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Forward

Caribbean Coalition for the Abolition of Corporal Punishment of Children



Newsletter 6
January 2016

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Welcome to this January 2016 e-newsletter from the [Caribbean Coalition for the Abolition of Corporal Punishment of Children](#). We hope you find this update useful; please share it and if you have any comments, contributions or feedback, email us at info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

News and developments

Barbados: In December 2015, Mikael Barford, the European Union's ambassador to Barbados, spoke out against corporal punishment of children, saying he thought it very disturbing that a poll had shown that a majority of people favoured beating children as a way of "disciplining" them.

Jamaica: In December 2015, the opposition spokesperson on education, Senator Kamina Johnson-Smith, [called](#) on Education Minister Ronald Thwaites to declare an immediate ban on corporal punishment in the public education system. The Children’s Advocate, Diahann Gordon-Harrison, and the National Parenting Support Commission [also called](#) for an end to corporal punishment. In response, Minister Thwaites [said](#) that the Ministry would soon issue a revised directive to public schools on corporal punishment. Corporal punishment remains lawful in the home and in all schools except nurseries and pre-schools for children under the age of 6 years. However, despite the Government’s stated intention to abolish corporal punishment in schools, no plans for law reform were announced.

The global context: Since the last CCACPC newsletter in September 2015, Ireland and Peru have joined the list of states which have achieved prohibition in all settings of children’s lives. Greenland, a self-governing territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, has also prohibited all violent punishment, bringing the total number of territories which have achieved full prohibition to six – including two Caribbean territories, Curaçao and St Maarten. A milestone in progress towards universal prohibition of corporal punishment of children has been passed: now, more than half of UN member states have achieved prohibition in all settings, including the home, or are committed to doing so. In total, 48 states have now prohibited all corporal punishment and Governments in another 52 states have made a commitment to full prohibition. For more information, see the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children’s [countdown to universal prohibition](#).

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Advocacy resources

[*Ending legalised violence against children: global progress to December 2015*](#). This latest global progress report from the Global Initiative and Save the Children charts the growth in the list of states prohibiting, and making a commitment to prohibiting, all corporal punishment. It considers prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in the context of the new Sustainable Development Goals. It also describes growing faith-based advocacy for reform and ever mounting research making visible this most common form of violence against children.

[Ending corporal punishment of children – a handbook for working with religious communities](#). This handbook provides links to tools and resources for engaging with and enlisting the support of religious communities and faith-based institutions towards the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children. It recognises the crucial role that religious communities play and seeks to broaden their involvement as active partners in the global movement towards achieving children’s right to equal protection under the law. The handbook includes sections/information on:

- The relationship between religion and corporal punishment
- The prevalence of corporal punishment and its impact on children’s lives
- Children’s right to protection from all corporal punishment
- Challenging corporal punishment and taking action with religious communities
- Working with religious communities towards reform

[Prohibiting all corporal punishment of children: progress and delay](#). The October 2015 edition of this revised and updated briefing summarises global progress and delay in achieving universal prohibition of all corporal punishment of children, including in the home, providing facts and figures to support efforts to ensure states meet their obligations under international human rights law to protect children from corporal punishment in law and in practice. Since the publication of the briefing, Ireland, Peru and Greenland have achieved full prohibition – for more information, see “[The global context](#)” above.

[Ending violent punishment of children – a foundation of a world free from fear and violence](#). This briefing promotes the adoption of indicators on violent punishment for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the 17 global goals which make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was formally adopted at a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly held in New York on 25-27 September 2015. The briefing calls for the adoption of two global indicators on violent punishment under SDG target 16.2, which aims to end all forms of violence against children.

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Using the UN human rights systems

This section of the newsletter lists the next examinations of Caribbean states by UN treaty bodies and under the Universal Periodic Review and gives outcomes of those examinations since the last CCACPC newsletter in September 2015.

When their state is examined, NGOs and national human rights institutions can contribute to the process by submitting information, with the aim of encouraging the body to recommend prohibition of corporal punishment. Recommendations made to states add to the pressure on governments to work for prohibition and are powerful tools for NGOs and NHRIs to use in their advocacy. The CCACPC can provide advice and support on using the UN human rights system and its recommendations to advocate for prohibition.

Contact elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org for more information.

Details of exact deadlines for sending information on each country are posted on the [individual country reports](#) on the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children's website when they become available.

[Antigua and Barbuda](#) will be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in April/May 2016. It will be examined by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in September 2016 and by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in October 2016.

[Barbados](#) will be examined by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in September 2016.

[Dominican Republic](#)'s list of issues for its forthcoming examination by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will be adopted in March 2016.

[Haiti](#) will be examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in February/March 2016. It will be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in October/November 2016.

[Jamaica](#) rejected recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, which were made to it during the Universal Periodic Review of its overall human rights record. In March 2016, the Human Rights Committee will adopt the list of issues on which Jamaica will be examined during a future session.

[St Vincent and the Grenadines](#) will be reviewed under the Universal Periodic

Review in the Human Rights Council in April/May 2016. It will be examined by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in September 2016.

[Suriname](#) was examined by the Human Rights Committee in October 2015. The Committee recommended that it take measures, including legislative ones, to end corporal punishment in all settings. It will be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in April/May 2016.

[Trinidad and Tobago](#) will be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in April/May 2016. It will be examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women in July 2016.

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“The NPSC strongly believes the act [of corporal punishment] contradicts the responsibility of our nation’s schools. It is harmful to resort to physical punishment, regardless of a student’s aptitude or willingness to conform to specific tasks. If a student loses focus, or becomes too anxious, corporal punishment serves no constructive purpose.... Teachers who use corporal punishment methods are setting an example that violence can be utilised to settle problems or solve conflicts. Students, therefore, are more likely to use violent acts to settle their own conflicts with others.”

Jamaica’s National Parenting Support Commission (*Proud Jamaica*, 17 December 2015)

Note: The CCACPC is supported by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org). To unsubscribe from this list, click the link below or email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

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