

## QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS

Project title: **CHAPTER - Children Help movement Against Physical Threatening and Emotional Repression**

Project number: JUST/2015/RDAP/AG/CORP/9176



HFC  
"Hope  
For  
Children"



## QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS

1. What is the legal and actual status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the monitoring body of the UNCRC, in your country? Could you please provide us with their latest report regarding CP?

The latest report regarding corporal punishment in Cyprus was updated on July 2016. The main issues addressed by the report were the following:<sup>1</sup>

The repeal of the provision for “the right of any parent, teacher or other person having the lawful control or charge of the child to administer punishment to him” in article 54(6) of the Children’s Law 1956 that was still on the statute books. This provision was formally repealed in 2013. Article 54 where there was no explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment of children, in the family, schools and other settings was repealed in 2013 after a complaint was brought against Cyprus by the Association for the Protection of All Children (APPROACH) Ltd.

In the following settings corporal punishment is illegal :

Alternative care settings: Corporal punishment is unlawful in alternative care settings. The prohibition of corporal punishment within the family applies to all persons with parental authority over children .

Day care: Corporal punishment is unlawful in all early childhood care and all day care for older children.

Schools: Corporal punishment has been considered unlawful in schools since 1967 . Prohibition is reportedly included in the Regulations under Law 99/1989 on the operation of public secondary schools. A circular issued to all schools by the Ministry of Education and Culture in 2009 confirmed that all corporal punishment is prohibited in schools.

Penal institutions: Corporal punishment is unlawful as a disciplinary measure in penal institutions under the Rights of Detainees Law 2005, but the prohibition is not explicit. Although new legislation on juvenile justice has been under discussion since 2003, however have not been adopted yet.

Sentence for crime: Corporal punishment is unlawful as a sentence for crime. There is no provision for judicial corporal punishment in criminal law.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/assets/pdfs/states-reports/Cyprus.pdf>



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### 2. How is the law on treatment of children implemented and monitored?

Social practices may come to some extent in conflict with the legislation. To be able to implement the legislation there must be a close monitoring from the authorities. This role in the case of corporal punishment incidents is given not only to the police but also to the welfare office services. Welfare office services have the duty to investigate in an early stage any claims of corporal punishment. Police authorities have well training staff, that deals with claims of violence against children, taking video recorded statements from the victim in special rooms.<sup>2</sup>The cooperation of welfare office and the police in this cases is close .

### 3. What does your team believe needs to be changed in the national law to increase the odds of a successful implementation of the objectives of this project?

The area where the legislation has to be repealed is in the penal code. Article 19(1) of the Rights of Detainees Law 2005 does not explicit prohibits corporal punishment<sup>3</sup>

### 4. Which representatives (NGOs, public and private institutes, individuals etc.) do you believe are useful partners for the project and its output to be successful in your country?

The Ministry of Education and Culture that could disseminate the results of the project to all parents through public schools across Cyprus, and the Social Welfare Services that is involved in cases of families that practice severe corporal punishment or other types of violence. In addition, the Pancyprian School of Parents and the Pancyprian Federation of Parents' Associations of Elementary Schools, High Schools, Lyceums and Technical Schools are volunteer organizations that could also aid in the dissemination of the project's results offering a wide coverage since they have individual members and member associations across Cyprus.

Please provide some findings, if possible, about the circumstances of where CP is mostly practiced:

- a. Age of child,
- b. Social status (education and jobs by parents),
- c. Location (cities, rural...),
- d. Homes,
- e. Schools,
- f. Ethnic groups.

There are no reports or studies presenting official data on the enforcement of the law in Cyprus, the prevalence of identified cases, circumstances and factors related to Corporal punishment. There is also no central (state) registry and a comprehensive system for the collection of data relating to children rights' violations including corporal punishment in Cyprus.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.familyviolence.gov.cy/cgibin/hweb?-A=12&-V>manual>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2005\\_1\\_163/division-dda13b2853-cd66-48b3-5d06-ab8aebb4cc5d.html](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2005_1_163/division-dda13b2853-cd66-48b3-5d06-ab8aebb4cc5d.html)



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5. Please describe the communication channels between the state and the parents. Do national authorities provide general parent education?

There is no communication established between the state and the parents and therefore, there is no general parent education offered by the national authorities.

Volunteer Organizations such as the Pancyprian School of Parents offer lectures and seminars for parents on various issues concerning child development and child rearing. More consistent efforts regarding parent education are provided by NGOs and more specifically by our Organization “Hope For Children” CRC Policy Center. We provide seminars and lectures on child sexual abuse, on bullying and children rights to parents. These activities are often combined with lectures and seminars to teachers and workshops delivered to children in order to provide education on a holistic levels addressing all parties involved.

6. Is there a formal platform of regular cooperation between parents and schools?

Parents Associations in each school as well as the Federation of Parents Associations for primary, secondary and technical schools on a regional level in Cyprus are an established platform of communication between parents and schools. In this communication, procedural matters and issues concerning the needs of each school in terms of teaching staff etc., are addressed.

7. Are the ideas of positive parenting well known and accepted in your country?

Positive parenting is not well known in Cyprus, there are no nation-wide campaigns or programs implemented in Cyprus in the present or in the recent past addressing related issues. Most of the programs have limited duration, usually derive from programs implemented by NGOs and by academic institutions and the majority of them address parenting of special groups such as children with autism.

8. Teacher´s education: Is “Positive Parenting” included in the curricula for training of teachers?

To our knowledge, in the curricula for teachers’ training, psychology elective classes are included relating to child’s cognitive and emotional development but not any courses on positive parenting.



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