

Ending Corporal Punishment of Children: Africa E-newsletter

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FRENCH VERSION ALSO AVAILABLE



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

In this issue:

As the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during a Heads of State and Government Meeting in New York, the Global Initiative called for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda's Target 16.2 on ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. Read on for further details about the 2030 Agenda plus new national campaigns and research findings.

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1. Who we are

The [Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children](#) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which aims to act as a catalyst to encourage more action and progress towards ending all corporal punishment in all continents. We support national campaigns with relevant information and assistance. The Africa project of the Global Initiative aims specifically to increase the number of states in Africa committed to and actively pursuing the prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment of children, in the family, schools and all other settings. For more information, please contact Sonia Vohito at: vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Through this newsletter we aim to keep civil society organisations and other stakeholders informed and encourage networking around the issue of corporal punishment of children. We encourage readers to forward the newsletter to whoever might be interested and we encourage organisations to [sign up to the aims of the Global Initiative](#).

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2. Recent developments in Africa

Positive moves

Mauritius: In the context of the 14th session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Government of Mauritius reiterated that the Children's Bill currently under discussion would prohibit all corporal punishment of children.

Progress across Africa: The current state of progress towards prohibition across Africa will be set out in a new edition of the *Africa Progress and Delay leaflet*, currently being prepared by the Global Initiative (see below).

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3. Campaigns and other moves towards prohibition

Global campaigns

The UN Post-2015 Development Agenda ([Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development](#)) was adopted during the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 25-27 September 2015. The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. Indicators to monitor implementation of the targets will be adopted in March 2016. The Global Initiative is calling for the following two global indicators on violent punishment to be adopted under target 16.2 (“End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”):

- “Percentage of children aged 0-17 years who experienced any physical

punishment by caregivers in the past month”

- *“Violent punishment of children is prohibited in all settings of children’s lives including the family home”*

In this context, the Global Initiative developed a [briefing](#) calling for the adoption of the above mentioned global indicators on violent punishment. For more information, please email: elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org.

National campaigns

South Africa: In an article on violent punishment of children in South Africa, Executive Director of Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN) Christina Nomdo called for the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children in South African homes. Christina Nomdo lamented the general acceptance of corporal punishment of children in South African society and the lack of legal provisions prohibiting corporal punishment in the home. She called for the use of positive discipline where adults use non-violent conflict resolution methods and for problem-solving rather than punitive and humiliating approaches. <http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2015-07-16-surely-its-too-late-for-outrage-when-a-child-is-dead/#.Vai2fsndNfH>

Swaziland: World Vision Swaziland called on the Ministry of Education and Training to accelerate efforts to eliminate the practice of corporal punishment in schools. The organisation urged the Ministry to review the existing School Rules and Regulations to ensure corporal punishment is not only eliminated but also that teachers are held accountable for adherence to the rules to be reviewed. It also requested that the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs accelerates efforts to criminalise corporal punishment against children, especially in schools, and ensure justice delivery for all children who have been subjected to such forms of punishment. World Vision Swaziland’s call followed the death of a student who was beaten by a teacher at a primary school. <http://www.observer.org.sz/news/76019-world-vision-alarmed-by-learner%E2%80%99s-death.html>

Positive discipline

Ghana: In July 2015, [Actionaid Ghana](#) in collaboration with the NGO [J Initiative](#) conducted a series of seminars for Directors of Education, Schools Management Committee members, Parent-Teachers Association Associations and 30 Media houses, in Accra as part of their Positive Discipline Campaign. The seminars aimed to inform participants about corporal punishment and its harmful effects on the child; to explore how to encourage and enable alternative and non-harmful forms of discipline and to equip participants with skills to enable them to advocate

against corporal punishment. For further information email: Awo@jinitiative.org.

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4. Human rights monitoring

Key decisions and recommendations, etc.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights examined the initial state party report of Uganda at its 55th session in June. In its concluding observations, the Committee expressed concern at corporal punishment of children in schools, home and care institutions and recommended that it be prohibited.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women published its concluding observations on states examined at its 61st session in July. The Committee expressed concern at corporal punishment of children in all settings and particularly in schools in Namibia and made a recommendation to Namibia to “intensify law enforcement efforts to curb corporal punishment with a view to eliminating its use in all settings, particularly in schools, and promote the use of non-violent forms of disciplining”.

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 in briefing the treaty bodies: if you/your organisation is interested please contact vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Below is a list of African states coming up for examination by the treaty bodies. For deadlines for submitting briefings to the Committees please see the individual country reports on the [Global Initiative website](#). We are always willing to advise NGOs and human rights institutions on the practical details of how to submit briefings (email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org).

[African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:](#)

The Committee will be meeting at its 26th ordinary session from the 16 to 19 November 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the session, the Committee will

examine Algeria, Congo Republic, Gabon and Rwanda (tbc).

Committee on the Rights of the Child:

- (1) Session 71 (11-29 Jan 2016). The Committee will examine Benin, Gabon (tbc), Kenya, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- (2) Session 73 Pre-Sessional Working Group (1-5 Feb 2016). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Central African Republic, Sierra Leone and South Africa
- (3) Session 72 (16 May – 3 Jun 2016). The Committee will examine Gabon (tbc)
- (4) Session 74 Pre-Sessional Working Group (2-10 Jun 2016). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Cameroon, DR Congo, Malawi, Mauritania

Committee Against Torture:

- (1) Session 56 (9 Nov – 9 Dec 2015). The Committee will adopt the List of Issues/Lists of Issues Prior to Reporting for Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia
- (2) Session 57 (18 Apr – 13 May 2016). The Committee will examine Tunisia

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

- (1) Session 56 Pre-Sessional Working Group (12-16 Oct 2016). The PSWG will adopt Lists of Issues for Angola, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Namibia
- (2) Session 57 (22 Feb – 4 Mar 2016). The Committee will examine Kenya, Namibia
- (3) Session 57 Pre-Sessional Working Group (7-11 Mar 2016). The Committee will adopt the List of Issues for Tunisia
- (4) Session 58 (6-24 Jun 2016). The Committee will examine Angola, Burkina Faso

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women:

- (1) Session 62 (26 Oct – 20 Nov 2015). The Committee will examine Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi
- (2) Session 64 Pre-Sessional Working Group (23-27 Nov 2015). The PSWG will adopt the List of Issues for Mali
- (3) Session 63 (15 Feb – 4 Mar 2016). The Committee will examine UR Tanzania

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:

- (1) Session 5 Pre-Sessional Working Group (21-24 Mar 2016). The PSWG will adopt the List of Issues for Ethiopia
- (2) Session 15 (29 Mar – 21 Apr 2016). The Committee will examine Uganda
- (3) Session 16 (15 Aug – 2 Sep 2016). The Committee will examine Ethiopia

Human Rights Committee:

- (1) Session 115 (19 Oct – 6 Nov 2015). The Committee will examine Benin, and

adopt Lists of Issues for Burkina Faso, Ghana

(2) Session 116 (7-31 Mar 2016). The Committee examine Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and adopt the List of Issues for Morocco

(3) Session 117 (20 Jun – 15 Jul 2016). The Committee will examine Burkina Faso, Ghana

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 (UPR) 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 next African states to be reviewed under the UPR progress are as follows. For deadlines for submitting information to the review see the individual country reports on the [Global Initiative website](#).

23rd session (2-13 Nov 2015) – Mauritania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe

24th session (Jan/Feb 2016) –Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia

25th session (Apr/May 2016) – Sudan, Swaziland, UR Tanzania

26th session (Oct/Nov 2016) – South Sudan, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe

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5. Resources: Research/Reports/Publications

Global Initiative publication: A new edition of the ***Africa Progress and Delay leaflet*** (in English and French) will be available soon. The leaflets aim to support advocacy for law reform to prohibit corporal punishment, graphically providing key information about current progress towards prohibition, identifying states which are making progress and states where there appears to be little or no progress. For more information: email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org.

National resources

Algeria: According to a 2012-2013 survey, published in 2015, 71% of children age 2–14 years were subjected to any physical punishment during the month preceding the survey, with 23% of children subjected to severe physical punishment. In contrast, only 18% of respondents believe that physical punishment is needed to educate a child. A total of 86% of children were subjected to at least one form of psychological or physical punishment by their parents or other adult household members, while 9% of children experienced only non-violent discipline.

Ministère de la Santé, de la Population et de la Réforme Hospitalière, UNICEF & UNFPA (2015), *Suivi de la situation des enfants et des femmes: Enquête par Grappes à Indicateurs Multiples (MICS) 2012-2013*, Algiers, Algeria: Ministère de la Santé, de la Population et de la Réforme Hospitalière

Malawi: According to a 2014 survey, 42.9% of children age 1–14 years were subjected to any physical punishment during the month preceding the survey, with 6.4% of children subjected to severe physical punishment. In contrast, only 5.5% of respondents believe that physical punishment is needed to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly. Over 72% of children were subjected to at least one form of psychological or physical punishment by their parents or other adult household members, while less than 20% of children experienced only non-violent discipline.

National Statistical Office (2015), *Monitoring the situation of children and women: Malawi MDG Endline Survey 2014*, Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office

Zimbabwe: A survey conducted in 2014 found that 63% of children age 1-14 years experienced “violent punishment” (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment) during the month preceding the survey: 53% experienced psychological aggression, 36% experienced physical punishment and 5% experienced severe physical punishment (hit/slapped on the face, head or ears and/or beat up, hit over and over as hard as one could). Harare had the highest percentage of severe physical punishment (8%) and Matabeleland South Province had the lowest (2%).

Children aged 3-9 years were more likely to be subjected to violent discipline than any other age group and children in urban areas (68%) were subjected to some form of violent discipline more than their counterparts in rural areas (61%). On average, 38% of respondents believe that physical punishment is needed to bring up, raise, or educate a child properly. In contrast, 24% of children experience only non-violent discipline.

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6. Can you help?

Promoting positive, non-violent discipline

We are collecting resources for the promotion of positive discipline in homes, schools and other settings in Africa for listing on the website. Contact triona@endcorporalpunishment.org to suggest resources for inclusion. Resources which promote positive discipline as part of a campaign for law reform or which are clearly linked to prohibition that has already been achieved are especially welcome.

Research on corporal punishment of children

Evidence of the nature and prevalence of corporal punishment gathered through national studies is important to keep the issue visible and to assess the effectiveness of implementation of prohibiting laws and of measures to change attitudes and practice. Please send us any recent research findings relevant to corporal punishment of children in Africa at the following address: vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org

And ...

Other ways to contribute to the work of the Global Initiative include:

- sending us information on laws prohibiting or authorising corporal punishment
- letting us know about opportunities for promoting law reform (e.g. if draft legislation is being considered) and when new laws are passed which prohibit corporal punishment
- providing contact details for organisations actively working to promote the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children.

If you can help with any of the above, please email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful and welcome your comments: please email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org. 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 (online at www.endcorporalpunishment.org or email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

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We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful and welcome your comments: please email vohito@endcorporalpunishment.org. We are sending the newsletter 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, please tell us at info@endcorporalpunishment.org. If your organisation is not listed as supporting the aims of the Initiative, please consider signing up (online at www.endcorporalpunishment.org or email info@endcorporalpunishment.org)

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