What can Christians do towards ending corporal punishment of children?

Do not use corporal punishment in parenting our own children

Speak out about the harmful effects of corporal punishment. Explain why the legality and practice of corporal punishment is incompatible with Christian values and the teachings of Jesus

“Ending corporal punishment of children—a handbook for worship and gatherings” is available at www.churchesfornon-violence.org

Churches' Network for Non-violence
What can Christians do towards ending corporal punishment of children?

Place children at the centre of the community, as in Matthew 18:1-5 and Matthew 19:13-15

Enable the meaningful participation of children as equal partners in the life of the religious community and make provision for their voices.

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What can Christians do towards ending corporal punishment of children?

Ensure religious texts and scriptures used in worship promote respect for children and do not condone violence against children.

Plan vigils and events dedicated to ending legalised violence against children.

Involve children in a meaningful way.

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What can Christians do towards ending corporal punishment of children?

Use opportunities presented during marriage preparation, baptisms and other events to promote prohibition and offer support and resources on positive non-violent discipline

Link the issue of corporal punishment and the need to prohibit it with campaigns to end domestic violence

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Ensure child protection and safeguarding policies explicitly denounce corporal punishment.

Encourage the church community to actively support law reform to prohibit corporal punishment.

Work with others, including inter-faith councils and NGOs, towards prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment.

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Jesus received children as people in their own right

Corporal punishment of children is incompatible with Christian values – respect for human dignity, compassion, justice, equality and non-violence.

All the recorded encounters between Jesus and children were kind, gentle and respectful. Children were central to the new social order Jesus initiated.

By blessing and laying his hands on them Jesus received children as people in their own right; he gave them status, respect, time and dignity.

Jesus taught how to make the world more compassionate for children; he also taught about a social world in part defined by children.

Matthew 18:1-5; 19: 13-15
Mark 10: 13-16
Luke 18: 15-17

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