



# Ending corporal punishment in schools to transform education for all children

**Date:** Thursday 4 May 2023

**Time:** 8:00 AM New York | 2:00 PM Geneva | 9:00 PM Tokyo

**Length:** 1.5 hours

**Languages:** English/French/Spanish live interpretation

**Register for webinar** [HERE](#)

## Context

Can you learn when you are afraid? Can you experience the transformative power of education when your teacher beats you? How can you learn the skills for employment if school is a dangerous place?

The evidence tells us over and over again that violent punishment - and the fear, anger and humiliation it creates - stops children from learning. As well as causing physical and psychological harm, it affects children's brain and cognitive development, leads to lower educational achievement, prevents them from building healthy relationships, causes school dropout and has many other negative short- and long-term impacts for both the individual and society.

Corporal punishment in schools undermines everything that education aims to achieve - and yet it remains lawful for half the global school-age population, and a weekly or even daily experience for vast numbers of children around the world. Its prevalence combined with its harmful impacts mean that the vital benefits of education for children and societies are wasted.

This high-level webinar will make the case for accelerating progress towards universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment, with a focus on education settings, both in support of children's rights and protection, but also as an essential and achievable strategy for ensuring all children have access to safe, quality schooling and maximising our collective investment in education.

The findings of a new landmark report on school corporal punishment will be presented, identifying where action is needed, and describing how progress can be achieved. Child speakers will call for an end to violent punishment in schools, and Ministers and high-level policy makers will explain why this issue is a priority for urgent action and how they are addressing it. We will also learn from experts working with teachers and communities on the ground about the practical steps needed to end corporal punishment in schools.

## Key messages from the report

- Urgent action is needed to end corporal punishment in all settings of children's lives, including schools, by 2030 – in line with states' commitments under SDG 16.2 and other human rights obligations.
- School corporal punishment is still lawful in 63 states worldwide – comprising approximately 793 million children,<sup>1</sup> half of the global school-age population.
- Vast numbers of children are subjected to corporal punishment at school - recent research found a lifetime prevalence of 70% in Africa and Central America, and a past-week prevalence of over 40% in Africa and Southeast Asia.<sup>2</sup>
- Safe education is particularly vital for children in overcoming difficulty – and yet disadvantaged children are especially likely to be subjected to it, entrenching the inequality that they face.
- Ending corporal punishment in schools is possible! Many countries with previously high levels of violent punishment in school have now ended or are close to ending the practice, helping to transform attitudes to violence against children across society.

**All children have a right to safe, quality education – school should never be a lesson in violence.**

<sup>1</sup>See updated figures in new report: *Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools to Transform Education for all Children*

<sup>2</sup>Heekes, S.L., Kruger, C.B., Lester, S.N. and Ward, C.L., 2022. A systematic review of corporal punishment in schools: Global prevalence and correlates. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 23(1), pp.52-72.





## Programme

**Chair: Mehnaz Akber Aziz**, National Assembly of Pakistan, Parliamentary secretary law and justice, Convener Parliamentary Child rights Caucus, Global Co Chair International Parliamentary Network for Education

### Welcoming remarks

### Corporal punishment in schools: a critical barrier to safe education for all children

Child speakers

The impact of school corporal punishment on children

Children will interview the next two speakers:

**Line Baago-Rasmussen**, Education Specialist and Safe To Learn Global Coordinator, UNICEF

Why ending school corporal punishment is critical for children and education

**Sonia Vohito**, End Corporal Punishment Legal Policy Specialist, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

Why ending corporal punishment is critical for child rights, development and education outcomes

### Government commitment and action to ending school corporal punishment

**Mr Oscar Becerra Tresierra**, Minister for Education, Government of Peru

Government commitment, leadership and action to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children in schools – as a fundamental strategy for ending violence against children, increasing access to education, promoting equality, building non-violent societies and enhancing human security, and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**H.E Dr. Hang Chuon Naron**, the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, Government of Cambodia (tbc)

**Helen Grant MP**, Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Girls’ Education, Government of United Kingdom (tbc)

**Representative of the Ministry of Education**, Government of Jordan

### The economic case for ending school corporal punishment

**Quentin Wodon**, Director UNESCO IICBA, former Lead Economist at the World Bank (tbc)

Why preventing corporal punishment and violence in schools is critical for children’s development and academic achievement, and a smart investment

### Putting law into effect: lessons in ending corporal punishment in schools

**Professor Shanaaz Mathews**, Director, Children’s Institute, University of Cape Town and Founding Member of the Coalition for Good Schools

Prevention of violence against children in and through schools in the Global South

**Baguma Filbert Bates**, General Secretary, Uganda National Teachers’ Union

Working with teachers to end school corporal punishment and adopt positive disciplinary methods

**Prerit Rana**, Chief Executive, Agrasar, India

Working to end corporal punishment in Indian schools

Chair’s closing remarks

Call to action: no time to waste in ending violent punishment in schools

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