

Asia Pacific Newsletter

Issue 2, October 2019



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

Welcome to the second edition of the Asia and Pacific newsletter!

We bring you news of progress towards prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment across the region, stories of success and innovative practice, and also 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 towards ending violence against children.

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 **12%**, Asia and the Pacific has some catching up to do. However, there are opportunities in many states, and evidence that progress is accelerating in several areas. 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!

Guest feature:

Push and Pull Strategy to End Corporal Punishment in Indonesia

Ratna Yunita, Child Rights Governance Advisor, Save the Children



Almost 1 in 3 boys and 1 in 8 girls, aged 13-17 years old (school age), in Indonesia experienced physical violence in the past 12 months. This has shown no significant improvement since 2015. According to the Global School-Based Health Survey, 32 per cent of children aged 13–17 years had been physically attacked in the past 12 months... [read Ratna's full article](#) describing the strategic approach being taken to achieving prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Indonesia.

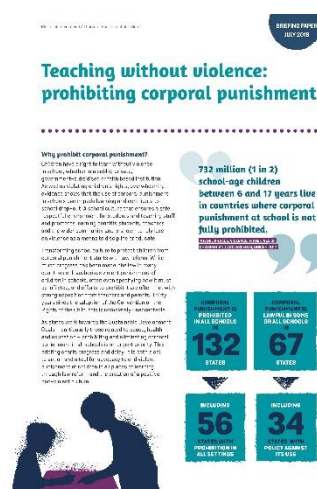
New resources from the Global Initiative

[New webpage focussing on progress in Asia and the Pacific](#)

We are pleased to announce five new webpages dedicated to each of the global regions. The Asia Pacific page features information on legality and progress across the region, free regional publications, and links to campaigns for ending violent punishment of children and promoting positive, respectful relationships with children. Please contact us if you can add to our list of campaigns or resources.

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

Children have a right to learn without violence, and research shows corporal punishment impedes learning and contributes to school drop-out. Transforming school culture to ensure a safe, respectful environment for everyone benefits students, teachers and the wider community, and it starts with law reform. Our new briefing summarises progress towards prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in schools worldwide, and showcases programmes that are working to end violence in schools.



[Ending corporal punishment of children: A short guide to effective law reform](#)

Prohibition of corporal punishment is fundamental to child protection, and changing attitudes and behaviour. With this new guide we aim to support governments and civil society working to end violence against children through effective prohibition of corporal punishment. The guide sets out the key stages of law reform, provides an overview of the work involved with essential hints and tips, and directs you towards more detailed information for each area of work.

Young film makers produce videos highlighting impact of physical and humiliating punishment on children

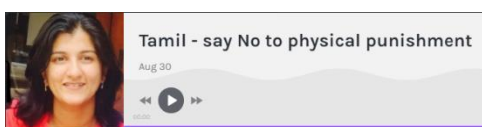
Young film makers have partnered with Save the Children Philippines and the Philippine Theater Association to produce two videos powerfully illustrating the impact of physical and humiliating punishment on children. The films are part of an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the issue, and promote positive discipline.

Research shows violent discipline is the most common form of violence experienced by children in the Philippines (*A Systematic Review of the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children in the Philippines*, Manila: UNICEF Philippines). Watch the videos [here](#) and [here](#)



'Say No to physical punishment' - new podcasts in Teluga, Kannada, Hindi and Tamil

The Reach Foundation in Bangalore, India, has launched four new short podcasts on physical punishment, its effect on children, and raising children without violence. Available in four regional languages, you can listen to the podcasts [here](#).



Progress in Asia and the Pacific

Australia – The new Education and Services Act 2019 has passed in **South Australia**, explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment in all schools, including non-government schools. **Queensland** is the only remaining state where corporal punishment has not been prohibited in schools: it is prohibited in policy but not law in government schools, and not prohibited in non-government schools.

Cambodia - In line with the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021, the review of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic

Violence and the Protection of Victims 2005 has started.

Also - **Cambodia** became the latest Pathfinding country with The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. The commitment was celebrated at a launch event on 12 September, convening ministers, government officials, donors, members of the private sector, and representatives from United Nations agencies, international and national organisations.

Japan - Amendments to the Child Welfare Act 1947 and the Child Abuse Prevention Law 2000, adopted on 19 June 2019, marked a significant step towards full prohibition of corporal punishment of children. The amendments explicitly prohibit corporal punishment by parents, heads of child welfare institutions, heads of child guidance centres and foster parents, but did not define the term of “corporal punishment” – [read the full news article here](#).

Myanmar - In July 2019, Myanmar adopted the Child Rights Law (enacted on 23 July 2019). The new law contains several references to the prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings, as well as enshrining other significant advances in children’s rights. The Global Initiative is working with partners to assess whether full legal prohibition has been achieved. We hope to bring you more news soon.

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

News from the UN human rights systems

Universal Periodic Review, 33rd session, May 2019

Bhutan received several recommendations on corporal punishment of children. The government supported one recommendation to eradicate corporal punishment in homes and schools and one recommendation to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment. **DPR Korea** and **Brunei Darussalam** also received recommendations relating to prohibition of corporal punishment of children, but deferred their responses to September 2019. Read our [full update](#).

Committee on the Rights of the Child, 81st session, May 2019

The Committee recommended prohibition of corporal punishment to all states examined, including **Singapore** and **Tonga**. 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.

