

BRIEFING FROM GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO END ALL CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN

BRIEFING FOR THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE PRE-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP – April/May 2007

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Of the state parties to be examined in the 39th session of the Committee Against Torture, corporal punishment of children in all settings, including within the family home, is prohibited in Norway and Latvia, and Portugal is committed to legal reform. Corporal punishment is lawful in the home and alternative care settings in Estonia, Australia, Benin and Uzbekistan. It is prohibited in schools in Estonia, Uzbekistan and some states/territories of Australia; prohibition in schools in Benin is by circular rather than legislation. In penal systems, no state party allows corporal punishment as a sentence of the courts, but Benin has yet to explicitly prohibit its use as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions.

We hope that the Committee will encourage states in their progress towards eliminating all corporal punishment of children, and, where relevant, make recommendations that state parties prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home and alternative care contexts, and support this with appropriate public education and professional training on positive, participatory and non-violent forms of discipline.

The Committee's attention is respectfully drawn to the Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 8, issued in June 2006, on "The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment". The UN Secretary General's Study on violence against children, submitted to the General Assembly in October 2006, recommends universal prohibition of all corporal punishment, setting a goal of 2009.

LATVIA (second periodic report – CAT/C/...)

Corporal punishment of children is **prohibited in all settings**.