



**Prohibiting all corporal punishment
of children: laying the foundations
for non-violent childhoods**

Together to #ENDviolence
Solutions Summit Series

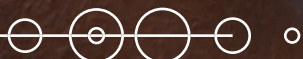
April 2021

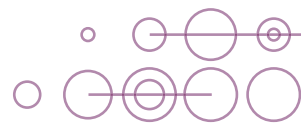


End Violence
Against Children



End Corporal
Punishment





Prohibiting all corporal punishment of children: laying the foundations for non-violent childhoods

A special report for the Together to #ENDviolence Solutions Summit Series high-level global conference on 30 April 2021.

Published April 2021 by the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children was launched in July 2016 by the UN Secretary-General. Today, the End Violence Partnership is the only global entity focused solely on Sustainable Development Goal 16.2: ending all forms of violence against children. The Partnership is made up of over 500 partners, including governments, UN agencies, research institutions, international non-governmental organisations, foundations, civil society organisations, private sector groups, and more. Though different in many ways, one simple belief unites us all: every child deserves to grow up free from violence.

Find out more at: endviolence.org

End Corporal Punishment is a critical initiative of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. Previously known as The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, we carry out a wide range of activities specifically designed to catalyse progress towards universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment of children.

We work to end all corporal punishment worldwide by:

1. Conducting and supporting national, regional and international advocacy with accurate information and tailored technical resources, guidance and assistance.
2. Providing an up-to-date and comprehensive knowledge hub with evidence on the legal status of corporal punishment, its prevalence and effects, and tools to secure its elimination.
3. Providing technical assistance to governments and civil society to support them in eliminating corporal punishment.
4. Supporting a global movement of partners and supporters across all continents.

Visit our website and knowledge hub at:
endcorporalpunishment.org

NOTE ON FACTS AND FIGURES

End Corporal Punishment bases its analyses on a total of 199 states, all states parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child except The Holy See, plus Kosovo, Taiwan, The United States and Western Sahara. Child population figures are from UNICEF 2015 and, where these are unavailable, UNICEF 2013 (Western Sahara) and Department of Household Registration, Ministry of Interior, 2013 (Taiwan).



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Together to #ENDviolence, a global campaign and Solutions Summit Series

Violence against children is an epidemic of abuse. We know that well over one billion children experience violence every year¹, with devastating short and long-term consequences.

Despite the scale and impact of violence against children – and the proven evidence-based solutions that exist – we still lack the political commitments and financial investments that are urgently needed to keep children safe at home, online, at school and within communities.

In addition, COVID-19 has increased children's risk of violence in every country and community. Stay-at-home measures, school closures and reduced household income have increased parent and caregiver stress; health, welfare and support services have been severely restricted; children have spent more time online than ever before; and anecdotal evidence of increased instances of child maltreatment are being substantiated by child helpline reports and systematic research.

COVID-19 has also put new pressure on both national budgets and international donors.

The pandemic has jeopardized already-limited investments to end violence against children, along with years of progress. Without urgent, unified action, we risk losing a generation of children to the lifelong effects of violence.

Together to #ENDviolence aims to inspire the end violence community and catalyse the political and financial commitments needed to build back better after COVID-19.

Prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment is a foundational strategy in ending all violence and mistreatment of children, and a key policy proposal of the Together to #ENDviolence campaign. The growing number of states achieving and implementing this essential law reform is encouraging, but as we enter the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we know progress must accelerate even faster to achieve our promise of non-violent childhoods by 2030.



Reforming laws to ensure children can no longer be lawfully subjected to violent punishment marks a turning point in society's relationship with children, signalling the recognition of children as human beings and rights holders. In enhancing children's position in society, it advances all their other rights.

Laila Khondkar, Save the Children Child Protection Thematic Advisor

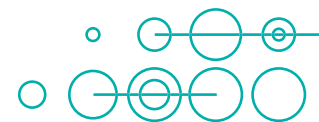


Corporal punishment comprises of any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light, as well as other non-physical forms of punishment that are also cruel and degrading.

Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment 8 (2006) The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment.

¹Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, et al. Global Prevalence of Past-year Violence Against Children: A Systematic Review and Minimum Estimates. *Pediatrics*. 2016;137(3):e20154079





Prohibiting all corporal punishment: an essential foundation for ending violence in childhood

Key Messages

1. Corporal punishment is the most common form of violence against children worldwide, leading to the injury and death of thousands of children each year. Its very widespread social acceptance means that a level of violence in childrearing is normalised, entrenching children's low status in society and paving the way for other forms of violence and mistreatment.



Around four in five children between the ages of 2 and 14 are subjected to some kind of violent discipline in the home.



Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children, UNICEF, New York, 2014

2. An ever-growing body of research associates corporal punishment with a wide range of negative health and behavioural outcomes, including poorer mental health, cognitive development and educational outcomes, increased aggression and antisocial behaviour.

3. Corporal punishment affects children regardless of their age, race, gender, and social background. However, there is evidence that some children are more likely to experience corporal punishment than others. For instance, younger children are the most likely to be subjected to corporal punishment; children with disabilities are also at higher risk. Girls may suffer from different types of punishment, and corporal punishment can be used to control their behaviour, to encourage deference, submission and timidity, or to reinforce traditional ideas of what it means to be female. There is also evidence of higher levels of corporal punishment in racially or economically marginalised groups.

4. Corporal punishment is a violation of children's rights to respect for physical integrity and human dignity, health, development, education and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

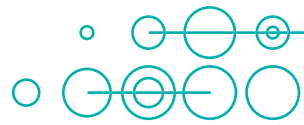
5. In their ratification of international human rights laws and commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals, states are already obligated and committed to prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment in all settings, including the home.

6. While nearly all countries give adults legal protection from assault, only 13% of children worldwide have the same safeguard. Prohibiting corporal punishment is about ensuring children are equally protected under the law on assault as adults. As the smallest and most vulnerable members of society, children deserve more, not less, protection from violence.

7. Corporal punishment can damage family relationships and, far from showing children how to behave well, it teaches them that violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflict.

8. The main purpose of prohibiting corporal punishment is to send a clear message that it is no more acceptable or lawful to hit a child than to hit anyone else, and to bring about a cultural change towards non-violent childrearing. This helps to increase respect for children across society and decrease tolerance of all other forms of violence and mistreatment of children.





9. The purpose of prohibition is not to punish parents and other caregivers. Laws banning corporal punishment should be implemented with children’s best interests at the forefront. It is rarely in children’s interests for their parents to be imprisoned or heavily punished, or to be separated from their parents, unless it is essential to keep the child safe. There is no evidence of increased prosecution of parents in countries where corporal punishment is banned. However, there is plenty of evidence that parents and others can be supported to use non-violent approaches; all parents and caregivers should have access to this support.

10. The number of states enacting prohibition of corporal punishment is accelerating! However, the vast majority of children worldwide still have little or no legal protection from violent punishment, and huge numbers continue to regularly suffer violence and humiliation under the guise of “discipline” at home, in schools, or in other settings.

Together to #ENDviolence corporal punishment policy proposals

- (a) all states (that have not already done so) commit to introducing legislation to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings by the end of 2022;
- (b) all states to have achieved prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings by 2030;
- (c) all states commit to accelerating the elimination of corporal punishment, by implementing a national plan that includes public education campaigns, positive parenting support for all, promotion of safe schools and communities, professional training and more;
- (d) all states commit to measuring progress by including SDG indicator 16.2.1 in national statistical programmes.



Children have had to wait the longest to be given equal legal protection from deliberate assaults – a protection the rest of us take for granted. It is extraordinary that children, whose development state and small size is acknowledged to make them particularly vulnerable to physical and psychological harm, have been singled out for less protection from assaults of their fragile bodies, minds and dignity.



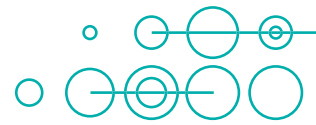
Thomas Hammarberg, former Commissioner for Human Rights,
Council of Europe



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The 2030 Agenda: a global commitment to end violence against children



Under the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015, states have committed to building peaceful, non-violent societies in which human rights are respected. The agenda sets out 17 goals, clear targets for achieving each goal, and indicators to monitor progress towards each target.

Ending corporal punishment is key to ending all violence against children (SDG target 16.2) and reducing violence across the whole of society in the longer term. It is also essential in working towards other SDG targets, including those related to health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), violence against women and girls (SDG 5 and 16), equality (SDG 5 and 10) and economic stability and growth (SDG 8).

Corporal punishment causes injury and death for thousands of children each year, but overwhelming evidence shows that even so-called “light” corporal punishment is associated with a wide range of negative outcomes, including poorer mental health, cognitive development and educational outcomes, as well as increased aggression and antisocial behaviour. It has also been linked to increased approval and use of other forms of violence and criminal behaviour in later life, including intimate partner violence.

The legality of corporal punishment in the majority of countries means that most of the violence experienced by children is legally and socially accepted. In many places it is not even regarded as violence – although children’s accounts and evidence from research tells us differently. This normalisation of a level of violence in childrearing entrenches children’s low status in society and lays the foundations for other forms of violence and mistreatment.



Throughout the study process, children have consistently expressed the urgent need to stop all this violence. Children testify to the hurt – not only physical, but ‘the hurt inside’ – which this violence causes them, compounded by adult acceptance, even approval of it.

UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children, 2006



The long-term effects of violence in families and society – while they are felt by all – can disproportionately affect low- and middle-income countries, where its impact can be severe in terms of slowing economic growth, undermining personal and collective security, and impeding social development. Calculations suggest violence against children, most commonly corporal punishment, costs the global economy between 2-5 % of GDP annually.*

Prohibition of corporal punishment in law is the essential foundation for reducing its use in practice. The ban must be implemented effectively, including through society-wide measures to raise awareness of the new law and children’s right to protection.² The process of transforming society’s approach to childrearing and education, and its view of children – to seeing them as full holders of human rights who cannot be hit and hurt in the guise of “discipline” – takes time. If states are to achieve substantial reductions in the prevalence of violent punishment by 2030 (indicator 16.2.1), they must reform national legislation and work to make prohibition of all corporal punishment of children a reality now.

SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Target 16.2

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

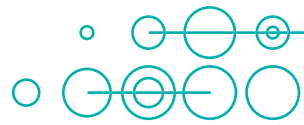
Indicator 16.2.1

Percentage of children aged 1-17 who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month.

* Perezniето, P., Montes, A., Routier, S. & Langston, L. Te costs and economic impact of violence against children. odi.org/publications/8845-costs-and-economic-impact-violence-against-children (Overseas Development Institute, 2014).

²For more information about measures to implement prohibition see the sister publication to this report ‘Putting prohibition of corporal punishment into practice: a brief guide’ – available in early June 2021. Or visit our website <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/prohibition-to-elimination/>





Monitoring progress towards target 16.2

Regular data collection and surveys with representative population groups about the use of – and attitudes towards – corporal punishment are essential for monitoring progress under indicator 16.2.1. Data and evidence are also valuable in developing and evaluating programmes and campaigns aimed at changing violent behaviour.

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to

“conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven” (paragraph 79). These national reviews should provide a basis for regular reviews by the High-level Political Forum, which are voluntary, state-led and undertaken by both developed and developing countries (paragraph 84).

Supporting national strategies to achieve target 16.2 INSPIRE

INSPIRE is a technical package developed by ten agencies led by the World Health Organization. Aimed at everyone from government to grassroots, it sets out seven strategies which provide a framework for ending violence against children.

Under its first strategy – implementation and enforcement of laws – the INSPIRE package highlights the need for prohibition of corporal punishment of children by parents, teachers and other caregivers, based on evidence from longitudinal studies on the impact of such laws. Examples of society-wide public and professional education and awareness raising programmes aimed at changing social norms and attitudes around violence in childrearing, which should accompany law reform, are also set out in INSPIRE.



Laws that prohibit behaviours such as violent punishment and child sexual abuse, are useful in several ways. First, they show society that violent behaviour is wrong, and can therefore help eradicate prevailing norms that tolerate it. Second, they hold perpetrators accountable for their actions.



INSPIRE: Seven strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



Implementation and enforcement of laws



Norms and values



Safe environments



Parent and caregiver support



Income and economic strengthening

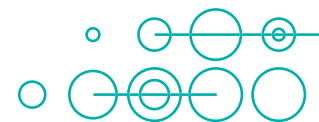


Response and support services



Education and life skills





Global Progress: Accelerating – but more is needed

40 years ago, only one country had banned all corporal punishment of children. Today, 62 states have taken this groundbreaking step, with 25 enacting prohibition in the last six years alone, and more currently revising their laws.

These countries are from all regions, incomes, religions and cultural contexts. States are increasingly recognising that reforming law in order to send a clear message that violent punishment is no longer acceptable is an essential and achievable foundation for preventing all violence against children, and avoiding its huge costs to individuals and societies.



A ban on the corporal punishment of children by their parents is the most fundamental stipulation in preventing child abuse... the passage of the legislative amendment through the National Assembly is expected to provide an opportunity to fundamentally improve the social awareness towards the corporal punishment of children and child abuse.



Ministry of Justice, Government of the Republic of Korea. Press release announcing prohibition of corporal punishment, January 2021



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However, despite accelerating progress there is still much to be done. We call on all states to step up their commitment to children in order to transform childhoods by 2030.

62

states have prohibited all corporal punishment of children

27

states have committed to prohibit all corporal punishment of children

134

states have prohibited corporal punishment in all schools

480

recommendations to prohibit have been made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

190

states have received recommendations to end corporal punishment

62

states have accepted recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment

But...

Only

13%

of the world's children live in states where the law recognises their right to equal protection from assault

In

31

states, children convicted of an offence may be sentenced to corporal punishment under criminal, religious and/or traditional law

In

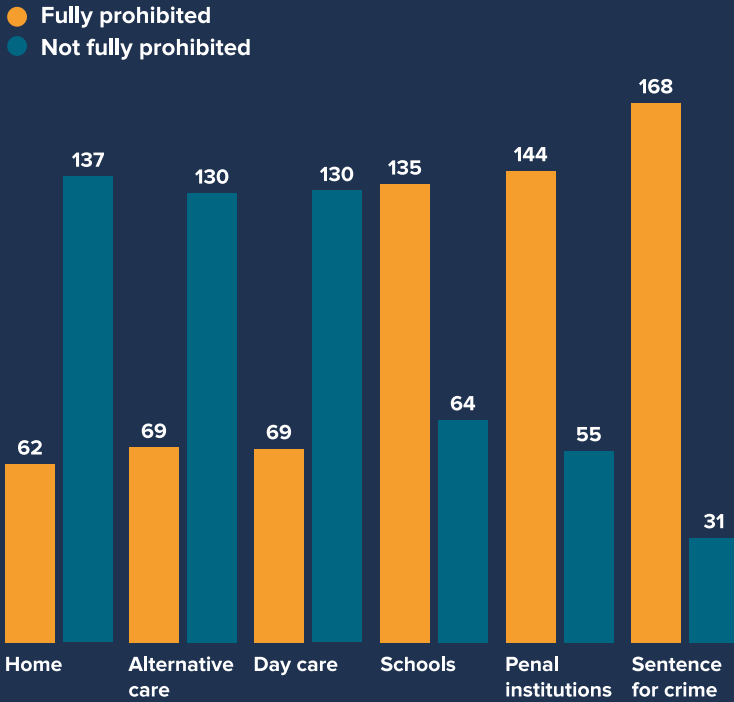
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states, corporal punishment is not fully prohibited in any setting, including as a sentence for crime

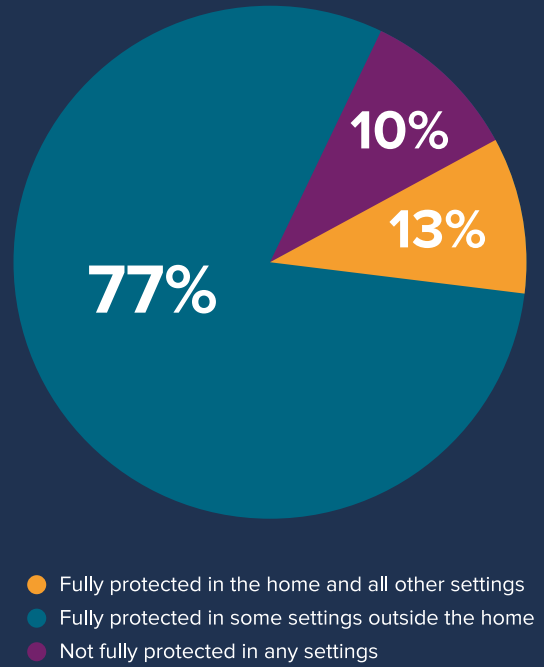




Number of states worldwide prohibiting corporal punishment of children in law



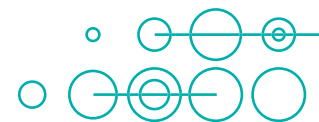
Percentage of global child population fully protected in law from corporal punishment



732 million (1 in 2) school-age children between 6 and 17 years live in countries where corporal punishment at school is not fully prohibited.

United Nations Children's Fund, A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents, UNICEF, New York, 2017





Pathfinding countries progress in prohibiting corporal punishment

Today, 34 countries have joined the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as Pathfinders. These Pathfinding Countries have made a formal and public commitment to comprehensive action to end all forms of violence against children, including by developing an evidence-based and costed national action plan founded on INSPIRE strategies that sets commitments for three to five years, and a related resource mobilisation plan.

Prohibiting corporal punishment is a key component of the INSPIRE strategy, and an essential part of any plan to end violence against children.

So far 14³ Pathfinding countries have enacted prohibition, but 20⁴ have not. Of these remaining countries, at least three are actively pursuing prohibition. We encourage and call on all Pathfinding countries to enact prohibition of all corporal punishment of children without delay.



Physical and humiliating punishment breaches the fundamental rights of children, completely disregards their entitlement to respect, dignity and integrity, undermines their development, damages their self-esteem, and perpetuates the thinking that it is alright to hit and hurt others.



Claudiana Cole, Minister of Basic and Secondary Education, Keynote address at the National Workshop on Law Reform to Prohibit Physical and Humiliating Punishment, The Gambia, October 2017



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³ Brazil, Finland, France, Georgia, Honduras, Japan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, South Africa, Sweden and Kenya

⁴ Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Sri Lanka, UR Tanzania, Uganda, UAE, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia and Papua New Guinea

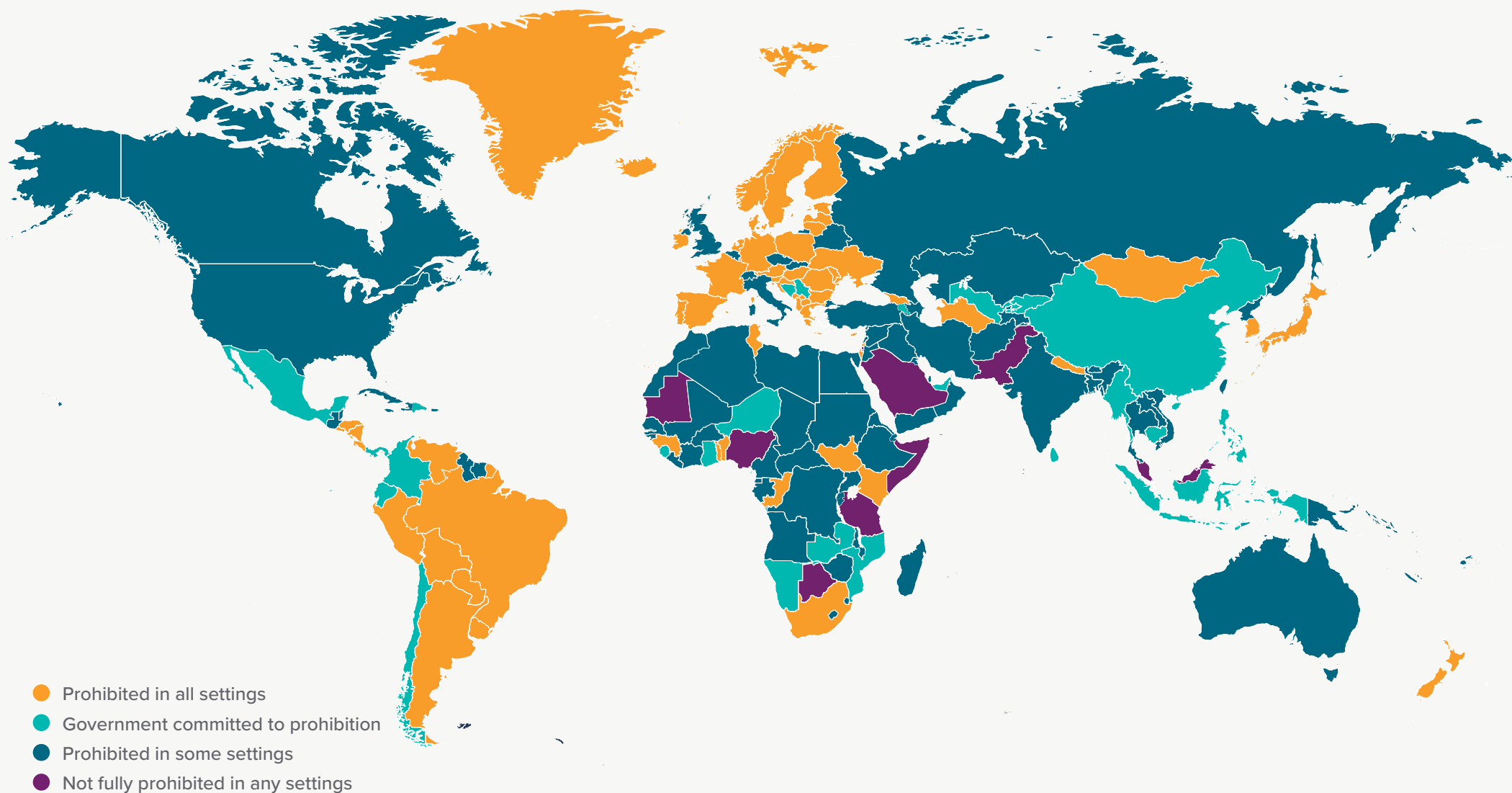


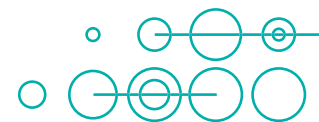


Global map

Legality of corporal punishment around the world.

For details of the legality of corporal punishment in various settings in each state, see the tables starting on page 16.





Achieving law reform

The drafting or revision of laws that are relevant to children – including laws on the family, education and juvenile justice – provides opportunities for achieving legal prohibition of all corporal punishment. There are currently legislative opportunities to prohibit corporal punishment in at least 100 states (see www.endcorporalpunishment.org for an up-to-date opportunities table).

Prohibition of corporal punishment is achieved when:

- All defences and authorisations of corporal punishment are repealed (removed) so that the criminal law on assault applies equally to assaults on children, whether or not they are described as discipline or punishment;
- Legislation explicitly prohibits – or is clearly interpreted as prohibiting – all corporal punishment and other cruel and degrading punishment;
- The language used is clear and not open to misinterpretation – the law must leave no doubt that children should not be physically punished or suffer humiliating or degrading punishment; and
- There are no legal loopholes which could be used by those seeking to justify or defend some level of violent punishment of children.

Prohibition of corporal punishment is not achieved by:

- Laws which prohibit “all forms of violence” or “child abuse,” or that confirm children’s right to “respect for human dignity and physical integrity” – this is not clear enough to be perceived and interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment in childrearing in societies where it is widely socially accepted, and often not regarded as violence.
- Laws which prohibit “corporal punishment that causes harm” – these may be construed as not prohibiting all corporal punishment by those who believe that only physical punishment which reaches some threshold of severity is harmful and that “light” physical punishment is acceptable or even in the child’s best interests.
- So-called “compromise laws” that limit rather than prohibit the use of corporal punishment (for example, making corporal punishment of older children unlawful but allowing it for younger children, or prohibiting the use of an implement but by implication allowing slaps) – these laws continue to allow corporal punishment, do not achieve equal protection from assault for children, and send a confusing message.



Children are entitled to their own sense of self and dignity. It is unacceptable to consider that a child assaulted may not be entitled to remedy while an adult in the same circumstances would be entitled to such relief, for the reason of being a minor. In any case, minors, as vulnerable and impressionable members of society, must be entitled to a higher degree of protection.

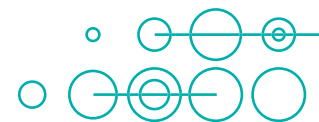
Sri Lanka Supreme Court, February 2021



Violence is not a private matter that should be left to families to resolve, but a matter of human rights that states have a duty to uphold.

Know Violence in Childhood: A Global Learning Initiative, Ending Violence in Childhood: Global Report 2017





The positive impact of prohibition and implementation

Research shows the positive impact of prohibition

Although close to a third of UN member states have now prohibited all corporal punishment, research comparing the prevalence of and attitudes towards corporal punishment before and after law reform is available in only a few.

Where comparable figures are available, the evidence of changes in attitudes and practice is strong.

There has been a consistent decline in adult approval and use of physical punishment in **Sweden** since prohibition was achieved in 1979: around half of children were smacked regularly in the 1970s; this fell to around a third in the 1980s, and a few per cent after 2000.

Finland achieved prohibition in 1983 and saw a decline in adult acceptance of corporal punishment from 47% in 1981 to 15% in 2014.

In **Germany**, 30% of young people reported in 1992 that they had been “thrashed”; in 2002, two years after prohibition, this figure was 3%.

Prohibition was achieved in **Austria** in 1989; approval for the statement “a little slap now and again never harmed a child” dropped dramatically from 85% in 1977 to 16% in 2014.

In **New Zealand**, where prohibition was achieved in 2007, the rate of approval of corporal punishment dropped from more than 90% in 1981 to 40% in 2013.

Prohibition was achieved in **Poland** in 2010; approval of corporal punishment fell by 18% from 2008 to 2013.

Romania achieved full prohibition in 2004; the number of children hit by their parents with a hand without leaving a mark fell by 22% between 2001 and 2012.

Japan’s prohibition of all corporal punishment came into force in April 2020. In April 2021 the number of people who said it was acceptable to use corporal punishment was 15% lower than in 2017.

More information and full references are available at endcorporalpunishment.org/resources/research/.





How states can work collaboratively towards universal prohibition of corporal punishment

High-level conferences provide a global platform for states and others to share and learn from experience and to work together towards universal prohibition of corporal punishment. But what concrete actions can states take to support and encourage progress, towards a world without legalised violence against children?

We call on all states to commit to 10 collaborative actions, so we can keep our promise of non-violent childhoods by 2030.

01

Enact prohibition of corporal punishment as an immediate priority. Share experiences with other states to assist them in prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment.

02

Advocate about the impact of violence on children, societies, and economies to transform society's relationship with children. Highlight the injustice, danger and inhumanity of laws that provide children with less protection from interpersonal violence than adults.

03

Ensure universal prohibition and elimination of all violent punishment of children is explicitly pursued in the global, regional and national monitoring of target 16.2 to end all violence against children.

04

Carry out research and monitoring of corporal punishment nationally, in particular by including indicator 16.2.1 in national statistical programmes. Disseminate research regionally and internationally so all states can learn about the impact and prevalence of corporal punishment, and methods for monitoring it.

05

Promote the rights-based case for law reform – that all children have the rights to full respect for their human dignity and physical integrity, and to equal protection under the law.

06

Raise the issue in the Universal Periodic Review by addressing questions and recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings to states that have not yet achieved full prohibition.





07

Ensure development aid addresses violence against children, for example by stipulating non-violent educational approaches within education funding. Less than 1 per cent of ODA funds (under 75p per child) go directly towards ending violence against children.

08

Work within regional intergovernmental organisations to encourage explicit commitments and campaigns against violent punishment and highlight the urgency of the issue for children.

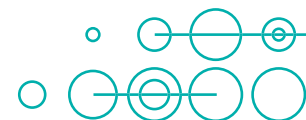
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Share information about effective campaigns and awareness-raising measures for use in states where there is still strong social approval of corporal punishment.

10

Consider offering technical assistance and support to states working towards prohibition and elimination through embassies and other representations.





Global legality tables

End Corporal Punishment has mapped the legality of corporal punishment of children in every setting – the home, alternative care settings, day care, schools, penal institutions and as a sentence for crime – in every state and territory in the world. This information is constantly monitored and kept up to date, and is available to view or download at endcorporalpunishment.org.

The following tables summarise the legality of corporal punishment worldwide, organised by:

1. States that have fully prohibited all corporal punishment
2. States that have expressed commitment to full prohibition
3. States with no clear commitment to prohibition

States prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings

This table shows the 62 states where corporal punishment is now unlawful in all settings, and the legislation that extended prohibition to all settings, including the home.

State	Prohibiting law
Albania	Law No. 18/2017 on the Rights and Protection of the Child
Andorra	Criminal Code 2005
Argentina	Civil and Commercial Code 2014
Austria	General Civil Code as amended 1989, reiterated in Federal Constitutional Act on the Rights of Children 2011
Benin	Children's Code 2015
Bolivia	Children and Adolescents Code 2014
Brazil	Children and Adolescents Code 1990 as amended 2014
Bulgaria	Child Protection Act 2000 (amended 2003) and Regulations on the Implementation of the Child Protection Act 2003
Cabo Verde	Law on Children and Adolescents 2013
Congo, Republic of	Law on the Protection of the Child 2010
Costa Rica	Code on Children and Adolescents and Family Code as amended 2008
Croatia	Family Act 1998, superseded by Family Act 2003
Cyprus	Violence in the Family (Prevention and Protection of Victims) Law 1994
Denmark	Parental Custody and Care Act 1995 as amended 1997
Estonia	Child Protection Act 2014
Finland	Child Custody and Rights of Access Act 1983
France	2019 amendment to Civil Code





State	Prohibiting law
Georgia	Code on the Rights of the Child 2019
Germany	2000 amendment to Civil Code
Greece	Law 3500/2006 on the Combating of Intra-family Violence 2006
Guinea	Children's Code 2019
Honduras	2013 amendments to Family Code and Civil Code
Hungary	2004 amendment to Child Protection Act 1997
Iceland	Children's Act 2003
Ireland	2015 amendment to Offences Against the Person (Non Fatal) Act 1997
Israel	2000 repeal of "reasonable chastisement" defence
Japan	2019 amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention Law 2000
Kenya	Constitution 2010
Latvia	Children's Rights Protection Law 1998
Liechtenstein	Children and Youth Act 2008
Lithuania	2017 amendments to Law on the Fundamentals of Protection of the Rights of the Child 1996
Luxembourg	Law on Children and the Family 2008
Malta	2014 amendment to Criminal Code
Mongolia	Law on the Rights of Children 2016 and Law on Child Protection 2016
Montenegro	2016 amendments to Family Law 2007
Nepal	Act relating to Children 2018
Netherlands	2007 amendment to Civil Code
New Zealand	Crimes (Substituted Section 59) Amendment Act 2007
Nicaragua	Family Code 2014
North Macedonia	Law on Child Protection 2013
Norway	Law on promotion of good treatment, positive parenting and protection of children and adolescents against corporal punishment or any type of violence as a method of correction or discipline 2016
Peru	Law prohibiting physical and other humiliating punishment against children and adolescents 2015



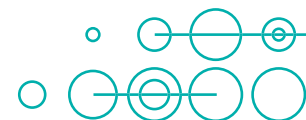


State	Prohibiting law
Poland	2010 amendment to Family and Guardianship Code 1964
Portugal	2007 amendment to Penal Code
Republic of Korea	2021 amendment to Civil Act, de facto application of Child Welfare Act
Republic of Kosovo	Law on Child Protection 2019
Republic of Moldova	2008 amendment to Family Code
Romania	Law on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child 2004
San Marino	2014 amendments to Penal Code and Law of 1986 No. 49 on Family Law Reform
Seychelles	2020 amendments to Children Act 1982
Slovenia	Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Prevention of Family Violence 2016
South Africa	2019 Constitutional Court ruling the common law defence of “reasonable chastisement” to be unconstitutional
South Sudan	Transitional Constitution 2011
Spain	2007 amendment to Civil Code
Sweden	1979 amendment to Parenthood and Guardianship Code
Togo	Children’s Code 2007
Tunisia	2010 amendment to Penal Code
Turkmenistan	Law on Guarantees of the Rights of the Child 2002
Ukraine	Family Code 2003
Uruguay	2007 amendments to Civil Code and Children and Adolescents Code 2004
Venezuela	2007 amendments to Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents 1998

Territories which have prohibited corporal punishment in all settings

Aruba, Netherlands (2016); Curaçao, Netherlands (2011); Faroe Islands, Denmark (2007); French Guiana, France (2019); Greenland, Denmark (2016), Guadeloupe, France (2019); Jersey, UK (2019); Martinique, France (2019); Mayotte, France (2019); Pitcairn Islands, UK (2003); Réunion, France (2019); St Barthelemy, France (2019); St Maarten, Netherlands (2013); St Martin, France (2019); Svalbard and Jan Mayen Islands, Norway (1987); Wallis and Futuna Islands, France (2019).





Corporal punishment unlawful by Supreme Court ruling

In the following state, a Supreme Court ruling has declared corporal punishment to be unlawful in all settings including the home, but prohibition has not yet been enacted in legislation. Italy is yet to make a public commitment to enacting prohibition.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Italy	No ⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

States expressing commitment to law reform in the UPR and other contexts

Governments in the following states have expressed a commitment to prohibition of all corporal punishment of children through unequivocally accepting recommendations to prohibit made during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the state concerned and/or in another official context.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Armenia ⁶	No	Some ⁷	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bahrain ⁸	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Bosnia and Herzegovina ⁹	Some ¹⁰	Some ¹¹	Some ¹²	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cambodia ¹³	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chile ¹⁴	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
China ¹⁵	No ¹⁶	[No]	Some ¹⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colombia ¹⁸	No	[Some] ¹⁹	No	[Yes] ²⁰	[Yes] ²¹	Yes ²²
Dominican Republic ²³	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ecuador ²⁴	No	No	Some ²⁵	Yes	Yes	Some ²⁶
Ghana ²⁷	No	No	No	No ²⁸	Some ²⁹	Yes

⁵1996 Supreme Court judgment ruled against all violence in childrearing but this not yet confirmed in legislation ⁶Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2010, 2015) ⁷Unlawful in care institutions ⁸Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2017) ⁹Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015) ¹⁰Prohibited in Republic of Srpska ¹¹Prohibited in Republic of Srpska ¹²Prohibited in Republic of Srpska ¹³Government representative confirmed in 2019 that prohibition of all corporal punishment was a priority; law reform included in Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 ¹⁴Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2014); prohibiting legislation under discussion (2016) ¹⁵Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2018)

¹⁶But corporal punishment of girls prohibited in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone ¹⁷Prohibited in nurseries and kindergartens ¹⁸Government expressed commitment to prohibition in its National Development Plan 2018-2022 ¹⁹Possibly unlawful in care institutions ²⁰Prohibition in indigenous communities unconfirmed ²¹Prohibition in indigenous communities unconfirmed ²²Lawful in indigenous communities ²³Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2009) and adopted Central American Regional Roadmap on Violence against Children (2011) which recommends full prohibition; prohibiting legislation being drafted (2015) ²⁴Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012) ²⁵Prohibited in preschool provision ²⁶Lawful in indigenous communities ²⁷Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2008, 2012 and 2017) and reportedly made a commitment to prohibit by 2019 to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2015)

²⁸Ministerial directive possibly advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ²⁹Prohibited in prisons





State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Indonesia ³⁰	No	No ³¹	No	No	Yes	Some ³²
Kyrgyzstan ³³	No	Some ³⁴	No	Yes	[Yes]	Yes
Mauritius ³⁵	No	No	[Some] ³⁶	Yes	No	No
Mexico ³⁷	Some ³⁸	Some ³⁹	Some ⁴⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mozambique ⁴¹	No	No	No	No ⁴²	Yes	Yes
Myanmar ⁴³	No	No	No	No ⁴⁴	No	Yes ⁴⁵
Namibia ⁴⁶	No	Yes	Some ⁴⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes
Niger ⁴⁸	No	No	No	No ⁴⁹	No	Yes
Panama ⁵⁰	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Philippines ⁵¹	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Serbia ⁵²	No	No	Some ⁵³	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sierra Leone ⁵⁴	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Sri Lanka ⁵⁵	No	No	No	No ⁵⁶	Some ⁵⁷	Yes
Timor-Leste ⁵⁸	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
United Arab Emirates ⁵⁹	No	No	No	Yes	[Yes]	No
Uzbekistan ⁶⁰	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zambia ⁶¹	No	No	Some ⁶²	Yes	Yes	Some ⁶³

³⁰Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2017) ³¹National Standards of Care for Child Welfare Institutions state corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ³²Lawful under Shari'a law ³³Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2015) ³⁴Prohibited in residential institutions ³⁵Bill which would prohibit under discussion (2015); Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2019) ³⁶Possibly unlawful in preschool provision ³⁷Government adopted Central American Regional Roadmap on Violence against Children (2011) and End Violence National Action Plan 2017-2018, which both recommend full prohibition, and accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2018); Full prohibition was adopted in December 2020 through amendments of General Law on the Rights of Children and Adolescents 2014. But the amended Law needs to be domesticated by states that have not prohibited locally, in order to come into force across the country ³⁸As of January 2021, 21 of 32 states have local civil or family laws that prohibit the use of punishment against children and adolescents ³⁹Prohibited in institutions ⁴⁰Prohibited in institutions ⁴¹Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2016) ⁴²Government directive advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ⁴³Child Rights Law 2019 included provisions that were reportedly intended to prohibit all corporal punishment of children (full analysis ongoing) ⁴⁴Government directive advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ⁴⁵But some legislation still to be repealed ⁴⁶Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2016) ⁴⁷Prohibited in early childhood centres and in places of care; unlawful in all state-run childcare under 1991 Supreme Court ruling ⁴⁸Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2014) ⁴⁹Ministerial Order states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ⁵⁰Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2010, 2015) ⁵¹Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in the home and other settings (2012) ⁵²Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit (2008, 2013) ⁵³Prohibited in day care which forms part of education system ⁵⁴Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all circumstances (2016) ⁵⁵Commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, made at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation, and reiterated in 2017 when the Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit ⁵⁶Ministerial circular states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ⁵⁷Prohibited in prisons ⁵⁸Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2011) ⁵⁹Government supported UPR recommendations to prohibit (2018) ⁶⁰Government supported UPR recommendations to prohibit (2018) ⁶¹Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012) ⁶²Prohibited in preschool provision ⁶³Unlawful under 1999 Supreme Court ruling but some legislation still to be repealed





States without a clear commitment to law reform

The following states are not currently committed to prohibiting all corporal punishment. Some have yet to make a clear commitment to law reform. Some have accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit, but have also indicated that they consider existing legislation adequately protects children from corporal punishment, in conflict with information collected by End Corporal Punishment. Some have accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment, but rejected other similar recommendations. Others had previously expressed a commitment to law reform, but have since either backtracked or failed to take action on it.

State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Afghanistan ⁶⁴	No	No	Some ⁶⁵	Yes	No	No ⁶⁶
Algeria ⁶⁷	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Angola ⁶⁸	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Antigua and Barbuda	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Australia	No	Some ⁶⁹	Some ⁷⁰	Some ⁷¹	Some ⁷²	Yes
Azerbaijan ⁷³	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bahamas	No	Some ⁷⁴	Some ⁷⁵	No	[Yes] ⁷⁶	[No] ⁷⁷
Bangladesh ⁷⁸	No	No	No	Yes ⁷⁸	No	No
Barbados	No	No	Some ⁸⁰	No	No	No
Belarus ⁸¹	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	No ⁸²	Some ⁸³	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belize ⁸⁴	No	Some ⁸⁵	Some ⁸⁶	Yes	Some ⁸⁷	Yes

⁶⁴Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum which followed 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation, but no progress since ⁶⁵Prohibited in preschool provision ⁶⁶Lawful under Sharia law

⁶⁷Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings by accepting UPR recommendation to do so in 2012, but noted similar recommendations in 2017 and no progress since ⁶⁸Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings by accepting UPR recommendation to do so in 2014, but no progress since

⁶⁹Prohibited in all residential centres and foster care in all states/territories except Northern Territory, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia

⁷⁰Prohibited in all states/territories except in Northern Territory and Tasmania; prohibition in childminding unconfirmed ⁷¹Prohibited in all states/territories except Queensland ⁷²Prohibited in all states/territories except Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia

⁷³Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit (2009, 2013, 2018), but prohibiting Bill drafted in 2011 has yet to be enacted ⁷⁴Prohibited in residential institutions ⁷⁵Prohibited in preschools and day care centres under the Early Childhood Care (National Standards) Regulations 2015 ⁷⁶But some legislation possibly still to be repealed ⁷⁷Prohibited in 1984 but reintroduced in 1991 ⁷⁸Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum which followed 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation and Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2009, 2018), but no progress since ⁷⁹Unlawful under 2011 Supreme Court ruling, not yet confirmed in legislation ⁸⁰Prohibited in day nurseries ⁸¹Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2010) but stated it had already been implemented and all corporal punishment unlawful ⁸²Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2016); Government gave a mixed response to UPR recommendations to prohibit (2016) ⁸³Prohibited in institutions in Flemish community ⁸⁴Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in 2009, but noted subsequent recommendations in 2013 and 2018 and no progress since ⁸⁵Prohibited in residential care facilities ⁸⁶Prohibited in day care centres ⁸⁷Prohibited in "Youth Hostel" detention centre

⁸²Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2016); Government gave a mixed response to UPR recommendations to prohibit (2016) ⁸³Prohibited in institutions in Flemish community ⁸⁴Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in 2009, but noted subsequent recommendations in 2013 and 2018 and no progress since ⁸⁵Prohibited in residential care facilities ⁸⁶Prohibited in day care centres ⁸⁷Prohibited in "Youth Hostel" detention centre

⁸⁵Prohibited in residential care facilities ⁸⁶Prohibited in day care centres ⁸⁷Prohibited in "Youth Hostel" detention centre

⁸⁶Prohibited in day care centres ⁸⁷Prohibited in "Youth Hostel" detention centre

⁸⁷Prohibited in "Youth Hostel" detention centre

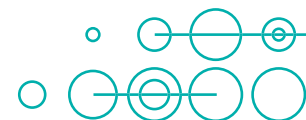




State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Bhutan ⁸⁸	No	No	No	No ⁸⁹	[Yes]	Yes
Botswana	No	No	No	No	No	No
Brunei Darussala ⁹⁰	No	No	Some ⁹¹	No	No	No
Burkina Faso ⁹²	No	No	Some ⁹³	Some ⁹⁴	[Yes]	Yes
Burundi	No	No	No	[Yes]	No	Yes
Cameroon	No	No	[Some] ⁹⁵	Yes	[Yes]	Yes
Canada	No ⁹⁶	Some ⁹⁷	Some ⁹⁸	Yes ⁹⁹	Yes	Yes
Central African Republic	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Chad ¹⁰⁰	No	[Some] ¹⁰¹	[Some] ¹⁰²	Yes	[Yes]	Yes
Comoros ¹⁰³	No	No	No	No	No	[Yes]
Cook Islands	No	No	Some ¹⁰⁴	Yes	No	Yes
Côte d'Ivoire	No	No	No	No ¹⁰⁵	Yes	Yes
Cuba ¹⁰⁶	No	[Some] ¹⁰⁷	[Some] ¹⁰⁸	[Yes]	Yes	Yes
Czech Republic	No	Some ¹⁰⁹	Some ¹¹⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes
Djibouti	No	No	No	[Yes]	No	Yes
Dominica	No	No	Some ¹¹¹	No	No	No
DPR Korea ¹¹²	No	No	No	[No] ¹¹³	[Yes]	[Yes]
DR Congo	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

⁸⁸Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum which followed 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation and Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2019), but no progress since 2006 ⁸⁹Code of Conduct and ministerial directives state corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ⁹⁰Government accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit but rejected others (2009) ⁹¹Prohibited in childcare centres ⁹²Draft legislation which would prohibit under discussion (2014); Government noted a UPR recommendation to prohibit in 2018 ⁹³Prohibited in preschool settings ⁹⁴Prohibited in primary schools ⁹⁵Possibly prohibited in nursery education ⁹⁶2004 Supreme Court ruling limited but upheld parents' right to physically punish children ⁹⁷Prohibited in state provided care in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Yukon, and in foster care in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario; in Ontario prohibited in provincially licensed childcare programmes and in foster homes for children receiving services from provincially licensed/approved child protection agency or other service provider ⁹⁸Prohibited in all states/territories except Quebec ⁹⁹Unlawful under 2004 Supreme Court ruling but this not yet confirmed in laws relating to private schools and to all schools in Alberta and Manitoba ¹⁰⁰Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in 2009 but rejected recommendation to prohibit in 2013 ¹⁰¹Possibly prohibited in institutional care settings ¹⁰²Possibly prohibited in institutions ¹⁰³Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit in 2014 but noted similar recommendations in 2019 ¹⁰⁴Prohibited in institutions providing early childhood education ¹⁰⁵Ministerial circular states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ¹⁰⁶Had initially committed to prohibition with the adoption of the Central American Regional Roadmap on Violence against Children (2011) which recommends full prohibition, but no progress since ¹⁰⁷Possibly prohibited in care institutions ¹⁰⁸Possibly prohibited in preschool institutions ¹⁰⁹Unlawful in institutions ¹¹⁰Prohibited in preschool provision ¹¹¹Prohibited in early childhood education facilities ¹¹²Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2014) ¹¹³Policy states corporal punishment should not be used but possibly no prohibition in law





State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Egypt	No	No	No	[No] ¹¹⁴	[Yes] ¹¹⁵	Yes
El Salvador ¹¹⁶	No	No	Some ¹¹⁷	Yes	Yes	Yes
Equatorial Guinea	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Eritrea	No	No	No	No ¹¹⁸	[No]	Yes
Eswatini	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Ethiopia ¹¹⁹	No	Some ¹²⁰	Some ¹²⁰	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fiji ¹²²	No	No	No	Yes ¹²³	Yes	Yes
Gabon	No	No	Some ¹²⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gambia	No	No ¹²⁵	No	No ¹²⁶	No	Yes
Grenada	No	Some ¹²⁷	No	No	No	Yes ¹²⁸
Guatemala ¹²⁹	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Guinea-Bissau ¹³⁰	No	[No]	[No]	[Yes]	[Yes]	Yes
Guyana	No	Some ¹³¹	Some ¹³²	No	[Yes]	Yes
Haiti	No ¹³³	[Yes] ¹³⁴	[Yes] ¹³⁵	Yes	Yes	Yes
India ¹³⁶	No	Some ¹³⁷	Some ¹³⁸	Some ¹³⁹	Yes ¹⁴⁰	Some ¹⁴¹
Iran	No	No	Some ¹⁴²	No ¹⁴³	Yes	No
Iraq	No ¹⁴⁴	No	No	No	Some ¹⁴⁵	Yes
Jamaica	No	Yes	Some ¹⁴⁶	No ¹⁴⁷	Yes	Yes

¹¹⁴Ministerial directive states corporal punishment should not be used but possibly no prohibition in law ¹¹⁵Possibly lawful in social welfare institutions ¹¹⁶Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation in 2010; but Bills to prohibit were archived in 2017 ¹¹⁷Prohibited in preschool provision ¹¹⁸Policy states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ¹¹⁹Government accepted UPR recommendation to abolish corporal punishment but rejected recommendation to criminalise it (2014) ¹²⁰Prohibited in institutions ¹²¹Prohibited in institutions ¹²²Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation in 2014; but no progress since ¹²³Unlawful under 2002 High Court ruling, not yet confirmed in legislation ¹²⁴Prohibited in preschool provision ¹²⁵Minimum standards for residential childcare institutions state corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ¹²⁶Ministerial directive advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ¹²⁷Prohibited in child care services ¹²⁸Some provisions still to be formally repealed ¹²⁹Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in the home (2008) and in all settings (2012) but has also said existing law prohibits ¹³⁰Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation in 2015; but no progress since ¹³¹Prohibited in some but not all settings in Child Care and Services Development Act 2011 ¹³²Prohibited in some but not all settings in Child Care and Services Development Act 2011 ¹³³Bill which would prohibit under discussion (2015) ¹³⁴Prohibition in foster care unconfirmed ¹³⁵Prohibition in crèches and childminding unconfirmed ¹³⁶Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings in report to UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011) and Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit (2012), but no progress since ¹³⁷Prohibited in care institutions except in Jammu and Kashmir; bill which would prohibit in all childcare institutions under discussion (2014) ¹³⁸Bill which would prohibit in anganwadi centres and playschools under discussion (2014) ¹³⁹Prohibited for 6-14 year olds except in Jammu and Kashmir; not prohibited in religious schools ¹⁴⁰But prohibiting law not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir ¹⁴¹Permitted in traditional justice systems ¹⁴²Prohibited in day care centres (kindergartens) ¹⁴³Government directive states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ¹⁴⁴But possibly prohibited in Kurdistan ¹⁴⁵Prohibited in prisons and detention centres ¹⁴⁶Prohibited in early childhood centres (“basic schools”) ¹⁴⁷Prohibition under discussion (2015); see also note on day care





State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Jordan ¹⁴⁸	No	[Some] ¹⁴⁹	[No]	Yes	[Yes]	Yes
Kazakhstan	No	[Some] ¹⁵⁰	Some ¹⁵¹	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kiribati ¹⁵²	No	No	Some ¹⁵³	Yes	No	Some ¹⁵⁴
Kuwait ¹⁵⁵	No	No	No	Yes	No	[Yes]
Lao PDR	No	No	Some ¹⁵⁶	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lebanon	No	No	No	No ¹⁵⁷	[Yes]	Yes
Lesotho ¹⁵⁸	No	No	No	[Yes]	No	Yes
Liberia	No	Some ¹⁵⁹	Some ¹⁶⁰	No	Yes	Yes
Libya	No	No	Some ¹⁶¹	Yes	No	No
Madagascar	No	No	No	[Yes]	No	Yes
Malawi	No	Some ¹⁶²	Some ¹⁶³	[Yes] ¹⁶⁴	Yes	Yes
Malaysia	No	No	No	No	No	No ¹⁶⁵
Maldives ¹⁶⁶	No	No	No	No ¹⁶⁷	No	No
Mali	No	No	Some ¹⁶⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marshall Islands ¹⁶⁹	No	No	No	[Yes] ¹⁷⁰	Yes	Yes
Mauritania	No	No	No	No ¹⁷¹	[Some] ¹⁷²	No
Micronesia ¹⁷³	No	No	No	[Yes]	No	Yes
Monaco	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Morocco ¹⁷⁴	No	No	No	No ¹⁷⁵	Yes	Yes

¹⁴⁸Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2009) but stated current laws do not prescribe corporal punishment and subsequently limited but did not repeal right to discipline according to “general custom” ¹⁴⁹Possibly prohibited in institutions ¹⁵⁰Possibly prohibited in children’s villages ¹⁵¹Prohibited in preschool education and training ¹⁵²Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings and repeal “reasonable punishment” defence (2015); but later implied corporal punishment was already prohibited (2018) ¹⁵³Prohibited in early childhood care and education for children between 3 and 6 years old ¹⁵⁴But used in traditional justice ¹⁵⁵Government accepted 2010 UPR recommendation to prohibit but subsequently stated existing law adequate; Government accepted 2015 recommendation to prohibit but appeared to defend “simple discipline” ¹⁵⁶Unlawful in early childhood education settings ¹⁵⁷Ministerial directive states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ¹⁵⁸Government accepted UPR recommendation to abolish corporal punishment, stating it was being implemented (2010), but subsequent law reform prohibited only as sentence for crime ¹⁵⁹Corporal punishment by child protection practitioners prohibited ¹⁶⁰Corporal punishment by child protection practitioners prohibited ¹⁶¹Unlawful in preschool provision ¹⁶²Prohibited in state-run institutions ¹⁶³Prohibited in state-run day care ¹⁶⁴Prohibition in private schools unconfirmed ¹⁶⁵Government committed to prohibition (2007); bill which would prohibit (but not under Islamic law) under discussion (2015) ¹⁶⁶Government expressed commitment to prohibition in all settings, including the home, at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum, following 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation, but law reform in 2014/2015 re-authorised corporal punishment in all settings and Government rejected UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015) ¹⁶⁷Ministry of Education advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ¹⁶⁸Prohibited in preschools and kindergartens ¹⁶⁹Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015); but no progress since ¹⁷⁰But some legislation still to be formally repealed ¹⁷¹Ministerial Order states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ¹⁷²Child Protection Code prohibits corporal punishment of children in the penitentiary system but possibly not all institutions, and we have been unable to confirm whether the Code has been gazetted ¹⁷³Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2015); but no progress since ¹⁷⁴Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2012); but later stated that prohibition was already achieved (2017) ¹⁷⁵Ministerial direction advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law.





State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Nauru	No	No	[Some] ¹⁷⁶	Yes	Yes	[Yes]
Nigeria	No	No	No	No ¹⁷⁷	Some ¹⁷⁸	Some ¹⁷⁹
Niue	No	No	No	No	[Yes]	Yes
Oman ¹⁸⁰	No	No	[Some] ¹⁸¹	Yes	No	[Yes]
Pakistan ¹⁸²	Some ¹⁸³	Some ¹⁸⁴	Some ¹⁸⁵	Some ¹⁸⁶	Some ¹⁸⁷	Some ¹⁸⁸
Palau ¹⁸⁹	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Papua New Guinea ¹⁹⁰	No	Some ¹⁹¹	No	No	Yes	Yes
Qatar ¹⁹²	No	No	No	No ¹⁹³	Yes	No
Russian Federation	No	No	Some ¹⁹⁴	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rwanda ¹⁹⁵	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Samoa ¹⁹⁶	No	No	Some ¹⁹⁷	Some ¹⁹⁸	Yes	Yes
Sao Tome and Principe ¹⁹⁹	No	No	No	[Yes]	[Yes]	[Yes]
Saudi Arabia ²⁰⁰	No	No	No	No ²⁰¹	No	No
Senegal ²⁰²	No	No	No	Some ²⁰³	[Yes]	Yes
Singapore	No	No	Some ²⁰⁴	No	No	No
Slovakia ²⁰⁵	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹⁷⁶Possibly prohibited in preschool education settings ¹⁷⁷But possibly prohibited in Lagos State ¹⁷⁸Prohibited in Child Rights Act 2003, not enacted in all states ¹⁷⁹Prohibited in Child Rights Act 2003, not enacted in all states; lawful in some states under Shari'a law ¹⁸⁰Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2015); but no progress since ¹⁸¹Possibly prohibited in preschool provision ¹⁸²Had initially committed to prohibition in all settings at July 2006 meeting of South Asia Forum which followed 2005 UN Study on Violence against Children regional consultation; but no Pakistan-wide progress since ¹⁸³Prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit-Baltistan ¹⁸⁴Prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit-Baltistan, in Islamabad Capital Territory and in Sindh ¹⁸⁵Prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad Capital Territory and in Sindh ¹⁸⁶Prohibited for 5-16 year olds in Punjab; prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad Capital Territory and Sindh ¹⁸⁷Prohibited in Juvenile Justice System Act 2018, unclear whether applicable in all areas and other laws not amended/repealed; prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad Capital Territory and Sindh ¹⁸⁸Lawful under Shari'a law; prohibited in Pakistan administered Gilgit-Baltistan ¹⁸⁹Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit (2011, 2016); but Penal Code 2013 authorised the use of force in disciplining children ¹⁹⁰Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011); but later claimed prohibition was already achieved (2016) ¹⁹¹Corporal punishment of children "in the care of the Director" prohibited ¹⁹²Government accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit but rejected another similar one, stating corporal punishment already prohibited (2010) ¹⁹³Code of Conduct for schools states corporal punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ¹⁹⁴Unlawful in preschool provision ¹⁹⁵Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings and to repeal the "right of correction" (2011, 2015); but law reform since did not achieve prohibition ¹⁹⁶Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in the home (2011); but in 2019 reintroduced "reasonable force" against students in government secondary schools ¹⁹⁷Prohibited in early childhood centres ¹⁹⁸Prohibited in government primary schools ¹⁹⁹Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011, 2015); but no progress since ²⁰⁰Government accepted UPR recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment in schools and penal system but stated already prohibited in schools and care settings (2009); recommendations to prohibit in 2013 UPR rejected ²⁰¹Ministerial circulars advise against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ²⁰²Draft legislation to prohibit under discussion (2016) ²⁰³Prohibited for 6-14 year olds ²⁰⁴Early Childhood Development Centres Regulations 2018 prohibit corporal punishment in early childhood development centres ²⁰⁵Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit (2009); but no progress since despite prohibiting legislation having been drafted in 2014

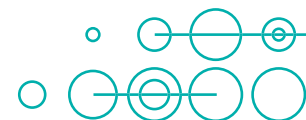




State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
Solomon Islands ²⁰⁶	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes ²⁰⁷
Somalia	No	Some ²⁰⁸	Some ²⁰⁹	[Some] ²¹⁰	Some ²¹¹	Some ²¹²
St Kitts and Nevis	No	No	No	No	No	[Yes] ²¹³
St Lucia ²¹⁴	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
St Vincent and the Grenadines	No	No	No	No	No	No
State of Palestine	No	No	No	Some ²¹⁵	[Some] ²¹⁶	[Some] ²¹⁷
Sudan	No	No	[Yes] ²¹⁸	Yes	Yes	Yes
Suriname	No	No	No	No ²¹⁹	Yes	Yes
Switzerland	No ²²⁰	[Some] ²²¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Syrian Arab Republic	No	No	No	No ²²²	No	Yes
Taiwan	No	No	Some ²²³	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tajikistan ²²⁴	No	No	Some ²²⁵	Yes	No	Yes
Thailand ²²⁶	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tonga	No	No	Some ²²⁷	Yes	[Yes]	No ²²⁸
Trinidad and Tobago	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Turkey ²²⁹	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tuvalu ²³⁰	No	Some ²³¹	No	No	Some ²³²	Some ²³³
Uganda ²³⁴	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

²⁰⁶Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011) but stated review of Penal Code included assessing need for clarification on lawful corporal punishment ²⁰⁷But used in traditional justice ²⁰⁸Prohibited in Somaliland ²⁰⁹Prohibited in Somaliland ²¹⁰Possibly prohibited in Somaliland ²¹¹Prohibited in Somaliland ²¹²Prohibited in Somaliland ²¹³But some legislation still to be formally repealed ²¹⁴Government accepted some but not all UPR recommendations to prohibit (2015) ²¹⁵Prohibited in UNRWA schools and in East Jerusalem; elsewhere Ministerial direction advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ²¹⁶Possibly unlawful in East Jerusalem ²¹⁷Possibly unlawful in Gaza ²¹⁸The Regulation on behaviour control in educational institutions 2020 prohibit corporal punishment in preschool ²¹⁹Government accepted UPR recommendation to prohibit in schools (2011) ²²⁰2003 Federal Court ruling stated repeated and habitual corporal punishment unacceptable but did not rule out all corporal punishment in childrearing ²²¹Possibly lawful in family placements ²²²Ministry of Education advises against corporal punishment but no prohibition in law ²²³Prohibited in preschools and community, tribal and workplace cooperative early childhood care institutions for children between two and six ²²⁴Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011); but no progress since ²²⁵Prohibited in preschool education settings ²²⁶Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit in all settings (2012, 2016); but no progress since ²²⁷Prohibited in preschool institutions ²²⁸2010 Court of Appeal ruling stated "it might be argued" whipping is unconstitutional but did not declare it such ²²⁹Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendations to prohibit (2010, 2015); but no progress since ²³⁰Government accepted 2008 UPR recommendation to prohibit but in 2013 accepted some UPR recommendations to prohibit and rejected others ²³¹Prohibited in hospital mental health wing ²³²Corporal punishment by police officers prohibited ²³³Island courts may order corporal punishment ²³⁴Government had originally expressed commitment by tabling in 2015 a Bill which would have prohibited in all settings but Bill failed to progress through parliament; and no further progress since





State	Prohibited in the home	Prohibited in alternative care settings	Prohibited in day care	Prohibited in schools	Prohibited in penal institutions	Prohibited as sentence for crime
UK	Some ²³⁵	Some ²³⁶	Some ²³⁷	Yes ²³⁸	Yes	Yes
UR Tanzania	No	Some ²³⁹	No	No ²⁴⁰	Some ²⁴¹	Some ²⁴²
USA	No	Some ²⁴³	Some ²⁴⁴	Some ²⁴⁵	Some ²⁴⁶	Yes
Vanuatu	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Some ²⁴⁷
Viet Nam	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Western Sahara	No	[No]	[No]	[No]	[Yes]	[Yes]
Yemen	No	No	[Some] ²⁴⁸	Yes	Yes	No
Zimbabwe ²⁴⁹	No	No	No	No	No	Yes ²⁵⁰

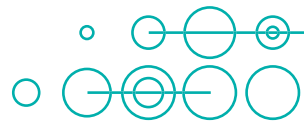
The information in the above tables is based wherever possible on examination of national legislation; additional information is gathered from many sources, including reports to and by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. **Information in square brackets is unconfirmed.** We are very grateful to government officials, UNICEF and other UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions, and many individuals who have assisted us in our research. We welcome corrections and updates: email secretariat@end-violence.org. For further details on all states see the individual state reports at endcorporalpunishment.org.



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²³⁵Prohibited in Scotland under the 2019 Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act and in Wales under the 2020 Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act ²³⁶Prohibited in residential institutions and foster care arranged by local authorities and voluntary organisations; fully prohibited in Scotland and Wales ²³⁷Prohibited in day care and childminding in England, Wales and Scotland; in Northern Ireland, guidance states physical punishment should not be used but no prohibition in law ²³⁸But in 2014 Government confirmed no prohibition in “unregistered independent settings providing part-time education”; fully prohibited in Scotland and Wales ²³⁹Prohibited in residential institutions in Zanzibar ²⁴⁰Directive prohibits corporal punishment in classrooms from pre-primary to third grade, in mainland Tanzania ²⁴¹Prohibited in approved schools and remand homes in Zanzibar ²⁴²Prohibited in Zanzibar ²⁴³Prohibited in all care settings in 31 states, and in some settings in other states and District of Columbia ²⁴⁴Prohibited in all care settings in 31 states, and in some settings in other states and District of Columbia ²⁴⁵Prohibited in public schools in 29 states and District of Columbia, and in public and private schools in Iowa and New Jersey; federal bill which would prohibit under discussion (2019) ²⁴⁶Prohibited in 32 states ²⁴⁷Permitted in rural areas under customary justice systems ²⁴⁸Possibly prohibited in preschool provision ²⁴⁹Had initially committed to prohibition by accepting UPR recommendation to prohibit in all settings (2011); but later noted similar UPR recommendations (2016) ²⁵⁰2014 High Court ruling declaring judicial corporal punishment unconstitutional confirmed by 2019 Constitutional Court decision but some legislation still to be repealed





An individual's understanding of discipline, respect for rules, a healthy attitude towards a non-violent society are integral attributes that must be instilled from a young age. However, in civilized society, these goals are to be accomplished using alternative forms of discipline which do not inflict physical or mental harm.

Sri Lanka Supreme Court, February 2021



UNI329145





**End Violence
Against Children**



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Positive
Discipline In
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