

What is wrong  
with  
**Corporal  
Punishment?**



Zero  
tolerance  
of corporal  
punishment!



**A good school is everyone's right!**

 Raising Voices

# Corporal punishment is:

Any punishment in which physical force is used to cause pain.



hitting with hands or things, kicking, shaking, throwing, burning, pinching forced ingestion

It is also any non-physical punishment which belittles, humiliates, threatens, scares or makes fun of a child.





**98% of children  
say they have  
experienced it ...**



One out of three  
children say they  
experience it  
every week.

## So? What's wrong with that?

It's what we grew up with, so we know it's the best thing for our children!



My teacher beat me because he wanted me to learn!

We are not  
hurting our  
children!

Right! We are  
disciplining  
them!



# But corporal punishment does h

Physical

It hurts my  
body!

Emotional

It hurts my heart!

Relational

It makes me not  
trust people!

**hurt! It has many consequences!**

Behavioural

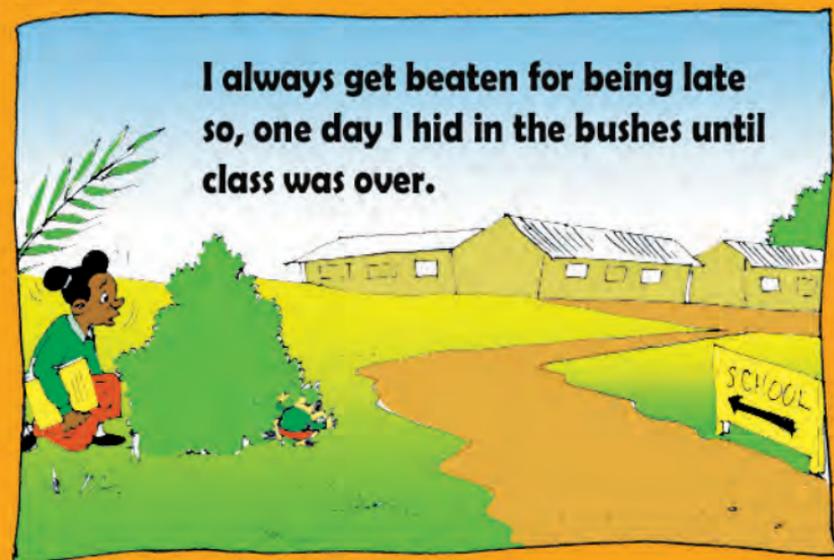
It makes me do  
bad things!

Learning  
difficulties

It makes it hard  
for me to learn!

Look what I mean!

## Physical consequences



**My teacher caught me and was so angry!  
She gave me 20 canes!**



Rose, I'll teach you to  
dodge class!

I'm sorry

**She hit me so hard my parents had to take  
me to the hospital and I missed a week of  
school!**



**It hurts my  
body!!**

## Emotional consequences

Stella! You are so dirty all the time! Why can't you be like other students?

But Madame...

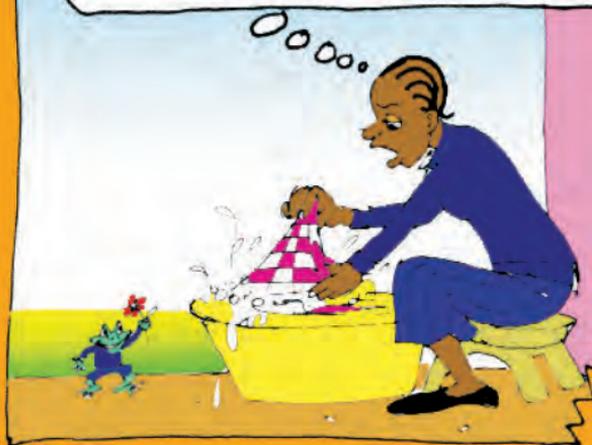


Maybe you need to practice washing!  
Go to the matron's house and wash all  
her clothing...



And think about  
how stupid you are  
too. You failed  
your math exam!

No one cares about me!  
I'll never be good enough!



**It hurts  
my heart**

# Behavioural consequences

Peter, I asked you to sweep the classroom. But you didn't do it.



Teacher...

I...

You're lazy! Go get the broom and sweep now!



**Later that day...**

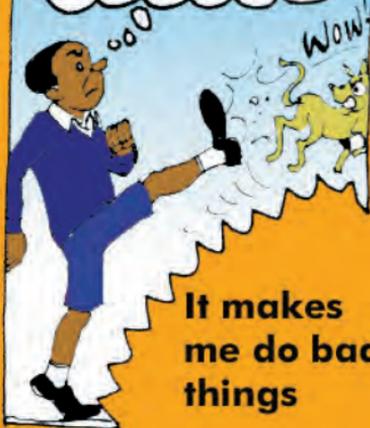
You stupid boy! You can't play, you're too little and slow!



Give me your water! I'm thirsty!

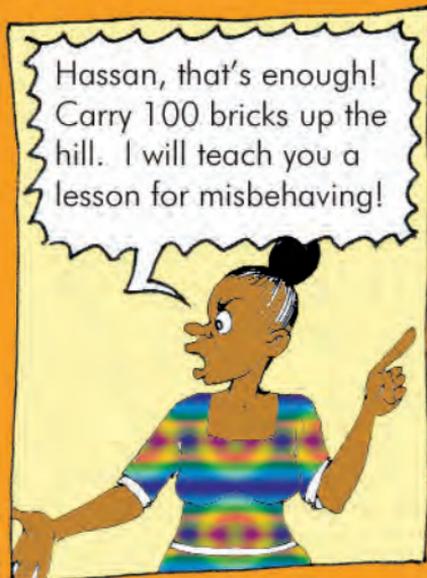


Why me?  
What did I do?



**It makes  
me do bad  
things**

# Relational consequences

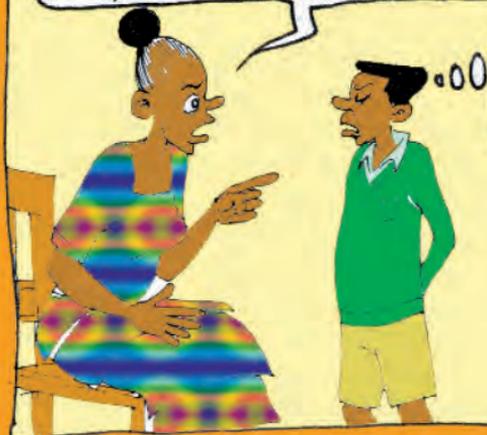


**Next week...**

Hassan, stop throwing papers!  
Didn't you learn your lesson last week?



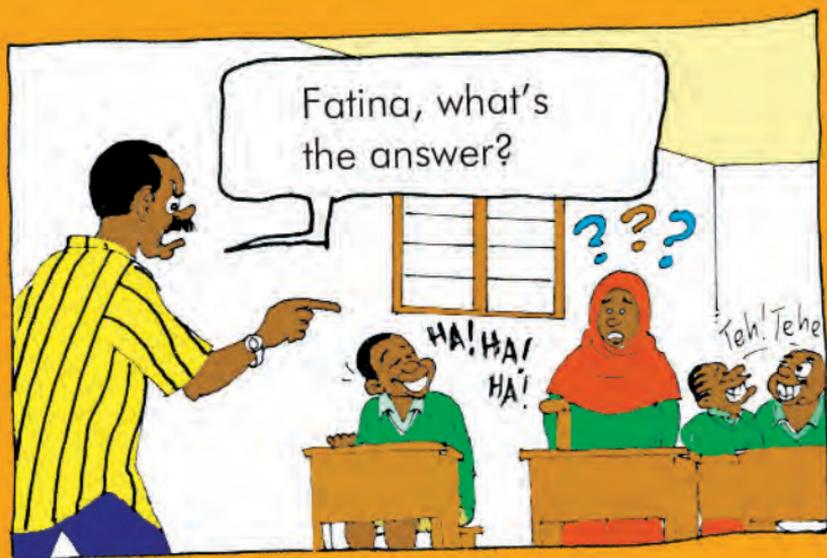
Hassan, talk to me, tell me what's wrong!  
Why do you keep disturbing my class?



I hate you!  
NO WAY!

**It makes  
me not trust  
people!**

# Learning difficulties



What's wrong with this class? How many times have I taught this?



Fatima, come here!  
I'm going to teach this class to pay attention!



Wow, Fatima, you really got a beating!



I'm so nervous in class! I'm always afraid the teacher will call on me and I won't know the answer!



I really studied, but I get so afraid, I can't speak!



I wish our teachers would stop making us afraid.



**THE NEXT WEEK**

I've really studied!  
I'm ready now!



Fatima, what's the  
answer?



This girl is so stupid! She knows she'll get beaten, yet she still won't answer!



I know this will keep happening, but what can I do?



**It makes it  
hard for me  
to learn.  
I feel stupid.**



**Corporal Punishment  
makes children feel bad..  
but still, adults give many  
reasons for using it.**



If a child doesn't fear you, the child won't respect you!



You must learn to respect your elders!



**But you can't force anyone to respect you!**

That will teach him to respect me!



## Give respect. Get Respect.



A good teacher is always in control of students.



Who is talking! I can hear you all the way from my office!



**But students stay quiet because they fear punishment...**

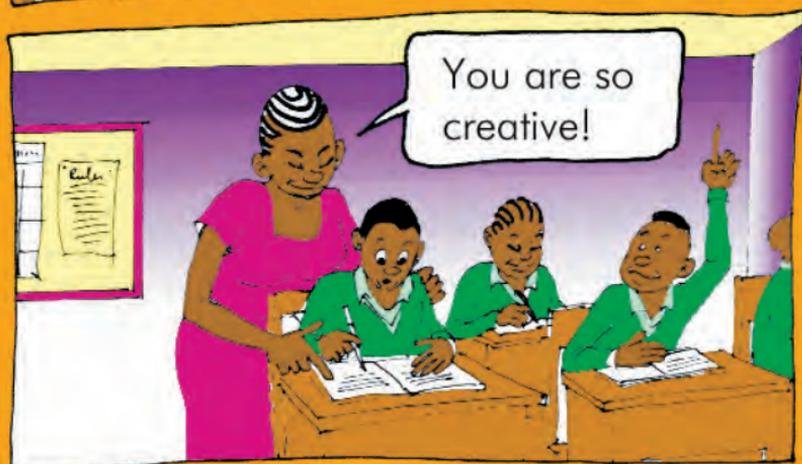
## Once the threat is gone



## Poor behaviour returns...



**Good teachers don't control by beating and shouting.**



**You can't control imagination... You can only set it free!**

I was beaten and I learned how to behave better!



THEN:



You'll never understand science, you're too stupid

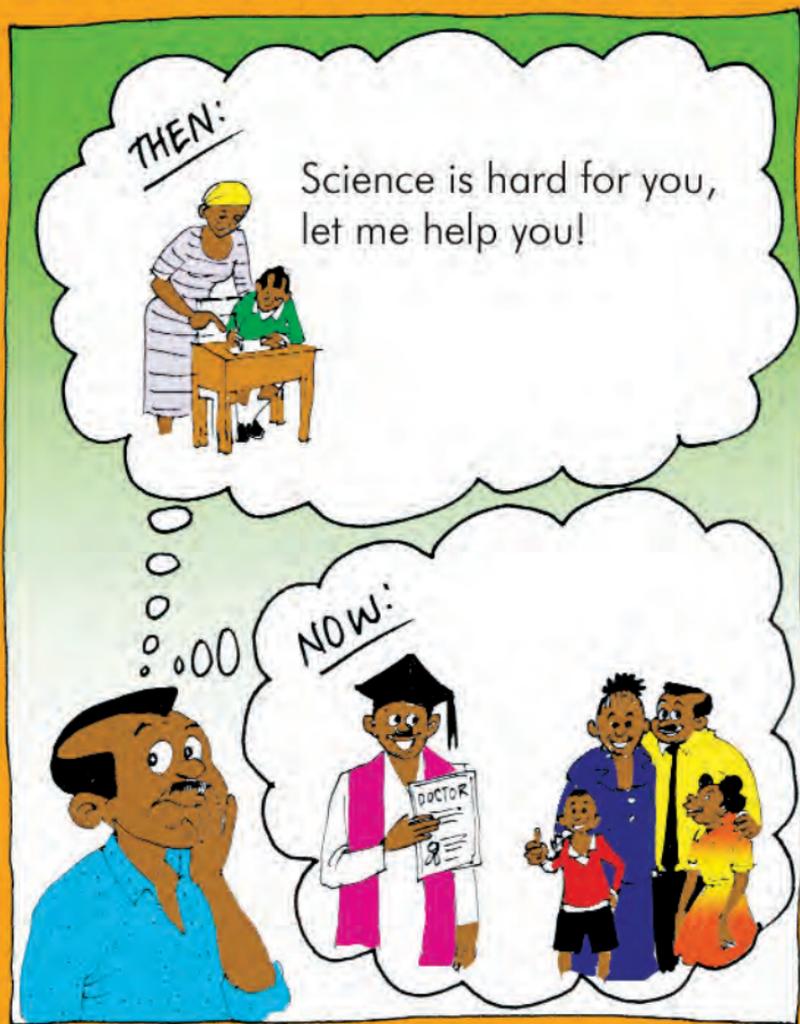
NOW:



I didn't understand science, and neither can you! You're stupid

*but...*

# Imagine how different your future could have been!



But if you spare the rod, you'll spoil the child!



The biblical proverb was meant for a different time...

The New Testament talks about love and forgiveness



As times  
change,  
so must we.

Religion never  
advocates for the  
use of violence  
against children!



The rod can be  
words and deeds  
that guide, not a  
stick that hurts.



And we would  
never spare  
guidance!



Using the cane is our tradition!  
We don't want outside values!



But our tradition is  
NOT about  
hurting children!



It's about respect,  
love and  
guidance.



We want our children to grow up appreciating their heritage...

...not fearing it!



But without pain, there is no gain!



My students perform well on their exams—they memorise everything because they fear the stick!

Really? But do they understand?



Salma, yesterday you memorised how to calculate surface area of a rectangle. Now how do you calculate surface area of a cylinder?



Learning under the stick makes us memorise!

We don't learn how to think for ourselves!

We have become poor learners!



But I only use corporal punishment a little bit!



**Imagine if your boss slapped you,  
just once, for finishing a report  
late?**



No way!

I only use it as a last resort!



Oh no... I forgot my homework!

Ohh...Saad...  
you've really done it  
now! You're going  
to get a beating!



No...teacher won't hit me.  
She will believe me.

Saad...You've forgotten your homework! I don't know what else to do!!

But I trusted you!  
You said you don't hit students!  
I'm so confused!!!



Corporal punishment  
undermines student  
confidence!



Everyone agrees! Corporal punishment is not helpful!



**All over the world, people  
are making commitments  
to stop using corporal  
punishment.**



# International policies spell out that commitment

## The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

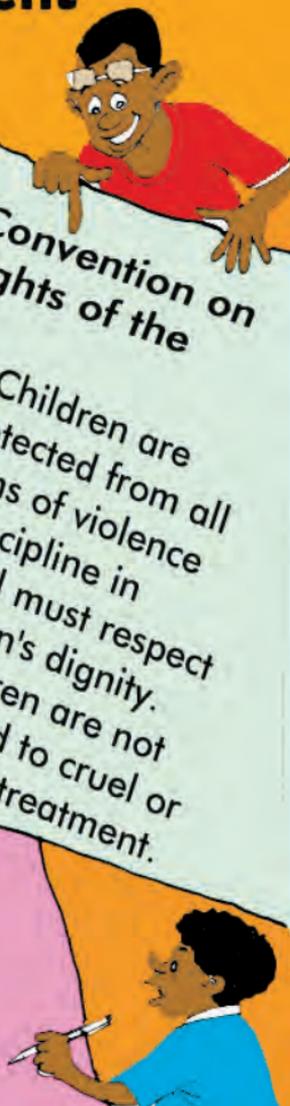
Children have the right to human dignity and physical integrity.

## The Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Children are protected from all forms of violence
- Discipline in school must respect children's dignity.
- Children are not subjected to cruel or inhuman treatment.

## Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Complete prohibition of corporal punishment.



## African policies spell out this commitment

African charter on the rights and welfare of the child.

Children must be treated with dignity and respect when disciplined at home or at school.

African Charter on Human and People's Rights

- Children are entitled to respect for life and integrity of person.
- Children have a right to be protected from degrading punishment.

## Ugandan policies spell out this commitment



### Constitution of Uganda

Children have a right to be educated without humiliating and degrading treatment.



### Children Act Caps 59

Parents, community members, teachers have a responsibility to protect children from discrimination, violence, abuse and neglect.

# The government has banned corporal punishment!

## Director of Education Circular 2006

- Corporal punishment must stop.
- Use of the cane is not permitted.
- All disciplinary action must be recorded.
- If corporal punishment is used, teachers will have to face the courts of law.
- The ultimate goal is to know and understand the needs of young people.

**A *Good School* follows  
these global, regional  
and national policies.**



**A GOOD SCHOOL  
CREATES ITS OWN  
ZERO-TOLERENCE  
TO CORPORAL  
PUNISHMENT  
POLICY.**

# In a Good S

I feel safe  
and  
protected!

I learn better  
without fear!

I get respect, so  
I give respect!



A Good School does NOT use corporal punishment.  
Is there a Good School at your school?

# ! School...

I have role models who help guide my behaviour!

I trust my teachers!



ishment. Are you creating a





What can you do about corporal punishment?

- Personally commit to never using corporal punishment.
- Create a zero-tolerance policy in your school.
- Learn about and use positive discipline.
- Listen to students and understand their problems.
- Talk to others about the benefits of non-violence.
- Get creative! Try new ideas in your classroom.

## How to apply ideas from this booklet.

- Read this book together with other students or teachers and discuss the effects of corporal punishment.
- Research the laws and policies that govern your school district and your country. Discuss what they mean.
- Hold a debate using the reasons adults give for using corporal punishments.
- Create a drama around the stories showing how corporal punishment hurts children.
- Share the ideas in this booklet with your family members. Family discipline should be violence-free too!
- Use the Good Schools Toolkit to create safer schools.



# WRITE YOUR

## Notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

IDEAS HERE.

Our school is a  
**GOOD SCHOOL**

More  
caring!

 Raising Voices

 End Violence  
Against Children

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No  
caring!

*Handwritten signature*