



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

Global report 2018

**Progress towards ending corporal
punishment of children**



Global report 2018: Progress towards ending corporal punishment of children

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NOTE ON FACTS AND FIGURES

The Global Initiative bases its analyses on a total of 199 states: all states parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child except Holy See, plus the Republic of Kosovo, Taiwan, USA and Western Sahara. Child population figures are from UNICEF 2015 and, where these are unavailable, UNICEF 2013 (Western Sahara) and Ministry of Interior, 2015 (Taiwan).

Our mission

To end violence against children through universal prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment – the most pervasive and accepted form of violence against children

We work as a catalyst to end all corporal punishment worldwide, by:

- 1** Providing **technical assistance** to governments and civil society, supporting them to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment
- 2** Providing an up to date and **comprehensive evidence base** on the legal status of corporal punishment and research on its prevalence, effects and elimination
- 3** Supporting **national, regional and international action** with accurate information and tailored technical resources, guidance and assistance
- 4** Supporting a **global movement** of 1,500 partners and supporters, covering all continents



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Children can be taught in a smarter, more positive and compassionate way, where their rights are respected and they grow up confident and respecting the rights of others.

DENISE STUCKENBRUCK, CHAIR



A message from Denise Stuckenbruck

Chair, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

How do you feel when you make a mistake? I know I can feel silly, embarrassed, eager to know where I went wrong and determined to get it right the next time.

How would you feel if someone hit or humiliated you because of that mistake? What if that person was bigger and stronger than you? What if it was someone you loved – your parent, carer or teacher? What if they said it was for your own good?

We have never known more about the impact that corporal punishment can have on children, families and societies. Growing research shows that all it teaches is that violence is an acceptable way to solve conflict and that its widespread use is damaging young minds and lives and increasing violence in our homes, schools and societies.

But there is another way. It is all preventable. Children can be taught in a smarter, more positive and compassionate way, where their rights are respected and they grow up confident and respecting the rights of others.

This is what the Global Initiative works to achieve. And we have never had a stronger mandate from the global community.

Since we were founded in 2001, we have made significant gains in securing the acceptance of the urgent need to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children, not least in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, under which all states have committed to ending all violence against children (Target 16.2) and reducing the prevalence of physical punishment (Indicator 16.2.1).

Now our focus is on turning these commitments into action. This report shows some of the ways in which we have supported governments, national human rights institutions and civil society partners during 2018 to do just that. In the coming year, we will continue to provide technical assistance, resources and support to partners around the world to make peaceful, non-violent upbringings a reality for children worldwide.

You can play your part too. Get involved. Get your organisation involved, get your friends involved, get your parliamentarians involved, get things moving. And get in touch. Together we can end corporal punishment of children.

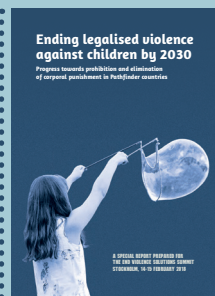
Achievements during 2018

FEB

End Violence Solutions Summit

The first *Agenda 2030 for Children: End Violence Solutions Summit* was held in Stockholm, Sweden, bringing together governments of Pathfinding and other countries, the UN, civil society, private sector and children themselves to share solutions for preventing and responding to violence against children. In her opening address, UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed, highlighted the extent of corporal punishment of children worldwide.

The Global Initiative launched a report in advance of the event, analysing progress in Pathfinding countries of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children in relation to the legality and prevalence of corporal punishment and government commitment or action towards prohibition. We also supported a workshop at the Summit on the centrality of prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment to ending all violence against children.



APR

Global Conference preview event

An event examining the challenges and opportunities in ending punitive violence against children was held in Geneva by Save the Children together with the Global Initiative and a range of partners, hosted by the permanent missions of Malta, Austria and Mexico. Our Director, Anna Henry, highlighted factors that can contribute to progress, the benefits of prohibiting corporal punishment to society as a whole and how prohibiting states can be global leaders. The event was live streamed; watch it back at facebook.com/pg/childrightsconnect/videos.

APR

Inter-American Forum on corporal punishment

The Mexican Government hosted the Inter-American Forum on corporal punishment, *Reunión Interamericana sobre castigo corporal contra niños, niñas y adolescentes*, aimed at sharing experience and best practices in prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment across the region. The meeting addressed legal prohibition, public policy and action, cultural behaviour change, measuring corporal punishment and child participation. Conclusions and a joint declaration on ending corporal punishment, bullying and cyber-bullying have been published in Spanish and English.

MAY

World Congress on Justice for Children

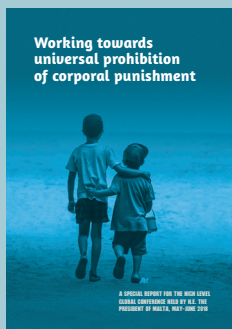
The Global Initiative was in Paris for the World Congress on Justice for Children, attended by over 850 participants. In a workshop on international strategies to end cruel, inhuman and degrading sentencing for children, the Global Initiative examined progress prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in penal systems for children, and how we work to end its use, both as a sentence for crimes committed by children (still lawful in 33 states worldwide) and as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions (still lawful in 58).

JUNE

Global Conference on corporal punishment

A High Level Global Conference on the Universal Prohibition of Corporal Punishment was held in Malta on 31 May–1 June 2018, under the patronage of Her Excellency the President of Malta. States shared experiences of efforts aimed at ending all corporal punishment of children, centred on a number of themes, including: enacting comprehensive legislation; awareness raising; social mobilisation; capacity building for professionals; prevention; sustaining positive change; reviewing progress, and child participation.

Our Director, Anna Henry, chaired a panel on global progress and the way forward to achieve global prohibition of corporal punishment. We also published a special report in collaboration with the President’s Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, highlighting how states can work collaboratively towards universal prohibition of violent punishment. This was the third conference of its kind, with previous events held in Austria in 2016 and Sweden in 2014. The Tunisian Government has agreed to host the next event in 2020.



JUNE

New logo and website!

We were delighted to launch our new logo and website in June, following months of work behind the scenes! Visit our website to see our new look, join the movement or donate to support our work: endcorporalpunishment.org.

Technical support in Malawi

The Global Initiative co-facilitated a two-day interactive workshop, *Protect children from all forms of violence and abuse: End corporal punishment in all settings*, held by the Malawi Human Rights Commission looking especially at school settings.

Opened by Commissioner Benedicto Kondowe, the event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Department of Social Affairs, Police Service, Office of the Ombudsman, Teaching Service Coalition and a range of NGOs.

Participants actively engaged in discussion and strategic planning for law reform to prohibit corporal punishment and encourage the use of positive discipline in schools, including the development of a positive discipline handbook for teachers.

JUNE

Guyana prohibits in the penal system

For the first time in Guyana, the Juvenile Justice Act 2018 makes no provision for children to be sentenced to corporal punishment by the courts, and Article 92 explicitly prohibits “corporal punishment or any other form of physical violence” as a form of discipline in penal institutions.

The Global Initiative welcomes this progress which reduces to 33 the number of states where judicial corporal punishment is still lawful for child offenders and calls on the Government of Guyana to enact full prohibition of all corporal punishment, including in the home.

UAE commits to achieving full prohibition

At the 38th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2018, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) committed to enacting prohibition of all corporal punishment of children by supporting clear recommendations to do so made during its Universal Periodic Review.

Earlier in 2018, UAE had become a “Pathfinding country” under the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, committing to three to five years of accelerated action to end all violence against children (Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals).

SEPT

Nepal prohibits all corporal punishment!

The Act relating to Children 2018, adopted in September, explicitly prohibits corporal punishment in all settings. This reform makes Nepal the 54th state worldwide – and the first in South Asia – to fully prohibit all corporal punishment of children, marking the culmination of over a decade of work by child rights campaigners, including support from the Global Initiative.

Each child has a right to be protected against all types of physical or mental violence and punishment, neglect, inhumane behaviour, gender based or discriminatory abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation committed by his/her father, mother, other family members or guardian, teacher or any other person.

SECTION 7(5), ACT RELATING TO CHILDREN 2018, NEPAL (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

OCT

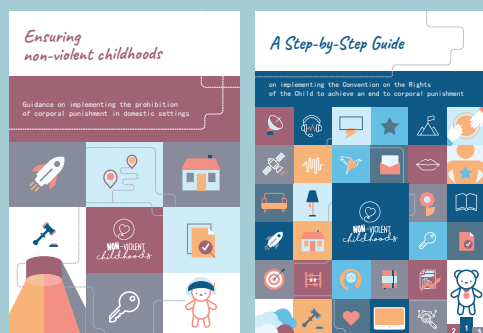
Technical support in Mexico

The Global Initiative co-facilitated an interactive workshop held by *Sistema Nacional de Protección de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes* (SIPINNA) and supported by Save the Children, aimed at strengthening the capacity of state authorities to advance the prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in all settings.

During the two-day event, representatives of Government and the juvenile justice and child protection systems from ten states, as well as federal authorities including the Supreme Court, collaborated to develop state strategies to prohibit corporal punishment, including planning for effective implementation of the ban.

Normalising corporal punishment contributes to its invisibility as a form of violence and to the lack of recognition of its severe consequences, including developmental disorders, in the lives of children and adolescents.

DANIEL PONCE, COORDINATOR OF LIAISON, DEPENDENCIES AND ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT, SIPINNA, MEXICO (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)



Comprehensive new guidance on effective prohibition

The high-level conference, *Non-violent Childhoods: Moving on from corporal punishment in the Baltic Sea Region*, was held in Stockholm, Sweden, co-hosted by the Swedish Government and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children, Marta Santos Pais.

Led by the Council of the Baltic Sea States in cooperation with the Global Initiative, the project aimed to promote effective implementation of legal bans on corporal punishment, drawing on the experience of states in the Baltic Sea Region where ten out of 11 states have prohibited all corporal punishment. National consultations and a series of thematic expert consultations were held across the region to create a series of six guidance reports, setting out strategies for effective implementation of the legal ban on corporal punishment.

The reports include a Step by Step Guide on implementing prohibition, and specific guidance to effectively prohibit corporal punishment in the home, support service provision, parenting programmes, awareness raising and research.

Download the reports and read more about the initiative: childrenatrisk.eu/ nonviolence.

NOV

Safe learning environments

Children have a right to learn without violence, whether in public, private, government-subsidised or religious schools. Safe, respectful learning environments benefit students, teachers and the wider community. Schools do not operate in isolation from the rest of society, so achieving real and lasting change requires a strong coalition of partners, working together with clear, common goals.

Corporal punishment remains lawful in some or all schools in 68 states worldwide. As well as violating children's rights, evidence shows that its use in schools can impede learning and contribute to school drop-out. And yet, efforts to prohibit it are often met with strong opposition. During 2018, a proposal by the Botswana Sectors of Educators Trade Union to abolish corporal punishment in schools, which noted the proven detrimental effect to the health of students and safety of teachers, was unanimously rejected by delegates who claimed it is still effective as a disciplinary measure.

In some countries where corporal punishment is prohibited in schools, critics claim the ban encourages behaviour problems among children and young people, rather than contributing to more peaceful schools and societies. In Samoa, where corporal punishment is prohibited in schools since 2009, draft legislation was introduced in 2018 which seeks to allow the use of "reasonable force" in schools – a move strongly condemned by Justice Vui Clarence Nelson and Maiava Iulai Toma, head of Samoa's National Human Rights Institution.

As states work towards the Sustainable Development Goals, prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment in all schools is an urgent priority.

However, we have also seen progress and action to end violence and build safe learning environments during 2018:

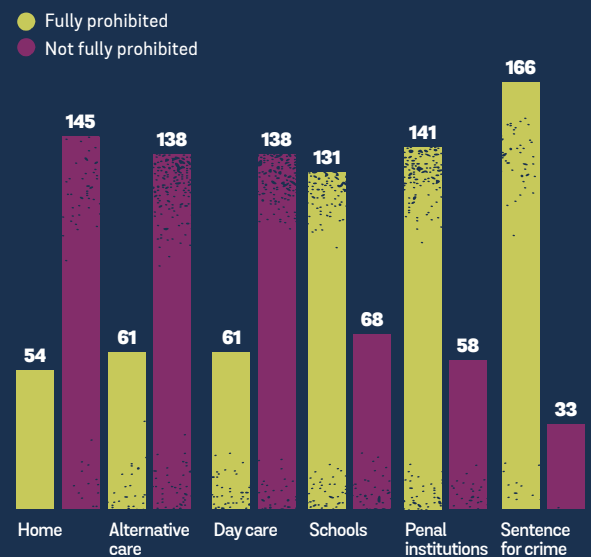
- EducAid Sierra Leone's **Quality Enhancement Programme** has equipped teachers in 100 partner schools with strategies to abandon corporal punishment through mutually respectful relationships. Schools reported a positive impact on children's attendance and performance, and improved relationships between schools and parents.
- Raising Voices' **Good School Toolkit** provides a holistic and sustainable model for creating violence-free schools which guides a school through the stages of behaviour change, focused on ideas and activities that do not require dedicated financial resources.
- The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children is launching a global campaign **Safe to Learn** aiming to end violence in schools by 2024, which calls on national governments to prohibit corporal punishment in schools and promote positive discipline.



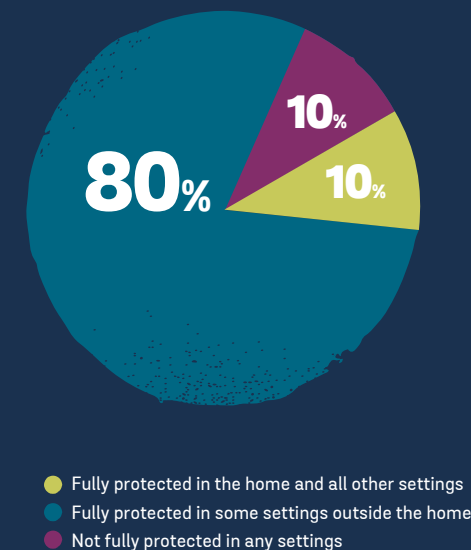
Progress in numbers



Number of states worldwide prohibiting corporal punishment of children in law



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



But...

ONLY **10%** OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN LIVE IN STATES WHERE THE LAW RECOGNISES THEIR RIGHT TO EQUAL PROTECTION FROM ASSAULT

IN **33** STATES, CHILD OFFENDERS MAY BE SENTENCED TO CORPORAL PUNISHMENT UNDER CRIMINAL, RELIGIOUS AND/OR TRADITIONAL LAW

IN **6** PATHFINDING COUNTRIES, THE LAW DOES NOT FULLY PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN ALL SCHOOLS

UPR recommendations issued in 2018

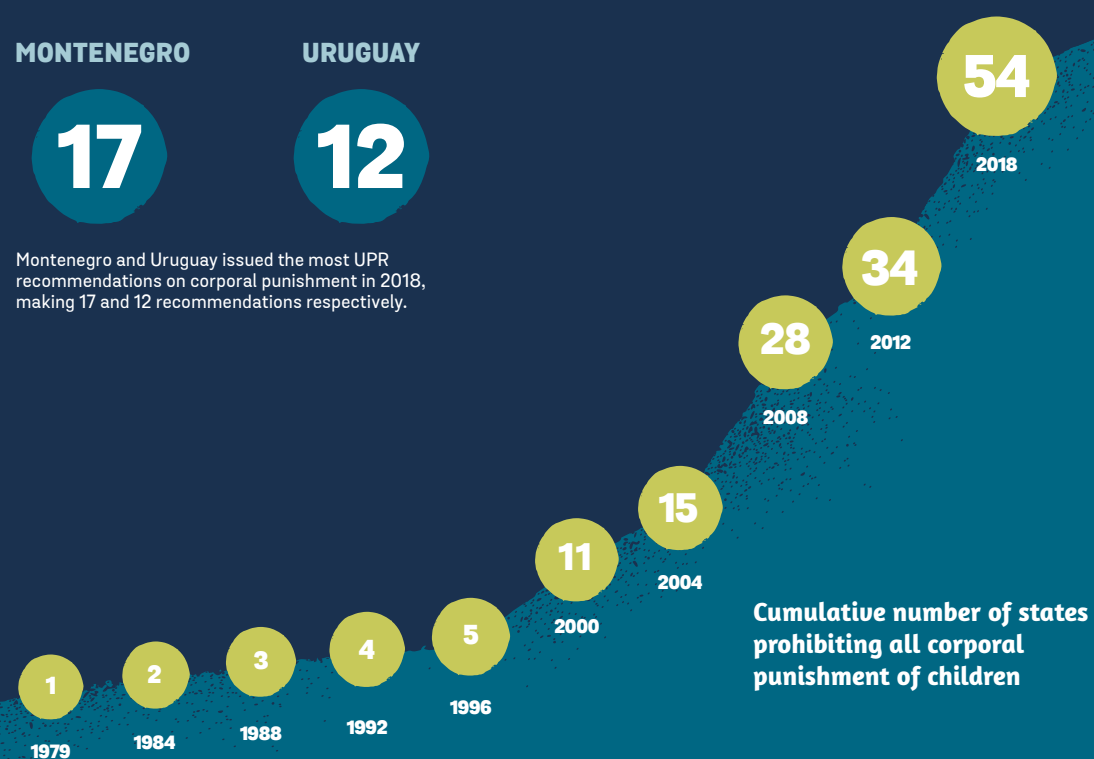
MONTENEGRO

17

URUGUAY

12

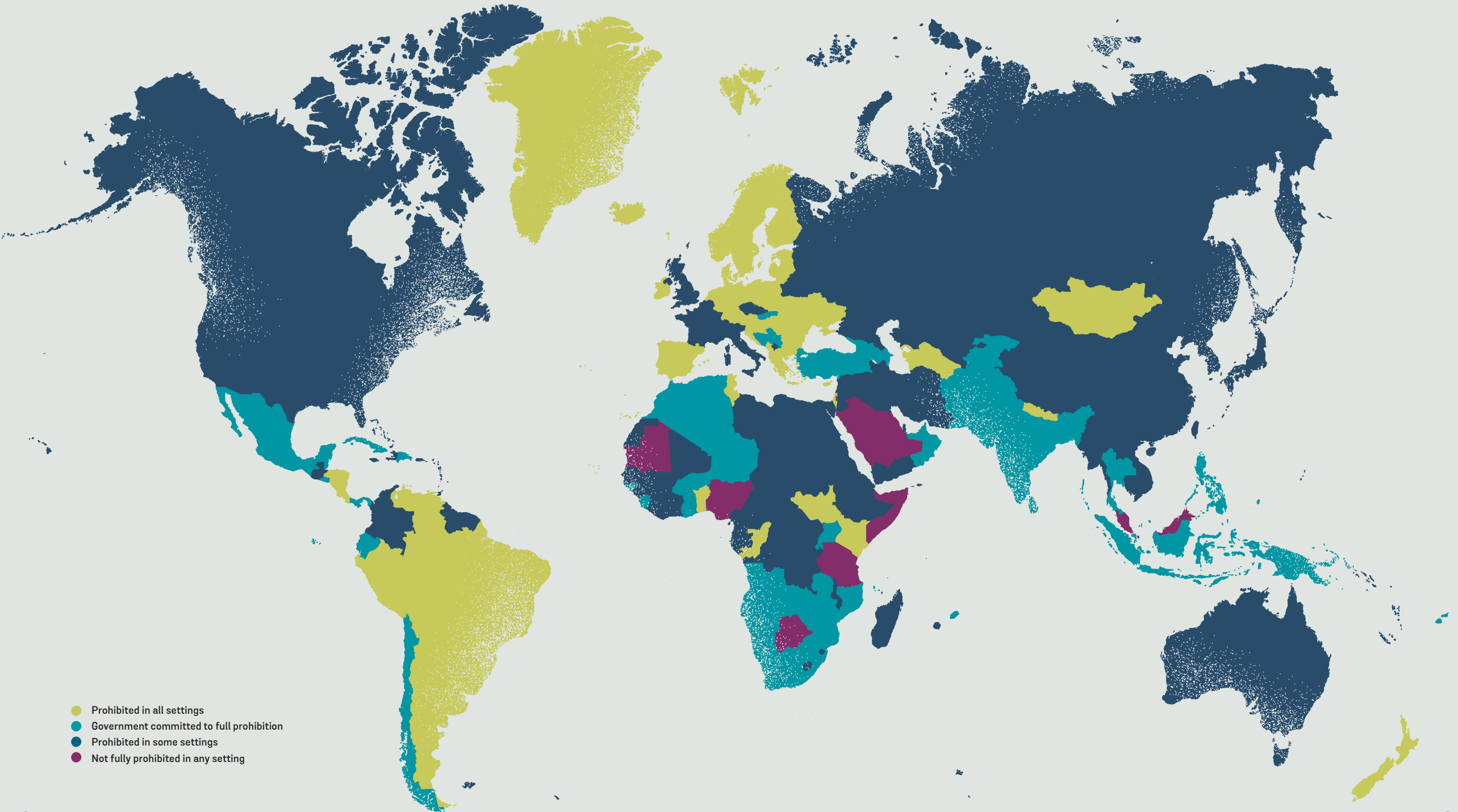
Montenegro and Uruguay issued the most UPR recommendations on corporal punishment in 2018, making 17 and 12 recommendations respectively.



Cumulative number of states prohibiting all corporal punishment of children

Legality of corporal punishment

- Prohibited in all settings
- Government committed to full prohibition
- Prohibited in some settings
- Not fully prohibited in any setting



Our work

We continue to monitor the legal status of corporal punishment globally. During 2018, we made over **320 updates to our detailed reports** on every state and territory worldwide. With this up to date information, we provided **115 briefings to UN and regional human rights mechanisms** throughout the year and followed up with states that received recommendations to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment.

We provide **bespoke technical assistance** and support to governments, human rights institutions and civil society partners, including workshops to develop strategies to achieve prohibition in Malawi and Mexico this year (see 'Achievements in 2018').

In 2018, we provided **submissions on legislative reforms** in Cook Islands, South Africa and Wales (UK), and **legal assessments** in Bhutan, Egypt, France, Iran, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname and Syrian Arab Republic.

We continue to highlight the need to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment as it relates to **other areas of children's rights**, providing submissions to the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and the UN Human Rights Council resolution on empowering children with disabilities. And this year, for the first time, we **intervened as amicus curiae** in the appeal of a High Court ruling in South Africa which found the defence of "reasonable or moderate chastisement" unconstitutional.

Coming up in 2019

Review of states' commitment to prohibition

Currently, 56 states are committed to prohibiting corporal punishment. In 2019, we will be publishing our process and set of criteria to show how we classify a state as "committed" to prohibition. This will involve assessing our current list of committed states under the new criteria, with the possibility of adding or removing states. We are committed to ensuring this process is fair and transparent, and to engaging more governments in committing to prohibition and realising that commitment.

Events to look out for

January 2019

The **Education World Forum**, the world's largest gathering of education ministers and policy makers, will take place in London, UK. It is essential to highlight the urgent need to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment in schools to create respectful learning environments for both teachers and learners, and for state representatives to learn from each other's successes in reducing violence in schools.

July 2019

The **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** will be held in New York, on the theme *Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*. The Forum will involve Voluntary National Reviews of 51 countries and an in-depth review of SDG 16, including Target 16.2 to end all violence against children and the associated Indicator 16.2.1 on the prevalence of "violent discipline".

Join the movement

We couldn't carry out the work we do without the help of our committed partners around the world. Join our network of over 600 organisations worldwide that support prohibition of corporal punishment.

Our aims are supported by UNICEF, UNESCO, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and more.

Visit our website to see all supporters and find out how you can help to **#EndCorporalPunishment**:

endcorporalpunishment.org/get-involved

Donate today!



Exciting progress towards prohibition

France

A Bill amending the Civil Code to prohibit all corporal punishment of children is under discussion in Parliament. It has received support from several Government Ministers, including the Minister for Justice, Minister for Health and the Secretary for Gender Equality.

Kosovo, Rep of

Draft Law no.06/L-084 on Child Protection, introduced in June 2018, prohibits corporal punishment in all settings, including the home. As of November 2018, it has passed first reading and is being discussed in Committee.

Philippines

The Positive Discipline Bill which prohibits corporal punishment in all settings has been re-introduced and debated every year since 2012. In December 2018, it passed third reading in both houses and is expected to be enacted early 2019.

South Africa

The Children's Amendment Bill 2018 which aims to protect children from "cruel, inhuman and degrading forms of discipline" was twice opened for comment in 2018. The Global Initiative submitted comments endorsed by our national partners during both consultations calling for clear and full prohibition of all corporal punishment.

UK (Scotland)

The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill, introduced in September 2018, aims to remove the defence of 'justifiable assault' of children in Scotland. The Scottish Government has repeatedly stated its support for the Bill following a public consultation which found almost 75% support for the change.

UK (Wales)

Following a consultation held in January–April 2018 about the Welsh Government's plans to remove the defence of reasonable punishment, the Welsh Government said they are committed to introducing legislation to remove the defence and will do so by July 2019.

The passage of this landmark legislation will create a paradigm shift in the way we discipline children in the Philippines – from using a punitive to a problem-solving approach, from a violent to a more peaceful approach.

**SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS, MAIN SPONSOR
OF THE POSITIVE DISCIPLINE BILL, PHILIPPINES**





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The **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children** provides support for law reform to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment of children.

www.endcorporalpunishment.org

