



# SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL CHILDREN FUNDAMENTAL FOR FAIR SOCIETIES

Child corporal punishment & sexual and gender-based violence are among the most widespread and severe threats to the wellbeing of children and depict a society's inability to protect the most vulnerable.

## CHALLENGES

### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is the most common and widespread form of violence against children around the world. Not taking action to end corporal punishment undermines investments made in child survival, health, and education, thus eroding human and social capital and slowing economic development. Corporal punishment costs societies up to a trillion US dollars every year. While 53 countries worldwide have prohibited corporal punishment of children, only 19 EU member states have adopted this important legislative protection.

WORLDWIDE, AROUND **6 IN 10 CHILDREN** AGED 2-14 YEARS OLD ARE SUBJECT TO **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT** BY THEIR CAREGIVERS, ON A REGULAR BASIS

**1 BILLION** CHILDREN EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF VIOLENCE EVERY YEAR

### SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Sexual and gender-based violence is one of the most severe violations of a child's rights. 1.8 million boys and girls are subjected to commercial sexual exploitation and child abuse. In Europe alone 1 in 5 children will be the victim of some form of sexual violence. The underlying causes of violence range from: diverse societal and gender norms; traditional practices; poverty; and a lack of social protection schemes which prevent families from providing a safe and nurturing environment for children.

IN EUROPE, **10 % - 20 % OF CHILDREN** ARE **SEXUALLY ASSAULTED** DURING THEIR CHILDHOOD.



**120 MILLION GIRLS** – ABOUT 1 IN 10 GIRLS WORLDWIDE – HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO **FORCED SEXUAL INTERCOURSE** OR OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL ACTS, AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES.

# CASE STUDIES



**SOUTH SUDAN** The 'Emergency GBV Prevention, Mitigation & Response in Conflict Affected & High Risk Areas' project' adopted a culturally appropriate behavioural change model to address stigma and ensure better community support for survivors of violence and for children born of rape. This model engaged local faith leaders and influential community members as champions.

<https://www.wvi.org/south-sudan>

**CAMBODIA** The SAFE SEAs programme strengthened the capacity of government & civil society to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation & child abuse. Parents attended courses on parenting skills and positive discipline. This has led to stronger commitment from parents to not use physical punishment or to allow their children to take part in harmful labour.

<https://www.wvi.org/cambodia>

# RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to tackle the many forms of violence against children and to increase their social protection, governmental authorities & child protection service providers must:

- (1) prohibit all forms of violence against children by law, and implementing the laws in practice;
- (2) empower children with information, knowledge and skills to protect themselves;
- (3) change attitudes and social norms that tolerate or condone violence against children;
- (4) ensure a continuum of services for prevention, protection and empowerment, which helps vulnerable children mitigate risks and cope with experiences of violence;
- (5) develop and scale up successful locally-owned solutions of tackling violence, while building on community assets, through partnerships among the families, children, communities, traditional leaders & government institutions.



## WHO WE ARE

We are 25 NGOs from across Europe working on social issues, supporting farmers, stopping climate change, protecting the environment, defending women's rights, young people, & gender equality, supporting fair trade, development, global justice, & workers' rights.

[makeeuropesustainableforall.org](http://makeeuropesustainableforall.org)

#FightInequalities

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