



End Corporal
Punishment



World Health
Organization



Save the Children

ChildFund
Alliance

Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children
7-8 November 2024, Bogotá, Colombia

Satellite Event Concept Note

Ending corporal punishment of children: The march of progress

*High-level learning exchange on prohibiting and
eliminating violent punishment of children*

Date: 6 November 2024
Time: 9.00 - 11.00 am COT
Location: Room (K) - 3rd Floor, Ágora Bogotá Conference Centre, Bogotá, Colombia
Language: English (interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese tbc)
Registration: Open to all Conference delegates and online participants (online registration [HERE](#))

Context

Corporal punishment is the most common and widely accepted form of violence against children, with vast numbers regularly experiencing it in multiple settings of their lives. Worldwide around 4 in 5 of all children aged 1-14 years are regularly subjected to violent punishment in their home,¹ and corporal punishment in schools is also highly prevalent and accepted in many countries. Over fifty years of research has found strong evidence connecting corporal punishment with multiple short- and long-term harmful impacts for the child and society, including substantial economic costs.

Globally, only 14% of children are fully protected by law from corporal punishment in all settings, and 793 million school-age children live in countries where corporal punishment in school is not fully prohibited. The widespread social acceptance of corporal punishment helps to normalise violence in child rearing. As the smallest and most vulnerable members of society, children's right to live without violence must be ensured, as they need more, not less, protection from assault.

However, progress is accelerating! 40 years ago, only Sweden and Finland had passed a law banning all corporal punishment of children. In June 2024, Tajikistan became the 67th state to take this fundamental legislative step to protect children and uphold their rights. Prohibition in education and other settings also continues to grow. And there is evidence that when law reform is well implemented it is followed by an ongoing reduction in the acceptance and use of corporal punishment and other forms of violence across society.

Hosted by End Corporal Punishment, ChildFund Alliance, Save the Children and the World Health Organization (WHO), this satellite event provides an opportunity for senior politicians and policy makers to engage with the experiences of countries in enacting and implementing laws to prohibit corporal punishment of children, hear about the latest research on corporal punishment, and understand the critical role of CSOs.

The presence of ministerial delegations and other high-level participants to the Ministerial Conference represents a crucial occasion to foster country and stakeholder commitment to accelerate efforts towards the prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings. The experiences and knowledge shared in this satellite event will support countries in their progress towards prohibition and elimination of violent punishment of all children worldwide by 2030.

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





Objectives

- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning exchange among senior politicians and policy professionals, sharing learnings from countries that have enacted prohibition of corporal punishment and implemented measures to put the law into practice;
- Accelerate country commitment: cultivate a sense of commitment and urgency among participating countries to accelerate efforts towards the universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children;
- Highlight the human rights imperative and development commitments to end corporal punishment of children; and
- Open discussion about the opportunities and challenges, obstacles and successes in working to end corporal punishment of children at a national level.

Audience

Ministers, senior policy officials, professionals, CSOs, youth leaders and children attending the Ministerial Conference to End Violence Against Children in Bogotá, Colombia, November 2024.

Programme

Welcome remarks and scene setting
Moderator: Margaret Sheehan, CEO, ChildFund Australia
Astrid Cáceres, Director, Instituto Colombiano Bienestar Familiar, Government of Colombia
Dr. Étienne Krug MD, MPH, Director, Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization
Christine Kolbe-Stuart, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF
Fireside chat: Governments share their experiences of prohibiting and implementing measures to eliminate corporal punishment of children
Including Ms. Angela Chomba Kawandami, Permanent Secretary, Government of Zambia and others
What the latest research tells us about corporal punishment and interventions to end it
Elizabeth Gershoff PhD, Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences, University of Texas
Jorge Cuartas PhD, Harvard University
Sonia Vohito, Legal Policy Specialist, End Corporal Punishment
Questions from the audience
The critical role of civil society in ending violent punishment of children
Boramey Hun, Country Director, ChildFund Cambodia
Maria Mercedes, Country Director, Save the Children Colombia
Interventions from the floor, questions and discussion. Opportunity for governments to share national experiences and pledges related to ending corporal punishment of children
Closing remarks and call to action

Please note: Given the fast pace of developments in conference organisation, it is possible that the programme may continue to change up until the last minute.

