

BRIEFING FROM GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO END ALL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN

BRIEFING FOR THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE PRE-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP – May 2006

*From Peter Newell, Joint Coordinator, Global Initiative
info@endcorporalpunishment.org*

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (fourth periodic report – CAT/C/55/Add.11)

Corporal punishment is lawful in the **home**. Children have legal protection from violence and abuse under the Act on basic guarantees of children's rights (1998, amended 2004), the Family Code, the Criminal Code (amended 2003) and the Constitution (1993) but there is no explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment within the family. Research has found corporal punishment of children in the home to be widespread.¹

Corporal punishment is unlawful in **schools** and in the **penal system** but it is not explicitly prohibited in **other institutions and forms of childcare**.

In its concluding observations on the State party's third report in 2005, the **Committee on the Rights of the Child** expressed concern that corporal punishment is not prohibited in the family and in alternative care settings and at its continued use, despite prohibition, in schools (CRC/C/15/Add.274, para 36). The Committee also noted the lack of follow to its previous recommendations concerning corporal punishment (para 7). The Committee urged the State party to "explicitly prohibit by law all forms of corporal punishment in the family and in alternative care settings", to "prevent and combat the practice of corporal punishment of children in the family, in schools and other institutions by effective implementation of legislation" and to "conduct awareness raising and public education campaigns against corporal punishment and promote non-violent participatory forms of discipline" (para 37).

¹ DCI Newsletter (1990), "Close-up: Corporal Punishment in the USSR", vol. 7, pp.1-2; Berrien, F. B. et al. (1995), "Child abuse prevalence in Russian urban population: A preliminary report", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol. 19, pp.261-264