includes an analysis of the first nine sessions, 2008-2010, documenting recommendations to states to prohibit corporal punishment and states' responses to them, together with links to all briefings submitted to the Human Rights Council by the Global Initiative. We hope it will encourage NGOs to engage with the second cycle of the Review which begins in June 2012, when the second examination of all states will begin.

The [Child Rights Information Network](#) has published [A guide to using the Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#). Based on its analysis of children's rights in the UPR, the guide illustrates how children's rights are addressed in the UPR and documents the experiences of NGOs that have used the UPR.

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties in collaboration with [UPR Info](#) has developed a short guide to the Universal Periodic Review. [Your Rights. Rights Now. A Plain English Guide to the Universal Periodic](#)

Review explains in easy to understand language how the UPR process works and how NGOs can be involved. It is aimed primarily at organisations in Ireland but is a useful resource for NGOs in all states.

Reporting on the OPSC and OPAC: A Guide for Non-governmental Organizations is a new guide published by the [NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). It aims to support NGO reporting on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. In relation to OPAC, it advises NGOs to provide detailed information concerning school discipline and the use of corporal punishment in military schools.

The second edition of *Advocating Children's Rights – A Guide for Civil Society Organisations on how to engage with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* has been published by Save the Children Sweden and Plan International. Future versions in French and Arabic are planned.

[Back to contents](#)

4 RESEARCH AND REPORTS

New report on child discipline published by UNICEF

UNICEF has published its first large scale analysis of research on child discipline within the home in more than 30 countries. Launched at a special event during a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 11 March, the report – *Child Disciplinary Practices at Home* – presents the findings from 35 surveys in low- and middle-income countries, covering 10% of the total child population in developing countries. The surveys asked mothers (or primary caregivers) of children aged 2-14 to answer questions on a range of violent disciplinary practices, including shouting, name calling, shaking and hitting. Key research findings include the following:

- The use of non-violent discipline is widespread (experienced by 93% of children on average).
- Violent discipline is very common (on average 75% of children experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression, with 17% on average experiencing severe physical punishment).
- Most caregivers (more than three out of four) do not consider physical punishment necessary in childrearing: many nevertheless use it but the belief is linked with a greater likelihood of children experiencing only non-violent discipline.
- In most countries there are no significant links between violent discipline and socio-demographic characteristics such as wealth, living arrangements, education and household size or between violent discipline and personal characteristics of the child such as gender and age, although the prevalence of violent discipline was greatest for children aged 5-9.

The report concludes that it is not enough to focus only on trying to change attitudes towards corporal punishment: “The analysis suggests that promoting broad changes in attitudes and norms regarding the need for physical punishment in child rearing can help reduce levels of violent discipline. However, given that a considerable majority of mothers and primary caregivers in most countries already reject physical punishment in theory, if not in practice, a comprehensive strategy is needed to prevent and address violence against children.”

A key component of this strategy is law reform to prohibit all forms of violence, including all physical punishment, in all settings including the home: “Violence against children remains legal throughout

much of the world, although some countries have moved to ban or limit violence in the home, at school, in care institutions or in the penal system. In order to legally ban all forms of violence against children, including violent discipline, countries must explicitly prohibit the practice and also eliminate any provisions that may allow its continued use.”

International studies

A newly published study of parental discipline in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Philippines and the US as revealed in surveys of more than 14,000 mothers of children under 18, carried out between 1998 and 2003, found that verbal violence such as screaming or yelling at children was common, with rates ranging from 70% to 95%. Rates of the use of moderate physical punishment, including “spanking” (hitting the buttocks with an open hand) varied widely – from 26% in Vellore, India, to 76% in Paco, Philippines. In a rural community in India, 76% of respondents hit children’s buttocks with an object as a punishment. “Beating children up” (hitting them over and over again with a closed fist) was used by 29% of respondents in a rural community in India, and 24% in El-Sheik-Zayed, Egypt. Overall, rates of the use of moderate physical punishment varied from 55% to 89%, while rates of harsh physical punishment (including beating up, choking, smothering and burning children), were dramatically higher in all communities than published rates of official physical “abuse”. (Runyan, D. et al, 2010, “International Variations in Harsh Child Discipline”, *Pediatrics*)

A study of the relationship between gender and physical punishment in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the US, through interviews with around 4,000 mothers, fathers and children aged 7-10, found that overall 54% of girls and 58% of boys had experienced “mild” corporal punishment (spanking, hitting, or slapping with a bare hand; hitting or slapping on the hand, arm, or leg; shaking; or hitting with an object), and 13% of girls and 14% of boys had experienced severe corporal punishment (hitting or slapping the child on the face, head, or ears; beating the child repeatedly with an implement) by their parents or someone in their household in the last month. However, only 17% of parents believed that it was necessary to use corporal punishment to bring up their child. (Lansford, J. et al, 2010, “Corporal Punishment of Children in Nine Countries as a Function of Child Gender and Parent Gender”, *International Journal of Pediatrics*)

A report on street children – *Still on the Street, Still Short of Rights* by Plan and the Consortium for Street Children – identifies corporal punishment as a key factor in children's decision to run away from home.

National studies

Maldives: An unpublished large scale 2009 UNICEF study found that 47% of children had experienced physical or emotional punishment at home, at school or in the community. The study involved almost 17,035 people in 2500 households and 2000 children in schools. Thirty per cent of children at secondary school had been hit by at least one of their caregivers, 21% with an object; 8% of school students had been physically punished by their teachers. (Reported by *Minivan News*, 21 February 2011, www.minivannews.com)

New Zealand: The police have published their eighth review of the application of the law prohibiting corporal punishment by parents. The period June to December 2010 saw a fall in the number of reports of smacking, with the police response continuing to be proportionate, with only one resulting in prosecution. There was a rise in reported “minor acts of physical discipline” and “other child assaults” consistent with increased public awareness of the law and reduced tolerance of assaults on children. The six-monthly reviews will continue until June 2012.

A recent article by Dr Patrick Kelly, a paediatrician, presents a history of New Zealand’s law

reform which prohibited all corporal punishment in 2007 and discusses child maltreatment and family violence in the country. It argues that now that law reform has been achieved it is time to concentrate efforts on eliminating and especially preventing violence against children through other measures, based on the growing bank of evidence of successful interventions. (Kelly, P., 2011, “Corporal punishment and child maltreatment in New Zealand”, *Acta Paediatrica*, 100, 14-20)

Occupied Palestinian Territories: Defence for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-Palestine) has long documented ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the occupied Palestinian Territories. In January 2011, DCI-Palestine published *A report on the situation facing Palestinian children detained in the Israeli military court system*, covering July to December 2010. The report describes widespread and systematic torture and ill-treatment of children as young as 12: complaints included being beaten or kicked (70%), being made to adopt painful positions (60%), verbal abuse and humiliation (45%) and electric shocks (7.5%).

Philippines: A 2010 survey of 270 grade-six students with an average age of 12 found that 61.1% of them had experienced physical punishment at home, 74.5% of whom had been pinched, 49.7% beaten, 13.9% slapped, 3.6% kicked and 3% punched. The most common reasons for being physically punished were disobedience, cited by 35.6% of children who had been punished, and “pasaway” (35.3%) or being naughty, which included causing younger siblings to cry, interrupting adult conversations by what was perceived to be meaningless or disrespectful chatter, play-fighting with other children or siblings, making noises and disrupting order in the house. Almost a third (32.9%) of the children said that they “felt nothing” after being physically punished, while 25% were angry, 14.5% felt lonely or sad and 7.2% felt hatred. (Sanapo, M. & Nakamura, Y., 2010, “Gender and Physical Punishment: The Filipino Children’s Experience”, *Child Abuse Review*, 20 (1), 39-56)

UK: Research carried out by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in 2009 and published in 2011 involved 1,761 interviews with 18-24 year olds on their childhood experiences, and 2,275 interviews with 11-17 year olds about their current experiences: 11.5% of the 18-24 year olds reported that they had experienced “severe” physical violence from an adult during childhood, including being hit, kicked, beaten or attacked with a weapon; 2.8% of the 18-24 year olds reported that they had experienced regular physical punishment. Of the 11-17 year olds, 6.9% had been physically attacked by an adult during childhood. (NSPCC, 2011, *Child Cruelty in the UK 2011: An NSPCC study into childhood abuse and neglect over the past 30 years*)

United Arab Emirates: 84% of parents and educationalists who took part in a 2011 poll for news outlet *Emirates 24/7* said that corporal punishment of children is outdated and should not be condoned or encouraged; 16% said that “spanking” should be used to discipline children. (Reported in *Emirates 24/7*, 23 February 2011)

Another poll conducted for Al Aan TV's Nabd al Arab programme and carried out by YouGov Siraj found that 53% of the 770 respondents agreed that parents should have the right to discipline their children including through physical punishment. One in five respondents (21%) said that corporal punishment was a form of domestic violence, and 10% said it was “backward”. The majority (84%) said that teachers could discipline children, with 32% happy for a teacher to strike the child, including with an object such as a ruler; 7% thought it acceptable to slap a child in the face or swear at them. (Reported in *The National*, 5 March 2011)

US: A new study found that depressed fathers of children aged 1 year old were more likely to spank their children. More than 1,700 fathers were interviewed, of whom 7% had depression: 13% of

non-depressed fathers and 41% of depressed fathers reported spanking their child in the past month, making depressed fathers nearly 4 times more likely to report spanking. (Davis, R. N. et al, 2011, "Fathers' Depression Related to Positive and Negative Parenting Behaviors With 1-Year-Old Children", *Pediatrics*)

A study which tracked corporal punishment of 3-11 year olds from 1975 to 2002 found that 18% fewer children were slapped or spanked by caregivers in 2002 compared with 1975. However, in 2002, 79% of preschool-aged children were spanked, and nearly half of children aged eight and nine were hit with an object such as a paddle or switch. (Zolotor, A. J., Theodore, A. D., Runyan, D. K., Chang, J. J. and Laskey, A. L., 2010, "Corporal punishment and physical abuse: population-based trends for three-to-11-year-old children in the United States", *Child Abuse Review*, 20 (1), 57-66)

[Back to contents](#)

5 MEDIA WATCH

A selection of media reports ...

Azerbaijan: A five year old child died after being beaten by his parents in Baku, leading to proposals by MPs to strengthen measures to protect children's rights, though there were no reported calls to prohibit all corporal punishment by parents. (*Trend News*, 9 March 2011)

Bangladesh: The Supreme Court is seeking the opinion of Islamic scholars on the status and application of fatwas, taking up a 10 year old appeal against a high court verdict which declared all punishments imposed under fatwas illegal. The call follows an incident in February when a 14-year old girl – a victim of rape – died after being flogged under a fatwa announced by a village court which accused her of having an affair with a married man. The High Court ordered the Government to run a media campaign raising awareness against such extra-judicial punishments. (*Thaindian News*, 11 March 2011; *BBC News*, 2 February 2011; *The Daily Star*, 3 February 2011)

Fiji: Save the Children Fiji urged parents to use positive discipline instead of corporal punishment following a case in Lautoka where a five year old girl was hospitalised after being assaulted by her stepfather. (*The Fiji Times*, 16 March 2011)

The Ministry of Education has warned teachers against using corporal punishment in schools, following two cases which came to light within a week. (*The Fiji Times*, 26 March 2011)

India: In Andhra Pradesh, commissioner and director of school education R. Satyanarayana ordered education officers to take action against teachers found to have used corporal punishment in schools. The move followed a directive from the State Human Rights Commission issued in connection with a petition filed by AP Bala Sangham describing a study which showed that students are beaten by teacher on a daily basis despite corporal punishment being unlawful under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009. (*The Times of India*, 9 February 2011)

In Chandigarh, the education department initiated an inquiry into the conduct of a headmistress of a government high school who allegedly abuses the staff and subjects the students to corporal punishment. The head denies the allegations. (*The Times of India*, 5 March 2011)

The Dehli Commission for Protection of Child Rights has received at least 40 complaints of

corporal punishment from schools across the Capital since the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act came into force. Notices have been issued to all schools concerned. (*Express News Service*, 22 March 2011). The Municipal Corporation of Dehli, in collaboration with NGOs, is organising training sessions for teachers on non-violent discipline and the legal consequences of using corporal punishment. (*The Times of India*, 25 March 2011)

The Karnataka State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights has launched an investigation into corporal punishment in schools, following the death of one child and 20 other complaints. (*Daily News and Analysis*, 15 March 2011 and 16 March 2011)

Macau: A teacher at a tutorial centre has been prosecuted for allegedly beating a student with a rattan stick and a broom, causing multiple bruising. (*Macau Daily Times*, 2 March 2011)

New Zealand: A teacher was found guilty of seven charges of assaulting his pupils aged 6 and 7, including by pulling their ears and hitting with a ruler. (*The Dominion Post*, 24 March 2011)

Nigeria: Twelve children aged 12-17 were ordered to be flogged by an Abuja Protection Board Mobile Court for hawking in an unauthorised area, an offence punishable under Section 35(1)(d) of the AEPB Act 10 (1997). They were each ordered to receive 12 strokes of the cane. (*Daily Trust*, 1 February 2011)

Pakistan: A teacher is under investigation for allegedly severely beating three grade 4 students in a government school in Muslim Abad, Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. (*Daily Dawn*, 23 February 2011)

An 11-year old boy was brutally beaten for arriving late for his work at a shop. The shop owner allegedly hung the boy from a ceiling fan and beat him with a cricket bat until he was rescued by passers-by. The owner fled the scene when the police were called. (*The Express Tribune*, 6 February 2011)

Republic of Korea: Dean of the Department of Vocal Music, Kim In-hye, has reportedly been fired by the disciplinary committee at Seoul National University for allegedly using corporal punishment on students. (*Arirang*, 28 February 2011)

Saudi Arabia: The Ministry of Education has told schools that all corporal punishment is banned and that education chiefs in all provinces and cities may now move any teacher found to have used violence against students to an administrative post. The ministerial statement was issued after a number of incidents of students being beaten by teachers. It is not clear if the ministerial advice will be confirmed through legal reform. (*Emirates 24/7*, 7 March 2011)

South Africa: A teacher has been suspended by the Gauteng Department of Education for allegedly using corporal punishment, which is prohibited in the South African Schools Act. (*BuaNews*, 21 March 2011)

Following the alleged assault of a 17 year old pupil by a school principal, the Congress of South African Students called on students to hit back at teachers who assault them. (*Eyewitness News*: 17 March 2011)

Swaziland: A primary school child was injured when a stick being used to punish another child broke; a splinter blinded the 10 year old in her left eye. (*Times of Swaziland*, 25 February 2011)

United Arab Emirates: Abu Dhabi education authorities have suspended a teacher for allegedly hitting a nine-year old student on the head. The Council emphasised that it has a strict policy against the use of any corporal or verbal violence towards students. (*Emirates 24/7*, 8 March 2011)

UK: Police in Scotland launched an investigation into claims that boys were beaten in madrassas (Islamic schools) in Glasgow, after concerns were raised by prominent Scottish Muslims about teaching methods and child safety at the mosques and their madrassas. Ali Khan, chairman of Roshni (a charity concerned with child abuse in ethnic minority communities) said: "Corporal punishment is completely unacceptable in Scotland. And it is totally unacceptable in Islam, which does not condone the beating of young children." A Channel 4 TV documentary also showed pupils being hit at a mosque school in Birmingham. (*The Herald*, 15 February 2011)

US: Parents and others, including students, reacted angrily when Archbishop Gregory Aymond and the superior of the Josephite order banned corporal punishment at St Augustine's private catholic high school for boys in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Archbishop stated: "I do not believe the teachings of the Catholic Church, as we interpret them today in 2011, can possibly condone corporal punishment.... I believe in my conscience that this is not in line with the values of Jesus." Hundreds of opponents held a meeting at the town hall and students at the school held a rally in support of corporal punishment. (*Catholic Culture*, 8 March 2011; *Mail Online*, 4 March 2011)

Members of a church in Black Earth, Wisconsin, have been charged with child abuse after admitting using rods and dowels to hit children ranging from infants to 6 years old. They reportedly claim that the Bible requires them to use a rod to punish children as young as 2 months. (*Wisconsin State Journal*, 21 March 2011)

A mother who was recorded punishing her 7 year old son for telling a lie by forcing him to drink hot sauce and making him stand under a cold shower reportedly sent the video to the "Dr Phil" show. She also admitted to spanking him and imposing other physical punishments. Viewers alerted the police and the mother is being charged for misdemeanour child abuse. (*associatedcontent.com*, 19 February 2011)

[Back to contents](#)

6 CAN YOU HELP?

Information regarding alternative care settings

The Global Initiative is gathering information for a new project on corporal punishment in alternative care settings, which aims to provoke action on prohibiting and eliminating all corporal punishment in all alternative care, including through the production of a report to be published (with Save the Children Sweden) in 2011. Can you provide any information on corporal punishment in alternative care for children? We are interested in all kinds of institutional and residential care for children, foster care, day care and early childhood care, in any country. Please fill in our [questionnaire](#).

Translation

We occasionally require translation of materials between English and other languages, including Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. If you would like to be included in the list of volunteers we can turn to, please email us at info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Information on laws relating to corporal punishment

We would appreciate any information on laws prohibiting or authorising corporal punishment in the following countries and settings:

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

Penal system (disciplinary measure in penal institutions) – Bahrain, 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.

Information on opportunities to achieve reform

And finally, if draft legislation is proposed in your country which provides an opportunity to prohibit corporal punishment, or if laws are enacted which achieve this in any setting, please let us know so that we can keep our information up to date.

Photographs and illustrations

The Global Initiative is always pleased to receive photographs and other illustrations of campaigns against corporal punishment. Please send them together with caption details and any copyright information to info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

[Back to contents](#)

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.

“Only three countries out of 35 countries in the Americas have enacted a full prohibition on violence against children, while just 29 States in the world have taken this step. States have human rights obligations: they can’t pick and choose what to focus on; they must guarantee all rights in the Convention.”

Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Commissioner and Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, speaking at the UN Human Rights Council Day on the Rights of the Child 2011