



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

ANGOLA

BRIEFING FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW – 7th session, 2010

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Corporal punishment of children breaches their rights to respect for human dignity and physical integrity and to equal protection under the law. It is recognised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other treaty bodies, as well as by the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children, as a highly significant issue, both for asserting children's status as rights holders and for the prevention of all forms of violence.

The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (www.endcorporalpunishment.org) has been regularly briefing the Committee on the Rights of the Child on this issue since 2002, and since 2004 has similarly briefed the Committee Against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Human Rights Committee. There is growing progress now across all regions in challenging this very common form of violence against children. But we are concerned that many States persist in ignoring treaty body recommendations to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment. We hope that the UPR Process will give particular attention to states' response, or lack of response, to the concluding observations from treaty bodies, on this and other key issues.

In June 2006, the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted General Comment No. 8 on "The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment", which emphasises the immediate obligation on states parties to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, including within the home. Other treaty bodies, and regional human rights mechanisms, have condemned all corporal punishment. In October 2006, the report of the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children was submitted to the General Assembly. It recommends universal prohibition of all corporal punishment, setting a goal of 2009.

Summary

This briefing describes the legality of corporal punishment of children in Angola, despite the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. We hope the Review will highlight the importance of prohibition of corporal punishment of children, and strongly recommend that the government introduce legislation as a matter of urgency to prohibit all corporal punishment of children in the family home, penal institutions and all alternative care settings.

1 Legality of corporal punishment in Angola

1.1 Corporal punishment is lawful in the **home**. Parental authority is defined in the Family Code and includes the obligation to protect children's physical and moral integrity, but this and other legal provisions against violence and abuse in Decree No. 58 (1982), the Constitution (1975, amended 1992), the Criminal Code (1886) and the Family Code are not interpreted as prohibiting corporal punishment in childrearing.

1.2 Corporal punishment is prohibited in **schools**, but we have no details of applicable legislation.

1.3 In the **penal system**, corporal punishment is unlawful as a sentence for crime under article 109 of the Criminal Code, which provides for children under the age of 16 years to be subject only to assistance, educational and correctional measures. The Juvenile Justice Act (1996, in force 2002) states that young persons under 16 years may not be sentenced to imprisonment but only to crime prevention measures, which do not include corporal punishment. We have yet to confirm that there is no provision for corporal punishment for those over the age of 16. In 2006, the Criminal Code was under revision but we have no further information. There is no explicit prohibition of corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions.

1.4 There is no explicit prohibition of corporal punishment in **alternative care settings**.

2 Recommendations by human rights treaty monitoring bodies

2.1 Following examination of the state party's initial report in 2004, the **Committee on the Rights of the Child** recommended prohibition of corporal punishment by parents and other caregivers, and enforcement of the ban in schools (CRC/C/15/Add.246, paras. 32, 33, 36 and 37).