



GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO
**End All Corporal
Punishment of Children**

**For a world where
children can grow free
from corporal punishment**



Our vision

We want a world where children grow up free from violence. A world where everyone's right to live without violence is respected, regardless of age. And we know it can be done!

We want every country to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings of children's lives, including the home, and to take steps to put the law into practice. Research in countries that have done this shows that when law reform is followed by systematic efforts to ensure the law is understood and effective, the use of corporal punishment significantly declines.

This does not mean raising children without boundaries or discipline.



Children need the guidance of parents, teachers and others in order to grow into responsible and positive members of society – but this does not require violence. We want children to be respected and valued for who they are. We want adults to understand children's rights and developmental needs, and to engage with children in a way that helps to foster children's own self-discipline, resilience and life-long skills, build stronger, more positive relationships between adults and children, and create safer, happier environments.

Violence affects children's self-esteem and what they can achieve in life. It impacts on children's health and development and rather than improve behaviour, it actually increases the risk of aggression and antisocial behaviour, both in childhood and later life.

Prohibiting corporal punishment is the essential foundation for increasing awareness about the dangers of its use and promoting positive ways of raising children – and it is an immediate obligation for governments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Why our work matters

80%

of children globally experience violent "discipline"

141

countries allow corporal punishment in the home

50

years of research proves it doesn't even work

67

countries allow corporal punishment in schools

32

countries allow caning as a criminal sentence for a child

10

years to end violence against children (SDG 16.2)

Corporal punishment affects children in all regions of the world. It is often so widely accepted that some people do not even consider it a violent act. But it is. Hitting someone, for any reason, is an inherently violent act, which we do not condone against any other group of people, such as older people. So why do we allow it for children who are smaller, more vulnerable and entirely dependent on us, as adults, to protect them and defend their rights?

Much research has linked corporal punishment in childhood with a variety of negative health and behavioural

outcomes, with no evidence that it improves children's behaviour or outcomes in the long term – rather, it teaches children that violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflict.

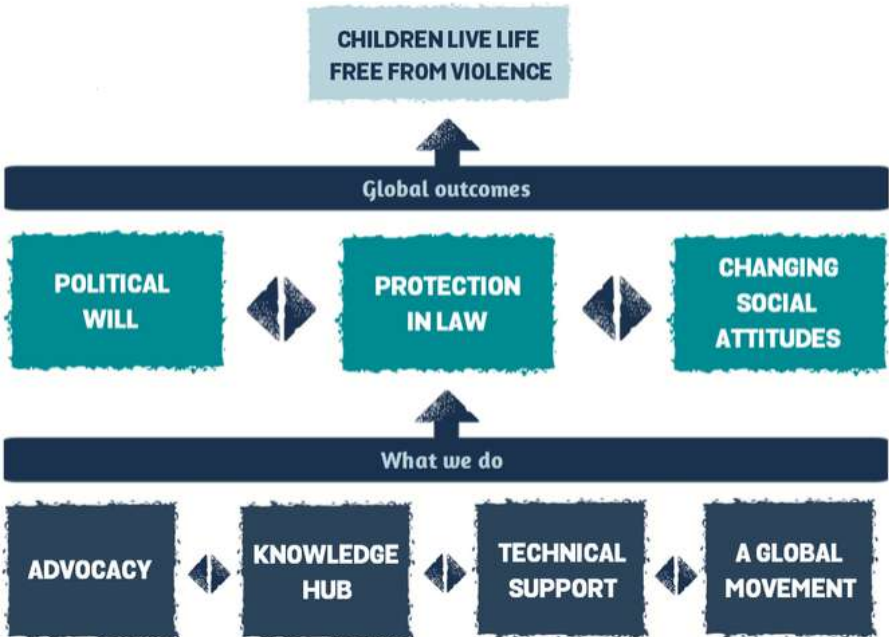
Any corporal punishment violates children's rights. States have an obligation to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment under the CRC and the SDGs (Target 16.2 to end all violence against children). We have guidelines on how this can be achieved, but it takes time – to end this most common form of violence against children by 2030, we must act now!

What we do

The Global Initiative acts as a catalyst for progress towards universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children. We hold governments to account, partner with local organisations and support human rights treaty body systems.

The law in many countries still allows children to be hit and hurt in places where they should feel safe - their homes, schools and in some countries even in the justice system. We aim to change that.

Many people are unaware of the lasting harm that corporal punishment can cause to children and societies, or of the alternative, positive ways to engage with children. We aim to change that too.



How we work

ADVOCACY

We work to ensure this fundamental issue for children is included in international and regional agendas for children's rights, development and violence prevention. We contribute to partnerships, working groups and forums to ensure the global agenda to end violence against children includes prohibiting and eliminating all corporal punishment.

We ensure governments are aware of their obligation to protect children from corporal punishment, including full legal prohibition, and support government officials and civil society actors advocating for reform.

Our website is accessible and multilingual and contains detailed information on the law on corporal punishment and the reality for children in every state and territory worldwide, and across all settings of children's lives.

Our website also includes global and regional summaries, current opportunities for reform, information on human rights mechanisms and a range of resources to support advocacy and campaigns.

We monitor all research on children's experiences of corporal punishment, its impact on children and societies, and the benefits of prohibiting and eliminating it.

KNOWLEDGE HUB

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

We support governments and civil society actors with legal assessments, drafting legislation and strategy development for law reform, advocacy and campaigns to transform attitudes and practices around violence in raising and educating children. We share learning from the experience of our partners all over the world, advising on best practices at all stages of law reform and social norm change.

We provide advice and support in person, including national workshops, and remotely and continue to develop the digital resources and online support that we provide to maximise our impact as a small organisation.

We are building a global movement of people and organisations that support children's right to live free from corporal punishment. Through our global network of almost 2,000 partners across all world regions, we show solidarity in numbers, we provide connections, encourage collaboration, learn from each other's successes and setbacks, motivate each other and establish partnerships for sustained activity.

The Global Initiative provides a platform for partners to show case their work, share their learning and grow their own networks.

Will you join our movement?

endcorporalpunishment.org/supporters

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

How you can support our vision

Join the movement

Become part of our global network of people and organisations standing up for children around the world.

endcorporalpunishment.org/supporters

Donate today

You can help us to end violence against children. Sign up for a regular gift so we can continue advocating for every child.

endcorporalpunishment.org/donate

Stay up to date

Sign up to our newsletters and alerts – choose from global, African (English or French), Asia Pacific and Caribbean.

endcorporalpunishment.org/sign-up-to-our-newsletters

Fundraise for us


Raise awareness of the trauma of physical punishment by holding a fundraising event – help to change attitudes and raise funds to hold governments to account to change laws to protect children.

Contribute to our hub


Read our report on corporal punishment in your country and send us your feedback - we welcome updates, corrections and information about opportunities for reform.

Take action

Join or form a coalition to campaign for prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in your country - known campaigns are listed in our country reports or contact us to find out how we can help.



Your work is truly invaluable to me. I depend on it on a daily basis. But its importance goes far beyond me. You do extremely important and meticulous work that hundreds around the world depend upon.



JOAN DURRANT, CHILD-CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND

PROFESSOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES,

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO
**End All Corporal
Punishment of Children**

The **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children** provides support for law reform to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children.

endcorporalpunishment.org

