

# Caribbean Coalition for the Abolition of Corporal Punishment of Children

Newsletter 4

April 2015



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Welcome to the April 2015 e-newsletter from the [Caribbean Coalition for the Abolition of Corporal Punishment of Children](#). This newsletter is sent to those across the region who have indicated their support for prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment and others who we hope will be interested. We hope you find it useful; please share it and if you have any comments, contributions or feedback, email us at [info@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:info@endcorporalpunishment.org).

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## News and developments

**Dominican Republic:** During its examination of Dominican Republic in January 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended explicit prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings. The Committee noted the adoption of a National Roadmap to eliminate violence against children and the Government's statement that a law to prohibit corporal punishment will be adopted.

**Grenada:** Recommendations to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment were made to Grenada during the Universal Periodic Review of its overall human rights record in January 2015. The Government's response to the recommendations is due by June 2015.

**Guyana:** During the Universal Periodic Review of its overall human rights record in January 2015, Guyana received several recommendations to prohibit corporal punishment. It is due to respond to the recommendations by June 2015.

**Haiti:** The draft Children's Code would explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in the home and other settings. Article 56 states that "Subjecting a child to corporal punishment or humiliating or degrading treatment at home, at school, on the street or in other institutions is prohibited..." (unofficial translation). The Code has been approved by Cabinet and tabled in Parliament.

**Jamaica:** During its examination of Jamaica in January 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the achievement of prohibition in the penal system, alternative care settings and early childhood institutions and recommended further law reform to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and to repeal the common law right to inflict "reasonable and moderate" punishment on children.

**Trinidad and Tobago:** The new Children's Community Residences Regulations 2014, under the Children's Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act 2000, explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in community residential care. Article 15 states that "A child placed in the care of a community residence shall not be subjected to corporal punishment..." The Foster Care Regulations 2014 and the Children's Authority Regulations 2014 are silent on the issue, and corporal punishment is lawful in other alternative care settings. The Children Act 2012, not yet in force, would prohibit corporal punishment in all settings except the family home.

**The global context:** Since the last CCACPC newsletter in August 2014, seven more states have been added to the list of those which have prohibited all corporal punishment of children including in the family home, bringing the total number to 46. Two thirds of states (134) have prohibited in all penal institutions, 125 states in schools, 52 in all alternative care settings and 52 in all day care. Corporal punishment remains lawful as a sentence for crime in 37 states globally; of these, eight are in the Caribbean.

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## Advocacy resources

New resources for advocacy from the [Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children](#), which supports the CCACPC, include:

[\*Ending legalised violence against children: Global progress to December 2014.\*](#)

The report charts the growth in the list of states prohibiting, and making a commitment to prohibiting, all corporal punishment. It describes growing faith-based advocacy for reform and ever more systematic and rigorous research making visible this form of violence which children face on a daily basis.

[\*Ending corporal punishment of children – a handbook for worship and\*](#)

[\*gatherings.\*](#) This substantial new resource, published jointly with the Churches' Network for Non-violence, includes a Bible study, prayers, vigils, liturgies and reflections on corporal punishment of children and how it can be prohibited and replaced with positive, non-violent adult-child relationships. It is suitable for both private and collective use and can be adapted for the local context or used to trigger ideas for further studies or reflections.

[\*Cruel, inhuman and degrading: ending corporal punishment in penal systems for\*](#)

[\*children.\*](#) Launched at the 2015 World Congress on Juvenile Justice, held in Geneva in January, the report documents the states where children may be lawfully subjected to violent punishment as a criminal sentence or as a disciplinary measure within penal institutions – including many Caribbean states – and identifies the many immediate opportunities for achieving prohibition of these inhuman practices.

[\*Prohibiting violent punishment of girls and boys - a key element in ending family\*](#)

[\*violence.\*](#) This briefing, prepared for the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015, examines the links between corporal punishment and domestic violence, highlighting the opportunities presented by the 34 states currently developing laws against domestic violence for achieving prohibition of corporal punishment.

[\*Prohibiting and eliminating all corporal punishment of children with disabilities\*](#). The briefing highlights the importance of prohibition for children with disabilities, emphasizing that they are at increased risk of experiencing corporal punishment and underlining the human rights imperative to prohibit all violent punishment of children.

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## Using the UN human rights system

The obligation to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment of children is well-established in international law (more information on the [CCACPC website](#)). Recommendations to states from UN treaty bodies and under the Universal Periodic Review add to the pressure on governments to work for prohibition.

The CCACPC is keen to support NGOs and national human rights institutions to contribute to the process and to use recommendations for advocacy. Contact [elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org](mailto:elinor@endcorporalpunishment.org) for more information.

### **Committee on the Rights of the Child:**

**Haiti** will be examined in January 2016. Information should be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible. Further ahead, the list of issues for the examination of **Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines** and **Suriname** will be adopted in May/June 2016. Information should be submitted to the Committee by 1 July 2015.

### **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women:**

**St Vincent and the Grenadines** will be examined in July 2015. Information should be submitted to the Committee by 1 June 2015 (provisional date). The list of issues for the examination of **Haiti** will be adopted in February/March 2016. The deadline for submitting information is not available but guidelines suggest it should be submitted by 1 June 2015.

### **Human Rights Committee:**

The Committee will examine **Suriname**'s implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in October/November 2015. The deadline for submitting information is not available but guidelines suggest it should be submitted by 28 September 2015. The list of issues for the examination

of **Jamaica** will be adopted in March 2016. Information should be submitted to the Committee by 28 December 2015 (provisional date).

**Universal Periodic Review:**

**Antigua and Barbuda, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago** will be reviewed at the 25th session in April/May 2016. Information should be submitted by 21 September 2015 (provisional deadline). **Haiti** will be reviewed at the 26th session in October/November 2016. Information should be submitted by 21 March 2016 (provisional deadline).

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*The CCACPC is supported by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children ([www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)).*

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