

Violence against children must stop.

Governments say they agree.

Let's do something about it!

How?

Governments should:

- Make a public commitment to the elimination of violence against children – with specific objectives and milestones by which you can measure progress.
- Create an effective national child protection system that can make a reality of every child's right to a life free from violence and to protection – whether in the home, school, workplace, community or institution.

When?

- The governments of the world will be debating how to stop violence against children at the UN General Assembly in New York towards the end of 2006. Use this opportunity to focus your efforts.

Why does this matter?

- Only 2.4% of the world's children have the same legal protection against violence as adults.

Over 90 states have not prohibited corporal punishment in schools, and more than 30 still allow whipping or caning of children as a sentence of the courts.

- There are over one million children in prisons around the world today, exposed to daily violence from prison staff and other inmates. Prison is a wholly inappropriate response to children's needs for proper care and protection.
- Denial of the reality of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children is widespread – meaning that victims are not able to access medical, legal and other services. Even when sexual abuse and exploitation against girls and boys are disclosed, often it is the child who is blamed and judged.
- Children – the experts in their own lives – are rarely involved in the development of policies, programmes, laws and services designed to protect them from violence.

For more information visit: www.rb.se/eng



Save the Children

What is needed?

Effective national child protection systems to eliminate violence against children.

“The protection of children is not just an area of governmental responsibility. It is the ultimate test of its worth. Of our worth”

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe

What should your government do?

- Introduce a legal ban on all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse and exploitation, physical punishment and all other forms of degrading punishment, including in the home.
- Establish a national child protection system and undertake a wide range of measures to prevent, and respond to, all forms of violence against children. For example, educational and media campaigns and the provision of child-friendly legal, medical and psychosocial services.
- Establish mechanisms for listening to girls and boys with the aim of involving children directly in the design and implementation of policies

(and programmes) that address the violence against them.

- Minimise the number of children coming into conflict with the law and establish comprehensive and child-friendly juvenile justice systems, complying with international standards, which aim to rehabilitate children and divert them away from criminalisation and detention.
- Make particular efforts to promote the active participation of men and boys in ending violence against children and gender discrimination.
- Support the appointment of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on the Elimination of Violence against Children, with the power to drive global commitments to ending violence against children.

For more information visit: www.rb.se/eng