**FORUM**: Human Rights Council

**QUESTION OF:** Promoting the End of Corporal Punishment in Schools

**SUBMITTED BY**: Honduras

**CO-SUBMITTED BY**: Syria, Luxembourg, Indonesia, UNICEF, Cuba, Finland, Oman, Cape Verde, Norway, Ukraine, Paraguay

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Acknowledging* the fact that corporal punishment, as defined by the Committee on the Rights of a Child general comment No.8 (CRC) on protection from corporal punishment, "is a physical punishment administered by an adult to the body of a child, usually at home or at school." Some examples presented of corporal punishments are, but not limited to: spanking, hitting, choking, keeping a child in an uncomfortable space, denying bathroom privileges, forcing a child to eat obnoxious substances against their will, and withholding water and/or food from a child,

*Recognizing* that corporal punishments in school might hinder the crucial process of education. This can cause the impairment of the child's academic and social success further on in their life, either socially or academically,

*Emphasizing* the lack of evidence towards any positive educational value of corporal punishment which has been confirmed by numerous studies,

*Further recognizes* that over 74.4% of children under the age of 14 experience violent discipline according to a study conducted by UNICEF,

*Fully aware* that corporal punishment is still legal in many countries and that many cultures do not find some forms of corporal punishment to be harming to learning of the upbringing of a child. Therefore, although the opinion on corporal punishment is not scientifically dignified, it is also based on moral relativism of individuals and nations,

*Emphasizing* that the assaultment of children should be a criminal offense, and that teachers or caretakers should not only be dismissed but also prosecution if they continue to use corporal punishment,

*Recalling* the previous work done by major parties such as UNICEF and CRC who have taken many actions to ensure that the issue is being deliberated0,

*Congratulating* more than half of UN member states have by June 2016 either prohibited corporal punishment (49 states) or are committed to do so (54 states),

1. Calls uponmember states to raise awareness through numerous campaigns, informing the general public about the negative effects of corporal punishment, and to continue to support and shed light on parties and organizations such as UNICEF, the GIEACPC, and UNESCO in order to achieve these means through which awareness and promoting the end of corporal punishment can be spread. These campaigns must convey certain messages including but not limited to:
2. short-term and long-term psychological, emotional damage it can leave a child with, such as but not limited to:
   * 1. impairing a child's trust and confidence; causing embarrassment, humiliation, a sense of worthlessness, anger, resentment, and confusion,
     2. causing child to have trouble forming close, especially intimate, relationships with others later in life,
     3. poor academic performance,
     4. low class participation,
     5. school dropout and declining psychosocial well-being,
     6. mental health problems,
3. short-term and long-term physical damage it can leave a child with, such as but not limited to:
4. abrasions,
5. severe muscle injury,
6. extensive hematomas,
7. whiplash damage,
8. life-threatening fat hemorrhage,
9. children are receiving inadequate education due to such physical and psychological effects,
10. corporal punishment reinforces physical aggression and violence in society;
11. Welcomes the accelerating global movement towards legal prohibition of all corporal punishment of children in all educational settings of their lives such as, but not limited to:
12. pre-school
13. primary through Secondary school
14. extra-curricular educational activities;
15. Calls uponmember states to advocate and advertise the abolishment of corporal punishment in school by the means of campaigning. This shall be done through medias including but not limited to:
    1. social media,
    2. newspapers,
    3. radio,
    4. television,
    5. advertisements,
    6. posters,
    7. flyers;
16. Encouragesmember states to advertise alternative methods of disciplinary, by means of including but not limited to:
    1. providing guidance and counseling to their pupils when they have done something wrong,
    2. involve parents or guardians of the child if the school authorities cannot handle the child,
    3. teachers employing behavior management techniques that promote pro-social classroom interactions among the students,
17. Further calls for free resources provided for teachers that implement the negative effects of corporal punishment and promote effective ways to educate the child by means such as, but not limited to:
18. booklets,
19. informative Books,
20. documentaries,
21. degree programs, such as but not limited to:

i. pre-service training,

ii. in-service training,

iii. teachers license;

1. Requestsmember states to implement law reforms that requires the removal of any existing authorizations of corporal punishment. Some states have a long-standing law right to use "reasonable" corporal punishment, this must be removed or redefined;
2. Encourages member states to create an organized knowledge base to collect, analyze and share data regarding corporal punishment in schools, as collecting reliable evidence to help make visible the severity of the consequences it will have on a child as seen in clause 1 by methods including but not limited to:
3. regulating and ensuring accurate data,
   * 1. statistics and numbers are currently unavailable and must be collected to help recognize the negative effects of corporal punishment,
     2. results of investigation shall not infringe the privacy of the child,
4. presenting data in a effective and informative way and advertise such data with the means proposed in clause 2;
5. Further requests member states to amend the Criminal Code to give children the same protection from physical assault that is given to adults and to recognize children's right to physical integrity and dignity;
6. Strongly urgesmember states to implement a method where corporal punishment in school is monitored, which the government can quickly change where the child is not being physically harmed any longer, that includes consequences/punishments for those who do not abide by the law such as but not limited to:
7. fines,
8. suspension of being able to practice an educational profession;
9. Requests all member states to work collaboratively and individually at international and regional levels, to speed the progress towards the abolishment of corporal punishment of children in schools universally and effectively;
10. Declaresthat legal prohibition of corporal punishment for children is a critical foundation for changing social norms which accept or condone such violence and for promoting positive, non-violent relationships with children, which is vital for an inclusive and nurturing society that procures global citizens;
11. Encourages that schools and teachers are made aware of alternatives to corporal punishments, such as but not limited to:
    * + 1. Making pupils come in early,
        2. After school detentions,
        3. Suspensions,
        4. Expulsions in extreme cases,
        5. Chores and other (unwanted) community work,
        6. Praising and promoting good behaviour and work,
        7. Other punishments which do not involve corporal punishments.