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贊助人 : 梁唐青儀女士



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

Director : Dr. Jessica Ho  
總幹事 : 何愛珠博士

## **ACA SpankOut Day Stop Corporal Punishment on Children (30.4.2016)**

### **Press Release**

In support of the International SpankOut Day, the Against Child Abuse Chuk Yuen Centre organizes an open day cum SpankOut Day carnival on 30 April to promote the “zero” tolerance of violence against children and positive parenting in order to develop a safe, harmonious and caring community.

#### **4.30 SpankOut Day**

USA initiated 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. SpankOut Day was thus established on 30 April of every year by many countries around the world.

The Against Child Abuse had organized activities to promote SpankOut Day since 2005. Today the ACA Chuk Yuen Centre organizes a SpankOut Day carnival in Wong Tai Sin to promote positive parenting to replace corporal punishment. Through the community education programme, we hope parents can stop violence on children so that they can grow up in a safe and non-violent environment. Our carnival includes a variety of activities, such as children's performances, game booths, lucky draw, guest sharing and introduction of social services for the families.

#### **Negative impact of corporal punishment**

Corporal punishment cannot help children to understand their mistakes. On the other hand, it has a negative impact to their development. There are many negative consequences of corporal punishment, including negative emotion, weak attention, poor self-discipline, and low self-esteem. Children will also misunderstand 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.

#### **Legislation to ban corporal punishment on children**

In 1976, the government enacted “Child Care Service Regulations” stating that no person shall administer corporal punishment to a child in child care centre. Flogging on 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 on students. Unfortunately, until now, there is no legal prohibition of corporal punishment on children at home.



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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 almost 20% from 763 in 2005 to 874 in 2015. Nearly half of child abuse cases were physical abuse. The worsening situation is of our concern. The immediate prohibition of all corporal punishment on children is necessary.

### **We need child development policies**

Dr. Jessica Ho, Director of ACA, said that most of the parents love their children but they mainly resorted to beating, scolding and controlling their children in discipline. We encourage the 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. To urge for the prohibition of all corporal punishment on children including at home by law. At the same time, the bottom line of zero tolerance for violence should be set by legislation. We are determined to take necessary measures to protect children and families. Until now, 49 countries or states have passed by laws to ban all forms of corporal punishment (please refer to the attachment). We hope that Hong Kong can become one of them to ban corporal punishment on children by law. Children have the right to grow up without fear and violence.
2. To provide assistance for parents to acquire legal and positive parenting skills and support them in difficult circumstances. Education on non-violent conflict resolution must start early.
3. To urge for, as a long term development, the establishment of an independent child commission to cultivate a safe environment for the optimal growth of children.

We appeal to stop all forms of corporal punishment on children from today and cultivate a safe environment for children. We wish that every day is a SpankOut Day!

### **Enquiries:**

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## Attachment

In the following 49 countries or states, children are protected by law from all corporal punishment:

No.	Country	Year	No.	Country	Year
1	Sweden	1979	26	Republic of Moldova	2008
2	Finland	1983	27	Luxembourg	2008
3	Norway	1987	28	Liechtenstein	2008
4	Austria	1989	29	Poland	2010
5	Cyprus	1994	30	Tunisia	2010
6	Denmark	1997	31.	Kenya	2010
7	Latvia	1998	32	Congo, Republic of	2010
8	Croatia	1999	33	Albania	2010
9	Bulgaria	2000	34	South Sudan	2011
10	Israel	2000	35	TFYR Macedonia	2013
11	Germany	2000	36	Honduras	2013
12	Turkmenistan	2002	37	Cabo Verde	2013
13	Iceland	2003	38	Malta	2014
14	Ukraine	2004	39	San Marino	2014
15	Romania	2004	40	Nicaragua	2014
16	Hungary	2005	41	Estonia	2014
17	Greece	2006	42	Brazil	2014
18	Netherlands	2007	43	Bolivia	2014
19	New Zealand	2007	44	Argentina	2014
20	Portugal	2007	45	Andorra	2014
21	Uruguay	2007	46	Peru	2015
22	Venezuela	2007	47	Benin	2015
23	Spain	2007	48	Ireland	2015
24	Togo	2007	49	Mongolia	2016
25	Costa Rica	2008			

### Source:

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children (April, 2016). States with Full Abolition.

Retrieved April 27, 2016, from:

[http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/progress/prohib\\_states.html](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/progress/prohib_states.html)

