



BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN



Save the Children
Sweden



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Building a Europe for and with children

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Eliminating the corporal punishment of children

Questions and answers

Event organised on the occasion
of the 30th anniversary of the Swedish ban
on corporal punishment of children
with the support of the Swedish Government

Strasbourg

27 April 2010, 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm



Presentation of the event

Thirty years ago, Sweden introduced a ban on corporal punishment thus becoming the first country to forbid all forms of violence against children, including in the family/home. The ban was accompanied by a nationwide awareness-raising campaign, and 30 years on we can see how changes in attitudes and practices to promote non-violent methods of upbringing are possible in society. Since then, Save the Children has been advocating for the ban on corporal punishment across the world, gaining considerable expertise.

Banning or not banning the corporal punishment of children is not a choice that can be based upon political or cultural considerations. It is a human rights imperative.

In 2004, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe called for a Europe-wide ban on corporal punishment. The Council of Europe campaign "Raise your hand against smacking!", launched in 2008, seeks to eliminate violent forms of disciplining children.

Today, 20 European countries have introduced a ban on corporal punishment and 8 have committed to do so. In many cases, government or parliamentary initiatives to change legislation have encountered much resistance. The Council of Europe is convinced that this resistance can be overcome through information and awareness-raising on the issues at stake.

The objective of the event is to hold a debate with human rights experts, parliamentarians and journalists, led by Ambassador Per Sjögren, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe. Issues to be covered include:

- Why is it important to ban the corporal punishment of children?
- Does the state have the right to interfere in the privacy of the home?
- What lessons can be learnt from the Swedish experience?
- What is positive parenting?
- What can the Council of Europe offer to those wishing to promote the abolition of corporal punishment?

The languages of the debate will be English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

A light lunch will be served.

Programme

1.00 p.m. Opening of the exhibition "Eliminating corporal punishment of children in Europe" by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe.
Venue: Committee of Ministers' Foyer.

1.30 p.m. Opening of the debate by the facilitator, Ambassador Per Sjögren, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe.

Venue: Committee of Ministers' meeting room.

Panel discussion:

- Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
- Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Ms Elisabeth Dahlin, Secretary-General, Save the Children Sweden;
- Ms Edwige Antier, Paediatrician and Member of the French Parliament;
- Ms Christine McCafferty, Deputy of the House of Commons, United Kingdom, member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly;
- Ms Michaela Šojdrová, Deputy of the National Parliament, Czech Republic, member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly;

Concluding remarks by Ambassador Per Sjögren.

