

Africa Newsletter

Issue 33, October 2019



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

South Africa prohibits corporal punishment in all settings

In September, the Constitutional Court – the highest court in South Africa – effectively banned all corporal punishment of children in a ruling that found the common law defence of ‘reasonable and moderate chastisement’ unconstitutional. The Global Initiative acted as amicus curiae in the case, along with the Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights and the Parent Centre.

[Find out more](#) about South Africa's landmark ruling, where with this judgment, South Africa became the eighth African state – and 57th worldwide – to prohibit all corporal punishment of children. Georgia has since followed suit, making 58 states globally.



National moves towards prohibition of all corporal punishment

Mauritius: A draft Children's Bill which would likely prohibit all corporal punishment of children was introduced to the National Assembly in September. It states that “no parent or other person responsible for the care, treatment, education or supervision of a child shall inflict corporal or inflict humiliating punishment on the child as a measure to correct or discipline the child” and provides for a fine in case of violation of the ban. Although this seems to prohibit all corporal punishment in all settings, we are enquiring to confirm the scope of the potential ban.

Seychelles: The Government has stated its commitment to amending the Children Act to prohibit corporal punishment in the home, in day care centres and in children’s homes, and is now working with the National Council for Children on a series of consultations around the suggested legal ban.

Egypt: The [National Council of Childhood and Motherhood](#) launched the “Calm not Harm” Campaign in early October in partnership with the Education Ministry and UNICEF to counter violence and corporal punishment against children. Focused on improving communication between children and parents and encouraging parents and teachers to play a more positive role in guiding adolescents and building their self-confidence, the campaign forms the third phase of the national “Awladna” campaign launched in 2017 to protect children from violence.

Other positive news

Rwanda: The Rwanda National Police have warned teachers against using corporal punishment on students. Commissioner Kabera, spokesperson for the police, described corporal punishment as similar to “criminal actions” and warned teachers or parents would face consequences if they inflict it on children. The warning follows separate cases where teachers have been arrested for severely beating and injuring pupils. [Read more](#)

But...

UR Tanzania: The Government of mainland Tanzania has issued a directive banning the use of corporal punishment in classrooms from pre-primary to third grade. However, this is policy, not law, and does not apply to all children in all schools. And in October, President Magufuli expressed support for a regional commissioner who had been filmed illegally caning students, stating “we must use the cane against children at schools and at our homes”

New resources from the Global Initiative

[Website now available in French!](#)

GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO
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Punishment of Children

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Interdire les châtements corporels dans les écoles

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- De l'interdiction à l'élimination
- Ressources
- Les questions les plus fréquemment posées

The Global Initiative is delighted to launch a [French sub-site](#) to support action to end corporal punishment. The site includes:

- statistics on global progress
- information and resources to support law reform and implementation of laws banning corporal punishment
- detailed reports on corporal punishment in 36 French-speaking states and territories worldwide
- answers to frequently asked questions about prohibition and much more

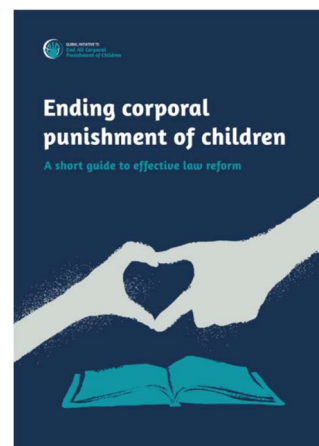
[Ending corporal punishment in Africa](#)

This new web page includes everything you need to know about progress ending corporal punishment in Africa: which countries have achieved prohibition, tables summarizing the law across the continent, information on regional human rights mechanisms, resources focused on Africa and sub-regions and more.



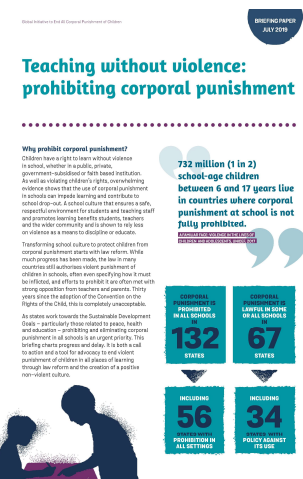
[Law reform guide](#)

This guide aims to support governments and civil society working to end violence against children through effective prohibition of corporal punishment. It sets out the key stages of law reform, provides an overview of the work involved with essential hints and tips and directs you to more in-depth information for each area of work. Currently in English only, further translations underway.



[Teaching without violence: prohibiting corporal punishment](#)

This briefing provides a global update on progress to end corporal punishment in schools. It features the 26 African states where this practice is still lawful in some or all schools, it sets out the key elements of making prohibition a reality and showcases programmes by some of our African partners working to end violence in schools.



Other resources

[Small Voices Big Dreams 2019: Violence Against Children as Explained by Children](#)

This publication by Educo and ChildFund Alliance includes a survey of almost 5,500 children aged 10 - 12 years from 15 different countries, including Burkina Faso and Ghana, on their perceptions of violence. The survey reveals that over 40 percent of children across the globe believe they are not adequately protected from violence, with girls expressing a higher perception of insecurity; 30 percent consider corporal punishment as a disciplinary tool, and nine in 10 believe the most important thing adults can do to end violence against children is to love children more and listen to what they have to say.

National resources

Ghana: [Wolf S. & Suntheimer N. \(2019\). Predictors of Parental Disciplinary Practices and Associations with Child Outcomes among Ghanaian Preschoolers. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 1-40.](#)

This study examined physical punishment, psychological aggression, and nonviolent disciplinary practices among caregivers of preschoolers in Ghana and found a higher prevalence of physical punishment of girls and among female caregivers, those with lower education and younger in age. Higher caregiver education and having no male in the household were linked with non-violent punishment practices. The study also linked physical punishment with poorer learning and literacy skills, and non-violent punishment with improved learning, social-emotional skills, and literacy skills.

News from the UN human rights system

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child made recommendations to ban corporal punishment in all settings at its 81st session to Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire. To Cabo Verde, which enacted a ban in 2013, the Committee recommended awareness-raising on the ban as well as data monitoring of the prevalence of corporal punishment.

Information on upcoming treaty body and UPR examinations, the deadlines for submitting briefings, and previous recommendations are available in our [country reports](#) and on the [treaty body pages](#) on our website. If you/your organisation is interested in submitting information on your state, please contact info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

Help us continue to end violence against children

As valued supporters, we know that you understand the importance of prohibiting corporal punishment which is why we want to ask for your help today. **By signing up to a small regular gift** you are helping to give children the opportunity to thrive in homes and schools free from violence. [Donate now...](#)

