



## UN CAT 52nd session on THAILAND

Submission on the issue of Corporal Punishment to inform the review of Thailand  
by the UN Committee Against Torture during its 52<sup>nd</sup> session, April-May 2014

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### **BACKGROUND**

This supplementary submission highlights a few main issues that continue obstructing the path to the full and absolute prohibition of corporal punishment in Thailand

Childline Thailand Foundation (CTF) runs a nationwide 24-hour telephone helpline with an easy-to-remember number – 1387. Childline provides its services for any child under the age of 18. The foundation works with various government and NGO stakeholders to safeguard the rights of every child as outlined by the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC).

### **SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Enact legislation that fully prohibits corporal punishment in all settings.
2. Amend the Article 1567 of the Civil and Commercial Code and fully prohibit corporal punishment.
3. Amend Articles 61 and 65 of the Child Protection Act, 2003 and fully prohibit corporal punishment.
4. Implement and support implementation by other stakeholders of campaigns against corporal punishment in all settings.
5. Implement and support implementation by other stakeholders of educational awareness programs to promote skills of Positive Discipline among parents and all of the professionals that deal with children, including law enforcement officials and corrections officers.
6. Establish and support the established mechanisms created by other stakeholders for reporting and seeking a remedy for a child that falls a victim to corporal punishment – such as child helplines, drop-in centers, outreach based interventions, etc.
7. Government should support and cooperate with non-governmental child helplines, drop-in centers, community outreach programs to effectively prevent and successfully remedy instances of corporal punishment.



## SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR THE THAI DELEGATION

### 1. Corporal punishment in home settings:

- 1.1. What specific measures, including legislation, programs, and budget allocations have been taken to eliminate deep-rooted harmful traditional practice of corporal punishment at home?
- 1.2. What steps have had been taken towards equipping parents with alternative measures of behavior control to eliminate their reliance on physical violence in form of corporal punishment and behavior control through fear?
- 1.3. What specific measures had been taken to amend Article 1567 of the Civil and Commercial Code and fully prohibiting corporal punishment as per the recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Government's own commitments made during the Universal Periodic Review of Thailand in 2011?
- 1.4. Which avenues for reporting and seeking a remedy are currently available to a child suffering severe corporal punishment in home settings?

### 2. Corporal punishment in alternative care settings:

- 2.1. What specific measures, including legislation, programs, and budget allocations have been taken to eliminate corporal punishment in alternative care settings?
- 2.2. Which avenues for reporting and seeking a remedy are currently available to a child suffering corporal punishment in alternative care settings?

### 3. Corporal punishment in day care settings:

- 3.1. What specific measures, including legislation, programs, and budget allocations have been taken to eliminate corporal punishment in day care settings?
- 3.2. Which avenues for reporting and seeking a remedy are currently available to a child suffering corporal punishment in day care settings?

### 4. Corporal punishment in school settings:

- 4.1. What specific measures, programs, and budget allocations have been taken to eliminate corporal punishment in school settings, which is while being prohibited is still widespread and commonly practiced?
- 4.2. What steps have had been taken towards equipping teachers with alternative measures of behavior control to eliminate their reliance on physical violence in form of corporal punishment and behavior control through fear?
- 4.3. Which avenues for reporting and seeking a remedy are currently available to a child suffering corporal punishment in school settings?
- 4.4. What sanctions will be applied to a school employee who had transgressed the prohibition on application of corporal punishment?



**5. Corporal punishment in correctional settings:**

- 5.1. What specific measures, programs, and budget allocations have been taken to eliminate corporal punishment in school settings, which is while being prohibited is still practiced?
- 5.2. Which avenues for reporting and seeking a remedy are currently available to a child suffering corporal punishment in correctional settings?
- 5.3. What sanctions will be applied to a corrections officer or a law enforcement official who had transgressed the prohibition on application of corporal punishment?

**6. General questions on corporal punishment:**

- 6.1. What specific steps had been taken to amend the Article 1567 of the Civil and Commercial Code?
- 6.2. What specific steps had been taken to amend Articles 61 and 65 of the Child Protection Act, 2003?

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