

**MINISTRY
OF
EDUCATION, YOUTH & INFORMATION**
Every Child Can Learn, Every Child Must Learn

Jamaica Corporal Punishment – Addressing Cultural Acceptance



CURRENT POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- 2004: The Child Care and Protection Act bans corporal punishment in residential child care facilities.
- 2005: The Early Childhood Act bans corporal punishment in early childhood institutions.
- 2008: The Ministry of Education directive bans corporal punishment in all schools.



CURRENT POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- However, Corporal punishment is still lawful in the home under the common law.
- The Education Act is the principle enactment governing schools in Jamaica. Under that Act and its regulations, there is no provision that either expressly authorizes or prohibits the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary sanction in schools



CURRENT SITUATION

- Jamaica became a Pathfinder country with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children in 2016.
- This commits the Government to three to five years of accelerated action towards the achievement of Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.



JAMAICA – Actions to achieve SDG Target 16.2

- Road Map for Ending Violence Against Children (National Plan of Action).
- at the launch of Jamaica as a Pathfinder Country, the Prime Minister stressed the need for urgent combined commitment to deal with the threat of violence:



Words of Jamaica Prime Minister

- *“As a pathfinder country, Jamaica is committed to providing comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services for preventing and responding to violence. We are prepared to strengthen legislation to protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation by bringing all sectors together in a movement to end violence and provide children with a meaningful role at the heart of that movement.”*



Actions to date

- Finalisation of the Road Map and National Plan of Action – Ready for submission to Cabinet
 - National Stakeholder Consultations – which included children
 - Regular Senior Level Meetings
 - Coordination of National Reporting and Response Systems - The merger of the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the Office of Children Registry (OCR) into the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CFPSA).



Expected Outcomes of the National Plan of Action

- the NPACV's five Key Outcomes were developed to cut across multiple sectors and cover the lifecycle of the child.
- Together they represent thoughtful, holistic, and multi-sectoral activities for the government and its international and civil society partners:



Expected Outcomes of the National Plan of Action

1. Strengthened policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation.
2. Improved quality of, and access to services, for children affected by violence.
3. Strengthened family and community capacities to address issues related to children and violence.
4. Enhanced and increased public education sensitization and training on violence prevention, the care of child victims of violence, and children's rights.
5. Establishment of an integrated framework for the effective coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation



Changing a Culture

- Public declaration of the Prime Minister for a shift in culture:
 - ***“I wish to declare that I am totally against corporal punishment. I believe that the time has come for the Parliament to have a debate on this issue and finally declare corporal punishment at an end, both within public institutions and as a means of discipline available to parents”. (PM Jamaica – November 2017)***



Changing a Culture

- To solve a problem requires an assessment of the cause of that problem
- Part of the cause of corporal punishment is that it is a learnt behaviour that is inter-generational
- It is a means of maintaining authority/control by the parent
- Many times the parents do not know better



Changing a Culture

- Another reason may be social and/or economic difficulties being experienced by a family
- (e.g. a single mother raising a number of children releasing frustration on the children)



Changing a Culture

- Policy and Legislative Change
 - Child Care and Protection Act - Strengthen legislative framework for punishment and prevention of violence against children (*select committee of Parliament*)
 - Education Act and Regulations - Prohibit corporal punishment in schools and establish a framework for conscious disciplinary strategies



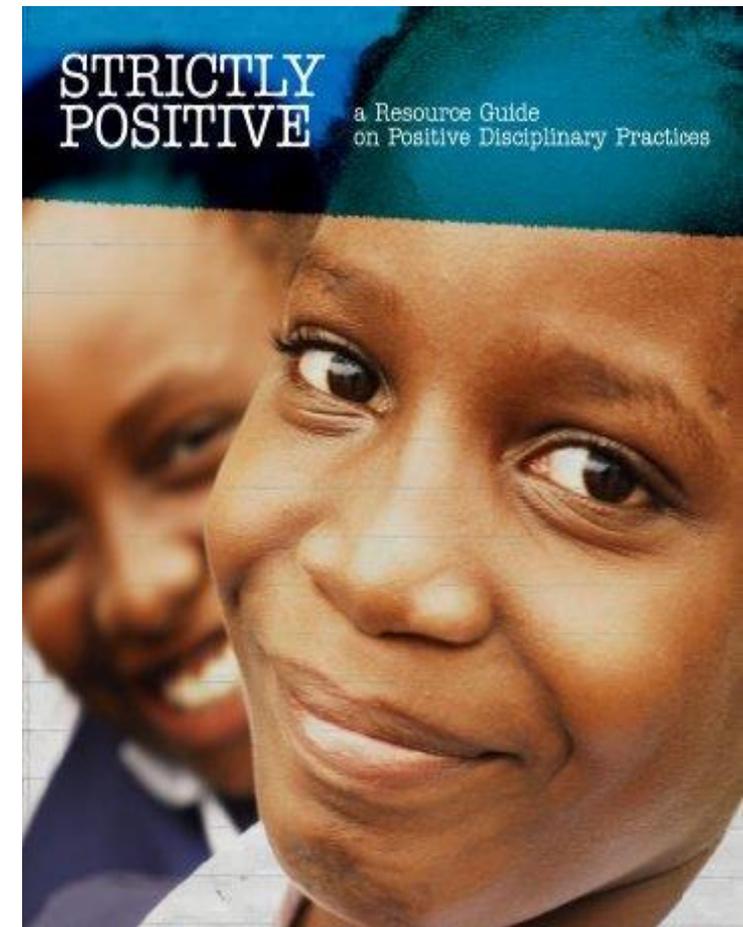
Changing a culture

- Provision of social support – social protection programmes
- Education
 - There must be public education on alternative methods of discipline
 - When we say to a parent do not use corporal punishment, we must provide them with tools of knowing how to discipline.



Changing a Culture - Education

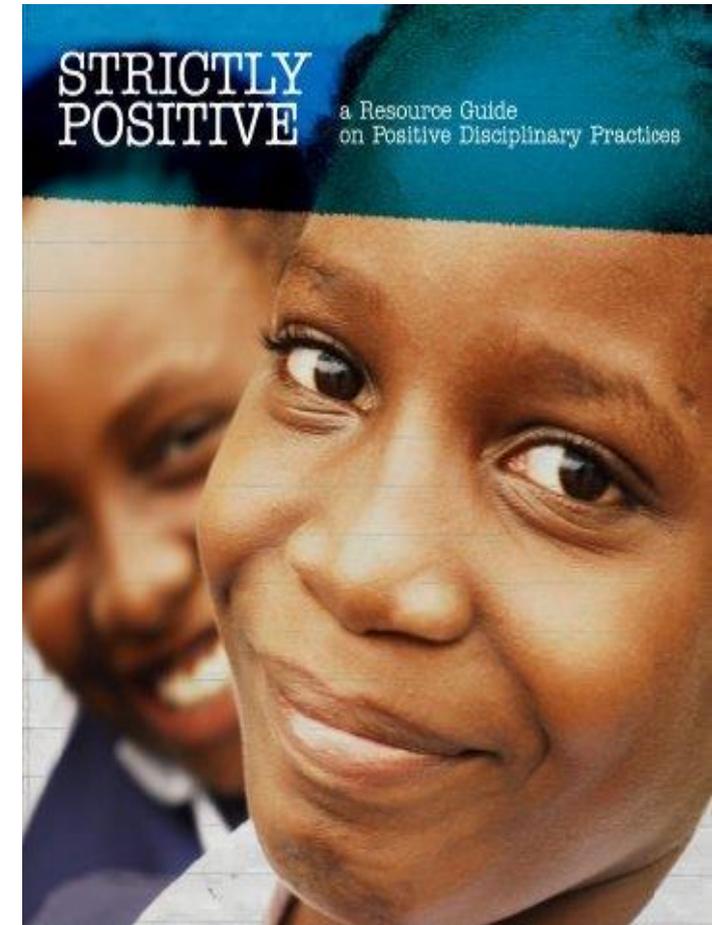
- Ministry of Education with the support of UNICEF produced this manual
- Following the policy decision to abolish the use of corporal punishment in schools
 - A resource guide to support positive discipline in Jamaica's schools



Changing a Culture - Education

Purpose

- to provide easy access to information for school personnel, especially teachers, and Ministry of Education officials to support them in using alternatives to corporal punishment.
- To serve as a guide to help create and maintain environments that support positive discipline in schools



Changing a Culture - Education

- Training of teachers – Ministry of Education
- Training of caregivers – Child Development Agency and Early Childhood Commission
- Training of parents – National Parenting Support Commission
- Public Education – use of media, consultations with business and religious sectors of the society.



Changing a Culture

- Changing a culture of violence against children will take time
- Addressing the issue of corporal punishment is not an easy fix but it is “fixable”
- It will take the combined effort of Governments, local and international bodies to achieve this goal
- The Government of Jamaica is committed to the elimination of violence against children and will take



Conclusion

The Journey Continues.....

