**Briefing on Estonia for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 23rd session, March 2020**

From the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, February 2020

**(a) About the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children**

1. The Global Initiative ([www.endcorporalpunishment.org)](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)) promotes universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in fulfilment of states’ obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties. Our aims are supported by UNICEF, UNESCO, human rights institutions and international and national NGOs. Since 2002, the Global Initiative has regularly briefed the Committee on the Rights of the Child on this issue, and since 2004 has similarly briefed the Committee Against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Council; we have briefed the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities since the beginning of its work.

**(b) Prohibition of all corporal punishment in Estonia**

2. Corporal punishment of children is prohibited in all settings, including the home. In November 2014, Parliament passed the Child Protection Act 2014, article 24 of which states (unofficial translation): “(1) It is prohibited to neglect a child, to mentally, emotionally, physically or sexually abuse a child, including to humiliate, frighten or physically punish a child, and also to punish a child in any other way that endangers the mental, emotional or physical health of a child…. (4) The use of physical force is only permissible for the purpose of this Act to restrict the movement or movements of a child to the extent that is proportionate and necessary to avert the danger either threatening the child or coming from the child. It is not permitted to use physical force for the purpose of punishment.” The new Act came into force on 1 January 2016. Children also have protection from violence and abuse under the Family Law Act 2010 and the Criminal Code 2013.

3. During the Universal Periodic Review of Estonia in 2016, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to ending corporal punishment promoting positive parenting.[[1]](#footnote-1) It later reported to the Human Rights Council that various campaigns on positive parenting have been carried out over the years.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**4. We hope the Committee will, in its examination of Estonia, welcome the prohibition of all corporal punishment, and recommend that this prohibition is adequately monitored and enforced in all settings, and that positive, non-violent and participatory forms of child rearing and discipline are promoted through awareness campaigns and training programmes.**

*Briefing prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children*

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1. 12 April 2016, A/HRC/32/7, Report of the working group, para. 57 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 30 June 2016, A/HRC/32/2 Advance Unedited Version, Report of the Human Rights Council on its 32nd session, para. 339 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)