

# **BRINGING PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN TO AN END.**

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# CHILDREN ARE UNBEATABLE!

**"Children have a right to human dignity and to protection from all forms of physical and mental violence"\***

Bringing physical punishment of children to an end is a global issue. It is also a personal issue.

Lots of people have been hit by their parents when growing up and believe that this is an acceptable way of disciplining their own children. However, society has changed dramatically in the recent years. We are now much more aware of factors that can have a negative impact on a child's development.

The Children Are Unbeatable! Alliance aims to secure legal protection from physical punishment for children. It actively encourages people to use positive parenting methods of discipline instead of physical punishment.

A growing number of countries has changed laws to ban the use of physical punishment against children. Changes have been made in these countries not to penalise parents but to give equal protection to children and their human rights.

\* (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by UK Government in 1991, articles 19 and 37).

# LEGISLATION

Preventing violence against children and urging government to pass legislation to end the use of physical punishment against children is a priority for Children are Unbeatable! Hitting children is wrong and the law should say so.

Children are entitled to more, not less, protection from violence than adults. Violence can be physical, spiritual, emotional, verbal, sexual, psychological or gender-based.



# WORKING TOGETHER

Locally, Children are Unbeatable! works with parents, government departments, political parties, representatives of churches and faith groups to gather support for a change in law. Member organisations and individuals increase public awareness of alternative discipline methods which work.

Children are Unbeatable! will continue to work for full legal reform to ensure the smallest and most fragile members of our society are protected from violence.

# SUPPORTERS

"We are all the Children of God, but children especially capture the untainted wonder and perfection of God's creation. We must not do anything to harm or damage the gift from God that are our children and we must promote all that helps them to flourish and thrive. It is part of our duty and responsibility towards them. In the treatment of our children, we should reflect the love God means us to share with each other. Physical and mental punishment and violence is against God's plan for our children."

**Cardinal Sean Brady**



“Using violence to change behaviour or discipline children is as wrong as domestic violence and any other form of abuse. Our laws need to reflect that and provide protection for all our children.”

### **Dawn Purvis**

Leader of the  
Progressive Unionist Party

“Part of the role of midwives is to support people to make a successful transition to parenthood without recourse to physical punishment.”

### **Breedagh Hughes**

Secretary, Royal College of Midwives,  
UK Board for Northern Ireland

“The future needs a hand,  
not a fist.”

### **Lord Laird**

“We want the message to be clear that we believe hitting children is wrong. It has been already banned in over fifty countries worldwide and all the Commissioners in the United Kingdom are clear that we want all physical punishment of children and young people to stop.”

### **Patricia Lewsley**

the Northern Ireland Commissioner  
for Children and Young People



Parents need support not criticism with parenting skills. We recognise that it is not always easy to bring up children without using physical punishment, due to the effects of anger and stress - sometimes caused by the situation between parent and child, or unrelated factors.

Yet there is a real risk that those children who experience physical punishment, will suffer from low self-esteem and may lack the ability to deal with difficult life situations in a non-violent way.

Children are Unbeatable! encourages parents to build a child's self-confidence through listening, discussing, arguing and understanding the child's side of the situation.

To become a member of the Children are Unbeatable! Alliance in Northern Ireland please complete the attached application form.

Alternatively, visit our website below or contact us at the following:

Tel: 028 9040 1290

Email: [info@ci-ni.org.uk](mailto:info@ci-ni.org.uk)

[www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk/NorthernIreland](http://www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk/NorthernIreland)

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/We support the aims of the Children are Unbeatable! Alliance.  
Please add my/our name to the list of supporters.

## Individual

NAME:
ADDRESS:
EMAIL:
TELEPHONE:

## Organisation

NAME OF ORGANISATION:
CONTACT NAME:
ADDRESS:
EMAIL:
TELEPHONE:

I/we confirm that you may list me/us or my/our organisation as a member  
of the Children are Unbeatable! Alliance, supporting your aims.

SIGNATURE:
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DATE:
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# CONTACT

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