

9 Conclusion

The global workshop on achieving legal reform to prohibit all physical punishment and other cruel and degrading punishment of children marks a significant step in the accelerating progress towards achieving universal prohibition. The first workshop of its kind, it brought people together from almost 30 countries, to sharpen their understanding of what law reform means, to grapple with the challenges it presents, and to learn from countries where it has been achieved.

By the end of four intensive days, participants had drafted detailed national strategies to pursue legal reform, building on their past experience of working on the issue, and reflecting their new confidence and understanding gained during the workshop (see Annex 5). This is a remarkable achievement – and a credit to the commitment and determination of the participants to take seriously the recommendation of the UN Study to prohibit all corporal punishment, in all settings, by 2009.

When law reform is achieved in all the countries represented at the workshop, significant progress will have been made towards realising the rights of millions of children all over the world to respect for their human dignity and physical integrity, and to equal protection from assault under the law. The strength of the campaign and the momentum of progress towards universal prohibition is already a powerful sign that there can be no looking back. Governments can no longer hide from facing their obligations to children.