

Newsletter — Fall, 2021

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✚ 1. Upcoming events

The **NoHitZone conference** to be held in Austin, TX has been **postponed** until March 2022.

[Find out more and register here](#)

This looks to be an exciting conference and one that is sure to help advance the movement. Details about the conference, including answers to questions you may have, can be found on the link above. Click [here](#) for a pdf of the agenda.

Corporal punishment of children and public health: what does the research tell us?

Date **Tuesday 5 October 2021**

Time 9am New York/3pm Geneva/9pm Manila

[Find out more and register here](#)

This webinar, hosted by the World Health Organization and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, offers an opportunity to explore the key findings of five decades of research into corporal punishment of children. Hearing from some of the world's leading academics on the topic, participants will gain a thorough understanding of the impact of corporal punishment on children's health and well-being, and evidence-based insights into strategies for its prevention.

Lives in the Balance Children's Mental Health Conference

[Find out more and register here](#)

The *Lives in the Balance Children's Mental Health Conference* will be held online on **October 8**. This free conference will focus on corporal punishment, including two pending pieces of legislation that would ban corporal punishment in American schools.

Ending corporal punishment in the early years of childhood: an essential right and need of young children

Date **Wednesday 17 November 2021**

Time 9am New York/3pm Geneva/9pm Manila

[Find out more and register here](#)

Hosted by the Early Childhood Development Action Network and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, this webinar offers an opportunity to learn more about the prevalence and impacts of corporal punishment in early life, to hear about global progress towards prohibiting and eliminating corporal punishment in the early years, including examples of good practice, and to discuss strategies for ending corporal punishment as a priority for promoting the rights and wellbeing of young children and supporting the development of peaceful and strong societies.

✚ 2. 2nd Annual #HitNoMore Social Media Contest deadline **extended**

Due to the success of the first #HitNoMore Social Media Contest, the U.S. Alliance is pleased to sponsor a second contest. This year's contest addresses two topics: school corporal punishment and positive parenting. The contest opened on July 1 and entries will be accepted until **November 1**. We encourage ambassadors (and anyone interested) to submit short videos or memes on either or both topics. Cash prizes are awarded! To read the rules, click [here](#). To submit entries to the contest, click [here](#).

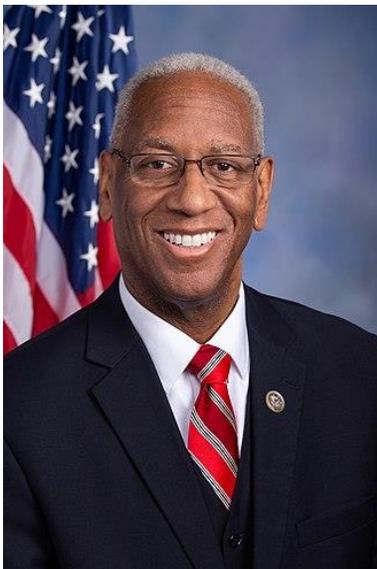
In addition, **everyone** is encouraged to participate in the voting for the best video or meme. Those who vote are entered into a lottery to win an **iPad mini**. To vote for the best image, click [here](#). To vote for the best video, click [here](#).

The winning entries from last year can be seen [here](#).

✚ 3. **FEATURE: [U.S. Rep McEACHIN talks about HR 8460](#)**

Physically punishing kids in school remains commonplace in pockets of the country, despite research over decades demonstrating its ineffectiveness and suggesting it's associated with harmful mental and behavioral outcomes. Reuters reported in 2012 that some teachers in Mississippi were allowed to keep a wooden paddle in the classroom. One Texas school district approved a rule that year allowing school administrators to spank students of the opposite sex.

HR8460 (The Protecting Our Students in School Act) would prohibit corporal punishment in schools that receive federal funding and establish a grant program to help improve school climate and culture. It was introduced June 10 in the U.S. House and Senate by a trio of Democrats: U.S. Reps. A. Donald McEachin of Virginia and Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon, along with U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut.



Rep. McEachin

Rep. McEachin was kind enough to answer a few questions for the U.S. Alliance....

QUESTION: What triggered you to get involved in this issue in the first place?

McEACHIN: Throughout my time in the Virginia State Senate and while in Congress, I have advocated for the fair and equitable treatment of all children. Not only does research show that corporal punishment is incredibly ineffective and harmful to students, but it is disproportionately applied to students of color and students with disabilities. Black male students are nearly twice as likely to be subjected to corporal punishment as white male students, and Black female students are three times more likely as white female students. Students with disabilities are also struck at higher rates, accounting for nearly 15% of all students who are subjected to corporal punishment.

We are talking about children being struck and beaten in schools for minor infractions like tardiness, failing to complete assigned homework, failing a test, or talking out of turn. And this harmful, physical practice is being applied to children of color and children with disabilities at alarmingly higher rates, despite the fact that these students are not more likely to break school rules than their peers.

When I began to learn about these striking disparities and the harm that this practice can cause to students, I became motivated to take legislative action. All students deserve to learn in an environment free from the threat of physical punishment.

QUESTION: Please briefly summarize the key points of H.R. 8460 and what you see as the major effects if it gets passed?

McEACHIN: The bicameral Protecting Our Students in Schools Act would do three important things:

One, it would ban the use of corporal punishment in any school that receives federal funding.

Two, it would implement several important and much-needed enforcement mechanisms to ensure the protection of students and their families, including a private right of action, the involvement of the attorney general and the Office for Civil Rights, and a series of rigorous reporting requirements for states and school districts.

And three, it would establish a grant program to incentivize states and school districts to improve school climate and culture for students through the implementation of positive, proactive measures to address student behavior, such as trauma-informed care, restorative justice interventions, and implicit bias training.

QUESTION: Why did you choose the legislative path as compared to lobbying the Secretary of Education to issue an Executive Order withholding federal funds from any public school that uses or condones corporal punishment on its students?

McEACHIN: While the withholding of federal funds is an important tool in curbing the use of corporal punishment in schools, our legislation goes even further and empowers students and their families with avenues for legal recourse, provides important enforcement mechanisms, and equips schools with the necessary resources and incentives to implement these changes while also adopting proactive and healthier interventions to help address student behavior.

Furthermore, as members of Congress, we have the ability to develop federal legislation that can create a lasting, national standard. The use of corporal punishment is an incredibly serious and concerning issue, and a permanent federal prohibition must be enacted that will address this issue swiftly and comprehensively. That's what our bill does.

QUESTION: What can the common citizen do to support you and help get this Legislation passed?

McEACHIN: Education, awareness, and advocacy are key. For many Americans, they are shocked to learn that corporal punishment is still a legally permissible form of punishment in nearly 20 states throughout our country. Having conversations and helping spread awareness about this issue is critical to our efforts. In addition, staying involved in the political process is an important tool available to everyone. Call up your local, state, and federally elected leaders and share your thoughts and concerns regarding the use of corporal punishment in schools.

There are incredible grassroots organizations, nonprofits, and advocacy groups that are committed to ending the use of corporal punishment in schools. I am proud to say that the Protecting Our Students in Schools Act enjoys a broad base of support from nearly 100 national, state, and local organizations representing teachers, pediatricians, psychologists, disability advocates and more.

QUESTION: Any other messages for the U.S. Alliance Ambassadors for Children?

McEACHIN: I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your hard work to protect the rights and dignity of every child, and for your work to end the use of corporal punishment in our nation's classrooms. Corporal punishment has no place in our school system – the classroom is a place where all children should be safe to develop, learn, and grow. Together, we will continue the fight to end these practices and keep all children safe.

You can also read an interview with Rep. McEachin by [Hassan Kanu of Reuters](#).

4. *Safe to Learn* Global Initiative announces new strategy for 2021-2024

Safe to Learn is an initiative dedicated to ending violence in and through schools so children are free to learn, thrive and pursue their dreams. *Safe to Learn* presents an opportunity to unlock the multiple wins of ending violence in schools, improving learning outcomes, better leveraging investments in education, and raising awareness and change attitudes towards violence against children.

To date, 15 countries have endorsed *Safe to Learn's* Call to Action, which sets out in high-level terms what needs to happen to end violence in schools. These countries include Cambodia, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Moldova, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda.

Our shared vision is to work with governments, civil society organizations, communities, teachers and children themselves to end the violence that undermines education and make sure every child — especially the most marginalized—is *Safe to Learn*.

Their new strategy includes:

Preventing violence in and through schools,

Embedding violence prevention and response in education globally,

Enhancing girls' and boys' learning experience and outcomes,

Rebuilding a stronger, bolder, and safer education for all post-COVID-19

Strengthening capacity to ensure sustainable change

You can read the entire strategy [here](#).

✚ 5. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children proposes “Six Game-Changing Actions”

Over many months, experts from across the End Violence community developed a prioritized set of policy proposals to end violence against children, informed by evidence and research from across the world.

In a new [Leaders’ Statement](#), senior leaders from across sectors are using the power of their collective voice to call for urgent action. If adopted and implemented, these game-changing proposals will strengthen the policy and legislative environment, bolster institutional frameworks and systems, and provide the funding and other resources needed to take what we know works and use it to prevent violence against children at home, at school, online and in the community.

End Violence Against Children is asking us to “Please **sign the Leaders’ Statement** on behalf of your organization to help secure new commitments to end violence against children and **use the proposals in your external communications and advocacy.**” You can ENDORSE THE STATEMENT [here](#).

The six game-changing actions they suggest are:

1. Ban all forms of violence against children by 2030
2. Equip parents and caregivers to keep children safe
3. Make the internet safe for children
4. Make schools safe, non-violent, and inclusive
5. Protect children from violence in humanitarian settings
6. More investment, better spent

You can read the full document [here](#).

✚ 6. Colombia prohibits corporal punishment against children

The End Violence Partnership announced that Colombia has become the 63rd country to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment against children, the most common form of violence against children worldwide. This prohibition makes Colombia the 11th country in Latin America to do so. With this prohibition, 313 million children are now protected against corporal punishment—by law—across the world, or 14 per cent of the global child population.

“Parents or individuals who exercise parental authority over children and adolescents have the right to educate, raise and correct their children according to their beliefs and values,” states Article 1 of Law 2089, the law prohibiting corporal punishment in Colombia. “The only limit is the prohibition to use physical punishment, cruel, humiliating, or degrading treatment and any type of violence against children and adolescents. The prohibition extends to any other person responsible for their care, in each of the different environments where childhood and adolescence unfold.”

For more information, visit the website *End Corporal Punishment*, an initiative of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children: <https://endcorporalpunishment.org/countdown/>

EDITOR'S NOTE: This news should make all Americans stop and think—the country (Colombia) that gave us the reign of terror of Pablo Escobar cares more about its children than the U.S. cares about their own?! As they say, WTF?!

✚ 7. No Hit Zones

We encourage all family homes, schools, hospitals, religious institutions, communities—anyone who is committed to non-violent discipline—to become a No-Hit Zone. This means no adult shall hit a child, no child shall hit another child, no adult shall hit another adult, and no child shall hit an adult. For more information and the steps to take, visit the No Hit Zone website:

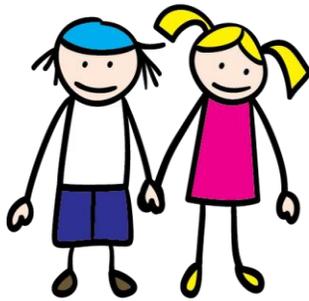
<https://nohitzone.com/>



You can also become a No-Hit Zone Advocate as an individual or organization and display this gold seal on your email and website:

<https://nohitzone.com/become-a-certified-advocate/>

✚ 8. Become an Alliance Ambassador for Children



Ambassadors for Children

AN ALLIANCE AMBASSADOR...

- defends the right of children to be free from all forms of violence, especially in their home
- encourages adults to defend a child's right to equal protection under the law from assault
- encourages community leaders to end the practice of corporal punishment

The U.S. Alliance is committed to ending all hitting of children and youth in all places (i.e., schools and homes). By joining, you are indicating your support to this cause. When you join, you become a lifetime ambassador for the organization and the movement. You do not need to rejoin the organization each year, though we will gladly accept new donations! We will keep you informed through periodic (quarterly is our plan) newsletters.

For more information, watch this [1-minute YouTube video](#) and then go [here](#).

✚ 9. How to have Amazon.com donate to the U.S. Alliance to End the Hitting of Children

Did you know that Amazon.com will donate .5% of every purchase you make to the U.S. Alliance? All you have to do is ask them to (instructions below) and then make sure you shop at SMILE.amazon.com from now on. (smile.amazon.com is the same catalog of products and services at the same price as amazon.com)

That's right. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, Amazon may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. And to date they have donated more than \$285 MILLION to U.S. charitable organizations since October 2013. For more details, click [here](#).

To start Amazon supporting the U.S. Alliance, all you have to do is:

A. Instead of going to amazon.com to make purchases, go to smile.amazon.com.

B. Choose the charity you want to support. (Be sure to choose the US Alliance to End the Hitting of Children.)

C. You're all set. From now on, every purchase you make that qualifies will generate a donation that AmazonSmile Foundation will automatically send to us – AS LONG AS YOU PURCHASE USING SMILE.AMAZON.COM. (The price of what you buy is the same as you would pay on regular amazon.com, so basically, it's free money amazon will send us!)

✚ 10. Letters to the Editor/Share news

As the new editor of this newsletter, I want to encourage all readers to send me their comments, questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. and I will post the appropriate ones in this space in future editions of the newsletter. You can email them to me at s.davis@mail.com.

Do you have news to share?

Our newsletter exists to inform and link partners, practitioners, policymakers, researchers, experts, and individuals fighting to end the hitting of children. To do this, we need information from those who know it best: our partners. Email s.davis@mail.com with content submissions, including case studies, recently released reports, data and evidence, and any other exciting updates you want to share with the U.S. Alliance community.

