



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

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

Date and time: Friday 4 June 2021 - 8am New York/2pm Geneva/9pm Tokyo

Length: 2 hours

Languages: English, interpretation into French and Spanish

Register: [here](#)

Context

Corporal punishment - always a breach of children's human rights - is the most common form of violence against children¹. Its very 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 a whole. As such it is a key issue for anyone concerned with ending violence against children, child rights, education, child protection, and making progress towards peaceful and thriving societies.

In the majority of countries, the law still allows some degree of violence in child raising; 87% of children worldwide are not protected by law from corporal punishment in the home. 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 punish parents and others, but rather to bring about a cultural shift in how a society regards and treats its children. And there is growing evidence that when the law is well implemented this is indeed the effect.

The number of states achieving this reform continues to grow: 62 have now enacted prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings of children's lives, and 135 have banned corporal punishment in schools. How have they done it, and what have they learned?

This webinar will share experiences and approach from a range of countries that have decided to turn away from violent childhoods by prohibiting corporal punishment. It will include guidance for those just starting on this path, and explore how non-violent parenting can be supported and developed.

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: Laila Khondkar, Thematic Advisor-Child Protection, Save the Children	Welcoming remarks
Ms. Aruinzaya Ayush, Minister for Labour and Social Protection, Mongolia	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.
Representative of the Honduran Government	Approach, experience and learning: putting prohibition of corporal punishment into practice in Mongolia and Honduras
Olivia Lind Haldorsson, Head of Children at Risk Unit, Council of Baltic Sea States	Progress towards non-violent childhoods in the Baltic Sea State region: prioritizing prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment
Panel discussion Audience poll	
Dr. Joan Durrant, University of Manitoba, Canada; Positive Discipline in Everyday Life	Non-violent parenting: international lessons in using law reform and child rights frameworks to foster nurturing childrearing approaches
M. Lourdes Febres Chirinos, Directora Ejecutiva, Acción por los Niños, Peru	Working to end corporal punishment in Peruvian families
Dr Divya Naidoo, Child Protection Programme Manager, Save the Children South Africa	South Africa: a country-wide commitment to ending corporal punishment in schools
Bess Herbert, End Violence	Putting prohibition of corporal punishment into practice: key components of a strategy to eliminate violent punishment of children
Panel discussion	
Chair summary	Call to action: no time to waste in ending violent punishment of children

New resource

Guidance briefing on implementing prohibition: Laying the foundation for non-violent childhoods: putting prohibition of corporal punishment of children into practice

