



Dear Sir or Madam,

With astonishment and concern I recently read on the homepage www.endcorporalpunishment.org that in your country **children** are not yet legally protected from **violence in the family, i.e. from corporal punishment** in child rearing (whereas it is legally banned almost everywhere in Europe and in many other countries).

I would like to ask you to consider whether a country - your country - can become **stable and peaceful** in the long term as long as it is socially accepted that already small children experience violence in their families? **Nelson Mandela** quoted "*There can be no greater revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children*" - and I would like to ask you to reflect on this sentence as well.

Studies from child psychology (Robin Grille: "Parenting for a Peaceful World") as well as from criminal psychology, psychohistory (Alice Miller, Arno Gruen) and **peace research** (Franz Jedlicka: "The forgotten Peace Formula") indicate that peacefulness in a country is based on **learning empathy in childhood**. In contrast, there is not a single serious study that has proven positive effects of physical disciplining of children - as you can read at www.end-violence.org .

I would be pleased if your country could join most of the modern countries that have already banned corporal punishment, and if you could mention the topic in your network, so that **your country's government** tackles the issue. The **WHO** has elaborated a detailed strategy for child protection: **The INSPIRE Framework** (free PDF Ebooks on the internet).

In this way, you can make an important contribution to the protection of the **most vulnerable members of every society** - and the development of a peaceful world. Improving children's protection is also the main goal of **SDG 16.2**.

Thank you if you are an advocate for this important issue!

Yours sincerely