



Towards Childhoods free from Corporal Punishment

Vienna, 1–2 June 2016 · Schloss Wilhelminenberg

Programme Outline

The focus of this international **High Level Global Conference “Towards Childhoods free from Corporal Punishment”** lies in the international human rights obligation to effectively protect children from all forms of violence, including violent punishment.

The conference aims to speed up the journey to universal prohibition of corporal punishment – to ensure that all children, no matter where they live, fully enjoy their fundamental right to respect for their physical integrity and human dignity. While 49 states have achieved a complete ban on violent punishment of children and another 52 are committed to do so, there is still a long way to go – and why should children wait for this fundamental protection? Modern societies and legal systems should no longer show tolerance for adults having a legal right to inflict violent punishment on children.

Please save the date – **Wednesday and Thursday 1 and 2 June 2016, with an opening reception/informal meeting on Tuesday 31 May from 18:00** – and confirm your participation (see below).

2016 marks the 10th anniversary of the presentation of the report of the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children to the General Assembly, which recommended prohibition of all corporal punishment of children. The globally agreed 2030 Sustainable Development Goals include target 16.2 on ending violence against children, including elimination of violent punishment.

The purpose of this conference is very practical: to share experiences of the process and positive impact of prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings including the family home, to look at the challenges and agree how states can work collaboratively together with other key partners towards the goal of universal prohibition and elimination.

As early as 1989 – simultaneously with the passing of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – Austrian legislation prohibited all corporal punishment of children, making Austria the fourth country in the world, following Sweden, Finland and Norway, to achieve this fundamental reform for its children. Since passing the Federal Law on Protection from Violence in the Family in 1996, Austria has seen a decisive paradigm shift on the debate concerning family privacy versus children's right to full protection from all violence including violent punish-

ment. And in 2011, Austrian constitutional legislators adopted Article 5 of the Federal Constitutional Law on the Rights of Children: **“Every child has the right to an upbringing free of violence. Corporal punishment, the infliction of emotional harm, sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment are prohibited.”**¹

This represents the most recent milestone on the long journey towards comprehensive protection of children from all violent acts.

This High Level Global Conference **“Towards Childhoods free from Corporal Punishment”** follows Sweden's initiative in hosting a high-level intergovernmental conference on this theme in Stockholm in June 2014. It will continue the dialogue begun there between high-level stakeholders, policy-makers and experts. Ministers and other high-level representatives of states where corporal punishment of children is prohibited in all settings, including the home, will share their experiences of achieving law reform.

Simultaneous translation will be provided for the following **languages:** German, English, French and Spanish.



¹ for further information, click here: [The Right to an Upbringing Free of Violence](#)