



Global Initiative to
**End All Corporal Punishment
of Children**

GLOBAL INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER 17 **(JULY 2011)**

As South Sudan achieves independence, it becomes the 30th state worldwide – the 3rd in Africa – to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including by parents. We also bring news of bills under discussion, international and national campaigns for law reform, new research studies and much more. With plenty of opportunities to contribute to the work of the Global Initiative, we hope this newsletter will both inform and inspire you to continue promoting law reform so that children can be legally protected from assault just as adults are.

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1 GLOBAL PROGRESS

Prohibition of all corporal punishment

South Sudan: With the achievement of independence on 9 July, South Sudan can now be recognised as the 30th country to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including by parents. Prohibiting legislation was originally enacted in 2005 under the Interim Government of South Sudan, in article 21 of the Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan. Prohibition was subsequently confirmed in article 21 of the Child Act (2008). Now a new Constitution is in force – the Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan (2011) – article 17 of which prohibits all corporal punishment: “Every child has the right ... (f) to be free from corporal punishment and cruel and inhuman treatment by any person including parents, school administrations and other institutions....” South Sudan is the third state to achieve full prohibition in Africa, alongside Tunisia and Kenya. For further information see www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

Other positive moves

Africa: The strategic plan to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment in African states developed at the Strategic Consultation in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in February/March (see previous newsletter) is now available in [English](#) and [French](#).

Bangladesh: New guidelines against corporal punishment in schools, including government and non-government schools and madrasas, came into effect in April, following a High Court ruling in January that corporal punishment of children is unconstitutional. The guidelines state that teachers using corporal punishment may face measures under the Civil Service Rules (discipline and appeal) (1985) and under criminal law. The prohibition is yet to be confirmed through law reform.

The Supreme Court in Dhaka ruled that fatwas (religious edicts) can lawfully be issued providing that corporal punishment is not imposed. The judgment relates to two petitions challenging an earlier complete ban on fatwas and follows the case of a 14 year old rape victim who died following a fatwa-ordered whipping.

Belize: Prohibition of corporal punishment in schools came into effect on 6 May, after Minister of Education Patrick Faber signed Statutory Instrument 40, thus lifting the 15-month suspension on sections 50(2) and 51(4) of the Education Act, which prohibit corporal punishment of students. Detailed guidelines on implementing the new law have yet to be published.

Brazil: A high level seminar was held in the House of Representatives in May, organised by the Government of Brazil, the Embassy of Sweden and Save the Children Sweden, to discuss a draft bill to prohibit all corporal punishment (Bill 7.672/10). Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights and Minorities Manuela d’Avila announced that a parliamentary committee will be set up to scrutinise the bill.

Philippines: The Positive and Non-Violent Discipline of Children Bill (House Bill 4455) passed its third reading in the Lower House; it now requires Senate approval in order to become law.

Slovenia: The new Family Code, which would prohibit corporal punishment by parents, has been passed by parliament. There is one more obstacle to overcome before it becomes law.

US: New Mexico has prohibited corporal punishment in all public schools, with effect from 1 July 2011.

Zimbabwe: There are plans to revise subsidiary legislation under the Child Act to prohibit corporal punishment of boys in schools (corporal punishment of girls is already prohibited).

But ...

Tanzania: A new Children's Act was passed in Zanzibar which prohibits corporal punishment in the penal system but does not explicitly prohibit it in any other setting and confirms the right of parents to discipline children provided no injury is caused.

US: A bill was passed in Texas which gives parents the choice as to whether or not their children can receive corporal punishment at school, but does not prohibit corporal punishment for all children. In New Hampshire, a bill was under discussion which would grant teachers civil and criminal immunity for using "reasonable force" to discipline students. In North Carolina, the Senate approved legislation which allows parents to exempt children from corporal punishment but does not prohibit all corporal punishment.

Other developments

Lesotho: The Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2011 was passed in June, replacing the outdated Children's Protection Act 1980. We have yet to examine the full text of the new law: in draft form it included provisions prohibiting corporal punishment as a sentence for crime but authorising "justifiable" discipline.

Republic of Congo: The Child Protection Law 2010 includes prohibition of corporal punishment. We are currently trying to establish whether it amounts to prohibition in all settings, including by parents – watch this space!

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2 CAMPAIGNS AND CALLS FOR PROHIBITION

International and regional campaigns

The **Women's World Summit Foundation Children-Youth Section** has launched a [Prevention Kit](#) for a new campaign of 19 days of activism, to run from 1 to 19 November 2011. The campaign covers many types of violence against children but its main theme in 2011 is the prevention of corporal punishment. The Prevention Kit provides background information on the issue to support successful campaigning and awareness raising, including on the importance of law reform as a preventive measure, ideas for action and selected resources. For further information see <http://www.woman.ch/>.

A **Global Summit on Ending Corporal Punishment and Promoting Positive Discipline** was held in Texas in June, which aimed to (a) raise public awareness about the rights of children and problems associated with corporal punishment, (b) bring together individuals from different walks of life and professionals committed to ending corporal punishment of children, and (c) develop strategies for advancing the worldwide movement to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children. Participants came from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, England, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, India, Israel, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Sudan, Sweden, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand and the US. The summit concluded with the adoption of a [proclamation](#) against the use of corporal punishment, including in homes and schools. For further information, including presentations, backgrounds documents, etc, see the [summit website](#). (Note: A press release by Southern Methodist University, major funders of the summit, described how on returning from the summit, Board Director

for National Child Protection Training Center and key advocate for prohibition Nadine Block was stopped by TSA security. They were so concerned about the school paddle in her luggage that she was forced to leave it behind. The paddle, which security called “a potential weapon”, is the implement used in schools in 19 US states to hit children in the name of discipline....)

The **EU** and **UNICEF** launched a project to help protect children from violence in South East Europe. The initiative aims to strengthen public services to identify, monitor and address violence against children in homes, schools and the community in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey, through reinforcing partnership between civil society and state decision makers. The governmental Council of Child Rights in Serbia has proposed amendments to the Family Law to prohibit corporal punishment in the home.

The **World Day of Prayer and Action for Children**, an initiative of [Arigatou International](#), is a global movement to encourage secular and faith-based organisations to work together for the well-being of children and is celebrated every 20 November. At a planning meeting in Geneva it was decided to adopt the theme of “[Stop Violence Against Children](#)” for 2011-2013. Preventing violence against children in the home, schools, care settings, the workplace and the community will inform all World Day activities, with a particular focus on the abolition of corporal punishment, the prevention of early child marriage and the promotion of birth registration.

National news

Australia: Child welfare campaigner and former New South Wales politician Alan Corbett called for the abolition of corporal punishment in schools; Queensland Independent Union general secretary Terry Burke agreed with a nationwide ban on caning. But schools in Queensland reportedly defended the use of corporal punishment. (*News.com.au*, 30 June 2011)

Canada: An [online petition](#) has been set up to support ending legal approval of corporal punishment by repealing section 43 of the Criminal Code, which allows the use of force on a child “by way of correction”.

France: The [Fondation pour l’Enfance](#) and Agence Publicis Conseil launched a TV and web campaign on ending the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure. A [short film](#) seeks to show how parents who hit their children were often hit themselves as children. The film was broadcast on TV channels and on the world wide web. [Another film](#) was produced emphasising how abolishing everyday violence against children is “one of the most important humanitarian steps for mankind”.

Pakistan: The [National Juvenile Justice Network](#) (NJN) in association with the [Child Rights Information Network](#) (CRIN) and [Defence for Children International](#) (DCI) launched a postcard campaign against inhuman and degrading sentences for child offenders in Pakistan, where children may lawfully be sentenced to death, life imprisonment and corporal punishment. A joint letter was sent to the Prime Minister from the three organisations as part of CRIN’s global campaign on the same issue.

Philippines: [Plan International](#) is conducting a project called “Strengthening Civil Society in Eliminating Violence Against Children in the Philippines” which aims to increase the capacity of civil society organisations to reduce the prevalence of corporal punishment and promote non-violent discipline in homes, schools and other settings. Funded by the European Union and Plan Germany, the two-year project will be implemented by Plan in partnership with the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population & Development and other bodies. (*Philippine Information Agency*, 14 April 2011)

UK: The May edition of the Children Are Unbeatable! Newsletter (England) carries news of increasing support for prohibition in parliament and among local child protection authorities, updates on efforts to end the use of painful restraint techniques in juvenile detention facilities, new research in England and Wales, and actions that supporters of the campaign can take to promote legal and social change.

US: The Hitting Stops Here campaign held a series of events across Mississippi throughout May promoting prohibition of corporal punishment in schools. (*ClarionLedge.com*, 7 May 2011)

Zambia: The Zambia Civic Education Association and other organisations have called for an immediate end to corporal punishment. The Human Rights Commission stated that corporal punishment undermines effective participation in the political and socio-economic development of a society, violating the right to human dignity and integrity. The remarks were made during the official launch of a Civic Education Campaign on ending corporal punishment and poster exhibition “Corporal Punishment Free Zone” in Lusaka in May.

And ...

A high-level **Expert Meeting on “Tackling Violence in Schools”** was held in June in Oslo, Norway, organised by the Norwegian Government, the Council of Europe and the SRSG on Violence against Children Ms Marta Santos Pais. The importance of prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment in schools was a key element of the discussion, at which the Global Initiative launched its new global report in schools (see below).

On 6/7 July, an **International Expert Consultation on Violence against Children and Law Reform** was held in Geneva, hosted by the SRSG on Violence against Children in cooperation with OHCHR, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International NGO Advisory Council for follow up to the UNSG’s Study on violence against children. The aim was to accelerate the adoption of effective legislation to protect children from all forms of violence. The Global Initiative prepared an extended briefing on what can be learned from states which have achieved prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings (for a copy see www.endcorporalpunishment.org or email info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

NEW RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LAW REFORM

New handbook to support faith-based approaches to ending corporal punishment

Ending corporal punishment of children: A handbook for working with and within religious communities (2011), with a Foreword by Marta Santos Pais, SRSG on Violence against Children, is a new joint publication from the Churches’ Network for Non-violence, the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children and Save the Children Sweden. Packed with positive examples and links to resources, it aims to help those working with and within religious communities to harness faith-based support for reform in their efforts to end corporal punishment of children. It includes the following sections:

- (1) *Introduction*, describes the links between religion and corporal punishment of children
- (2) *Corporal punishment of children – a global problem*, discusses prevalence and impact research, children’s perspectives, the importance of legal reform and progress towards it, with examples of religious leaders’ involvement
- (3) *Children’s right to protection from corporal punishment*, looks at the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its relevance to religious practice
- (4) *Religious perspectives*, discusses the challenges of faith-based opposition to prohibition and ways of responding to it, drawing on faith-based support for law reform and perspectives on

children and non-violence from the major world religions

(5) *Working with faith groups to achieve reform* and (6) *Taking action through religious leaders' existing roles and functions*, address ways of engaging with faith leaders and organisations and developing partnerships at all levels.

(7) *Resources*, lists further resources relevant to the above sections.

A limited number of hard copies is available from info@churchesfornon-violence.org.

Report on corporal punishment in schools

A new report has been published by the Global Initiative, *Prohibiting all corporal punishment in schools: Global Report 2011*. Beginning with the human rights imperative to prohibit – “Children do not lose their human rights by virtue of passing through the school gates” – the report summarises research on corporal punishment in schools and illustrates progress in all regions. It covers the key elements of achieving prohibition in schools and how the law can be implemented and enforced. The report includes examples of laws from states which have achieved prohibition and a list of useful resources to support the promotion of law reform. A limited number of hard copies is available from info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

New websites

The website of the **Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children** is now live: <http://srsg.violenceagainstchildren.org/>.

The **Child Rights Information Network** (CRIN) launched its new [Arabic website](#) and [CRINMAIL](#) to coincide with World Press Freedom Day on 3 May. The website provides comprehensive information and advocacy tools on all children's rights, including the right to protection from corporal punishment. It will provide ongoing coverage of children's rights news, related activities and events at regional and international levels. Key resources have been translated into Arabic, including laws relating to corporal punishment, CRIN's microsite on violence and the main page for the campaign against inhuman sentencing of children.

Spare the Kids is a new website set up by Dr Stacey Patton in the US, who describes herself as adoptee, child abuse survivor and former foster child turned children's advocate, journalist, historian, college professor and motivational speaker. The mission of Spare the Kids is to provide Black parents, families and communities with a full range of alternatives to corporal punishment and to reduce the number of children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The website features a cartoon series (Mother Wit) promoting positive parenting, a blog, and information on workshops on a variety of relevant themes.

Other resources ...

An [advocacy toolkit](#) has been produced to support CRIN's [campaign against inhuman sentencing](#). It provides advocacy ideas to organisations and individuals in states in which children in conflict with the law may be sentenced to the death penalty, life imprisonment and/or corporal punishment. The toolkit is a work in progress and CRIN is inviting feedback, submissions and comments. Four new [country reports](#) on inhuman sentencing are now available, Kiribati, Somalia, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The May edition of the Africa newsletter on corporal punishment jointly published by the African Child Policy Forum and the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment was issued in May, in [English](#) and [French](#). To be added to the mailing list please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

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3 HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING

Key decisions and recommendations, etc

The **Committee on the Rights of the Child** issued concluding observations on states examined at its 57th session in May/June 2011 – Bahrain, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt and Finland. In Costa Rica and Finland, corporal punishment is unlawful in all settings, including the home: to these states the Committee recommended measures to support full implementation of the law, including appropriate awareness raising and public education. In the other states corporal punishment is lawful in the home and other settings: the Committee recommended law reform to ensure children are legally protected from corporal punishment, together with measures to ensure full implementation of prohibition. The Committee's recommendations are included in the updated individual country reports at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

The Human Rights Council adopted a **new Optional Protocol** to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which provides for the Committee on the Rights of the Child to receive communications (complaints) concerning violations of child rights. It now goes to the UN General Assembly for adoption hopefully in the autumn and should be open for signature and ratification in 2012.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child have decided to issue a joint **General Recommendation/Comment on Harmful Practices**. Information from civil society is invited, with a deadline of 31 August. For details see the official [call for submissions](#).

The **Committee against Torture** examined states' implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment at its 46th session in May/June. The Committee expressed concern at the legality of corporal punishment of children in the home and other settings and recommended law reform to explicitly prohibit it in Ghana, Ireland, Mauritius, Monaco and Slovenia.

Following the 46th session of the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** in May, the Committee recommended that Yemen and Turkey prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including in the home.

The **Human Rights Committee**, examining states under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at its 101st session in March/April recommended that Slovakia and Mongolia prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings.

President of the **African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child**, Mrs Agnes Kabore/Quattara, issued a [statement on violence against children](#). The statement calls for increased efforts to end violence against children, urging governments to sign and ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, to implement laws against violence and provide resources to eliminate violence in schools.

The 11th session of the **Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review** was held in May. The official records of the sessions are not yet available but preliminary reports at www.ishr.ch indicate that corporal punishment was raised as an issue in the reviews of Suriname, Hungary, Papua New Guinea, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore and the Solomon Islands.

Two **new Conventions** have been adopted – the ILO [Domestic Workers Convention](#) and the Council of Europe [Convention on Preventing and Combating violence against women and domestic violence](#). They do not explicitly refer to corporal punishment but do provide for protection from all forms of violence and therefore potentially provide opportunities to promote prohibition of corporal punishment of children.

Briefing the human rights bodies

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. The information below concerns briefing the pre-sessional working groups which prepare the lists of issues for each state. 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* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 58th session in October 2011 to consider the issues to raise in forthcoming examinations of the Cook Islands, Niue, Australia, Algeria, Turkey, Cyprus, Viet Nam and Thailand. **The deadline for briefing the Committee has passed. We will include details on how to contribute to the following session as soon as they become available.**

The *Committee Against Torture* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 47th session in October/November 2011 to consider the issues to raise in its future examinations of Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Mexico, Russian Federation and Rwanda. **Briefings should be submitted by 31 July 2011.**

The *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 47th session in December 2011 to consider the issues to raise in its forthcoming examinations of Bulgaria, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Tanzania. **Briefings on these countries should be submitted by 10 October 2011.**

The *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* pre-sessional working group will be meeting at its 50th session in October 2011 to consider the issues to raise in its future examinations of Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa. **Briefings should be submitted by 3 September 2011.**

The country report task forces of the *Human Rights Committee* will be meeting at its 103rd session in October/November 2011 to consider the issues to raise in future examinations of Armenia, Lithuania, Kenya and Cape Verde. **Briefings should be submitted by 5 August 2011.**

The 12th session of the *Universal Periodic Review* will take place in October 2011, the final session of the first cycle of the Review. The deadlines for making submissions have now passed. The second cycle of the Review is due to begin in June 2012. **We will include information on deadlines for submitting briefings at the earliest opportunity.**

NEW RESOURCE TO SUPPORT NGO ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

FORUM-ASIA has launched a [training manual](#) to help civil society organisations understand and participate in the work of the ASEAN human rights mechanisms, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

4 RESEARCH AND REPORTS

International studies

The **Children's Legal Centre (UK)** and **UNICEF** have published a report on children in detention which includes information on children's exposure to corporal punishment while detained and the international human rights standards against it. *Administrative Detention of Children: A Global Report* is intended as a discussion document. It covers the detention of children for purposes of security,

immigration and on health grounds, as well as children who are detained because they are in need of care and protection or in conflict with the law.

National reports

New Zealand: New research on traditional Maori parenting was undertaken by the Maori child abuse prevention organisation Te Kahui Mana Ririki, commissioned by Children's Commissioner Dr John Angus. *Traditional Maori Parenting: An Historical Review of Literature on Traditional Maori Child Rearing Practices in Pre-European Times*, by Professor Kuni Jenkins and Helen Mountain looks at myths and legends, lullabies and birthing ceremonies as sources of information on Maori beliefs and practices. The research informs a parenting model "Tikanga Whakatipu Ririki" used in workshops around New Zealand. The report includes much to support peaceful and respecting parenting relevant to all ethnic groups.

South Africa: Statistics released in May show an increase in the use of corporal punishment in schools in some areas despite an overall decrease nationally. According to Statistics South Africa's latest General Household Survey (GHS 2010), from 2009 to 2010 there was an overall decrease in students experiencing corporal punishment, from 17% to 14%. But in the Northern Cape the figure rose from 5.6% to 17.5% and in the North West from 12.7% to 21.7%. Corporal punishment was most commonly experienced in Eastern Cape (23.3%), North West (21.7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (21.1%). The GHS was conducted July to September 2010 and involved face to face interviews in 25,635 households. Corporal punishment was prohibited in schools in South Africa in 1996.

Sudan: A report on the development of alternatives to corporal punishment in schools has been prepared by the Child Rights Institute in Khartoum and Save the Children Sweden/Sudan. Written by Nahid M. Alhassan Ali, Psychiatrist and Director of Alternatives to Corporal Punishment Program, *Alternatives to Corporal Punishment* describes the programme which began three years ago with the development of a manual on positive discipline, offering support for children affected by war through providing a friendly environment in schools. It describes a series of workshops for ministers, administrators and teachers which led to the adoption in 2010 of a Resolution against the use of corporal punishment in primary schools in Khartoum. There are plans to extend the training workshops nationwide and to target families as well as educators. For further information email sudanchild@hotmail.com.

Uganda: A new study by ANPPCAN Uganda focused on physical, sexual and emotional violence in 25 public and private primary schools, involving 1,015 children and 52 professionals. It revealed a range of corporal punishments being used, including children being beaten, denied food, locked in rooms, given difficult work and being forced to kneel in front of other children. Four out of five children (81%) reported having been beaten at school; 82% said they had witnessed friends being caned. Most school administrators said they limited beatings to two strokes of the cane; in some schools beatings were authorised by the PTA. Most perpetrators were teachers (73%), followed by other pupils (15%) and parents/guardians (12%). The study makes a number of recommendations to end violence in schools, including through passing the currently proposed amendments to the Children Act which would prohibit corporal punishment.

A report by Human Rights Watch – *Even Dead Bodies must Work: Health, Hard Labor, and Abuse in Ugandan Prisons* – documents corporal punishment of prisoners in Uganda, including beatings with batons, canes, sticks, whips and electric cable and wire, despite the prohibition of corporal punishment in the Prisons Act (2006). Children are sometimes detained with adults in

prisons, even though this is prohibited. The report calls for efforts to end the use of corporal punishment and prosecution of persons who inflict it.

UK: A large scale study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council found that children who are physically punished by parents are more likely to bully siblings and/or their peers than those who do not receive corporal punishment. Of 2,146 children aged 11-15, nearly 50% admitted to being involved in bullying at home. Of these, nearly 42% who were slapped by their parents and 37% who were shouted at admitted to bullying their siblings and being bullied themselves. Children who were never slapped or shouted at were less likely to bully and to be bullied (32% and 25% respectively).

US: A study of interactions between mothers and their children, in which mothers voluntarily audio recorded their evenings with young children over six days, captured occasional instances of corporal punishment, including hitting with the hand and with a belt. This is believed to be the first audio information on naturally occurring spanking. The study was presented by psychologist George W. Holden, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, at the Global Summit (see above). (Reported in *ScienceDaily*, 22 June 2011)

A study on parents' attitudes towards corporal punishment found that those who thought professionals and close family or friends approved of corporal punishment were more likely to think corporal punishment had positive outcomes for children and to approve of corporal punishment themselves. Parents who had been spanked more frequently as children were more likely to approve of corporal punishment, as were parents who said religion was very important in their daily life. Parents with greater knowledge about child development were less likely to approve of corporal punishment. The report suggests that reducing corporal punishment requires better training of professionals about physical punishment (because of their influence on parents' attitudes) and general public education campaigns and efforts to engage religious leaders. (Taylor, C. A. et al, 2011, "Perceived Social Norms, Expectations, and Attitudes toward Corporal Punishment among an Urban Community Sample of Parents", *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, 88(2), 254-269)

A 2011 focus group study in the south examined the beliefs and attitudes of urban, low-income Black mothers and carers towards corporal punishment. Most of the 18 participants believed that using some form of corporal punishment was at times necessary and expected, for the good of their children, to promote their safety and "respect" for their parents. They also felt corporal punishment was "expected" within certain social groups, including Black parents and Christian faith groups, and many mentioned their own experiences of corporal punishment in childhood as a reason for using corporal punishment. The report suggests that to reducing corporal punishment in this type of community requires both the promotion of positive parenting techniques and the engagement of extended family members and trusted community and religious leaders, including ministers. (Taylor, C. A. et al., 2011, "Perceived Instrumentality and Normativeness of Corporal Punishment Use Among Black Mothers", *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies*, 60 (February 2011), p. 60-72)

In a survey in North Carolina, 30% of mothers of children under 2 years old admitted to spanking their children; 5% of mothers of 3 month olds said they had spanked them, and more than 70% of 23 month olds had done so. (Zolotor, A. J. et al., 2011, "The emergence of spanking among a representative sample of children under 2 years of age in North Carolina", *Frontiers in Child and Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry*, 2(36), 1-8)

A report released in May by Action for Children North Carolina reveals that corporal punishment is declining in NC public schools, being administered 679 times during the 2009-

2010 school year compared with more than 2,700 times four years previously. The study found that all districts where corporal punishment occurs have policies that require parental consent before a student is hit but procedures for obtaining consent are inconsistent and often confusing. *Parental Rights in Jeopardy: Corporal Punishment in the Public Schools* does not call for abolition of corporal punishment but states that in light of the unlikelihood of prohibition, parents should be given the opportunity to exempt their children from it.

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5 MEDIA WATCH

A selection of media reports ...

Australia: An investigation by the *Herald Sun* found that between 2007 and 2009 the Victoria Education Department investigated 187 cases of “inappropriate discipline” in childcare centres; there were no prosecutions. The report criticises the Department for inadequately enforcing the law. From January 2012, national and state laws governing childcare standards will be combined; corporal punishment will be prohibited under the new regulations. (*Herald Sun*, 13 April 2011; *Daily Telegraph*, 4 April 2011)

Bangladesh: A girl in the eighth grade was allegedly beaten unconscious by her teacher at Taslima Memorial Academy, Barguna. The teacher was suspended. (*bdnews24.com*, 21 June 2011)

Barbados: According to director of the National Task Force on Crime Prevention Cheryl Willoughby removing corporal punishment from schools would lead to a “chaotic” society. (*NationNews.com*, 13 May 2011)

Belize: Parents of students at a privately-run Mennonite school protested at proposed changes to be introduced at the school, including the use of corporal punishment with a paddle. The proposals come despite recent law reform which prohibited corporal punishment in schools. (*Belize Daily Mail*, 5 May 2011)

Bhutan: Twenty-eight principals and teachers from 19 dzongkhags attended training on Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching in Punakha, as part of the national initiative to promote quality education. The training was organised by the Ministry of Education with UNICEF support. (*Bhutan Observer*, 4 April 2011)

Egypt: A day care teacher was arrested after a video was released showing him beating children as young as five with a ruler and pulling their hair. The centre was reportedly closed down by order of the Minister of Social Solidarity. (*Mail Online*, 27 May 2011)

Fiji: The Education Ministry called on teachers to stop using corporal punishment. Minister Filipe Bole is reported as saying that teachers who use corporal punishment “show lack of initiative and creativity” and “are bullies in the sense that they are assaulting young students who are powerless, helpless and cannot retaliate because of their size and physical strength”. (*Fiji Times Online*, 7 June 2011) The call came shortly after reports of beatings of students in boarding schools, including beatings by older students (*Fiji Times Online*, 2/9 April 2011)

India: A 13 year old student in Chennai was reportedly injured in the eye and required medical treatment when his teacher caned him. (*The New Indian Express*, 25 June 2011). A teacher in another Chennai school reportedly caned six students for talking in class, inflicted when the girls were unable to complete the 100 sit ups they had been told to do. The teacher was suspended. (*The Telegraph*, 29 June 2011). The headmaster of a school in Bihar allegedly punished two students by shaving their heads, making them lick up spit, and parading them

with blackened faces through the village. (*India Today*, 7 May 2011)

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) revealed that in 2010-11, 154 of the 675 cases dealt with concerned schools, including corporal punishment, abuse, sexual assault and humiliation. In the same period, 68 cases of corporal punishment were reported to the Delhi Commission of Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR). The commission has issued recommendations on developing relevant school policies. (*Zeenews.com*, 10 May 2011)

Plan India launched a “Positive Discipline Manual toolkit” in June, aimed at teachers and headmasters in elementary classes, NGOs and civil society education officers. The toolkit covers what positive discipline is and how it can be achieved, how to change the beliefs and practices of adults and children in schools, how to positively change the working environment, and how to foster the role of the local education authorities in the initiative. Further info at www.planindia.org

Malaysia: Seven year old Saiful Syazani Sopfidee was allegedly beaten by a teacher for two hours on 31 March and died on 3 April. (*The Star Online*, 11 April 2011)

New Zealand: A new TV series about parenting young children began in June, the initiative of TV presenter, Jude Dobson. Episodes and other advice can be viewed on the [Raising Children in New Zealand website](#). Each segment features the experience of current parents, some of whom are well known personalities, and experts who explain the developmental needs of young children. The emphasis is on positive discipline and teaching children rather than smacking or shouting at them.

Pakistan: With the support of Plan International, 2,500 schools partnered with the Punjab Education Foundation are to set up complaint boxes and committees of students, parents and teachers as part of an initiative to end corporal punishment in schools. (*The Express Tribune*, 5 June 2011)

A private members bill which would cancel the registration of schools and madrassas where corporal punishment is practiced was rejected by a majority vote in the Sindh Assembly. (*The News*, 8 June 2011).

A teacher has been suspended for six months from Noornagar PWD High School for severely beating a 13 year old girl to the point of unconsciousness. (*The Daily Star*, 7 May 2011) A sixth grade student in Peshawar was severely beaten for singing the national anthem incorrectly; the next day the student’s eye was injured while a teacher was beating another student. (*Daily Dawn*, 20 May 2011)

Philippines: A grade 1 pupil in Ginatilan town received stitches to his head after being hit with a broom by his teacher. The teacher is under investigation. (*Sun.Star Cebu*, 8/9 July 2011)

Republic of Korea: Students at a high school in Seoul held a press conference to ask the Seoul Office of Education to investigate their complaints of repeated physical violence and sexual harassment by a particular teacher. (*Asian Correspondent*, 14 July 2011)

Saudi Arabia: Six girls aged between 12 and 18 were flogged for attacking the head of their orphanage. They were each given 10 lashes at a women’s prison in Medina by order of a court which had convicted them of “acts of mischief”. (*Mail Online*, 11 May 2011)

South Africa: Corporal punishment was among the issues raised during the inaugural session of the Nelson Mandela Children’s Parliament at the Gauteng provincial legislature. The parliament was convened to mark Nelson Mandela International Day and will be an annual event. (*Sunday Times*, 17 July 2011)

Swaziland: The Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) has warned teachers against beating students who come late to school and advised that instead teachers should discuss the reasons for lateness. (*Swazi Observer*, 13 May 2011)

UK: Figures from Cardiff University show that the number of young children suffering serious violence has increased sharply. In 2010, a total of 3,402 children aged 10 or under were treated in accident and emergency units after a violent attack, compared with 2,814 in 2009. (*The Telegraph*, 19 April 2011)

US: A Texas woman who pleaded guilty to causing injury to a child after spanking her nearly 2 year old daughter to the point of leaving red marks was put on probation for five years and ordered to attend parenting classes. District Court Judge Jose Longoria stated that it is no longer acceptable to spank children. The remarks caused controversy, with many reports drawing attention to the law allowing the use of force against children. (*KZTV10.com*, 15 June 2011; *NPR*, 20 June 2011)

The Hawaii State Supreme Court ruled 3 to 2 that a man convicted of punching his 14 year old stepson and breaking his nose should have been allowed to raise the defence of parental discipline at his original trial. The decision allows for a re-trial. (*The New York Times*, 20 June 2011)

In Wisconsin, the brother of a Black Earth church pastor who advocated corporal punishment of children using wooden dowels and spoons pleaded guilty to child abuse and causing mental harm to a child, after confining his teenage son to his bedroom for four weeks and using dowels on two of his other children. Other members of the church are also facing child abuse charges. (*Wisconsin State Journal*, 1 June 2011)

Zimbabwe: A 17 year old boy was sentenced to receive two strokes of the cane for having sex with his 15 year old cousin and girlfriend. (*The Standard*: 15 May 2011)

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6 CAN YOU HELP?

Research on corporal punishment of children

Evidence of the nature and prevalence of corporal punishment gathered through national studies is important to keep the issue visible and to assess the effectiveness of implementation of prohibiting laws and of measures to change attitudes and practice. Please let us know of any research studies on corporal punishment that have been carried out recently or that are being planned (email elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org).

Report on alternative care settings

The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, with Save the Children Sweden, is producing a new report on prohibiting corporal and other cruel and degrading punishment in alternative care and day care for children. The aim is to make the issue more visible and to provide guidance on prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment. The report, to be published later this year, includes detailed guidance on achieving law reform, an analysis of applicable human rights standards and information about implementation of the prohibition of corporal punishment, and is aimed at alternative care professionals, children's rights advocates, human rights institutions,

governments and others with an interest in alternative care and day care. An accompanying web-based resource is planned, which we hope will include good practice examples of eliminating corporal punishment from providers of alternative care and day care. Please email elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org **before 31 July** if (1) you have some expertise in the field and would be interested in commenting on an early draft of the report, (2) you would like to make any contributions to the project or have any suggestions, and/or (3) if you would like to receive hard copies when published (stating how many).

And ...

Other ways to contribute to the work of the Global Initiative include:

- joining our list of volunteer translators
- sending us information on laws prohibiting or authorising corporal punishment
- letting us know about opportunities for promoting law reform (e.g. if draft legislation is being considered) and when new laws are passed which prohibit corporal punishment
- sending us photos and other illustrations of campaigns etc for use in our publications

If you can help with any of the above, please email info@endcorporalpunishment.org.

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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 Global 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).

To receive the latest developments between newsletters, please sign up to the RSS news feed at www.endcorporalpunishment.org.

“Mahatma Gandhi was able to break down the world’s mightiest empire through non-violent social change. Nelson Mandela found a peaceful solution to dismantle the apartheid regime in South Africa. Martin Luther King led a non-violent civil rights movement to end racism in the US. Can we not adopt these powerful lessons from courageous leaders and apply them to raising, caring and protecting our children and build a culture of non-violence?”

Mr Kul Chandra Gautam, Convening Chair, World Day of Prayer and Action for Children