

## What is corporal punishment and how to address it?

<b>Age</b>	16+
<b>Duration</b>	2.5 hours
<b>Group size</b>	10-30

### Overview

What is corporal punishment? Defining and clarifying the term. Who can be involved? What kind of violence are we talking about? In what situations do you find corporal punishment? Corporal punishment vs abuse – what's the difference? Does it matter or is it a smokescreen?

### Objectives

- To raise awareness of corporal punishment
- To reflect on the cycle of violence
- To share tools/ approaches to identify and address corporal punishment in our groups
- To develop guidelines for participants to use in groups

### Materials and Space

- Flip chart and pens
- Excuses sheets copied for small groups

### Preparation

- Set the room up for the world café: Tables for 5-6 people with flipchart paper (or paper table cloth) and markers on them. It is also nice to create a 'café-atmosphere' and serve coffee and cookies to participants.
- Write the world café questions on flipcharts
- Copy the excuse sheets

### Step by step instructions

1. World café: what is corporal punishment? Ask the participants to sit around the different tables and to agree on one host, who will always stay at this table. There will be three rounds in which you will discuss with different people. The host will briefly introduce what has been discussed at their table in the previous round. It is important to take notes on the posters, to doodle, to draw... so that nothing gets lost. Each round will be ten minutes long.  
**Round 1:** What is corporal punishment and how does it manifest itself? Who can be involved? (What relationships, situations, circumstances?)  
**Round 2:** What is the difference (if any) between corporal punishment and abuse? What short and long-term impact can corporal punishment have on the people involved?  
**Round 3:** What is the reaction to corporal punishment in your community? Is it socially acceptable? Are there any laws related to corporal punishment in the home/ schools/ other areas?
2. In big group share 'burning issues' that hosts want to share or things that kept coming up – not a report back!
3. In small groups look at the excuses given on the sheet for corporal punishment and discuss the following questions:
  - Have you heard these or other excuses?
  - How can we respond to these excuses when we hear them?
  - Are there arguments to use intellectually and others to use when we see someone using corporal punishment? Place the arguments on two separate flipcharts.

4. Looking at our role as youth workers - What is our role in this situation? The team acts out scenes of corporal punishment for the audience, including a youth worker/ group leader. They play the scene until the corporal punishment is happening and then freeze. Then they play the same scene again. The second time the scene is played, people from the audience can replace the role of the group leader (who was observing the scene in the first round).
5. You can play each scene a few times to see different possibilities. Then discuss:
  - What can a group leader do in this situation?
  - What are the challenges?
  - What potential reaction might we see?
  - How can we overcome those reactions?
6. After each scene write down the strategies used to address the corporal punishment. Write down strategies and possible responses from group leaders to add to guidelines.

### **Role play ideas**

- Parent smacks child who doesn't listen/ come when called.
- Child flinches when adult raises hand
- Group leader pulls child into line
- Group leader humiliates child in group for not listening
- Group leader leaves the room and closes the door by key when they think that the group is too loud

### **Appendix: Excuses**

- It doesn't hurt, I wouldn't be where I am today if my parents hadn't taught me right and wrong
- If parents can't hit their children, they will end up spoiled and undisciplined.
- Parents have a right to bring up their children as they see want. They should be stopped only in extreme cases, such as child abuse
- There is a big difference between beating a child and a loving smack."
- I only hit my children to stop them from hurting themselves
- My religion requires me to use corporal punishment
- If corporal punishment of children is criminalized, thousands of parents will be prosecuted and many more children will be placed in state care
- Banning physical punishment will just lead to children being treated in more horrible ways – emotional abuse, humiliation or locking them up.