

# Immediate opportunities for law reform in East Asia and the Pacific



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

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Also available online at [www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)

**Note:** The dates given in brackets indicate the most recent information held by the Global Initiative, but to our knowledge all bills, draft laws, etc referred to below are currently still “live” and still present opportunities for enacting prohibition of corporal punishment. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed. If you believe any of the information to be incorrect or out of date, please email [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

| State             | Opportunities for enacting prohibition                                                                                                                                                                                       | Prohibition included |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Australia         | Family Law Act 1975 under review (2017)                                                                                                                                                                                      | ?                    |
| Brunei Darussalam | No known opportunities                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -                    |
| Cambodia          | Law on Child Protection being drafted (2014)                                                                                                                                                                                 | ?                    |
| China             | New child protection laws being drafted (2014); legislation on preschool education being considered (2017)                                                                                                                   | ?                    |
| Cook Islands      | Crimes Act Amendment Bill under discussion (2015)                                                                                                                                                                            | ?                    |
| DPR Korea         | No known opportunities                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -                    |
| Fiji              | Draft Disability Decree under discussion (2014); draft Child Justice Bill and Child Protection Bill under discussion (2018); amendment to Juvenile Act being drafted (2018)                                                  | ?                    |
| Indonesia         | Draft Criminal Code under discussion (2013)                                                                                                                                                                                  | NO                   |
| Japan             | Civil Code being revised (2012); local ordinance to prohibit corporal punishment being drafted by Tokyo Metropolitan Government (2019)                                                                                       | [YES]                |
| Kiribati          | Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2015)                                                                                                                                                                                | [SOME]               |
| Lao PDR           | Penal Code being amended (2017)                                                                                                                                                                                              | ?                    |
| Malaysia          | Bills which would allow implementation of Islamic (hudud) punishments at state level under discussion in Kota Baru and Kelantan (2014); draft Education Regulations (Pupil Discipline) 2018 possibly under discussion (2019) | [SOME]               |
| Marshall Islands  | Review of child protection legislation being consulted upon (2017)                                                                                                                                                           | ?                    |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Micronesia        | Criminal Code under review (2014); Pohnpei Family Violence Bill under discussion (2015); Family Protection Bills being drafted in Yap, Pohnpei and Chuuk (2016)                                                                              | ?      |
| Myanmar           | Child Law being revised (2015); amendments to Constitution under discussion (2015); Bill on Violence against Women being drafted (2015)                                                                                                      | YES    |
| Nauru             | Constitution under review (2013)                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ?      |
| Niue              | Family Law Bill under discussion (2015)                                                                                                                                                                                                      | [YES]  |
| Palau             | No known opportunities                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -      |
| Papua New Guinea  | Regulations under the Family Protection Act 2013 being drafted (2014); Education Act being revised (2015)                                                                                                                                    | ?      |
| Philippines       | Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill and other Bills which would prohibit corporal punishment under discussion (2015); Constitution under review (2018)                                                                                             | YES    |
| Republic of Korea | Laws being drafted for day care centres (2010)                                                                                                                                                                                               | ?      |
| Samoa             | Child Care and Protection Bill, Infants Amendment Bill and Teachers Bill under discussion (2015)                                                                                                                                             | NO     |
| Singapore         | Children and Young Persons Act under review (2019), Criminal Law Reform Bill being considered (2019)                                                                                                                                         | [NO]   |
| Solomon Islands   | Police Bill and draft Federal Constitution under discussion (2015); Education Bill under review (2016); Youth Justice Bill being drafted (2018)                                                                                              | SOME   |
| Taiwan            | Amendments to Constitution under discussion (2015)                                                                                                                                                                                           | NO     |
| Thailand          | Child Protection Act under review (2015)                                                                                                                                                                                                     | ?      |
| Timor-Leste       | Draft Child Code, draft Tutelary and Education Law for Minors aged 12-16 and draft Law on a Special Penal Regime for Minors aged 16-21 under discussion (2015); Draft Law on Punitive-Educational Measures for Minors aged 12 to 16 (2016)   | [SOME] |
| Tonga             | Amendments to the Constitution, the Criminal Offences Act 1926, the Police Act 2010, and the Prison Act 2010 under discussion (2018)                                                                                                         | ?      |
| Tuvalu            | Constitution being reviewed (2018); Child Protection and Welfare Bill 2017 being consulted upon (2018)                                                                                                                                       | ?      |
| Vanuatu           | Comprehensive law on children being drafted (2014); Family Protection Act under review (2016); Young Offenders Bill possibly under discussion (2013); Child Protection Bill being discussed (2017); Juvenile Bill under consideration (2018) | [YES]  |
| Viet Nam          | No known opportunities                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -      |