



Global Initiative to
End All Corporal Punishment
of Children

BRIEFING ON IRELAND FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, COUNTRY REPORT TASK FORCE, 109th session (Oct/Nov 2013)

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1 The human rights obligation to prohibit corporal punishment

- 1.1 The legality and practice of corporal punishment of children breaches their fundamental rights to respect for their human dignity and physical integrity and to equal protection under the law, and the right not to be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – rights guaranteed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international human rights instruments.

This briefing describes the legality of corporal punishment of children in Ireland. In light of the obligation under international human rights law to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, the recommendations of the UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children, the repeated recommendations to Ireland by the treaty monitoring bodies, and the recommendation to prohibit made during the Universal Periodic Review in 2011, we hope the Human Rights Committee will:

- **raise the issue of corporal punishment of children in its List of Issues for Ireland, in particular asking what measures are being taken to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in the home and all other settings, and**
- **recommend to Ireland, following its examination of the state party’s fourth report, that legislation is enacted and enforced which explicitly prohibits corporal punishment in all settings, including the home, as a matter of priority, together with appropriate public education and professional training on positive, participatory and non-violent forms of education and childrearing.**