

Newsletter — Winter, 2022

Editor: Stephen Davis



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1. Don't miss the first No Hit Zone Conference

WHEN: March 2-3, 2022

WHERE: University of Texas at Austin, Texas

No Hit Zones are quickly emerging as an effective, low-cost, and easy-to-implement strategy for the prevention of child abuse. While creating “safe spaces” for both children and adults, they promote healthy interpersonal relationships and behaviors that support positive and completely non-violent interactions.

Are you wanting to implement No Hit Zones in your agency or business but are not sure where to begin? Have you implemented No Hit Zones in your workplace and now are asking “what next”? Are you a No Hit Zone advocate but really want to know what to do to sustain the initiative and keep it moving forward? Do you need to know what techniques to use to expand your No Hit Zone program into other organizations or community agencies/businesses?

Come to the first No Hit Zone conference in Austin, TX on March 2 & 3, 2022. The conference agenda is filled with national faculty and leaders in the prevention field. To view the preliminary 2022 agenda, click [here](#)!

[Find out more and register here](#)

2. Winners announced for the 2nd #HitNoMore Social Media Contest

The U.S. Alliance to End the Hitting of Children, in conjunction with The New York Founding's Vincent J. Fontana Center for Child Protection, StopSpanking.org, the National Initiative to End Corporal Punishment, The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), and Lives in the Balance are pleased to announce the WINNERS for the second #HitNoMore Social Media Competition.

We want to sincerely thank all of our participants and especially thank those who voted this year, on both our Wishpond site and our Facebook page! We had a record amount of voting and engagement, so thank you all for making this competition so successful. You are on the frontlines of ending school corporal punishment and encouraging the adoption of positive parenting strategies!

Congratulations to our second #HitNoMore
Social Media Contest **Winners!!**, who are....

[Under 18 > Videos > School Corporal Punishment](#)

[Under 18 > Images > School Corporal Punishment](#)

[Over 18 > Videos > School Corporal Punishment](#)

[Over 18 > Images > School Corporal Punishment](#)

[Under 18 > Videos > Positive Discipline](#)

[Under 18 > Images > Positive Discipline](#)

[Over 18 > Videos > Positive Discipline](#)

[Over 18 > Images > Positive Discipline](#)

People's Choice Awards

[Videos](#)

[Images](#)

3. FEATURE: Ongoing work to reduce CP in Sierra Leone – Meet Anty Tenneh

Sierra Leone is a traditional country especially when it comes to family, parenting, gender-based roles, and homes. For many households, mothers are responsible for the education, health, feeding, and well-being of children while fathers remain the central breadwinner offering



protection and security. However, times are changing. Now single mothers hustle from back to front, from sunset to sunrise. Single parents — especially women — spend 24 hours either mining grannie stones or engage in some other petty jobs that will give them money.

Meet Anty Tenneh, a married woman living in Sierra Leone. Anty is 29-

year-old mother with three children and can't fully depend on the earnings her husband gets from working as a local carpenter because the money he makes is never enough. Tenneh mostly survives on breaking granite stones for house owners and gets a small amount of money like SLL 20,000 — which is around \$2 per day. On many occasions, she has admitted that she experiences marital conflict and struggles with the kids. She sometimes feels upset, traumatized, and can barely control her heart and her hands whenever her children don't listen to her. She said that she doesn't know the rights of her kids — or her own rights — but always feels remorse after beating

up her children. There are many women just like Anty facing the same struggles, and the number of single and low-income mothers in Sierra Leone outnumber those with men who have better jobs and earn fat salaries

Through emails, Dr. Holden, president of the U.S. Alliance, received this story from Ibrahim Bangura — an orphan himself and a victim of many forms of corporal punishment — who established the “Future Leaders Initiative SL” with the sole purpose of ending violence against children, women, and girls in all learning settings across Sierra Leone.

Bangura explained: It is for women like Anty Tenneh that we specifically developed a local educational initiative called “Pens Up Canes Down” — a movement aiming at prioritizing education and prohibiting all forms of violence against children, women, and girls both at school and in homes in Sierra Leone. The Pens Up Canes Down project is ongoing and so far has impacted the lives of 500 school children through our school tours and mentorship. One of the programs under this project is to provide business grants for single and low-income parents, provide educational learning materials for school-going pupils, raise funds for the renovation of dilapidated school structures, organize polite parenting workshops/webinars, and support teachers with computers through our proposed annual Sierra Leone Teachers Award Ceremony.

HOLDEN: Tell us about your mission statement for the Future Leaders Initiative SL...

BANGURA: The organization’s mission is to protect, promote, empower and educate women, girls, and children about their human rights by providing them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and platform to raise awareness against all forms of violence through sport, music, poetry writing, debate, quiz, conferences, and workshops. We envision creating an environment free from all forms of violence against children, women, and girls. We aim to protect, promote, empower and educate every young person irrespective of race, tribe, religion or ethical background.

HOLDEN: What have you been able to accomplish so far?



BANGURA: In 2018, Future Leaders Initiative SL offered training to over 750 young people on soft skills, community violence resolution, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, and gender-based violence through our online and offline webinars and workshops. Then in 2019, we organized a one-day face-to-face youth capacity building on “Youth into

Leadership and Nation Building” which impacted 250 young people. Leadership handbooks were shared with the attendees.

On June 21st, 2020, we embarked on a six-month community anti-rape campaign titled “Repot Fo Tape Rape” (in our local language, Krio, it means “Report to stop rape”). The purpose was to raise awareness on the prevailing issue of sexual violence, harassment, and rape on young girls and also to encourage young girls, community stakeholders, and family members to report, on a free government line, any issue relating to sexual assault of young girls and boys. We encouraged parents to be bold and should not take the matter as simply a family problem. Too



much of the time these problems go unreported. More than 500 school pupils, both women and girls were impacted in 20 schools during a two-week period. The campaign continued and has educated more than 1000 young people within six months.

In February 2020 we staged an inter-secondary school debate, quiz, and spelling competition on

the theme “Rape and Child Marriage Has Been the Backbone of Poverty in Africa”. Over 200 school pupils attended and we had support from the Youth for Human Rights Sierra Leone. A total of 192 human rights booklets and learning materials like books, pens, and other prizes were shared among the winners and other attendees.



HOLDEN: If someone would like more information or wants to support your work financially....

BANGURA: Just send me an email at futureleadersinitiative6@gmail.com.

✚ 4. A look back at the progress made toward ending CP in 2021

Various organizations around the world report that 2021 was a busy year...

The [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\) embedded online rights of children](#) into its larger framework by adopting General Comment 25 – the first instance of addressing children’s digital experiences within the CRC.

23 million more children are now legally protected from corporal punishment with the **Republic of Korea** and **Colombia** introducing new laws to prohibit corporal punishment.

The **World Health Assembly passed a resolution on ending violence against children** through strengthening health systems and multisectoral approaches with support from over 60 member states.

It was another big year for progress in research on corporal punishment. The Lancet put corporal punishment on the front cover, the World Health Organization published its first **factsheet on corporal punishment and health** (soon to be available in more languages) and new studies confirmed that corporal punishment **makes children's behavior worse, affects children's brain development** and has **similar effects to other Adverse Childhood Events**. In October the World Health Organization hosted a webinar exploring corporal punishment as a **public health issue**.

April 30 2021 was the first International Day to #EndCorporalPunishment! As well as a **high-level international webinar** hosted by the Governments of Japan, France and Tunisia, the day included many national events, articles by organizations including the **World Bank**, and a Twitter reach of 24 million.

There has been active campaigning to prohibit and/or eliminate corporal punishment in many parts of the world, including Sri Lanka, Canada, Sierra Leone, Jamaica, France, the USA, Costa Rica, Colombia, Thailand, Philippines, Brazil, Wales, South Africa...and many more!

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) **states have adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Bullying of Children** to accelerate action in ending bullying in all forms across the region.

35 countries have now joined the End Violence Partnership as Pathfinders, spreading the initiative's reach to every continent. 17 Pathfinders have convened government-led National Policy Dialogues to further their commitment to comprehensive action to end all forms of violence against children.

The **Together to #ENDviolence campaign and Solutions Summit Series** has seen 86 partners convene **77 affiliate events**, driving dialogue, showcasing solutions, and sparking policy action.

Six game-changing policy proposals were launched to encourage the community to advocate with one voice, supported through a **Leader's Statement** by over 50 international leaders using their collective voice to call for the adoption and implementation of the policy proposals.

Safe to Learn released an **Investment Case** to assess the effects of violence in and through schools alongside the new **Safe to Learn Strategy (2021-24)**.

Safe to Learn investments strengthened systems to create safer learning environments in Nepal and Uganda, reaching thousands of schools across the countries.

✚ 5. 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/>

✚ 6. Become an Alliance Ambassador 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](#).

7. 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!)

8. 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.

