

Patron : Mrs. Selina Tsang
贊助人 : 曾鮑笑薇女士



Against Child Abuse Ltd.

防止虐待兒童會有限公司

13/F, Corn Yan Centre, 3 Jupiter Street, North Point, Hong Kong.

香港北角木星街3號澤盈中心13樓

Tel: (852) 3542 5722 Fax: (852) 3542 5709

E-mail: aca@aca.org.hk Home Page: <http://www.aca.org.hk>

Chairperson : Dr. Patrick Cheung
主席 : 張志雄醫生

Director : Dr. Jessica Ho
總幹事 : 何愛珠博士

SpankOut Day
Stop Corporal Punishment on Children
(27.4.2014)

Press Release

The International SpankOut Day is on 30 April. The Against Child Abuse Chuk Yuen Centre organized a SpankOut Day carnival to promote “Zero Tolerance of Violence against Children”, positive parenting and to urge for a joint effort to create a safe home and a caring community.

4.30 SpankOut Day

The USA initiated the SpankOut Day in 1988 to give widespread attention to the need of ending corporal punishment on children and to promote non-violent ways of parenting. The SpankOut Day on 30 April of every year raises awareness to stop spanking and hitting children in many countries around the world.

The Against Child Abuse has organized activities to promote the SpankOut Day since 2005. Today, ACA Chuk Yuen Centre organizes a SpankOut Day carnival in Wong Tai Sin to promote H.U.G. in parenting. ‘H’ stands for ‘Harmony’. Having a harmonious parent-child relationship is the foundation for effective parenting. ‘U’ means ‘Understanding’. It is important for parents to understand the needs of the children. ‘G’ means ‘Guidance’. Parents should provide proper guidance for children. Through the message of H.U.G., we hope that parents will be more gentle with their children so that they can grow up in a safe and non-violent environment. Our carnival also includes a variety of activities, such as children's performances, game booths, lucky draw, guest sharing, exhibitions, introduction of our services, etc.

Negative impact of corporal punishment

Corporal punishment cannot help children to understand their mistakes. It negatively affects their development. There are many negative consequences of corporal punishment, including negative emotion, weak attention, poor self-discipline, and low self-esteem. Children may also wrongly conclude that violence is the only means to solve problems. More importantly, prolonged use of corporal punishment, regardless of how trivial the act is, may later escalate to physical child abuse.

Patron : Mrs. Selina Tsang
贊助人 : 曾鮑笑薇女士



Against Child Abuse Ltd.

防止虐待兒童會有限公司

13/F, Corn Yan Centre, 3 Jupiter Street, North Point, Hong Kong.

香港北角木星街3號澤盈中心13樓

Tel: (852) 3542 5722 Fax: (852) 3542 5709

E-mail: aca@aca.org.hk Home Page: <http://www.aca.org.hk>

Chairperson : Dr. Patrick Cheung
主席 : 張志雄醫生

Director : Dr. Jessica Ho
總幹事 : 何愛珠博士

Legislation to ban corporal punishment of children

In 1976, the government enacted “Child Care Service Regulations” stating that no person shall administer corporal punishment to a child in child care centres. Flogging of young offenders as a form of corporal punishment was banned in Hong Kong penal system in 1990. In September 1991, the government amended “Education Regulations” to ban corporal punishment of students. Unfortunately, until now, there is no legal prohibition of corporal punishment on children at home.

According to the statistics of child abuse cases from the Social Welfare Department, the number of child abuse cases (including physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and multiple abuse) increased by 50% from 622 in 2004 to 963 in 2013. The worsening situation is of concern to us. The immediate prohibition of all corporal punishment on children is necessary.

A child development policy should be put in place

Dr Jessica Ho, Director of ACA, said that most parents love their children but they mainly resort to beating and scolding to discipline children. We encourage parents to adopt positive parenting to discipline children. Corporal punishment is a form of violence and it is an infringement of children’s rights. Corporal punishment on children not only causes them physical pain, it also affects their psychological health. Violence can be transmitted from generation to generation.

We have the following recommendations:

1. Corporal punishment of children at home should be prohibited by law. At the same time, the bottom line of zero tolerance for violence should be set by legislation. We are determined to take the necessary measures to protect children and families. Until now, 37 countries have passed by laws to ban all forms of corporal punishment (please refer to the attachment). We hope that Hong Kong can become the first region in Asia to ban corporal punishment on children by law. Children have the right to grow up without fear and violence.
2. Assist parents to acquire legal and positive parenting skills and support them in difficult circumstances. Education on non-violent conflict resolution must start early.

Patron : Mrs. Selina Tsang
贊助人 : 曾鮑笑薇女士



Against Child Abuse Ltd.

防止虐待兒童會有限公司

13/F, Corn Yan Centre, 3 Jupiter Street, North Point, Hong Kong.

香港北角木星街3號澤盈中心13樓

Tel: (852) 3542 5722 Fax: (852) 3542 5709

E-mail: aca@aca.org.hk Home Page: <http://www.aca.org.hk>

Chairperson : Dr. Patrick Cheung
主席 : 張志雄醫生

Director : Dr. Jessica Ho
總幹事 : 何愛珠博士

3. A child development policy should be put in place. The establishment of an independent child commission to cultivate a safe environment for the optimal growth of children should no longer be delayed.

We appeal for an immediate ban on all forms of corporal punishment of children and that every effort be made to create a more healthy environment in the home. Every day should be a SpankOut Day!

Enquiries:

Dr. Jessica Ho, Director (Tel: 9121 4650)

Mr. Peter Ng, Social Worker (Tel. 2351 6060)

Patron : Mrs. Selina Tsang
贊助人 : 曾鮑笑薇女士



Against Child Abuse Ltd.

防止虐待兒童會有限公司

13/F, Corn Yan Centre, 3 Jupiter Street, North Point, Hong Kong.

香港北角木星街3號澤盈中心13樓

Tel: (852) 3542 5722 Fax: (852) 3542 5709

E-mail: aca@aca.org.hk Home Page: <http://www.aca.org.hk>

Chairperson : Dr. Patrick Cheung
主席 : 張志雄醫生

Director : Dr. Jessica Ho
總幹事 : 何愛珠博士

Attachment

In the following 37 countries, children are protected by law from all corporal punishment:

No.	Country	Year	No.	Country	Year
1	Sweden	1979	20	Portugal	2007
2	Finland	1983	21	Uruguay	2007
3	Norway	1987	22	Venezuela	2007
4	Austria	1989	23	Spain	2007
5	Cyprus	1994	24	Togo	2007
6	Denmark	1997	25	Costa Rica	2008
7	Latvia	1998	26	Republic of Moldova	2008
8	Croatia	1999	27	Luxembourg	2008
9	Bulgaria	2000	28	Liechtenstein	2008
10	Israel	2000	29	Poland	2010
11	Germany	2000	30	Tunisia	2010
12	Turkmenistan	2002	31	Kenya	2010
13	Iceland	2003	32	Congo, Republic of	2010
14	Ukraine	2004	33	Albania	2010
15	Romania	2004	34	South Sudan	2011
16	Hungary	2005	35	TFYR Macedonia	2013
17	Greece	2006	36	Honduras	2013
18	Netherlands	2007	37	Malta	2014
19	New Zealand	2007			

Source:

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (March, 2014). States with Full Abolition. Retrieved April 8, 2014, from:

http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/progress/prohib_states.html