

Global tables

The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children has mapped the legality of corporal punishment of children in every setting – the home, alternative care settings, day care, schools, penal institutions and as a sentence for crime – in every state and territory in the world. This information is constantly monitored and kept up to date, and is available to view or download at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

The following tables summarise the legality of corporal punishment worldwide, organised by:

1. States which have fully prohibited all corporal punishment
2. States which have expressed commitment to full prohibition
3. States with no clear commitment to prohibition

States prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings

This table shows the 53 states where corporal punishment is now unlawful in all settings, and the legislation which extended prohibition to the home – as it has historically been a gradual process, first achieved in the penal system, then other settings and, finally, in the home.

This in part reflects how societies have inched towards appreciating children as holders of human rights, but from children’s perspective there is no justification for any delay. We hope future prohibiting legislation will comprehensively address all the settings of children’s lives.

State	Prohibiting law
ALBANIA	Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2010
ANDORRA	2014 amendments to Criminal Code 2005
ARGENTINA	Civil and Commercial Code 2014
AUSTRIA	General Civil Code as amended 1989
BENIN	Children’s Code 2015
BOLIVIA	Children and Adolescents Code 2014
BRAZIL	2014 amendments to Children and Adolescents Code 1990
BULGARIA	Child Protection Act 2000 (amended 2003); Regulations on the Implementation of the Child Protection Act 2003
CABO VERDE	Law on Children and Adolescents 2013
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF	Law on the Protection of the Child 2010
COSTA RICA	2008 amendments to Code on Children and Adolescents and Family Code
CROATIA	Family Act 1998, replaced by Family Act 2003
CYPRUS	Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law 1994
DENMARK	1997 amendment to Parental Custody and Care Act 1995
ESTONIA	Child Protection Act 2014
FINLAND	Child Custody and Rights of Access Act 1983
GERMANY	2000 amendment to Civil Code
GREECE	Law 3500/2006 on the Combating of Intra-family Violence 2006

State	Prohibiting law
HONDURAS	2013 amendments to Family Code and Civil Code
HUNGARY	2004 amendment to Child Protection Act 1997
ICELAND	Children's Act 2003
IRELAND	2015 amendment to Offences Against the Person (Non Fatal) Act 1997
ISRAEL	2000 repeal of “reasonable chastisement” defence
KENYA	Constitution 2010
LATVIA	Children’s Rights Protection Law 1998
LIECHTENSTEIN	Children and Youth Act 2008
LITHUANIA	2017 amendments to Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child 1996
LUXEMBOURG	Law on Children and the Family 2008
MALTA	2014 amendment to Criminal Code
MONGOLIA	Law on the Rights of Children 2016; Law on Child Protection 2016
MONTENEGRO	2016 amendments to Family Law 2007
NETHERLANDS	2007 amendment to Civil Code
NEW ZEALAND	Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Act 2007
NICARAGUA	Family Code 2014
NORWAY	1987 amendment to Parent and Child Act 1981
PARAGUAY	Law on promotion of good treatment, positive parenting and protection of children and adolescents against corporal punishment or any type of violence as a method of correction or discipline 2016
PERU	Law prohibiting the use of physical and other humiliating punishment against children and adolescents 2015
POLAND	2010 amendment to Family and Guardianship Code
PORTUGAL	2007 amendment to Penal Code
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	2008 amendment to Family Code
ROMANIA	Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child 2004
SAN MARINO	2014 amendments to Penal Code and Law of 1986 No. 49 on Family Law Reform

State	Prohibiting law
SLOVENIA	Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Prevention of Family Violence 2016
SOUTH SUDAN	Transitional Constitution 2011
SPAIN	2007 amendment to Civil Code
SWEDEN	1979 amendment to Parenthood and Guardianship Code
TFYR MACEDONIA	Law on Child Protection 2013
TOGO	Children's Code 2007
TUNISIA	2010 amendment to Penal Code
TURKMENISTAN	Law on Guarantees of the Rights of the Child 2002
UKRAINE	Family Code 2003
URUGUAY	2007 amendments to Civil Code and Children and Adolescents Code 2004
VENEZUELA	2007 amendments to Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents 1998

Territories which have prohibited corporal punishment in all settings

Aruba, Netherlands (2016); Greenland, Denmark (2016); St Maarten, Netherlands (2013); Curaçao, Netherlands (2011); Faroe Islands, Denmark (2007); Pitcairn Islands, UK (2003); Pitcairn Islands, UK (2003); Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands, Norway (1987).

Corporal punishment unlawful by Supreme Court ruling

In the following states, Supreme Court rulings have declared corporal punishment to be unlawful in all settings including the home but prohibition has not yet been enacted in legislation.

Nepal is committed to law reform; Italy is yet to make a public commitment to enacting prohibition.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
ITALY	NO ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NEPAL ²	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

1. 1996 Supreme Court judgment ruled against all violence in childrearing but this not yet confirmed in legislation

2. Commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, made at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation; 2005 Supreme Court ruling removed legal defence for corporal punishment by parents, guardians and teachers; draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2016)

States expressing commitment to law reform in UPR and other contexts

Governments in the following states have expressed a commitment to prohibition of all corporal punishment of children through unequivocally accepting recommendations to prohibit made during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the state concerned and/or in another official context

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
AFGHANISTAN³	NO	NO	SOME ⁴	YES	NO	NO ⁵
ALGERIA⁶	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
ANGOLA⁷	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
ARMENIA⁸	NO	SOME ⁹	NO	YES	YES	YES
AZERBAIJAN¹⁰	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
BAHRAIN¹¹	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
BANGLADESH¹²	NO	NO	NO	YES ¹³	NO	NO
BELIZE¹⁴	NO	SOME ¹⁵	SOME ¹⁶	YES	SOME ¹⁷	YES
BHUTAN¹⁸	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹⁹	[YES]	YES
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA²⁰	SOME ²¹	SOME ²²	SOME ²³	YES	YES	YES
BURKINA FASO²⁴	NO	NO	SOME ²⁵	SOME ²⁶	[YES]	YES

3. Commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, made at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation

4. Prohibited in preschool provision

5. Lawful under Shari'a law

6. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012)

7. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit all corporal punishment (2014)

8. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2010, 2015); draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2015)

9. Unlawful in care institutions

10. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2009, 2013)

11. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2017)

12. Commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, made at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation; Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2009)

13. Unlawful under 2011 Supreme Court ruling, not yet confirmed in legislation

14. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2009)

15. Prohibited in residential care facilities

16. Prohibited in day care centres

17. Prohibited in "Youth Hostel" detention centre

18. Commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, made at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation

19. Code of Conduct and ministerial directives state corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

20. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015)

21. Prohibited in Republic of Srpska

22. Prohibited in Republic of Srpska

23. Prohibited in Republic of Srpska

24. Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2014)

25. Prohibited in preschool settings

26. Prohibited in primary schools

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
CHILE ²⁷	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
COMOROS ²⁸	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	[YES]
CUBA ²⁹	NO	[SOME] ³⁰	[SOME] ³¹	[YES]	YES	YES
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ³²	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
ECUADOR ³³	NO	NO	SOME ³⁴	YES	YES	SOME ³⁵
EL SALVADOR ³⁶	NO	NO	SOME ³⁷	YES	YES	YES
FIJI ³⁸	NO	NO	NO	YES ³⁹	YES	YES
GEORGIA ⁴⁰	NO	[SOME] ⁴¹	NO	YES	YES	YES
GHANA ⁴²	NO	NO	NO	NO ⁴³	SOME ⁴⁴	YES
GUINEA-BISSAU ⁴⁵	NO	[NO]	[NO]	[YES]	[YES]	YES
INDIA ⁴⁶	NO	SOME ⁴⁷	NO ⁴⁸	SOME ⁴⁹	YES ⁵⁰	SOME ⁵¹
INDONESIA ⁵²	NO	NO ⁵³	NO	NO	YES	SOME ⁵⁴
KIRIBATI ⁵⁵	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
KYRGYZSTAN ⁵⁶	NO	SOME ⁵⁷	NO	YES	[YES]	YES
MARSHALL ISLANDS ⁵⁸	NO	NO	NO	[YES] ⁵⁹	YES	YES

27. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2014); prohibiting legislation under discussion (2016)

28. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2014); draft legislation which would prohibit possibly under discussion (2014)

29. Government adopted Central American Regional Roadmap on Violence against Children (2011) which recommends full prohibition

30. Possibly prohibited in care institutions

31. Possibly prohibited in preschool institutions

32. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2009) and adopted Central American Regional Roadmap on Violence against Children (2011) which recommends full prohibition; prohibiting legislation being drafted (2015)

33. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012)

34. Prohibited in preschool provision

35. Lawful in indigenous communities

36. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2010); commitment reaffirmed at Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute meeting (2014)

37. Prohibited in preschool provision

38. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2014)

39. Unlawful under 2002 High Court ruling, not yet confirmed in legislation

40. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2015)

41. Possibly prohibited in care institutions

42. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2008, 2012 and 2017)

43. Ministerial directive possibly advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

44. Prohibited in prisons

45. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2015)

46. Commitment to prohibition in all settings confirmed in report to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011); Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012)

47. Prohibited in care institutions except in Jammu and Kashmir; bill which would prohibit in all childcare institutions under discussion (2014)

48. Bill which would prohibit in anganwadi centres and playschools under discussion (2014)

49. Prohibited for 6-14 year olds except in Jammu and Kashmir; not prohibited in religious schools

50. But prohibiting law not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir

51. Permitted in traditional justice systems

52. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2017)

53. National Standards of Care for Child Welfare Institutions state corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

54. Lawful under Shari'a law

55. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings and repeal "reasonable punishment" defence (2015)

56. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2015)

57. Prohibited in residential institutions

58. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015)

59. But some legislation still to be formally repealed

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
MAURITIUS ⁶⁰	NO	NO	[SOME] ⁶¹	YES	NO	YES
MEXICO ⁶²	SOME ⁶³	SOME ⁶⁴	SOME ⁶⁵	YES	YES	YES
MICRONESIA ⁶⁶	NO	NO	NO	[YES]	NO	YES
MOROCCO ⁶⁷	NO	NO	NO	NO ⁶⁸	YES	YES
MOZAMBIQUE ⁶⁹	NO	NO	NO	NO ⁷⁰	YES	YES
NAMIBIA ⁷¹	NO	SOME ⁷²	SOME ⁷³	YES	YES ⁷⁴	YES ⁷⁵
NIGER ⁷⁶	NO	NO	NO	NO ⁷⁷	NO	YES
OMAN ⁷⁸	NO	NO	[SOME] ⁷⁹	YES	NO	[YES]
PAKISTAN ⁸⁰	SOME ⁸¹	SOME ⁸²	SOME ⁸³	SOME ⁸⁴	SOME ⁸⁵	SOME ⁸⁶
PALAU ⁸⁷	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
PANAMA ⁸⁸	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
PAPUA NEW GUINEA ⁸⁹	NO	SOME ⁹⁰	NO	NO	YES	YES
PHILIPPINES ⁹¹	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
RWANDA ⁹²	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES

60. Bill which would prohibit under discussion (2015)

61. Possibly unlawful in preschool provision

62. Government adopted Central American Regional Roadmap on Violence against Children (2011) and End Violence National Action Plan 2017–2018, which both recommend full prohibition; prohibition included in General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents 2014 but further reform needed

63. Prohibited in the state of Guanajuato

64. Prohibited in institutions

65. Prohibited in institutions

66. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2015)

67. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012)

68. Ministerial direction advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

69. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2016)

70. Government directive advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

71. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2016)

72. Unlawful in state-run childcare under 1991 Supreme Court ruling but some legislation still to be repealed; prohibited in Child Care and Protection Act 2014, not yet in force

73. Unlawful in state-run childcare under 1991 Supreme Court ruling but some legislation still to be repealed; prohibited in Child Care and Protection Act 2014, not yet in force

74. Unlawful under 1991 Supreme Court ruling but some legislation still to be repealed; prohibited in Child Care and Protection Act 2014, not yet in force

75. Unlawful under 1991 Supreme Court ruling but some legislation still to be repealed

76. Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2014)

77. Ministerial Order states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

78. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2015)

79. Possibly prohibited in preschool provision

80. Commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, made at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation, confirmed 2014 in Government launch of national campaign for law reform

81. Prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit–Baltistan

82. Prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit–Baltistan, in Islamabad Capital Territory and in Sindh

83. Prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit–Baltistan, in Islamabad Capital Territory and in Sindh

84. Prohibited for 5–16 year olds in Punjab; prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit–Baltistan, Islamabad Capital Territory and Sindh

85. Prohibited in Juvenile Justice System Ordinance 2000, not applicable in all areas and other laws not amended/repealed; prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit–Baltistan, Islamabad Capital Territory and Sindh

86. Lawful under Shari'a law; prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit–Baltistan

87. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2011, 2016)

88. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2010, 2015)

89. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011)

90. Corporal punishment of children "in the care of the Director" prohibited

91. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in the home and other settings (2012); bill which would prohibit under discussion (2016)

92. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings and to repeal the "right of correction" (2011, 2015)

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
SAMOA ⁹³	NO	NO	SOME ⁹⁴	SOME ⁹⁵	YES	YES
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE ⁹⁶	NO	NO	NO	[YES]	[YES]	[YES]
SERBIA ⁹⁷	NO	NO	SOME ⁹⁸	YES	YES	YES
SEYCHELLES ⁹⁹	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁰⁰	[YES] ¹⁰¹	NO	YES
SIERRA LEONE ¹⁰²	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
SLOVAKIA ¹⁰³	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
SOUTH AFRICA ¹⁰⁴	NO ¹⁰⁵	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
SRI LANKA ¹⁰⁶	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹⁰⁷	SOME ¹⁰⁸	YES
TAJIKISTAN ¹⁰⁹	NO	NO	SOME ¹¹⁰	YES	NO	YES
THAILAND ¹¹¹	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
TIMOR-LESTE ¹¹²	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
TURKEY ¹¹³	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
UGANDA ¹¹⁴	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
ZAMBIA ¹¹⁵	NO	NO	SOME ¹¹⁶	YES	YES	YES ¹¹⁷
ZIMBABWE ¹¹⁸	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹¹⁹

93. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in the home (2011)

94. Prohibited in early childhood centres

95. Prohibited in government schools for children aged 5–14

96. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011, 2015)

97. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2008, 2013)

98. Prohibited in day care which forms part of education system

99. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2016)

100. Prohibited in preschool education

101. But some legislation still to be formally repealed

102. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all circumstances (2016)

103. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2009); prohibiting legislation being drafted (2015)

104. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in the home (2012); bill which would prohibit under discussion (2016)

105. 2017 High Court decision ruled the common law defence of “reasonable chastisement” to be unconstitutional but prohibition in law must still be enacted

106. Commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, made at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation, and reiterated in 2017 when the Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit

107. Ministerial circular states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

108. Prohibited in prisons

109. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011)

110. Prohibited in preschool education settings

111. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2012 and 2016)

112. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2011)

113. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2010, 2015)

114. Government Bill which would prohibit in all settings tabled in 2015 but failed to progress through parliament

115. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012)

116. Prohibited in preschool provision

117. Unlawful under 1999 Supreme Court ruling but some legislation still to be repealed

118. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011)

119. 2014 High Court ruling declaring judicial corporal punishment unconstitutional not yet confirmed by Constitutional Court

States without a clear commitment to law reform

The following states have yet to make a clear commitment to prohibiting all corporal punishment. Some have accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit but have also indicated that they consider existing legislation adequately protects children from corporal punishment, in conflict with information collected by the Global Initiative. Some have accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment but rejected other similar recommendations.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
AUSTRALIA	NO	SOME ¹²⁰	SOME ¹²¹	SOME ¹²²	SOME ¹²³	YES
BAHAMAS	NO	SOME ¹²⁴	SOME ¹²⁵	NO	[YES] ¹²⁶	[NO] ¹²⁷
BARBADOS	NO	NO	SOME ¹²⁸	NO	NO	NO
BELARUS ¹²⁹	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
BELGIUM	NO ¹³⁰	SOME ¹³¹	NO	YES	YES	YES
BOTSWANA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM ¹³²	NO	NO	SOME ¹³³	NO	NO	NO
BURUNDI	NO	NO	NO	[YES]	NO	YES
CAMBODIA	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
CAMEROON	NO	NO	[SOME] ¹³⁴	YES	[YES]	YES
CANADA	NO ¹³⁵	SOME ¹³⁶	SOME ¹³⁷	YES ¹³⁸	YES	YES

120. Prohibited in all residential centres and foster care in all states/territories except Northern Territory, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia

121. Prohibited in all states/territories except in Northern Territory and Tasmania; prohibition in childminding unconfirmed

122. Prohibited in all states/territories except Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia

123. Prohibited in all states/territories except Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia

124. Prohibited in residential institutions

125. Prohibited in preschools and day care centres under the Early Childhood Care (National Standards) Regulations 2015

126. But some legislation possibly still to be repealed

127. Prohibited in 1984 but reintroduced in 1991

128. Prohibited in day nurseries

129. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2010) but stated it had already been implemented and all corporal punishment unlawful

130. Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2016); Government gave a mixed response to UPR recommendations to prohibit (2016)

131. Prohibited in institutions in Flemish community

132. Government accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit but rejected others (2009)

133. Prohibited in childcare centres

134. Possibly prohibited in nursery education

135. 2004 Supreme Court ruling limited but upheld parents' right to physically punish children; Bill which would prohibit under discussion (2016)

136. Prohibited in state provided care in Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba and in foster care in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario; in Ontario prohibited in provincially licensed childcare programmes and in foster homes for children receiving services from provincially licensed/approved child protection agency or other service provider

137. Prohibited in all states/territories except Quebec

138. Unlawful under 2004 Supreme Court ruling but this not yet confirmed in laws relating to private schools and to all schools in Alberta and Manitoba

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
CHAD ¹³⁹	NO	[SOME] ¹⁴⁰	[SOME] ¹⁴¹	YES	[YES]	YES
CHINA	NO ¹⁴²	[NO]	SOME ¹⁴³	YES	YES	YES
COLOMBIA	NO	[SOME] ¹⁴⁴	NO	[YES] ¹⁴⁵	[YES] ¹⁴⁶	SOME ¹⁴⁷
COOK ISLANDS	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁴⁸	YES	NO	YES
COTE D'IVOIRE	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹⁴⁹	YES	YES
CZECH REPUBLIC	NO	SOME ¹⁵⁰	SOME ¹⁵¹	YES	YES	YES
DJIBOUTI	NO	NO	NO	[YES]	NO	YES
DOMINICA	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁵²	NO	NO	NO
DPR KOREA ¹⁵³	NO	NO	NO	[NO] ¹⁵⁴	[YES]	[YES]
DR CONGO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
EGYPT	NO	NO	NO	[NO] ¹⁵⁵	[YES] ¹⁵⁶	YES
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
ERITREA	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹⁵⁷	[NO]	YES
ETHIOPIA ¹⁵⁸	NO	SOME ¹⁵⁹	SOME ¹⁶⁰	YES	YES	YES
FRANCE ¹⁶¹	NO	NO	NO	YES ¹⁶²	YES	YES
GABON	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁶³	YES	YES	YES

139. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in 2009 but rejected recommendation to prohibit in 2013

140. Possibly prohibited in institutional care settings

141. Possibly prohibited in institutions

142. But corporal punishment of girls prohibited in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone

143. Prohibited in nurseries and kindergartens

144. Possibly unlawful in care institutions

145. Prohibition in indigenous communities unconfirmed

146. Prohibition in indigenous communities unconfirmed

147. Lawful in indigenous communities

148. Prohibited in institutions providing early childhood education

149. Ministerial circular states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

150. Unlawful in institutions

151. Prohibited in preschool provision

152. Prohibited in early childhood education facilities

153. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2014)

154. Policy states corporal punishment should not be used but possibly no prohibition in law

155. Ministerial directive states corporal punishment should not be used but possibly no prohibition in law

156. Possibly lawful in social welfare institutions

157. Policy states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

158. Government accepted UPR recommendation to abolish corporal punishment but rejected recommendation to criminalise it (2014)

159. Prohibited in institutions

160. Prohibited in institutions

161. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2013) but stated that acceptance of recommendations did not necessarily imply a commitment to further action

162. But courts have recognised a "right of correction"

163. Prohibited in preschool provision

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
GAMBIA	NO	NO ¹⁶⁴	NO	NO ¹⁶⁵	NO	YES
GRENADA	NO	SOME ¹⁶⁶	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹⁶⁷
GUATEMALA ¹⁶⁸	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
GUINEA	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹⁶⁹	[NO]	YES
GUYANA	NO	SOME ¹⁷⁰	SOME ¹⁷¹	NO	SOME ¹⁷²	SOME ¹⁷³
HAITI	NO ¹⁷⁴	[YES] ¹⁷⁵	[YES] ¹⁷⁶	YES	YES	YES
IRAN	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁷⁷	NO ¹⁷⁸	YES	NO
IRAQ	NO ¹⁷⁹	NO	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁸⁰	YES
JAMAICA	NO	YES	SOME ¹⁸¹	NO ¹⁸²	YES	YES
JAPAN ¹⁸³	SOME ¹⁸⁴	NO	NO	YES ¹⁸⁵	NO	YES
JORDAN ¹⁸⁶	NO	[SOME] ¹⁸⁷	[NO]	YES	[YES]	YES
KAZAKHSTAN	NO	[SOME] ¹⁸⁸	SOME ¹⁸⁹	YES	YES	YES
KUWAIT ¹⁹⁰	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	[YES]
LAO PDR	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁹¹	YES	YES	YES
LEBANON	NO	NO	NO	NO ¹⁹²	[YES]	YES

164. Minimum standards for residential childcare institutions state corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

165. Ministerial directive advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

166. Prohibited in childcare homes

167. Prohibited in Juvenile Justice Act 2012, not yet in force

168. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in the home (2008) and in all settings (2012) but has also said existing law prohibits

169. Ministerial circular possibly advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

170. Prohibited in some but not all settings in Child Care and Services Development Act 2011

171. Prohibited in some but not all settings in Child Care and Services Development Act 2011

172. Prohibited for persons under 17

173. Prohibited for persons under 17

174. Bill which would prohibit under discussion (2015)

175. Prohibition in foster care unconfirmed

176. Prohibition in crèches and childminding unconfirmed

177. Prohibited in day care centres (kindergartens)

178. Government directive states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

179. But possibly prohibited in Kurdistan

180. Prohibited in prisons and detention centres

181. Prohibited in early childhood centres ("basic schools")

182. Prohibition under discussion (2015); see also note on day care

183. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit all corporal punishment (2008, 2012) but denied that "right to discipline" allows corporal punishment and stated that legislation adequately protects children from "excessive" discipline (2012)

184. Prohibited in Kawasaki City by local ordinance

185. But Tokyo High Court has ruled some physical punishment may be lawful in some circumstances

186. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2009) but stated current laws do not prescribe corporal punishment and subsequently limited but did not repeal right to discipline according to "general custom"

187. Possibly prohibited in institutions

188. Possibly prohibited in children's villages

189. Prohibited in preschool education and training

190. Government accepted 2010 UPR recommendation to prohibit but subsequently stated existing law adequate; Government accepted 2015 recommendation to prohibit but appeared to defend "simple discipline"

191. Unlawful in early childhood education settings

192. Ministerial directive states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
LESOTHO ¹⁹³	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
LIBERIA	NO	SOME ¹⁹⁴	SOME ¹⁹⁵	NO	YES	YES
LIBYA	NO	NO	SOME ¹⁹⁶	YES	NO	NO
MADAGASCAR	NO	NO	NO	[YES]	NO	YES
MALAWI	NO	SOME ¹⁹⁷	SOME ¹⁹⁸	[YES] ¹⁹⁹	YES	YES
MALAYSIA	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO ²⁰⁰
MALDIVES ²⁰¹	NO	NO	NO	NO ²⁰²	NO	NO
MALI	NO	NO	SOME ²⁰³	YES	YES	YES
MAURITANIA	NO	NO	NO	NO ²⁰⁴	NO	NO
MONACO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
MYANMAR	NO	NO	NO	NO ²⁰⁵	NO	YES ²⁰⁶
NAURU	NO	NO	[SOME] ²⁰⁷	YES	YES	[YES]
NIGERIA	NO	NO	NO	NO ²⁰⁸	SOME ²⁰⁹	SOME ²¹⁰
NIUE	NO	NO	NO	NO	[YES]	YES
QATAR ²¹¹	NO	NO	NO	NO ²¹²	YES	NO
REPUBLIC OF KOREA ²¹³	SOME ²¹⁴	SOME ²¹⁵	SOME ²¹⁶	SOME ²¹⁷	YES	YES
REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO	NO	NO	SOME ²¹⁸	YES	YES	YES

193. Government accepted UPR recommendation to abolish corporal punishment, stating it was being implemented (2010), but subsequent law reform prohibited only as sentence for crime

194. Corporal punishment by child protection practitioners prohibited

195. Corporal punishment by child protection practitioners prohibited

196. Unlawful in preschool provision

197. Prohibited in state-run institutions

198. Prohibited in state-run day care

199. Prohibition in private schools unconfirmed

200. Government committed to prohibition (2007); bill which would prohibit (but not under Islamic law) under discussion (2015)

201. Government expressed commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation, but law reform in 2014/2015 re-authorised corporal punishment in all settings and Government rejected UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015)

202. Ministry of Education advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

203. Prohibited in preschools and kindergartens

204. Ministerial Order states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

205. Government directive advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

206. But some legislation still to be repealed

207. Possibly prohibited in preschool education settings

208. But possibly prohibited in Lagos State

209. Prohibited in Child Rights Act 2003, not enacted in all states

210. Prohibited in Child Rights Act 2003, not enacted in all states; lawful in some states under Shari'a law

211. Government accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit but rejected another similar one, stating corporal punishment already prohibited (2010)

212. Code of Conduct for schools states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

213. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2012) but was unclear on need for prohibition in the home

214. Prohibited in Seoul

215. Prohibited in Seoul

216. Prohibited in Seoul

217. Law prohibits direct (with contact) but not indirect (no contact) physical punishment; fully prohibited in Seoul, Gyeonggi province, Gwangju City and Jeollabukdo province

218. Prohibited in preschool provision

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	NO	NO	SOME ²¹⁹	YES	YES	YES
SAUDI ARABIA²²⁰	NO	NO	NO	NO ²²¹	NO	NO
SENEGAL²²²	NO	NO	NO	SOME ²²³	[YES]	YES
SINGAPORE	NO	NO	SOME ²²⁴	NO	NO	NO
SOLOMON ISLANDS²²⁵	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES ²²⁶
SOMALIA	NO	SOME ²²⁷	SOME ²²⁸	[SOME] ²²⁹	SOME ²³⁰	SOME ²³¹
ST KITTS AND NEVIS	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	[YES] ²³²
ST LUCIA²³³	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
STATE OF PALESTINE	NO	NO	NO	SOME ²³⁴	[SOME] ²³⁵	[SOME] ²³⁶
SUDAN	NO	NO	NO	[SOME] ²³⁷	NO	[YES] ²³⁸
SURINAME	NO	NO	NO	NO ²³⁹	YES	YES
SWAZILAND	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
SWITZERLAND	NO ²⁴⁰	[SOME] ²⁴¹	YES	YES	YES	YES
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	NO	NO	NO	NO ²⁴²	NO	YES
TAIWAN	NO	NO	[SOME] ²⁴³	YES	YES	YES
TONGA	NO	NO	SOME ²⁴⁴	YES	[YES]	NO ²⁴⁵

219. Unlawful in preschool provision

220. Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment in schools and penal system but stated already prohibited in schools and care settings (2009); recommendations to prohibit in 2013 UPR rejected

221. Ministerial circulars advise against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

222. Draft legislation to prohibit under discussion (2016)

223. Prohibited for 6–14 year olds

224. Prohibited in childcare centres

225. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011) but stated review of Penal Code included assessing need for clarification on lawful corporal punishment

226. But used in traditional justice

227. Prohibited in Somaliland

228. Prohibited in Somaliland

229. Possibly prohibited in Somaliland

230. Prohibited in Somaliland

231. Prohibited in Somaliland

232. But some legislation still to be formally repealed

233. Government accepted some but not all UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015)

234. Prohibited in UNRWA schools and in East Jerusalem; elsewhere Ministerial direction advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

235. Possibly unlawful in East Jerusalem

236. Possibly unlawful in Gaza

237. Possibly prohibited in Khartoum State for children aged 6–13

238. Possibly lawful under Shari'a law

239. Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in schools (2011)

240. 2003 Federal Court ruling stated repeated and habitual corporal punishment unacceptable but did not rule out all corporal punishment in childrearing

241. Possibly lawful in family placements

242. Ministry of Education advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law

243. Possibly prohibited in care centres

244. Prohibited in preschool institutions

245. 2010 Court of Appeal ruling stated “it might be argued” whipping is unconstitutional but did not declare it such

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
TUVALU²⁴⁶	NO	SOME ²⁴⁷	NO	NO	SOME ²⁴⁸	SOME ²⁴⁹
UK	NO	SOME ²⁵⁰	SOME ²⁵¹	YES ²⁵²	YES	YES
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	NO	NO	NO	YES	[YES]	NO
UR TANZANIA	NO	SOME ²⁵³	NO	NO	SOME ²⁵⁴	SOME ²⁵⁵
USA	NO	SOME ²⁵⁶	SOME ²⁵⁷	SOME ²⁵⁸	SOME ²⁵⁹	YES
UZBEKISTAN	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
VANUATU	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	SOME ²⁶⁰
VIET NAM	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
WESTERN SAHARA	NO	[NO]	[NO]	[NO]	[YES]	[YES]
YEMEN	NO	NO	[SOME] ²⁶¹	YES	YES	NO

Information in the above tables has been compiled from many sources, including reports to and by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed.

We are very grateful to government officials, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions, and many individuals who have helped to provide and check information.

We welcome any updates or corrections: please contact info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

For further details on all states see the individual state reports at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

246. Government accepted 2008 UPR recommendation to prohibit but in 2013 accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit and rejected others

247. Prohibited in hospital mental health wing

248. Corporal punishment by police officers prohibited

249. Island courts may order corporal punishment

250. Prohibited in residential institutions and foster care arranged by local authorities and voluntary organisations

251. Prohibited in day care and childminding in England, Wales and Scotland; in Northern Ireland, guidance states physical punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law

252. But in 2014 Government confirmed no prohibition in “unregistered independent settings providing part-time education”

253. Prohibited in residential institutions in Zanzibar

254. Prohibited in approved schools and remand homes in Zanzibar

255. Prohibited in Zanzibar

256. Prohibited in all care settings in 31 states, and in some settings in other states and District of Columbia


257. Prohibited in all care settings in 31 states, and in some settings in other states and District of Columbia

258. Prohibited in public schools in 29 states and District of Columbia, and in public and private schools in Iowa and New Jersey; federal bill which would prohibit under discussion (2015)

259. Prohibited in 32 states



260. Permitted in rural areas under customary justice systems

261. Possibly prohibited in preschool provision




Physical and humiliating punishment breaches the fundamental rights of children, completely disregards their entitlement to respect, dignity and integrity, undermines their development, damages their self-esteem, and perpetuates the thinking that it is alright to hit and hurt others.

CLAUDIANA COLE, MINISTER OF BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, DELIVERING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT A NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LAW REFORM TO PROHIBIT PHYSICAL AND HUMILIATING PUNISHMENT IN BANJUL, THE GAMBIA, 12–13 OCTOBER 2017



Governments that have not already done so should be encouraged to enact and enforce legislation to protect children from all forms of violence, including corporal punishment in all settings, even in the home, and by all perpetrators, including teachers and other school personnel.

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND, A FAMILIAR FACE: VIOLENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, UNICEF, NEW YORK, 2017





GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO
**End All Corporal
Punishment of Children**

Launched in Geneva in 2001, the **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children** works with governments and non-governmental actors towards universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children – aims which are supported by UNICEF, UNESCO, human rights institutions, and many international and national organisations. The context for all its work is implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

www.endcorporalpunishment.org



*The President's
Foundation for the
Wellbeing of Society*

The **President's Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society** was established in 2014 by Her Excellency the President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. The Foundation recognises relationships as the fundamental structure nurturing human existence and aims to produce relevant, appropriate and timely research by seeking innovative methodologies to engage with society for the promotion of peace and unity.

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