

---

25 September 2014

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

*(Briefing) Global Initiative: "Young children's right to an end to all violent punishment"*  
*(Fact Sheet) Corporal Punishment Fact Sheet*  
*(Resource) Alternatives to Corporal Punishment Handbook*  
*(Accepting Applications) Threshold Foundation: Sustainable Planet Grants Committee*  
*(Accepting Concept Memos) Gates Foundation: Global Health Grants*

---

(Briefing) Global Initiative: "Young children's right to an end to all violent punishment"

The Global Initiative has produced a new briefing, "Young children's right to an end to all violent punishment."

The briefing emphasizes the importance of prohibition for young children and urges organisations promoting improved conditions for young children to work for prohibition.

Excerpt:

*Prohibition and elimination of all violent punishment of children is a well-established human rights obligation. Young children are among the most likely to experience corporal punishment and are most vulnerable to its many negative effects. Yet despite widespread concern about violence against young children in the home and elsewhere, the legal and social acceptance of violent punishment is rarely highlighted in child protection work in the early childhood sector. Similarly, the legality and practice of violent punishment is seldom explicitly addressed in the promotion of early childhood care and education services or in efforts to improve young children's health and development. Neglect of the issue weakens attempts to combat violence against young children. And the persisting legality and widespread social acceptance of violent punishment of children reduces the potential of all work on early childhood to improve developmental outcomes for children and prevent this most common form of violence in their lives.*

To see the full briefing, visit: <http://bit.ly/1o7ejMW>

(Fact Sheet) Corporal Punishment Fact Sheet

### **What is corporal punishment?**

Corporal punishment is when a person in authority uses physical force with the intention of causing pain for disciplinary purposes. Corporal punishment of children usually includes things like smacking, slapping, spanking or beating with the hand or with some implement (like a stick or a belt). It can also involve other things, like kicking, shaking, pinching or burning.

Discipline is meant to teach a person the difference between right and wrong, not to cause injury. There is no need to inflict pain to discipline a child. There are many other forms of discipline which are much more effective.

### **Alternatives to corporal punishment**

There are many other ways that children can be disciplined. Here are four examples:

- Explain the problem.
- Make children take responsibility for their actions: For example, if the child breaks something, he or she must fix it.
- “Time out”: Sometimes children become overexcited and this can lead to bad behaviour. It can be effective to take the child out of the room to calm down, sit quietly and think about what he or she has done wrong.
- Take away privileges: This could mean, for example, not allowing the child to watch television or visit friends, or not giving the child pocket money.

### **Why is corporal punishment a problem?**

- Corporal punishment can turn into serious physical abuse.
- Corporal punishment teaches children that violence is an acceptable way of dealing with issues.
- Corporal punishment teaches children that it is okay to use violence against someone you love.
- Corporal punishment makes children more aggressive towards other children.
- Children who are exposed to violence are more likely to be violent as adults.
- Corporal punishment does not teach children the reason why their behaviour was wrong.
- Corporal punishment can affect self-esteem by making the victim feel scared, sad, ashamed or worthless.
- Corporal punishment can destroy the relationship between a child and the child’s parents or caregiver.

### **Rights that are affected by corporal punishment**

- right not to be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- right to be protected from violence and abuse
- right to development, including the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- right to dignity and bodily integrity

View the fact sheet online at: <http://bit.ly/1trEfZ9>

---

#### (Resource) Alternatives to Corporal Punishment Handbook

An introductory handbook for promoting positive discipline in schools for quality education. The handbook is part of the Creating Safer Schools Series by the Republic of Uganda's Ministry of Education and Sports

Excerpt:

*We have all experienced corporal punishment at school or at home, perhaps in the form of caning, slapping, pinching, being made to kneel in the sun or generally being humiliated. We have all grown up witnessing its regular use, and as a result, we have come to think of corporal punishment as normal. Because our parents and teachers used it, we have come to understand corporal punishment as an acceptable way to relate with children. We may even have come to think of it as necessary, because people who loved us and cared about us used it.*

*However, times change, and with change we gain new knowledge. As custodians of children's hopes and aspirations, we must accept the responsibility for creating an environment that will help children thrive. There is now a widespread understanding that corporal punishment is unlawful child abuse and harmful. It no longer has a place in the education system. This handbook introduces the knowledge and skills that are needed to create safer schools in Uganda as a measure to promote learning, growth and development of children.*

To view or download the handbook, visit: <http://uni.cf/1rhGQ7L>

---

#### (Accepting Applications) Threshold Foundation: Sustainable Planet Grants Committee

We work to bring human activities into harmony with nature by transforming policy, action, culture and technology so that we may live and thrive within the physical limits of local and global ecosystems. At the same time, we strive to protect threatened ecosystems and species.

Our grants address global ecological issues such as climate change, habitat destruction, water quality and supply, and biodiversity conservation. They contribute to: empowering local and indigenous communities, creating strong energy policies, deploying new clean technologies, and developing effective communication strategies and messages that increase support for protecting and enhancing the natural environment at local, regional and global levels.

Our approach favors the creation and implementation of multi-disciplinary, long-term solutions that address the complex range of variables (fossil fuels, deforestation, water and air pollution, pesticides, etc.) contributing to climate change and ecosystem decline. We encourage creative and innovative solutions that facilitate systemic well-being.

For the 2014-2015 grantmaking cycle Threshold will accept applications from organizations working to address the causes of, and contributors to, climate change. We will also accept proposals that mitigate and/or create opportunities to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and that protect natural ecosystems.

For more information or to apply, visit: <http://bit.ly/1u55YQW>

---

(Accepting Concept Memos) Gates Foundation: Global Health Grants

We accept concept memos for grants in our Global Health initiatives. These include:

- Enteric & Diarrheal Diseases
- Malaria
- Pneumonia

## Getting Started

Please follow these instructions carefully when submitting a Concept Memo to the Global Health program. Note: Due to tax, legal, and reporting issues, we require that all Concept Memos be submitted in English.

### Step 1: Download and Complete the Concept Memo

The Concept Memo includes questions regarding the scope, outcomes, and risks of your project as well as your organization's experience regarding the proposed work.

### Step 2: Submit your Concept Memo online

You must complete the online Concept Memo submission form and attach your completed Concept Memo in order for the foundation to process your request. Please do not mail a duplicate hard copy after submitting your Concept Memo online or send any additional attachments or information (videos, books, program materials, etc.)

## Review Process

Once you've submitted your Concept Memo, you will receive a confirmation that we have received it. Your Concept Memo will be reviewed and you should generally receive a decision regarding whether it has been accepted within ten to twelve weeks of receipt of your application. Global Health program Concept Memos are reviewed on a continuous basis throughout the year.

For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1sxMgrv>

---

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website:

<http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org)

### For more information contact:

Firelight Foundation  
740 Front Street, Suite 380  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA  
[www.firelightfoundation.org](http://www.firelightfoundation.org)  
+1 831-429- 8750