



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

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Resources for eliminating corporal punishment in schools

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Introduction

Children have an absolute right to legal protection from all corporal punishment, in all settings of their lives including their homes. Once corporal punishment is prohibited by law in any setting, the prohibition must be implemented through measures aimed at eliminating corporal punishment in practice. This briefing lists resources for implementing the prohibition of school corporal punishment.

When corporal punishment is prohibited in schools and all legal defences and authorisations for its use are repealed, children in schools will be protected by the criminal laws on assault. This should mean teachers and other adults involved in education can be prosecuted for assault if they inflict corporal punishment on learners: teachers, school administrators, school students and their parents need to know the law and its implications.

However, prevention of corporal punishment is better than prosecution after a child has suffered. A range of measures aimed at preventing the use of corporal punishment, ensuring effective monitoring of disciplinary procedures in practice and responding appropriately when the prohibition is breached, are required to implement the prohibition.

Implementation is ultimately the responsibility of governments: they should fund the distribution and use of resources aimed at teachers and other school staff, teacher educators and trainers, parents, the general public and children and young people. However, schools and other organisations involved in teacher training and education can also obtain and use the resources – and since many of them are freely available on the internet, there is no need to wait for government funding.

Eliminating the use of corporal punishment need not mean that staff must learn an entirely new set of skills. Teachers and other adults working with children already use a range of disciplinary methods including non-violent approaches; measures for implementation including training should aim to build on the positive, non-violent techniques which are already used and to exclude the violent and other humiliating measures.

Resources are listed here according to their primary audience and are freely available unless otherwise stated. The resources listed are mainly focussed on education settings but some could also apply in other settings where children are cared for, including in their homes, and could be used by other professionals working directly with children. Resources are freely available unless otherwise noted. Resources for all audiences may be useful for advocates of law reform to prohibit all corporal punishment – for example, to address concerns about prohibition and as part of understanding what is needed for its implementation. Other Global Initiative publications, including yearly global and periodic regional reports which track

What is corporal punishment?

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has adopted a comprehensive definition of corporal punishment:

“The Committee defines ‘corporal’ or ‘physical’ punishment as any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light. Most involves hitting (‘smacking’, ‘slapping’, ‘spanking’) children, with the hand or with an implement – a whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon, etc. But it can also involve, for example, kicking, shaking or throwing children, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or boxing ears, forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions, burning, scalding or forced ingestion (for example, washing children’s mouths out with soap or forcing them to swallow hot spices). In the view of the Committee, corporal punishment is invariably degrading. In addition, there are other non-physical forms of punishment that are also cruel and degrading and thus incompatible with the Convention. These include, for example, punishment which belittles, humiliates, denigrates, scapegoats, threatens, scares or ridicules the child.” (Committee on the Rights of the Child (2006), [General Comment no. 8: the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment](#), para. 11)

progress towards the prohibition of corporal punishment, may also be useful and are available at www.endcorporalpunishment.org (or email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

While all the resources listed here are potentially useful in eliminating corporal punishment from education settings, readers are advised to read them critically and adapt them as necessary for their own situation. The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children does not condone anything in any resource which could be seen as endorsing any kind of humiliating punishment of children, including any non-physical humiliating punishment.

For more information on Global Initiative publications or on other aspects of prohibition of corporal punishment, see www.endcorporalpunishment.org. To suggest resources for inclusion in this list, contact info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Measures for implementing prohibition

To implement the prohibition of all corporal punishment in schools, governments should undertake measures including:

- widespread public education and awareness raising, among adults and children, about the law change and the reasons for it
- establishing a range of appropriate responses and sanctions to address the continued use of corporal punishment by teachers – for example, making compliance with prohibition a condition of employment and breaching the prohibition punishable as misconduct; placing responsibility for ensuring corporal punishment is not used on school administrations and head teachers
- monitoring compliance with prohibition through school inspection mechanisms, including confidential interviews with staff and children with all necessary safeguards
- establishing independent complaints procedures for children, staff, parents and other adults, ensuring protection for those who report the use of corporal punishment
- integrating education on children's rights, the law and positive, non-violent disciplinary strategies into initial training and university teaching in education, psychology, child development and other related topics
- teaching existing and new staff about children's rights, the law and non-violent discipline through in-service training and inductions for all providers of education at all levels (school heads/principals, teachers, assistants, non-teaching staff, volunteers and other adults who come into contact with children).

The overall aim is to stop corporal punishment and other humiliating, cruel or degrading punishment being inflicted on children, in schools and wherever else they may be.

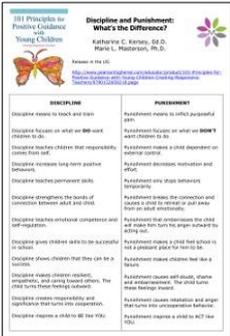
Summary resources aimed at teachers



Resource: Basic Facts About Corporal Punishment (2010)

Description: Leaflet (1 page) giving facts about corporal punishment and suggesting alternatives to it. Published in 2010 in Windhoek, Namibia by the [Legal Assistance Centre](#).

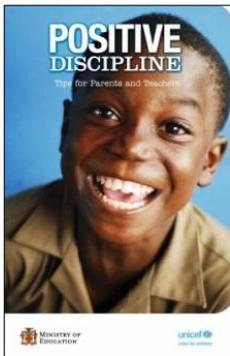
Languages: [English](#), [Otjiwambo](#)



Resource: Discipline and Punishment: What's the Difference? (2012)

Description: Information sheet accompanying the book *101 Principles for Positive Guidance with Young Children: Creating Responsive Teachers*, written by Katharine Kersey and Marie Masterson and published in 2012 in the USA by Allyn and Bacon.

Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Positive Discipline: Tips for Parents and Teachers (2011)

Description: Leaflet about positive discipline techniques. Published in 2011 by the Ministry of Education, Jamaica, and UNICEF.

Languages: English ([cover](#)) ([inside](#))

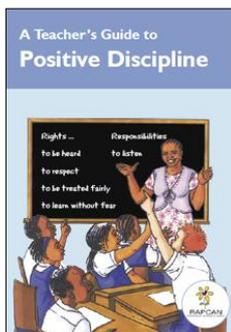


Resource: Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching: Guidelines for Educators summary (2010)

Description: Four-page summary of the manual *Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching: Guidelines for Educators* (see p. 7 below). Written by Joan Durrant and published in 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand by [Save the Children](#) Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific Regional Office.

Languages: [English](#), [Tetum](#)

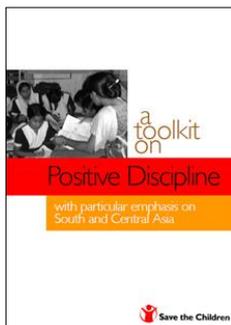
In-depth resources aimed at teachers and teacher educators



Resource: A Teacher's Guide to Positive Discipline (2008)

Description: Book (48 pages) which provides teachers with a range of practical tools and techniques to strengthen positive discipline in the classroom. Published in 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa by [RAPCAN](#).

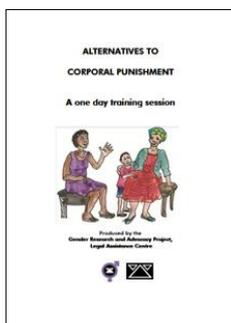
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: A Toolkit on Positive Discipline: with particular emphasis on South and Central Asia (2007)

Description: Toolkit (191 pages) which is designed to equip anyone who is involved with children with tools and activities to raise children without using physical and psychological punishment. It can also be used with older children who could make use of some of the tools in their own collective efforts to prevent violence against children. Published in 2007 in Kathmandu, Nepal by [Save the Children](#) Sweden.

Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Alternatives to Corporal Punishment: a one day training session (2010)

Description: Training pack (50 pages) designed to help trainers educate community members about alternatives to corporal punishment. Published in 2010 in Windhoek, Namibia by the [Legal Assistance Centre](#), Namibia.

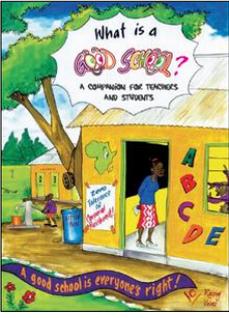
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Classroom Management Online website (www.classroommanagementonline.com)

Description: Website giving details about a seven week, online, confidential, distance learning course and professional seminar about preventing and handling disruptive behaviour in elementary, middle school, high school and college classrooms.

Languages: [English](#) (for purchase)



Resource: Good School Toolkit (second edition – 2011)

Description: The Good School Toolkit, consisting of booklets, posters, a training manual and associated materials, contains a set of ideas and tools that will help educators explore what a good school is and guide them through a process that will help them create one. In good schools, corporal punishment is not used and positive discipline is practiced. The toolkit was developed by [Raising Voices](#) with the help of schools in Uganda and focuses on ideas and activities that do not require specific financial resources.

Languages: [English](#), some information in [Kiswahili](#)

[Website]

Resource: Gordon Training International website (www.gordontraining.com)

Description: Gordon Training International is a human relations training organisation which offers workshops, trainer certification and books to help teachers develop the communication and conflict resolution skills they need to have high quality relationships with their students.

Languages: [English](#) (for purchase)



Resource: Let's Work Together manual (2008)

Description: Manual (19 pages) which provides material for a half-day workshop for those who work with other people's children: childminders, nursery or family centre workers, playgroup/pre-school workers, teachers, crèche workers, and after-school workers or nannies. The workshop aims to identify children's behaviour which is challenging to adults, the techniques adults use to control challenging behaviour and ways adults can reinforce positive behaviour in children. Published in 2008 by [Save the Children](#).

Languages: [Arabic](#) (free), [English](#) (for purchase)

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Resource: Module De Formation Relatif A La Discipline Positive Et Les Alternatives Aux Punitions Physiques Et Humiliantes

Description: Training module and associated handouts designed for teachers in Côte D'Ivoire to learn to stop using physical and other humiliating punishment. Published by [Save the Children](#).

Languages: [French](#)

[Website]

Resource: Positive Discipline website (www.positivediscipline.com)

Description: Website selling materials related to the Positive Discipline program based on the work of Alfred Adler and Rudolf Dreikurs and designed to teach young people to become responsible, respectful and resourceful members of their communities.

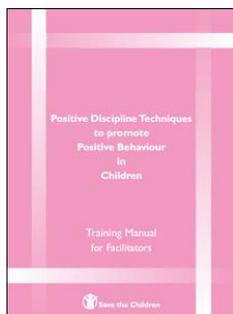
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching: Guidelines for Educators (2010)

Description: Manual (330 pages) which sets out the foundations and principles of positive discipline in the classroom and provides exercises for teachers to help them put the principles into practice. Written by Joan Durrant and published in 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand by [Save the Children](#) Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific Regional Office.

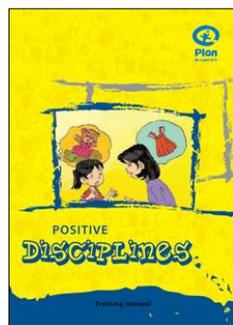
Languages: [English](#), [Thai](#)



Resource: Positive Discipline Techniques to Promote Positive Behaviour in Children: Training Manual for Facilitators (2008)

Description: Manual (16 pages) which gives trainers a 3 – 5 hour session for teachers and others working with children, aimed at promoting the use of positive discipline techniques instead of corporal punishment. Developed as part of the Save the Children India Tsunami Response Programme. Written by Philippa Ramsden and Dr Buvaneshwari and published in 2008 by [Save the Children](#).

Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Positive Disciplines Training Manual (2009)

Description: Manual (7 parts each of 17-47 pages) containing techniques, case studies and advice for those training parents and teachers on positive discipline. Written by Le Van Hao and published in 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam by [Plan](#) in Vietnam.

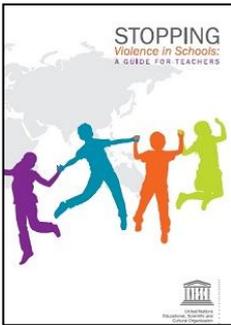
Languages: [English](#)

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Resource: Resource Packet on Alternatives to Corporal Punishment (2005)

Description: Collection of ideas on alternatives to corporal punishment for parents and teachers. Written by Elizabeth Cardenas and published in 2005 in Belize.

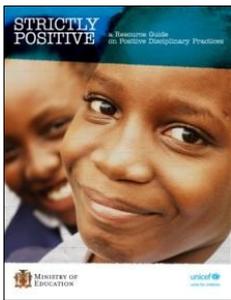
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Stopping Violence in Schools: A Guide for Teachers (2011)

Description: Guide which can be used by teachers and students to prevent school violence, including corporal punishment. Published in 2011 by [UNESCO](#) in Paris.

Language: [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)



Resource: Strictly Positive: a Resource Guide on Positive Disciplinary Practices (2011)

Description: Resource guide to support positive discipline in Jamaica's schools. Published in 2011 by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF.

Languages: [English](#)

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Resource: The SPARKE Way: Developing a child-centric approach to positive discipline (2011)

Description: Book (75 pages) containing information for teachers about child development, learning difficulties, positive discipline strategies and children's rights. The book was created as part of the Supporting Positive Alternatives for Raising Kindness in Education (SPARKE) project, which seeks to put a stop to the use of corporal punishment and thereby end physical, verbal and emotional violence against children by delivering teacher training on positive discipline and alternatives to corporal punishment in selected schools for Tibetan refugee children in India and Nepal. Written by Aparna Massey and Jenny Neldemo and published in 2011 in Dehra Dun, India by IM-SOIR, The Swedish Organization for Individual Relief.

Languages: English, Hindi, Nepali, Tibetan (all for purchase: [contact Cedar Woods Consulting Group](#))

Resources aimed at governments and school administrations

[No picture available]

Resource: Alternatives to Corporal Punishment: The Learning Experience (2000)

Description: Report (35 pages) created to support the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools in South Africa. Published in 2000 by the South African Department of Education.

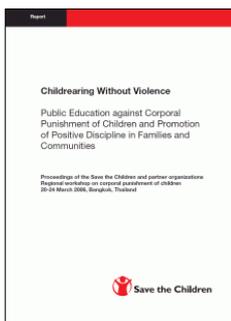
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Briefing paper: Millennium Development Goals (2010)

Description: Briefing paper (11 pages) which calls on all governments to outlaw all forms of violence against children in schools as part of making progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Published in 2010 by [Plan](#).

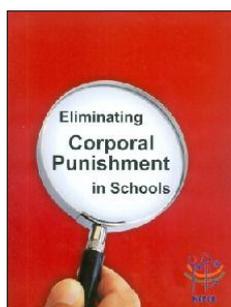
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Childrearing Without Violence: Public Education against Corporal Punishment of Children and Promotion of Positive Discipline in Families and Communities (2006)

Description: Report of a workshop run by Save the Children and partner organisations in Thailand in 2006 which provides information and guidance on running public education campaigns. Published in 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand by [Save the Children](#) Sweden.

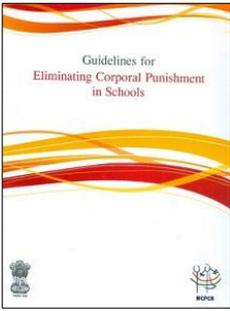
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools (2012)

Description: Publication (92 pages) created following the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools in India, including articles on corporal punishment and the results of research on school corporal punishment. Published in 2012 in India by the [National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights](#).

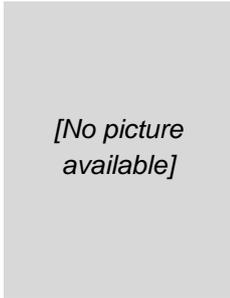
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Guidelines for Eliminating Corporal Punishment in Schools (2012)

Description: Publication (30 pages) prepared following prohibition of corporal punishment in schools in India which includes guidelines for teachers on addressing difficult situations and engaging positively with children and guidelines for school administrations on eliminating corporal punishment. Published in 2012 in India by the [National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights](#).

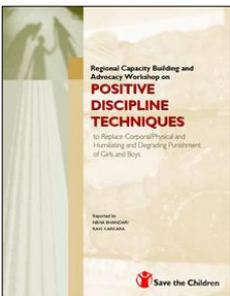
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: I Shan't Say This Again: training teachers in behaviour management (2010)

Description: Book containing suggestions for school organisation and classroom practice in working with children whose behaviour is a concern. Written by John Bayley, Lynda Haddock and Nick Peacey and published in 2010 (2nd edition) in London, UK by the Institute of Education.

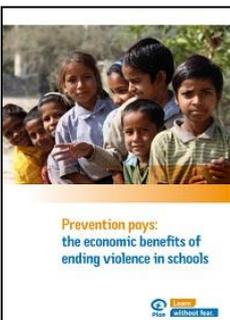
Languages: [English](#) (for purchase)



Resource: Positive discipline techniques: regional capacity building and advocacy workshop to replace corporal/physical and humiliating and degrading punishment of girls and boys (2005)

Description: Report of a regional workshop run by Save the Children in India in 2004. Includes information on the negative impact of corporal punishment, positive discipline techniques which can be taught to others and advocacy against corporal punishment worldwide. Written by Neha Bhandari and Ravi Karkara and published in 2005 in Kathmandu, Nepal by [Save the Children](#) Sweden.

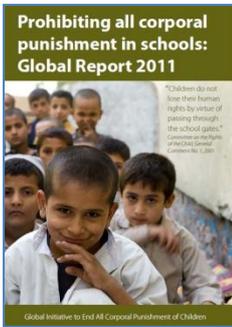
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Prevention pays: the economic benefits of ending violence in schools (2010)

Description: Report (20 pages) which summarises the findings of research on the economic and social cost of violence in schools, including corporal punishment. Written by F. Ellery, N. Kassam, and C. Bazan and published in 2010 in Woking, UK, by [Plan International](#).

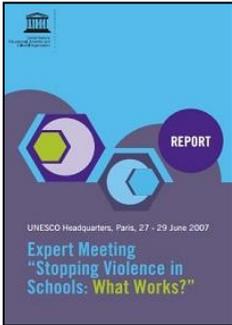
Languages: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)



Resource: Prohibiting all corporal punishment in schools: Global Report 2011

Description: Report (15 pages) which reviews progress towards progress of corporal punishment in schools and describes the actions that need to be taken to ensure that children’s rights to protection from all forms of corporal punishment and to non-violent education are enshrined in national laws. Published in 2011 by the [Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children](#).

Language: [English](#)



Resource: Stopping Violence in Schools: What Works? (2007)

Description: Report which provides a summary of the Expert Meeting, “Stopping Violence in Schools: What Works?” which was held in Paris, France in June 2007 and was part of UNESCO’s follow-up to the UN World Report on Violence against Children. Published in 2007 by [UNESCO](#).

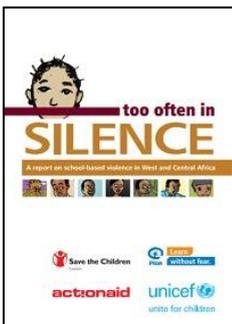
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Tackling Violence in Schools: Final Report of the Meeting (2011)

Description: Report (21 pages) which contains the conclusions and recommendations from the High-Level Expert meeting “Tackling Violence in Schools” held in Oslo, Norway in June 2011. It aims to feed into the follow-up process of the UN World Report on Violence against Children promoted by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children, and forms part of the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2012-2015). Published in 2011 in Strasbourg by the [Council of Europe](#).

Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Too Often in Silence: A report on school-based violence in West and Central Africa (2010)

Description: Report (64 pages) which looks at the context and causes of violence in and around schools in West and Central Africa, its impact on students and more broadly on communities and nations, provides data on the prevalence, frequency and intensity of school-based violence and proposes key recommendations to the problem. Written by Laetitia Antonowicz, Education for Change Ltd and published in 2010 by UNICEF, [Plan](#) West Africa, Save the Children Sweden West Africa and ActionAid.

Languages: [English](#)

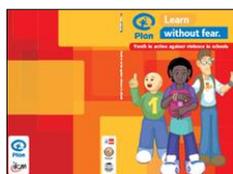
Resources aimed at children and young people and adults working with them



Resource: Educar sin Pegar: Mi Voz Habla de Paz – Guía Metodológica

Description: Guide (56 pages) providing activities to help children aged 4-7 or older learn about their right to be free from all corporal punishment. Designed to be run over two weeks, with one 25-minute session a day. Created as part of the “Proyecto Erradicación del Castigo Físico, Campaña Educa Sin Pegar” (“Eradication of Physical Punishment Project, Educate without hitting campaign”) run by Fundación Paniamor. Published in 2009 in San José, Costa Rica by Fundación Paniamor.

Languages: [Spanish](#)



Resource: Learn Without Fear: Youth in Action Against Violence in Schools (2009)

Description: Manual (63 pages) designed to help young people set up their own projects against violence in schools. Provides exercises and activities for individuals and groups of young people. Published in 2009 in Hamburg, Germany by [Plan](#).

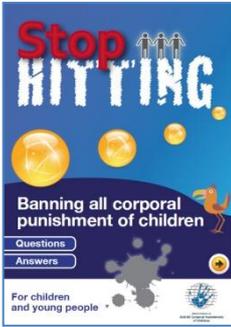
Languages: [English](#), [French](#), [German](#)



Resource: Our Right to be Protected From Violence: Activities for Learning and Taking Action for Children and Young People (2006)

Description: Book (76 pages) for young people over the age of 12 with information about violence and ideas for actions that groups of young people can take to prevent violence and respond to it. Written by Susan Fountain and published in 2006 to accompany the report of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children.

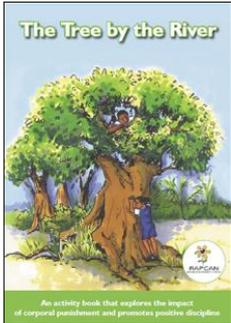
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: Stop Hitting: Banning all corporal punishment of children (2009)

Description: Booklet (27 pages) for children and young people, giving answers to some common questions about banning all corporal punishment of children. Published in 2009 by the [Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children](#).

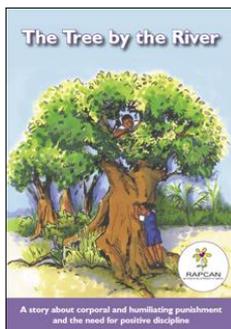
Languages: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)



Resource: The Tree by the River activity book (2008)

Description: Activity book (48 pages) for children that explores the impact of corporal punishment and promotes positive discipline. For use in conjunction with *The Tree by the River* story book. Published in 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa by [RAPCAN](#).

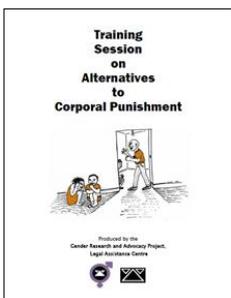
Languages: [English](#)



Resource: The Tree by the River story book (2008)

Description: Story book (16 pages) for children about corporal and humiliating punishment and the need for positive discipline. For use in conjunction with *The Tree by the River* activity book. Published in 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa by [RAPCAN](#).

Languages: [English](#)

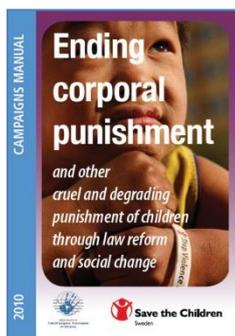


Resource: Training Session on Alternatives to Corporal Punishment (2009)

Description: Training session for children on alternatives to corporal punishment. Published in 2009 in Windhoek, Namibia by the [Legal Assistance Centre](#), Namibia.

Languages: [English](#)

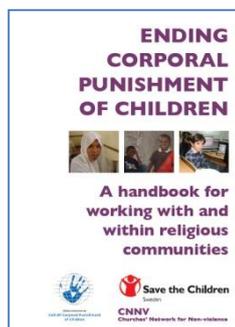
Resources for children's rights advocates



Resource: Campaigns Manual: Ending corporal punishment and other cruel and degrading punishment of children through law reform and social change (2010)

Description: Manual (92 pages) which guides and supports NGOs in challenging the legality and practice of corporal punishment in all settings, including schools and homes. Published in 2010 by the [Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children](#) and Save the Children Sweden.

Languages: [English](#), [Spanish](#)



Resource: Ending Corporal Punishment of Children: A handbook for working with and within religious communities (2011)

Description: Handbook (75 pages) which builds on the growing support among religious leaders and faith communities for prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children and aims to inform and help those working with and within religious communities to pursue reform. Written by Chris Dodd and published in 2011 by the [Churches' Network for Non-violence](#), Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children and Save the Children Sweden.

Languages: [English](#)

[No picture available]

Resource: General Comment No. 8: The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment (arts. 19; 28, para. 2; and 37, inter alia) (2006)

Description: General Comment by the Committee on the Rights of the Child which highlights the obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children and outlines the legislative and other awareness-raising and educational measures that States must take. Issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2006.

Languages: [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#)



Resource: Prohibiting all corporal punishment of children: Frequently Asked Questions (2009)

Description: Booklet (16 pages) which provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about prohibition of corporal punishment and dispels common misperceptions about the reasons for prohibition and its impact on families. Published in 2009 by the [Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children](#).

Languages: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)

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Resource: Prohibiting corporal punishment in schools: Positive responses to common arguments (2009)

Description: Briefing (6 pages) which addresses issues commonly raised in states in all regions when moves are made to prohibit corporal punishment in schools. Published in 2009 by the [Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children](#).

Languages: [English](#)