

# Immediate opportunities for law reform in Latin America and the Caribbean



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

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Also available online at [www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)

**Note:** The dates given in brackets indicate the most recent information held by the Global Initiative, but to our knowledge all bills, draft laws, etc referred to below are currently still “live” and still present opportunities for enacting prohibition of corporal punishment. Information in square brackets is unconfirmed. If you believe any of the information to be incorrect or out of date, please email [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

State	Opportunities for enacting prohibition	Prohibition included
Antigua and Barbuda	No known opportunities	-
Bahamas	Constitution under review (2013); family legislation under review and draft Gender Based Violence Bill under discussion (2018); Education Act under review (2018)	[NO]
Barbados	Penal System Reform (Amendment) Bill, amendments to the Offences Against the Person Act under discussion (2016); Education Act and Regulations possibly being reviewed (2015); Juvenile Justice Bill being drafted (2016); Children's Act under discussion (2017)	[SOME]
Belize	No known opportunities	-
Chile	Bill Protecting the Rights of Children and Adolescents and Bill to amend Civil Code under discussion (2015); Constitutional reform under way (2015); Draft law creating a comprehensive statute against violence against children and adolescents under discussion (2019)	[YES]
Colombia	Bill to prohibit all forms of physical punishment and cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment of children and adolescents under discussion (2019)	[YES]
Cuba	Draft Family Code under discussion (2011)	?
Dominica	Juvenile Justice Bill and draft domestic violence law under discussion (2014); Status of Children Bill, Children (Care and Adoption) Bill and Child Justice Bill being finalised (2019)	[SOME]
Dominican Republic	Civil Code and Penal Code being revised (2014); prohibiting legislation being drafted (2015); Family Code being drafted (2015); Positive Parenting Bill under consideration (2019)	YES

Ecuador	Bill on a Childhood and Teenagehood Free from Physical Punishments and Degrading Treatments under consideration (2017); Children and Adolescents Code 2003 under review (2020)	YES
El Salvador	Penal Code under review (2017)	[NO]
Grenada	Child Protection Act and Education Act under review (2013)	?
Guatemala	Draft Law against corporal punishment or other forms of cruel punishment under discussion (2016); amendments to the Law on Integral Protection of Children and Adolescents under discussion (2017)	YES
Guyana	Education Bill and Regulations under discussion (2014)	NO
Haiti	Family Code Bill, draft new Criminal Code, draft Children's Code, Child Protection Bill and Bill on violence against women and girls under discussion (2016)	YES
Jamaica	Child Care and Protection Act, Domestic Violence Act and Offences Against the Person Act under review (2015), amendments to the Education Act being drafted (2017)	YES
Mexico	Bills under discussion to amend the federal Civil Code and the General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents 2014 (2019); Bills to prohibit under discussion in the states of Quintana Roo and Oaxaca (2018)	YES
Panama	Drafting of a law on the promotion and integral protection of the family under discussion (2011); Bill on establishing a system of guarantees and comprehensive protection for the rights of children and young persons being drafter (2017)	?
St Kitts and Nevis	No known opportunities	-
St Lucia	Juvenile Justice Bill under discussion (2014); Constitutional reform under way (2015)	NO
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Child Justice Bill under discussion (2016)	[NO]
Suriname	Civil Code being revised (2014); Framework Bill on Care Institutions and draft law on foster care under discussion (2014)	NO
Trinidad and Tobago	Miscellaneous Provisions (Supreme Court of Judicature and Children) Bill 2018 under discussion	[SOME]