

Immediate opportunities for law reform in West and Central Africa



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

LAST UPDATED January 2021

Also available online at 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 If you believe any of the information to be incorrect or out of date, please email secretariat@end-violence.org

State	Opportunities for enacting prohibition	Prohibition included
Burkina Faso	Code of Criminal Procedure and Code on the Person and the Family under review (2012); draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2014); Constitution being reviewed (2017); regulations under the Law No. 010-2017 on the penitentiary regime being drafted (2017)	YES
Cameroon	Draft Code of the Person and the Family under discussion (2014); Civil Code under review (2014)	[NO]
Central African Republic	Draft Family Code under discussion (2014); Criminal Code being revised (2013)	[YES]
Chad	Draft Child Protection Code under discussion (2014); draft Code on the Person and the Family under discussion (2014); Bill on violence against women under discussion (2010)	[YES]
Cote d'Ivoire	Minority Act under review (2019); draft new Child Code in discussions (2019); Personal and Family Code and Criminal Code being revised (2015); draft Criminal Code under discussion (2013); draft new Family Code under discussion (2011)	?
DR Congo	No known opportunities	-
Equatorial Guinea	Draft Family Code and draft Law on Gender Violence under discussion (2014); law on children being drafted (2011); Criminal and Civil Codes under review (2015)	?
Gabon	Family Code being drafted (2015); Bill on Domestic Violence under discussion (2017); Civil Code under review (2018)	NO
Gambia	Disability Bill under consideration (2015); Constitution being reviewed (2017)	NO
Ghana	Constitution under review (2015); amendments to the Children's Act and the Juvenile Justice Act under discussion (2016); draft Children's (Amendment) Act 2019, draft Juvenile Justice	SOME

(Amendment) Act 2019 and draft Criminal Offences (Amendment) Act 2019 being finalised (2019)

Guinea-Bissau	Bill to prohibit corporal punishment being drafted (2013); drafting of a comprehensive Code on Protection of Children planned (2013); Prisons regulations being drafted (2019)	[YES]
Liberia	Draft Domestic Violence Act and amendments to Constitution under discussion (2015)	[NO]
Mali	Child Protection Code and Criminal Code under review and Bill against Gender Based Violence under discussion (2018)	[NO]
Mauritania	Law on violence against women being drafted (2015)	[NO]
Niger	Draft Children's Code under discussion (2014); Family Code being drafted (2011)	YES
Nigeria	Violence Against Persons Bill, Administration of Criminal Justice Bill, Prison Reform Bill and Domestic Violence Bill under discussion (2013); child rights laws under consideration in a number of states (2012); Children and Young Persons Law, Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Shari'a Penal Code under review (2010); Elimination of Violence against Women in Society Bill under discussion (2012)	?
Sao Tome and Principe	Family Law being revised (2013); Civil Code under review (2010); Early Education Bill being discussed (2016); Juvenile Justice Law and other child protection laws under review (2017)	?
Senegal	Juvenile justice law under revision (2014); draft Children's Code under discussion (2013); Family Code under review (2013); legislation under consideration to regulate Koranic schools (2017)	[YES]
Sierra Leone	Constitution under review (2015); review of the Child Rights Act 2007 under discussion (2017)	?