



Sri Lanka



**End Violence
Against Children**
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Government focal points

Lumbini Dharshana Senanayake
Secretary, Ministry of Women and
Child Affairs

Pathfinding since November 2016



**Government
Contacts and
References**

Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

1998

The [National Child Protection Authority Act](#) was passed.

2005

The [Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution Act](#) was passed.

2006

Sri Lanka made a commitment to prohibiting corporal punishment of children at a meeting of the South Asia Forum.

2016

The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs launched a [National Action Plan to Address Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 2016-2020](#), which includes GBV against girls. A [Social Protection Action Plan \(2016-2018\)](#) was also established, giving financial support to child protection mechanisms.

2017

During its Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Sri Lanka supported recommendations to review the absence of a minimum age for marriage under Muslim law. During the review, Sri Lanka also accepted a recommendation to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, making a political commitment to do so.

2018

Sri Lanka launched the [National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children 2018-2022](#).



**Multi-stakeholder
Collaboration and
Consultation
with Children**

After becoming a Pathfinding country, the government of Sri Lanka launched its National Partnership to End Violence Against Children (NPEVAC) in 2017, which unites government agencies, UNICEF, civil society, faith-based groups, academia, the private sector, international organizations and other partners. The 2018-2022 action plan was drafted following a comprehensive consultative process involving multiple stakeholders, including representatives from the government of Sri Lanka, the UN, national and international NGOs, community-based organizations, development partners and the private sector. The Ministry has also revived the National Monitoring Committee for the Rights of the Child, a multi-stakeholder coordination group originally created following the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the highest authority to make collaborative decisions for the realization of children's rights. Along with six members appointed by the President of Sri Lanka, the Committee is comprised of secretaries or heads of departments from 17 ministries and government agencies with a child rights mandate.

Investments from the End Violence Fund

- **Save the Children Denmark** is conducting research and working with the Sri Lankan government and other national stakeholders to develop a National Action Plan on child online safety, and to provide support services and educate children about prevention.



Data Collection and Situation Analysis

- The National Plan of Action calls for the development and implementation of a detailed monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track, monitor and evaluate programs addressing violence against children. Currently, there is a lack of up-to-date and disaggregated data on the prevalence, trends, and drivers of violence, particularly at the regional level.
- In 2016, the Department of Census and Statistics conducted a Demographic and Health Survey at the request of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, which included indicators on domestic violence.
- In 2016, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs established the National Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism, connecting 57 government institutions that work on children’s issues.
- The 2017 Country Discussion Paper and the 2017 roadmap document both found that corporal punishment is common. The National Child Protection Authority has found that 80 per cent of schoolchildren have experienced at least one form of corporal punishment within the last school term.

The National Plan of Action focuses on prevention and early intervention as a strategy in addressing violence against children while supporting data collection, research, analysis and reporting of incidents of violence to ensure evidence-based interventions. Interventions draw upon several of the INSPIRE strategies, including: (I) legislation, training of law enforcement, coordination and collaboration between different stakeholders, and strengthening reporting mechanisms; (N) learning modules, training programs, and public awareness and media campaigns; (P) awareness-raising and information dissemination among parents; (R) access to services and provision of psychosocial support; and (E) life skills training programs. The implementation of the plan is divided into short-term (up to 1 year), medium-term (up to 3 years) and long-term (up to 5 years) actions. The plan identifies three specific priority issues:

- 1) Physical and humiliating punishment;
- 2) Sexual abuse and exploitation; and
- 3) Online safety of children.

A group of civil society organizations (CSOs) and UN agencies established a working group in 2016 to partner with the government in its attempts on EVAC. This grew to become the National Partnership to End Violence against Children, launched in June 2017. Additionally, local CSOs come together in the National Coordinating and Action Group (NACG), advocating for the government to implement its Pathfinding commitments.



Collective Action and INSPIRE

Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Underwent UPR in 2017.
Reported to the CRC in 2018.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2018.



Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

Build political will/ global movement

1. Support the launch of a national action plan on child sexual exploitation and abuse, anticipated in April 2019, which includes the implementation of the law on child marriage.
2. Encourage law reform to prohibit corporal punishment in the home, alternative care settings, daycare and schools.

Resource mobilization

3. Explore how private companies in Sri Lanka invest in programmes addressing VAC across communities and share lessons learned with the wider industry and businesses.

Equip practitioners

4. Support a roundtable discussion on early childhood development.
5. Strengthen existing participation platforms for children and youth, in collaboration with the World Council of Churches.
6. Train frontline healthcare providers in the identification of and response to children who have suffered physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.
7. Train and link social service providers to better coordinate prevention and response to cases of violence against children.