



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

GLOBAL INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER 25 **(DECEMBER 2013)**

Welcome to the final edition of the newsletter for 2013, in which we are delighted to announce the latest global progress report, published this month. While progress seems frustratingly slow – with just one state being added this year to the list of those prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings – there are now more states than ever publicly committed to enacting prohibiting legislation. As the year draws to a close, let us reflect on how we can meet the challenge of turning that commitment into action!

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1 GLOBAL PROGRESS

GLOBAL PROGRESS REPORT 2013

- 34 states have prohibited corporal punishment in all settings, including the home
- 49 states – a quarter of UN member states – have expressed their commitment to full prohibition
- 24 states have not fully prohibited corporal punishment in any setting
- 39 states have not yet outlawed corporal punishment as a sentence for crime
- major national and international health professionals organisations call for prohibition
- immediate opportunities for enacting prohibition in states in all regions
- campaigns for prohibition being carried out by international and national, organisations, national coalitions and national human rights institutions

- high level faith-based support for prohibition at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches

These are just some of the facts and figures in the latest annual report from the Global Initiative and Save the Children. *Ending legalised violence against children: Global report 2013* is the eighth report following up the UN Study on Violence against Children, reporting on progress worldwide towards prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings. The report graphically illustrates both the progress and the delays in achieving prohibition. It also maps the efforts of child rights advocates in campaigning for reform at national and regional levels and the growing support for prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment among international health organisations, particularly in light of the accumulating evidence of the harm it causes, and among religious leaders across the world. As the report says:

“Achieving law reform to prohibit corporal punishment of children marks a turning point in a state’s relationship with its youngest citizens. It signals a recognition of children as human beings, respect for their rights, a commitment to fostering their growth and development in a violence-free environment and a vision of a society based on the premise that conflict can be resolved peacefully.”

The report is available on the website of the Global Initiative (www.endcorporalpunishment.org) or by clicking [here](#). An [accessible version](#) is also available. For hard copies and further information, contact info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

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2 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

Key decisions and recommendations, etc

The **Committee Against Torture** held its 51st session 28 October to 22 November. In its concluding observations on the states examined, the Committee recommended explicit prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings to Andorra, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyzstan and Mozambique. The Committee welcomed the prohibition of all corporal punishment that has been achieved in Portugal. The Committee also adopted Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting for Belarus, Germany and Ireland, and included a question about corporal punishment of children in each one.

In its latest concluding observations, the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** – following examination of states at its 51st session, 4-29 November, recommended to Belgium that legislation be adopted to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings. The Pre-Sessional Working Group adopted lists of issues for future examination of states: corporal punishment of children is included in the Lists of Issues for Armenia, Monaco and Serbia.

The **Human Rights Committee** concluded its 109th session on 1 November. To Bolivia, Djibouti and Mauritania, the Committee expressed concern that corporal punishment of children is not explicitly prohibited, including in the home, and recommended that steps be taken to end it in all settings. The Committee adopted Lists of Issues for future examination of states, including questions on corporal punishment to Burundi, Georgia, Ireland, Japan and Sudan.

Briefing the human rights bodies

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

Opportunities for briefing treaty bodies arise in relation to the Lists of Issues adopted for each state in advance of examination as well as in submitting information immediately prior to the examination of states by the Committees. The deadlines for submitting briefings relevant to upcoming sessions are set out below. The Global Initiative is always willing to advise NGOs and human rights institutions on the practical details of how to submit briefings (email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

Committee on the Rights of the Child:

(1) Session 66 (26 May – 13 Jun 2014). The Committee will examine Indonesia, India, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, St Lucia: **information should be submitted as soon as possible.**

(2) Session 68 Pre-Sessional Working Group (16-20 Jun 2014). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Colombia, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Jamaica, Mauritius, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, UR Tanzania, Uruguay: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 1 March 2014.**

Committee Against Torture:

(1) Session 52 (28 Apr – 23 May 2014). The Committee will examine Cyprus, Guinea, Holy See, Lithuania, Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Uruguay: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 11 April 2014.** Lists of Issues/Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting will be adopted for Burundi, Czech Republic, Greece, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Russian Federation, Venezuela: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 14 February 2014.**

(2) Session 53 (3-28 Nov 2014). The Committee will examine Australia, Burundi, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Sweden, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 17 October 2014.**

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

(1) Session 52 (28 Apr – 23 May 2014). The Committee will examine Armenia, China (incl. Hong Kong and Macau), Czech Republic, El Salvador, Indonesia, Lithuania, Monaco, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 1 March 2014.**

(2) Session 53 Pre-Sessional Working Group (26-30 May 2014). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Gambia, Guatemala, Montenegro, Paraguay, Romania, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Viet Nam: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 26 March 2014.**

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women:

(1) Session 57 (10-28 Feb 2014). The Committee will examine Bahrain, Cameroon, Finland, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Sierra Leone: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 24 January 2014.**

(2) Session 59 Pre-sessional Working Group (3-7 Mar 2014). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, China (incl. Hong Kong and Macau), Ghana, Guinea, Poland, Solomon Islands, Venezuela: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 24 January 2014.**

(3) Session 58 (30 Jun – 18 Jul 2014). The Committee will examine Central African Republic, Georgia, India, Lithuania, Mauritania, Peru, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic: **the deadline for submitting briefings is not yet published.**

(4) Session 60 Pre-sessional Working Group (21-25 Jul 2014). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Azerbaijan, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Tuvalu: **the deadline for submitting briefings is not yet published.**

Human Rights Committee:

(1) Session 110 (10-28 Mar 2014). The Committee will examine Chad, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, USA: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 14 February 2014**. The Country Report Task Forces will adopt Lists of Issues for Haiti, Malta, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, and Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting for Argentina, Ecuador, New Zealand, Romania, Sweden: **the deadline for submitting briefings was 20 December 2013 for electronic briefings and is 14 February for hard copies**.

(3) Session 111 (7-25 Jul 2014). The Committee will examine Chile, Georgia, Ireland, Japan, Malawi, Sudan. The Country Report Task Forces will adopt Lists of Issues for Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, France, Russian Federation, Venezuela, and List of Issues Prior to Reporting for Poland: **the deadline for submitting briefings is not yet published**.

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

(1) Session 11 (31 Mar – 11 Apr 2014). The Committee will examine Azerbaijan, Costa Rica, Sweden, and will adopt the List of Issues for Germany: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 28 February 2014**.

(2) Session 12 Pre-Sessional Working Group (14-17 Apr 2014). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Belgium, Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea: **the deadline for submitting briefings is 28 February 2014**.

The Universal Periodic Review

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

The 17th session of the UPR took place in October/November 2013. Of the 15 states reviewed, only two – Israel and Republic of Congo – have already achieved prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings including the home. Six of the other states received recommendations to do so: Governments' responses are due no later than March 2014.

Opportunities for submitting briefings for the 18th session (Jan/Feb 2014) and the 19th session (Apr/May 2014) have now passed. The deadline for submitting briefings for the 20th session (Oct/Nov 2014) is **1 February 2014**: Angola, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Gambia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, San Marino, Slovenia.

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3 CAN YOU HELP?

Promoting positive, non-violent discipline

Please let us know of any resources for promoting positive discipline in homes, schools and other settings – especially those developed as part of a comprehensive campaign including for law reform – to list on our website. Email elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Research on corporal punishment of children

Evidence of the nature and prevalence of corporal punishment gathered through national studies helps to keep the issue visible and provides a baseline against which the effectiveness of prohibition and associated awareness raising can be measured. Please let us know of any new or planned research (email elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org).

Other ways to help ...

We would also appreciate your help by

- joining our list of volunteer translators
- sending us information on relevant legislation
- letting us know about current opportunities for promoting prohibition (new laws being drafted, bills being discussed, etc)
- sending us contact details for organisations campaigning to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children.

If you can help with any of the above, email info@endcorporalpunishment.org. [Back to contents](#)

We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful and welcome your comments: email info@endcorporalpunishment.org. The newsletter is sent to supporters of the aims of the Global Initiative and others who we think will be interested. If you do not want to receive future editions, contact info@endcorporalpunishment.org. If your organisation has not done so already, please consider signing up in support of prohibition of all corporal punishment (online at www.endcorporalpunishment.org or email info@endcorporalpunishment.org). To receive the latest developments between newsletters, sign up to RSS feeds at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way it treats its children.”

(Nelson Mandela, 1997)
