



Global Initiative to
End All Corporal Punishment
of Children

GLOBAL INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER 7 **(MARCH 2009)**

The Inter-American Court on Human Rights has confirmed the obligations of Member States of the Organization of American States to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children. Another European country has joined the list of those prohibiting corporal punishment in the home – and draft laws are under consideration and/or governments in others have made firm commitments to law reform in many more. But there are still laws being enacted that miss the mark, failing to enact full protection from corporal punishment during the passage of key child rights legislation. As you read this newsletter, please think about opportunities for reform in your own country and take action to make sure children's right to protection from all corporal punishment is reflected in national laws. As the situation in Norway – see below – suggests, it is vitally important to get the law clear from the outset. We are always pleased to offer advice and support: email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

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6. Can you help?

1 GLOBAL PROGRESS

States with full prohibition

The **Republic of Moldova** has prohibited corporal punishment in all settings, including the family home. The Family Code has been amended to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment by parents and others with parental authority, the new article 53 stating that the child “has the right to be protected against abuses, including corporal punishment by his parents or persons who replace them”. Article 62 states that “methods to educate children, chosen by parents, will exclude abusive behaviour, insults and ill-treatment of all types, discrimination, psychological and physical violence, corporal punishments [etc]”. This brings the total number of countries worldwide which have achieved full prohibition to 24, including 19 Council of Europe member states. For further details, see www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

Moves towards prohibition elsewhere

Canada: The Ministry of Education in Ontario has made a commitment to formally prohibiting corporal punishment in publicly funded schools in Ontario, which would confirm in legislation a 2004 Supreme Court ruling that teachers should not use corporal punishment. But confirmation in relation to private schools still appears to be a long way off.

Cayman Islands: With the passing of the Education Modernisation Act on 19 March, the Cayman Islands prohibited corporal punishment in all schools, public and private. Under previous law, corporal punishment could be inflicted by the principal or a designated teacher in cases “where no other punishment is considered suitable or effective”. The new law would prohibit the punishment completely, and requires all public and private schools to have a written student code of conduct and discipline policy.

India: The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill introduced in December in the Rajya Sabha is still under discussion. Clause 17 states that “No child shall be subjected to physical punishment or mental harassment”, and indicates that anyone contravening this “shall be liable to disciplinary action under the service rules applicable to such persons”.

Isle of Man: The Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill passed its third reading in the Legislative Council and is expected to become law through royal assent very soon. It extends the prohibition of corporal punishment in state schools to private schools too. (*iomtoday.com*, 20 February 2009)

Jamaica: Education Minister Andrew Holness announced that the ministry is drafting legislation to prohibit corporal punishment throughout the education system, to be included in the next revision of the Education Act. Speaking at the opening of the UNICEF Global Capacity Development Programme on Child Friendly Schools for Latin America and the Caribbean, the minister said: “Violence in schools, which is oftentimes legitimised by cultural practices and norms, and endorsed by authority figures in the school and in the home, only reinforces the use of violence in the wider society.” (*Jamaica Observer*, 18 February 2009)

Philippines: The Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill which would prohibit “all corporal punishment and all other forms of humiliating or degrading punishment of children in homes, schools and other places”, has been gaining support. Sponsored by Senator Monica Prieto-Teodoro, the Bill has the support of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education, and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers. The Child Rights Network, whose

members include NGOs and international institutions, has long promoted law reform. The House Committees on revision of laws (chaired by Representative Giorgidi B. Aggabao) and the welfare of children (chaired by Rep. Monica Prieto-Teodoro) have approved the bill in principle. Prieto-Teodoro said in a statement: “As a lawmaker and as a parent, I cannot imagine hitting children as lawful while we believe it is against the law to hit other adults, prisoners and even adults.” (*Inquirer.net*, 23 March 2009)

US: In Ohio, House Bill 26, which would prohibit corporal punishment in schools, is under consideration. A similar bill failed last year, but this year hopes are raised because a corporal punishment ban in schools was included in Governor Ted Strickland’s executive budget proposal.

And ...

Norway: Corporal punishment in the home was widely understood to have been prohibited by way of a 1987 amendment to article 30 of the Children Act (1981), which states that “The child shall not be exposed to physical violence or to treatment which can threaten his physical or mental health”. The right of parents to use moderate physical punishment had been removed from the Criminal Code years earlier. But despite a clear understanding by the government and all those working with and for children that this meant that parents could no longer lawfully hit their children, a Supreme Court judgment in 2005 suggested that light smacks might be permissible under the law. The government responded by reviewing the law again, and has now published proposals for amending the law to clear up any confusion. The Ministry also announced that children’s legal protection would be strengthened under the Criminal Code. In a press release in January 2009, Minister of Children and Equality Anniken Huitfeldt stated: “There should be no more doubt over whether we’ve abolished the right of parents to punish children physically and psychologically in Norway. Clarifications to the law are intended to remove all discussion about its provisions.... [I]t will be clear that all forms of violence against children – both physical and psychological – are forbidden in Norway. That includes any such violence used by parents in the course of childrearing. Punishment is not an acceptable way of raising children in Norway. Children should have the same legal protections against violence as adults.”

But...

Australia: Calls to ban smacking children in New South Wales in the wake of the study on child homicides published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* (reported in the previous newsletter) were rejected by NSW Nationals’ leader Andrew Stoner. (*portnews.com*, 7 January 2009)

Botswana: A comprehensive new Children’s Bill is under discussion which is reportedly intended to give effect to Botswana’s obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Bill is now at committee stage. MP Mr Akanyang Magama argued that corporal punishment is inhuman and contravenes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and should be abolished. But Minister of Local Government, Ms Margaret Nasha, stressed that the bill would not change parents’ rights in disciplining their children. She was reported as saying that while discipline does not mean turning a child into a punching bag, “Botswana are clear on their views on corporal punishment, adding that she would continue to defend corporal punishment even before the United Nations” (*Botswana Press Agency*, 19 and 23 March 2009).

UK: The Children’s Commissioner in Northern Ireland lost an appeal against the law that allows parents to use smacking as chastisement. The judgment rejected the case on the technical

grounds that the Commissioner did not have “victim” status, and so did not examine the issues of physical punishment and human rights.

US: A Bill (H442) on North Carolina has been introduced in the House which would require a parent or guardian to sign a permission slip before a child can receive corporal punishment in the public schools. (*Fort Mill Times*, 5 March 2009)

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2 CAMPAIGNS AND CALLS FOR PROHIBITION

Campaigns

Europe: As part of the tri-national European Union project “Respect Works Out!”, the Association for a New Education (Germany), the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (UK) and the Nobody–Children Foundation (Poland) are working together to promote law reform and positive parenting in Europe. A [website](#) has been launched to share their experiences and to serve as a platform for exchange amongst different organisations, initiatives and interested people working towards similar goals, with a view to fostering cooperation across Europe.

Kenya: A group of national NGOs are calling for repeal of the “right of any parent or other person having the lawful control or charge of a child to administer reasonable punishment on him” in article 127 of the Children Act 2001. The Act is currently under review. Kenya’s Minister for Gender, Children and Social Development, in a speech presented to a public conference in Nairobi in February 2009, stated: “Corporal punishment de-humanizes the child, is brutal and instils fear in the child which inhibits the child’s normal growth, productivity and creativity.” He concluded: “It is therefore evident that corporal punishment has been overtaken by time. Focus should be placed on alternative forms of instilling discipline and replicating best practices evident elsewhere. It is also incumbent on all of us to identify urgently all the sections in our laws that allow for some caning or corporal punishment so that the necessary action can be taken.”

US: [The Hitting Stops Here](#) campaign for prohibition of corporal punishment in schools postponed a two-day demonstration on Capitol Hill, Washington DC in March because legislators are considering a nationwide ban on corporal punishment in public and private schools, including in schools in US territories. An update should be available in May 2009. The campaign has organised a petition to President Obama for ending US public school corporal punishment which can be signed [here](#).

Calls for prohibition

Benin: SOS Children’s Villages Benin has been conducting a radio campaign against corporal punishment and other abuse of children for the last 18 months, in the first large publicity campaign on the issue in Benin. The campaign involved everyone who worked for the organisation, and the radio spot was made in the official language French plus the other three main languages (Fon, Dendi and Idaatcha). There were critics of the campaign, including from academics, but in a survey 90% of those questioned said it had led them to change their attitude towards corporal punishment. ([soschildrensvillages.org.uk](#), 18 March 2009)

Ghana: A child rights NGO, the Ghana Media Advocacy Programme, has called on the government to abolish corporal punishment in schools. A statement signed by Executive Director Abdul Malik Jeleel drew attention to a case where a student died shortly after being caned and stated that in Northern Ghana corporal punishment drives some children away from the classroom. A similar call was made by Child Rights International, which emphasised that addressing the issue in policy is inadequate – children should be protected by law. (*Ghana Broadcasting Corporation*, 24 March 2009; *Myjoyonline.Com News*, 15 March 2009) Following the death of the student, NPP Member of Parliament Hon Catherine Afeku has advocated abolition of corporal punishment in schools. (www.peacefmonline.com, 24 March 2009)

India: The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has recommended that the Penal Code be amended to prohibit corporal punishment in public institutions. Section 89 of the Code states: “Nothing which is done in good faith for the benefit of a person below 12 years of age or of unsound mind, by or by consent, either express or implied, of the guardian or the other person having lawful charge of that person, is an offence...” This is seen as legitimising the use of corporal punishment in schools. The Commission has laid down guidelines which states that no corporal punishment should be used in schools, but they are undermined by the Penal Code provision. The Commission has also directed state governments to establish special police procedures to deal with child-related crimes, including corporal punishment. (*Daily News & Analysis*, 21 March 2009)

Saudi Arabia: At the Third Arab ISPCAN Regional Conference on Child Protection: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect in the Arab Countries, attended by 1,500 delegates from across the Arab world, a call was made for banning corporal punishment in schools. An editorial in *Arab News* called for Saudi Arabia to lead the way: “Where Saudi Arabia leads, other Arab states will follow, not least because a significant number of teachers in the Kingdom come from those states. Banning corporal punishment does not mean recreating the shallow compensation culture of the US and elsewhere in the West, where it is all rights and no responsibilities. Discipline is needed in schools. But, as seen in many countries where corporal punishment has been abandoned, discipline can still be achieved without having to rely on brutality.” (10 March 2009)

UK: In a submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights’ Inquiry into children’s rights, following on from the recent recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance repeated its previous calls for the government to remove the defence of “reasonable punishment” from law and give children equal protection from assault. The submission was endorsed by the Children’s Rights Alliance for England, which also called for explicit prohibition of corporal punishment in child prisons, where there has been controversy over the use of painful “distraction” techniques for purposes of discipline.

NEW AND UPDATED RESOURCES

Promoting law reform

The **Global Initiative** has published a revised version of its legal reform handbook, *Prohibiting corporal punishment of children: A guide to legal reform and other measures*. The handbook, supported by online resources, explains the legislative measures states should take to meet their obligations to prohibit all corporal punishment under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The revision takes into account comments on the original version published last year, as well as experience gained through working with NGOs and others pursuing law reform in 2008. It is currently available in English and will soon be available in French and Spanish.

One of the key ways in which law reform to prohibit all corporal punishment of children can be pursued with governments is through the use of relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms. The **Child Rights Information Network** has put together a guide to help readers understand these mechanisms. The [*Guide to mechanisms for children's rights*](#) includes information on the various UN mechanisms as well as regional mechanisms in Africa, the Americas, Arab countries, Asia and Europe.

Working with the media

In India, the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and UNICEF** have made available an advocacy toolkit for the media on the subject of ending corporal punishment – [*The Right to Protection and Dignity: End Corporal Punishment*](#). It includes Frequently Asked Questions, information on ethical reporting and involvement of children, and summaries of many aspects of the issue in India which provide a useful model for campaigners putting together similar packs in other countries. An [E-group on corporal punishment](#) has also been set up on Google, which includes a [databank of news articles](#) on corporal punishment in India.

The **Children's Rights Alliance for England** has published a guide to help journalists to promote children's rights generally in the media. [*Another perspective: How journalists can promote children's human rights and equality*](#) is endorsed by the National Union of Journalists in the UK and was funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. It includes comments from former and current journalists, as well as the experiences of young children's rights advocates in dealing with the media.

Child participation

Participation Works, a consortium of six national and young people's agencies in the UK which enables organisations to effectively involve children in the development, delivery and evaluation of services that affect their lives, has produced a new guide on involving children in research. [*How to involve children and young people in research*](#) can be downloaded [here](#).

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3 RESEARCH AND REPORTS

South Asia: Children aged 8-16 from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan took part in a qualitative study of parenting styles which will be used to inform discussions on how best to develop effective parenting education programmes. The report – [*Perception of Children on Parenting Practices*](#), published by Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South and Central Asia in March 2009 – documents children's views on a range of issues, including corporal punishment. Children said they hate it when they are punished for something they did not do. Physical and psychological punishments were found to be the prime reason for children leaving home, dropping out of school, and ending up in prostitution, jails or on the street.

Thailand: A UNICEF study involving more than 2,300 children in Thailand found that violence, and the anxiety it causes, is an everyday occurrence in their lives, including corporal punishment in homes and schools. The report – [*Everyday Fears: A study of children's perceptions of living in the southern border area of Thailand*](#) – recommends that follow-up action be taken to implement the Ministry of Education's regulations banning corporal punishment in schools and to support the development of alternative disciplinary techniques. But despite the prevalence of corporal punishment in the home, the report does not recommend prohibition in this setting.

US: A major new report on the effects of corporal punishment on children is based on a review of 100 years of social science research and many hundreds of published studies on physical punishment conducted by professionals in the fields of psychology, medicine, education, social work and sociology. The *Report on Physical Punishment in the United States: What Research Tells Us About its Effects on Children* was written by Elizabeth Gershoff, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan, developed in conjunction with Phoenix Children's Hospital Arizona, and published by the Center for Effective Discipline. The research supports several conclusions:

- There is little research evidence that physical punishment improves children's behaviour in the long term.
- There is substantial research evidence that physical punishment makes it more, no less, likely that children will be aggressive and defiant in the future.
- There is clear research evidence that physical punishment puts children at risk for negative outcomes, including increased mental health problems.
- There is consistent evidence that children who are physically punished are at greater risk of serious injury and physical abuse.

The report analyses US legislation on corporal punishment of children and draws attention to the obligation to prohibit it under international human rights law and the countries worldwide which have achieved this. It concludes by recommending that "all states pass legislation to ban physical punishment statewide in all public and private schools" and that "state legislatures revise relevant criminal and family codes to provide children with the same protection from assaults provided to adults".

The report has already been endorsed by several national organisations concerned with child wellbeing, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. The full report, executive summaries in English and Spanish, additional resources about discipline, and a downloadable form for other organisations to endorse the report are available on the website of [Phoenix Children's Hospital](#).

In another report, Deana Pollard-Sacks presents a detailed legal analysis of corporal punishment in public schools in the US and the failure of the federal judiciary to declare it unconstitutional. "State Actors Beating Children: A Call For Judicial Relief" is soon to be published in *UC David Law Review* (April 2009), but is available [here](#) now.

In February, the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights Watch published an executive summary brochure of its 2008 report on corporal punishment in state schools, to support advocacy for prohibition: *A Violent Education: Corporal punishment of children in US public schools*.

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4 MEDIA WATCH

A selection of media reports on corporal punishment:

Barbados: A Panel discussion hosted by the Men's Educational Support Association overwhelmingly supported the use of corporal punishment in schools. (*Saturday Sun*, 28 February 2009)

China: A 5th grade pupil's cheek was torn by his teacher when he did not finish his homework, requiring 52 stitches. His father has reported the case to the police. (*Daily Telegraph*, 14 January 2009)

Ghana: A 14 year old pupil died a few hours after being caned by her teacher. (*Ghanaweb.com*, 15 March 2009)

Guyana: A teacher who had been removed from a school for contravening ministerial guidance in inflicting corporal punishment was welcomed back to the school. She had been disciplined for flogging 31 students in the class, including girls, with a bamboo rod on their buttocks for not submitting assignments on time. This breached the Ministry of Education advice that corporal punishment should not be administered for school work. Her temporary removal from the school had met with significant protest; she was not replaced while she was on leave. (*Stabroek News*, 29 February 2009)

India: A Calcutta student died after being slapped so hard that a brain haemorrhage resulted, and a girl was blinded by a teacher in Chhattisgarh. These incidents occurred shortly before a three day workshop in Kolkata to teach headmasters how to avoid corporal punishment. (*IndiaToday.in*, 9 January 2009)

New Zealand: In the face of vocal opposition from a minority to the removal from the Criminal Code in 2007 of the legal defence which allowed parents to use corporal punishment, Chair of the Te Kahui Mana Ririki, Dr Hone Kaa, has stated how the prohibition of smacking benefits Maori children: "Maori children are twice as likely as other groups to experience some form of child maltreatment, and smacking is simply another expression of violence against children. The law as it stands sends a clear message to our parents that smacking is not OK.... We are currently delivering training to Maori around positive parenting and the alternatives to smacking, and there is a definite shift amongst our people away from the use of physical discipline with children. We must maintain this momentum and work towards elimination family violence which is so rife in our whanau and communities." (*Voxy News Engine*, 20 March 2009)

Pakistan: A student who was physically punished by a teacher fell into unconsciousness and died later in hospital. An inquiry is under way. (*The Daily Mail*, 23 March 2009)

Zimbabwe: Two 16 year old high school students were sentenced by a regional magistrate to caning. (*The Herald*, 24 March 2009)

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5 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

Key decisions and recommendations

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** published its concluding observations following its 50th session in January 2009. The Committee examined implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Chad, Democratic republic of Congo, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Malawi, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Committee consistently expressed concern at the legality and use of corporal punishment in homes, schools and other institutions and, in the case of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, corporal punishment as a sentence for crime. The Committee recommended prohibition together with awareness raising and public education. To the Netherlands, which enacted full prohibition in 2007, the Committee recommended prohibition and other measures in Aruba and Netherlands Antilles.

The **Inter-American Court of Human Rights** has confirmed the human rights obligations of Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children. In December 2008 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights formally asked the Court to issue an advisory opinion on whether corporal punishment of children is compatible with various articles in the American Convention on Human Rights and the American Declaration of Human Rights and Duties. The Court decided that an opinion was unnecessary because the obligation to prohibit is clear from the existing jurisprudence of the Court “as well as from the obligations issued by other international instruments ratified by the States in the region”. In its reply, the Court also referred to General Comment No. 8 adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, drawing particular attention to the definitions of “corporal punishment” and “other cruel or degrading forms of punishment”, their incompatibility with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the home and family as in any other environment, and the standards set by the Committee for protecting children against corporal punishment which include legislative, educational, monitoring and evaluation measures. The full text of the Court’s decision is available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#) (unofficial translation).

Briefing the Committees

The Global Initiative regularly briefs human rights treaty monitoring bodies prior to examination of state parties, and encourages national NGOs and human rights institutions to do likewise. We are always willing to advise NGOs and human rights institutions on the practical details of how to submit briefings (email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

The *Committee on the Rights of the Child* is holding its 51st session in May/June 2009 and will examine the following states: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* – Bangladesh, France, Mauritania, Niger, Romania, Sweden; *Optional Protocols on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* and *on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* – Oman Slovenia.

At the same session, the Pre-Sessional Working Group of the Committee will be drafting lists of issues and questions for future examination of: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* – Bolivia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar; *Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict* – Poland, Turkey; *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* – Poland, Turkey. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 18 May 2009.**

The *Committee Against Torture* will be holding its 42nd session in Apr/May 2009 and will examine: Chad, Chile, Honduras, Israel, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Philippines.

At the same session, the Pre-Sessional Working Group will be considering issues and questions for future examination of: Azerbaijan, Colombia, El Salvador, Moldova, Slovakia, Spain, Yemen. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 20 April 2009.**

The *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* will be holding its 42nd session in May 2009 and will examine: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cyprus, Madagascar, UK.

At the same session, the Pre-Sessional Working Group will consider issues and questions for future examination of: Algeria, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Mauritius. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 18 May 2009.**

The *Human Rights Committee* will be holding its 96th session in July 2009 and will examine: Azerbaijan, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania.

At the same session, the Country Report Task Forces will consider issues and questions for future examination of: Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, Uzbekistan. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 6 July 2009.**

The *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* will be holding its 44th session in July/August 2009 and will examine: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Denmark, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor Leste, Tuvalu.

At the same session, the Pre-Session Working Group will consider issues and questions for future examination of: Albania, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Turkey. **Briefings on these states should be submitted before 13 July 2009.**

The Universal Periodic Review process

In February the **Human Rights Council** held its 4th session of the Universal Periodic Review. Corporal punishment and its legality was raised as an issue in the examination of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Djibouti, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Senegal.

The 5th session is due to take place in February 2009 and involves the following states: Afghanistan, Belize, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Slovakia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen

The deadline for submission of briefings for the 5th session has already passed, but briefings may be submitted for the 6th session, to be held in Nov/Dec 2009, as follows:

By 13 April 2009 for Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia

By 20 April 2009 for Albania, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Norway, Portugal.

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6 CAN YOU HELP?

Many thanks to all those who have sent us information since the last newsletter!

If you can provide information relating to the legality of corporal punishment of children, research on prevalence and/or children's views and experiences, positive parenting resources, or initiatives and campaigns promoting prohibition, please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org. We are particularly trying to find out if corporal punishment of children has been explicitly prohibited in the following settings/states:

Penal system (sentence of the courts) – Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Oman

Penal system (disciplinary measure in penal institutions) – Bahrain, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niue, Sao Tome & Principe, Syrian Arab Republic

Alternative care settings – El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful and welcome your comments: please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org. We are sending the newsletter to supporters of the aims of the Initiative (for the full list, click on “Supporters” on the [website](#)) and others who we think will be interested. If you do not want to receive future editions, please tell us at info@endcorporalpunishment.org. If your organisation is not listed as supporting the aims of the Initiative, please consider signing up (email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

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“It is striking to see ... how adults perceive the concept of rights related to children: they will systematically speak about the rights of their child, when in reality what they have in mind, are their rights over the child. This is not a question of semantics. There is a sea of difference between the two concepts, and it is this distinction which is also at the heart of the animated debate in some European countries, provoked by the Council of Europe’s campaign to abolish corporal punishment of children, at the level of politicians, parents and teachers. It is my belief that corporal punishment sends a message to children that violence is an acceptable means of resolving conflicts between people, and ultimately, even between peoples.”

(Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Annual Full-Day Meeting on the Rights of the Child at the Human Rights Council, “20 Years of the convention on the Rights of the Child: Achievements and Challenges for its full Realisation”, 11 March 2009)