



Together to #EndViolence Solutions Summit Series: high-level conference

Prohibiting all corporal punishment of children: laying the foundations for non-violent childhoods

Date: Friday 30 April 2021 (International Day to End Corporal Punishment of Children)
Time: 8am New York/2pm Geneva/9pm Tokyo
Length: 2 hours
Languages: English/French/Spanish

Context

Corporal punishment – always a breach of children’s rights – is the most common form of violence against children¹. Its widespread social acceptance means that a level of violence in childrearing is normalised, entrenching children’s low status in society and paving the way for other forms of violence and mistreatment. It is associated with a wide range of short- and long-term negative impacts, both for the individual and society. As such it is a key issue for anyone concerned with ending violence against children, child rights, education, child protection, development and making progress towards peaceful and thriving societies.

In most countries, the law does not prohibit corporal punishment in a sufficiently clear, binding and precise manner, and in some countries even still allows some degree of violence in child raising; 87% of children worldwide live with limited or no legal protection from corporal punishment. Enacting prohibition fulfils children’s right to equal protection under the law, and most importantly sends a clear message that violent punishment is no longer acceptable. The aim of prohibition is not to put the blame on parents and others, but rather to bring about a cultural shift in how society regards and treats children. And there is growing evidence that when the law is well implemented this is indeed the effect.

Children have told us for far too long about the violence that affects them. The cost to our societies has been huge, in human and financial terms. This high-level conference will make the case for accelerating progress towards universal prohibition of corporal punishment – as a human rights obligation and a moral imperative, but also as an effective and essential strategy for ending violence against children.

Key messages

- Children continue to experience a shocking level of corporal punishment, at very high cost to themselves and society.
- We must act urgently to end corporal punishment by 2030 – in line with SDG 16.2 and other human rights obligations.
- We have much to gain from ending corporal punishment, and it is possible for all countries to take effective action – there are examples of progress across diverse regions and economic, cultural and religious settings. We know the solutions, but political will and commitment is needed to implement them.
- Progress is accelerating: 40 years ago only one state had prohibited all corporal punishment of children; today 62 states across all regions of the world have enacted this essential protection for children. But more is needed, and children cannot wait any longer to be protected from violence.

¹ UNICEF (2014), *Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*, NY: UNICEF





Programme

Chair: Dr. Joan Nyanyuki, Executive Director of the African Child Policy Forum, Co-Chair End Violence Executive Committee	Welcoming remarks
Ericka B. Quilos, youth speaker, Philippines and Ssebulime Musasizi, youth speaker, Uganda	
H.E. Mr. KIMURA Tetsuya, Ambassador of Japan to the United Nations	Government commitment, leadership and action to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children – as a fundamental strategy for ending violence against children, building non-violent societies and enhancing human security, and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Mr. Adrien Taquet, Secretary of State for Children and Families, France	
Mme Imen Zahouani Houimel, Minister of Women, Family and Seniors, Tunisia	
Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children	Ending the physical and humiliating punishment of children: a critical step to ending violence against children by 2030
Dr. Mikiko Otani, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child	Prohibition of corporal punishment: a fundamental human rights obligation to children
Panel discussion and questions	
Professor Elizabeth Gershoff, University of Texas	What does research tell us about corporal punishment and prohibition?
Dr. Sonia Vohito, Legal Policy Specialist, End Violence Partnership	Achieving legislative reform: legal considerations in banning all corporal punishment of children
Ms Lyda Guarin, Senior Child Protection Advisor, Save the Children, LAC region	The movement to prohibit and eliminate violent punishment in Latin America
Panel discussion and questions	
Chair: Dr Joan Nyanyuki	Call to action: no time to waste in ending violent punishment of children

New resource

Report: 'Prohibiting all Corporal Punishment of Children: Laying the Foundations for Non-Violent Childhoods'

[Register for this event here](#)

A second event on 4 June 2021 will focus on the implementation of laws prohibiting corporal punishment, and the elimination of violent punishment.

Global progress towards non-violent childhoods: putting prohibition of corporal punishment of children into practice

Date: Friday 4 June 2021

Time: 8am New York/2pm Geneva/9pm Tokyo

Length: 2 hours

[Register for this event here](#)

