

Asia and Pacific newsletter

June 2019



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

Welcome to our first Asia and Pacific newsletter!

We aim to bring you news of progress towards prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment across the region, stories of success and innovative practice, and to highlight where delay is occurring. Our goal is to develop the regional discussion on this essential issue for children, in order to make faster progress in ending violence against children.



Asia and the Pacific is currently trailing behind other regions, with only 1% of children protected by law from all forms of violence in all settings of their lives, compared to a global average of 10%. However, there are opportunities in many states, and we hope the coming years will see fast progress for children in Asia and the Pacific.

Got something to say about your work on prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment of children in Asia and the Pacific?

Please send us your stories, news, projects, resources and events from across the region. And encourage everyone in your network to sign up to the newsletter – the more people, the better the conversation!

Answering Frequently Asked Questions about prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment of children

The Global Initiative and Save the Children Sweden are pleased to present a series of booklets answering common questions about prohibiting corporal punishment of children – now available to download in fourteen languages,

including Bengali, Japanese, Mandarin, Thai and Vietnamese. [See all available languages.](#)



Guest feature:

Corporal Punishment of India's School Children Prerit Rana, CEO, Agrasar, India

Corporal punishment has been banned from most of India's classrooms since over a decade through a number of legal and regulatory policies. However, its use by teachers in classrooms across the country remains rampant. According to government data, between 65% to 99% of school children experience physical and mental abuse at the hand of their teachers... [Read full article](#)



Global report 2018

Our latest Global report takes stock of the shifting global context and ongoing efforts to end corporal punishment. It highlights the major achievements of 2018, as well as the areas in need of most urgent attention, and looks forward to key events in 2019. [Read the report.](#)



Save The Children Viet Nam launch positive discipline programme and video

Save the Children Viet Nam have launched the "Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting - PDEP" programme in an effort to combat all forms of physical and mental punishment of children in the family.

They point to recent research showing that 62% of Vietnamese children aged 12-17 are physically maltreated ([Nhu Kieu Tran](#): 'Child maltreatment in Vietnam. Prevalence, Risk Factors, and Consequences', 2017), and suggest physical and mental punishment of children still exists in Vietnam as a result of unchallenged long-standing traditions and attitudes, the pressures of life experienced by parents, and lack of awareness of children's rights.

Their video explains how the programme will support parents to use positive discipline to build and nurture respectful, warm relationships between children and parents. [Watch the video](#)



Progress in Asia and the Pacific

Nepal becomes the third state in Asia and the Pacific to prohibit all corporal punishment of children!

In September 2018, Nepal adopted the Act relating to Children 2018 which explicitly prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings (section 7(5) and 66(2)(d)). It was certified by the President of Nepal on 18 September 2018 and has now come into effect. [Read more.](#)

Other progress towards prohibition

Japan - The Government has announced its intention to enact prohibition of all corporal punishment, after national shock at the death of two children following corporal punishment at the hands of their parents. The House of Representatives has begun deliberations on the Child Abuse Prevention Bill, which includes a ban on the physical punishment of children by their parents. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government has also passed ordinance banning corporal punishment and verbal abuse against children by guardians.

Republic of Korea - In May the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced plans to revise civil laws so that physical punishment is no longer included in disciplinary

actions available to parents. The move is part of a range of efforts to enhance the rights of children.

Maldives – In its report to the Committee Against Torture in November 2018, the Government stated commitment to prohibiting “all forms of corporal punishment on children, including beatings by parents”, and support for the new Protection of the Rights of the Child Bill which reportedly includes provisions to prohibit corporal punishment “being imposed on any child by their parents in any situation”.

India (Jammu and Kashmir) - The Jammu and Kashmir Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill 2018 is currently under discussion, with submissions being accepted. Article 76 would prohibit corporal punishment in child care institutions, in the same way article 82 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 does in the rest of India (we are still seeking confirmation of these developments).

Pakistan - A Child Protection Bill has reportedly been drafted which would prohibit all corporal punishment of children, except by their parents. The Nation newspaper reported the drafting of the Bill by the Deputy Attorney General in November 2018, however we have been unable to find further information.

Also in **Pakistan** - In May the Islamabad Capital Territory Prohibition of Corporal Punishment Bill, prohibiting physical punishment in educational institutions and seminaries of the federal capital, was unanimously approved by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Education and Professional Training.

Singapore - The Early Childhood Development Centres Regulations 2018 have restated the previous prohibition of corporal punishment in child care centres. The centres are now called early childhood development centres but have the same definition - centres providing "care or education, or care and education, habitually of 5 or more children who are below 7 years of age".

Also **Singapore** - A Criminal Law Reform Bill to amend the Penal Code is also being discussed and reportedly raises the age of criminal responsibility from seven to ten years old. Since judicial corporal punishment is lawful in Singapore, the increase in age would restrict its application by three years.

Taiwan - Amendments made in June 2018 to the Early Childhood Education and Care Act 2012 have prohibited corporal punishment in preschools and community, tribal and workplace cooperative early childhood care institutions for children

between two and six (art. 25). As of August 2018, the Government was in the first drafting round of an Action Plan on Children's Rights 2019-2022.

Vanuatu - A Child Protection Bill is being developed in partnership with UNICEF, and a draft Juvenile Bill is also under development. In February 2019, the Government reported to the Committee on the Rights of Disabled People that the Child Protection Bill would only envisage "criminalizing unreasonable or extreme corporal punishment in all setting".

But...

Philippines - The Positive Discipline Bill passed third reading in both houses in December and was expected to be signed into law early this year, but was vetoed by the President on 23 February. The Bill had been introduced and debated every year since 2012. Campaigners and Parliamentarians are considering next steps. [Link to the full article.](#)

Samoa – In February the Government used the Education Amendment Act 2019 to reintroduce corporal punishment in schools. The amendment allows teachers to use reasonable force on children to stop them from harming themselves or others, prevent them from committing a criminal offence, or from engaging in "threatening, offensive or disruptive behaviour."

Both Supreme Court judge and former Committee on the Rights of the Child member Vui Clarence Nelson and Maiava Iulai Toma, head of the National Human Rights Institution, have condemned this move by the Government. Maiava Iulai Toma specifically called on the government not to act on the Bill before reviewing a report on domestic violence and abuse. The National Inquiry into Family Violence Report was published in September 2018 and called on the Government to strengthen the ban on corporal punishment instead of weakening it.

Please contact us with news of other developments in the region on bess@endcorporalpunishment.org

News from the UN human rights systems

Committee on the Rights of the Child, 80th session, Jan/Feb 2019

The Committee recommended prohibition of corporal punishment to all states examined, including Japan. Read our [full update](#).

Universal Periodic Review, 32nd session, Jan/Feb 2019

Afghanistan and Vanuatu received recommendations on corporal punishment; Cambodia and Viet Nam did not. New Zealand (achieved prohibition in 2007) did not. Read our [full update](#).

For information on individual states' upcoming UPR or treaty body examinations, or deadlines for submitting information, please see the individual [country reports](#).

Get involved

Help us gather information about developments in Asia and the Pacific

- Information about resources that support the promotion of positive discipline in homes, schools and other settings
- Recent research on the nature and prevalence of corporal punishment of children
- Information about laws prohibiting or authorising corporal punishment
- Opportunities for promoting law reform (for example, if draft legislation is being considered)
- Details of organisations actively working to promote the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children.

If you can help with any of the above, please email bess@endcorporalpunishment.org

Donate now to support our work to ensure
all children receive the same, not less,
protection from violence as adults.

