

**BRIEFING FROM THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE**  
**TO END ALL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN**

**BRIEFING ON BELARUS FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

**PRESESSIONAL WORKING GROUP – July 2010**

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**BELARUS (seventh report – CEDAW/C/BLR/7)**

Corporal punishment is lawful in the **home**. Provisions against violence and abuse in the Rights of the Child Act (1994, amended 2007), the Criminal Code (1999, amended 2005) and the Constitution are not interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment in childrearing.

According to a statistical review by UNICEF, 49% of children aged 2-14 experienced minor physical punishment in the home in 2005-2006, although a smaller percentage of mothers/caretakers (15%) believed that children need to be physically punished.<sup>1</sup>

Corporal punishment is considered unlawful in **schools** under article 24 of the Rights of the Child Act which prohibits “degrading treatment of pupils”, but there is no explicit prohibition of corporal punishment. In the **penal system**, corporal punishment is unlawful as a sentence for crime. It is considered unlawful as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions and in **alternative care settings**, but it is not explicitly prohibited.

In its concluding observations on the state party’s second report in 2002, the **Committee on the Rights of the Child** recommended prohibition of corporal punishment in the home, schools and other institutions (CRC/C/15/Add.180, para. 40). A recommendation to prohibit corporal punishment of children was also made during the examination of Belarus by the Human Rights Council under the **Universal Periodic Review** process in May 2010 (A/HRC/WG.6/8/L.15, Report of the Working Group, para. 98(24)).

**We hope the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women will urge the government of Belarus to ensure that its legislation explicitly prohibits corporal punishment of girls and boys in all settings, including the home, schools and all alternative care settings, supported by appropriate public education and professional training on positive, participatory and non-violent forms of discipline.**

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF (2007), *Progress for Children: A World Fit for Children – Statistical Review, Number 6, December 2007*