

THE SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN (SAIEVAC)

Report

Of the Technical Workshop on Legal Reform and Corporal Punishment

November 11-14, 2010

Kathmandu, Nepal

Hosted by the SAIEVAC Secretariat

with

Technical and Financial support

by

The South Asia Coordinating Group

on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG)

This report outlines the main discussions from the Technical Workshop on Law Reforms to Prohibit all Forms of Violence against Children in All settings, with special focus on prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings,

Table of Contents

1. Context and Introduction.....	3
2. Achievements.....	5
3. Opening Remarks.....	9
4. Country Presentations	9
5. Global progress on ending violence against children	11
6. Legislative measures: Eliminating violence against children in all settings	12
7. Ensuring implementation and enforcement of legislation is in the best interest of the child	14
8. Law Reforms as a foundation:	15
9. Elements of Law Reform to Prohibit all Corporal Punishment	16
10. Promoting positive non-violent discipline at home and in school.....	18
11. Advocacy Messages to support legal reforms to ban corporal punishment in all settings	19
12. Children’s Participation.....	21
13. Action Plans and Strategies.....	23
14. Way Forward.....	23
ANNEXURE	25
Participant List	25
Agenda	33

1. Context and Introduction

A three day technical workshop on legal reforms was organised by the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)¹ in collaboration with the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG)².

106 participants³ from Governments, UN agencies, INGOs and Civil Society Organisations across South Asia and also from Cambodia, Netherlands, Senegal and Sweden participated in the meeting. Six children from India, Bhutan and Nepal also took an active part in the learning and discussions. The meeting was attended by Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, Mr. Peter Newell, Coordinator, Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children and Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Technical Adviser, South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- *Promote follow-up to the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children*
- *Review national legislation in eight countries and its scope and limitations*
- *Identify necessary steps for developing and implementing a holistic preventive and responsive child protection system*
- *Discuss the status of legal reform in each of the thematic areas of early marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation, child trafficking, child labour and corporal punishment as identified in the five year SAIEVAC Work Plan*
- *Develop a progress plan setting out the steps needed for legal reform and other supportive mechanisms to support legal reform in the identified areas*
- *Clarify roles and responsibilities of the SAIEVAC Secretariat, Government representatives, SACG, children and other actors*
- *Address corporal punishment of children as a human rights issue*
- *Develop national action plans to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment*
- *Develop advocacy messages.*

¹ In January, 2010 all 8 SAARC Governments established the "South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)" which has a regional centre based in Kathmandu Nepal and a 5 year workplan with specific actions to operationalize previous agreements to end violence against children.

² The South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG) is an inter agency group comprising of UN agencies and international NGOs working against violence against women and children in the region. This group offers financial and technical support to SAIEVAC.

³ Annex 1 Participant List

Part 1: Technical Workshop on Legal Reform

The discussions and presentations in the first two days (11-12 November, 2010) of the workshop⁴ focused on legal reforms on child protection issues identified in the Five Year Work Plan (early marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation, child trafficking, child labour and corporal punishment) and to address prevention and response and develop child friendly justice systems.

Objective 3 of the SAIEVAC Workplan states:

“By 2015, all States have developed and are enforcing national legislative measures to prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings including in the families, in schools, in communities, workplaces, institutions and emergency situations and brought national laws, bylaws, policies, regulations, plans and programmes in line with the UNCRC and other International and Regional legal instruments and agreements.”

Part 2: Technical Workshop on Prohibiting Corporal Punishment

The following two days (13-14 November, 2010) focused on prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings.

The Governing Board Members of SAIEVAC made country presentations in which they highlighted the situation/scenario in their respective country, current status of legal reforms, programmes and schemes which are complementary to legal reforms and challenges faced. Each of the topics identified was introduced and discussed. The participants were provided with guidelines for developing action plans which they presented on the final day.

Children’s participation and recommendations

Simultaneous to the main workshop, children had their own consultations and came up with recommendations, which are also part of this report and which were presented to participants during the workshop.

This report pulls together key presentations made during the workshops and the action plans and strategies developed by the eight country groups. It also highlights some of the important points that were raised during the discussions, including challenges faced and suggestions to overcome them.

The presentations and action plans can be found in the accompanying zip folder or on the SAIEVAC website at www.saievac.info

⁴ Annex 2 Agenda

2. Achievements

The country presentations made by the Governing Board Members in Part 1 of the Legal Reform Workshop demonstrated that all countries in South Asia are making significant progress on child protection and addressing issues related to violence against children. Governments are in the process of developing, reviewing and amending legislation that protects children from violence and putting in place child protection systems. All countries have a National Strategy or Plan of Action for Children and policies, legislation and programmes which work to protect children from violence.

Regional Progress

The following examples illustrate regional progress:

The Government of Afghanistan, through the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN), provides response and follow-up for child protection cases and case reporting tools for documenting and reporting which strengthen the provincial referral system and development of prevention strategies. The draft National Children Policy and Children Bill in Bangladesh have been formulated with special emphasis on issues related to sexual abuse and exploitation. The Government of Bhutan is in the process of enacting the Child Care and Protection Act which ensures the establishment of juvenile justice systems. In India, the Integrated Child Protection Scheme aims to create a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances. Maldives is in the process of developing a comprehensive Children's Bill which, when enacted, will replace the current Law on the Protection of Children (Law 9/91). The Government of Nepal has proposed a new Children Bill (2010) which is currently being considered by the Ministry of Law and Justice. In Pakistan, the National Plan of Action for Children (2006) approved by the Federal Cabinet addresses child protection issues. In Sri Lanka, a National Coordination Committee on Child Protection has been in place since April 2008 under the aegis of the Ministry of Child Development and Women Empowerment and is the national level forum for all government and non-government bodies working on child protection to share information, to promote a common understanding and approach to children's issues, and establish indicators in relation to child protection.

Gaps and Challenges

Despite progress, Governments acknowledged that there are gaps and challenges in realizing protection rights for all children and efforts are being made to counteract them. Lack of human and financial resources, technical support and coordination were some gaps identified. Governments emphasized the urgency of addressing these gaps and challenges and sought cooperation and collaboration from UN agencies, donors, INGOs and civil society partners. They were also keen to learn from each other's experience through knowledge-sharing and the possibility of exchange visits.

Prohibiting Corporal Punishment

As prohibiting corporal punishment was a special focus of the second part of the workshop, Governments outlined the current status of corporal punishment in their respective countries. A synopsis of legal reforms currently in progress is as follows:

Afghanistan: There is no legislation explicitly prohibiting corporal punishment in the home, the penal system and alternative care settings. A task force consisting of representatives from various

ministries has been undertaking campaigns to stop corporal punishment and the Ministry of Education has issued a circular to all schools to stop corporal punishment.

Bangladesh: Recently, the High Court required the responsible Ministry to enforce prohibition of corporal punishment in schools and the Ministry has issued a circular to this effect. There are some provisions in the Penal Code which allow corporal punishment of children disguised as “disciplining” children at home, in the penal system and alternative care settings.

Bhutan: Provisions against corporal punishment are set out in the Constitution, Bhutan Penal Code and the Child Care Protection Bill (and representatives in the workshop hoped to make this explicit as the Child Care and Protection Bill is finalised). The Ministry of Education has framed the Code of Conduct for Teachers and has banned corporal punishment in schools. Child Protection Systems have been established in monastic schools including nunneries and an 11-member Child Rights Experts, Complaints and Response Mechanism has been set-up.

India: The recently enacted “Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009” prohibits corporal punishment in schools (6-14 years). The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) of Children Act 2000, prohibits corporal punishment in some alternative care setting and penal systems. There are certain provisions on “assault” in the Penal Code which can be used to justify corporal punishment at home and family.

Maldives: There is as yet no prohibition of corporal punishment in any setting. However, there has been progress. The Children’s Bill currently being drafted will if enacted prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and also prohibit all aspects of violence against children. The Ministry of Education has issued regulations to prohibit corporal punishment in schools. The Education Bill, which will also prohibit corporal punishment in schools, is to be tabled in parliament soon. Regulations currently being drafted prohibit corporal punishment in Children’s Homes.

Nepal: Presently, there is no explicit ban of corporal punishment in any of the settings: home, alternative care or penal system. The Child Rights Bill currently being drafted will prohibit corporal punishment. Also a law against corporal punishment is being drafted.

Pakistan: The Corporal Punishment Amendment Bill 2009 seeks to ban corporal punishment in schools/alternative care settings. Another Private Member’s Bill, the Corporal Punishment Bill 2010, extends to the whole of Pakistan and covers provisions related to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment of children. It also provides for complaints against corporal punishment at department level and penalties. The Bill is presently with a Standing Committee.

Sri Lanka: the Corporal Punishment (Abolishment) Act of 2005 prohibits corporal punishment as a penal sentence. However, it is not banned in other settings including the school, home and alternative care. The Ministry of Education, through its Circular no: 2005/17, has stated that corporal punishment should not be used in schools but this has not been confirmed in legislation.

Government Commitment

Governments' commitments to speed up legal reforms and take steps to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings were clearly demonstrated during group work. The Governing Board Members and Civil Society Partners worked very closely together and maintained a congenial atmosphere. There was a sense of ownership and very positive discussions on how to move forward together in implementing the strategies and workplans. Since it was a collective exercise, the participants felt deeply involved and showed serious commitment to achieving implementation of the strategies they developed. In the eight countries, civil society organizations including children will be working closely with their SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and Coordinator to implement the Action Plans.

SACG Commitment

It was decided that the South Asia Coordinating Group on Actions against Violence against Women and Children (SACG) will provide the necessary technical support to the SAIEVAC Secretariat to follow up plans to end corporal punishment and the SAIEVAC workplans. To initiate the process the SAIEVAC Secretariat with assistance from SACG will develop a matrix to enable progress made in each country to be clearly recorded.

Children's Commitment

Children committed to working with government officials and INGOs to input their recommendations into decision-making processes. Additionally, they committed to creating a movement of children in their respective countries and continuously communicating on a regional level through their Facebook group and regional workshops and consultations.

Peter Newell, Coordinator of the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment and a facilitator for Parts 1 and 2 of the workshop on law reform, comments:

It was a great privilege to be asked to help facilitate this ground-breaking workshop in Kathmandu. SAIEVAC is a unique example of inter-governmental and civil society collaboration to follow up the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Study on violence against children, bringing together government and civil society representatives in the eight countries to work for the prohibition and elimination of all violence against children.

Hopefully it is a model which will quickly find echoes in other regions. The presence and involvement of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Violence against Children made that all the more likely.

I first met quite a number of the governmental representatives during the UNSG's Study Regional Consultation for South Asia, held in Islamabad in 2005, and the follow-up in Rawalpindi in 2006. It has been very exciting for me to see the product of those discussions in the birth of SAIEVAC, which has such potential to move forward the real protection of children in the region from all forms of violence.

SAIEVAC and the governments in the region have it in your hands to achieve protection from violence for a quarter of the world's children... That is both an exciting and an awe-inspiring responsibility.

It was entirely logical of SAIEVAC to choose to devote its first technical workshop to law reform. But this is not starting at the easy end: advocating clear laws that genuinely and explicitly prohibit all forms of violence challenges deeply-held and very old traditional attitudes to children, attitudes which have seen children as possessions and violent punishment of them as routine; attitudes which have not recognised children as individual people and rights-holders alongside the rest of us. It was clear that governments in the region are past denying the scale and extent of violence against children; most of the countries have had research studies, including interviews with children and parents - the only way to begin to reveal the true extent of this violence. Much of this research is reported in the excellent regional report "Stepping up Child Protection in South Asia".

The governments made ambitious commitments to law reform at the regional meetings in 2005 and 2006. But at the 2010 workshop there was a clear understanding that unless these commitments lead to clear and explicit prohibition in domestic law in each of the eight countries, all the other necessary measures for eliminating violence will be undermined. There was also a clear consensus that prohibiting all forms of violence against children is not simply a good thing to do; it is not doing children a favour. It is a human rights obligation - asserting children's right to full and equal respect for their human dignity and physical integrity and to equal protection under the law.

It was acknowledged that prohibition of all forms of violence against children is the only safe foundation for child protection. It was also acknowledged that having bad laws in place, laws which authorise or condone violence or allow early child marriages and so on, undermines every positive action to try to prevent violence.

During Part 2 of the workshop each country developed National Action plans to achieve full prohibition of all corporal punishment in all settings of children's lives. These were detailed plans to take back to each country and they included identification of the challenges and of ways to overcome them. There are some incredible opportunities to achieve huge progress in law reform for children very quickly in the region, fulfilling commitments identified in the SAIEVAC Workplan even ahead of the deadlines.

The energy, dedication and attention to detail of those involved should give the children of the region real confidence that adults will not let them down and will make real progress towards achieving childhoods free of violence. As always, the parallel and direct involvement of children in the workshop provided an essential element and underlined the urgency of the task SAIEVAC is committed to.

3. Opening Remarks

Dr. Rinchen, Technical Adviser, SAIEVAC welcomed all participants and briefed them on the SAIEVAC 1st Governing Board Meeting held on 10-11 November, 2010 and the recommendations made by the Governing Board Members. Further, that the Five-Year Work Plan for SAIEVAC has been approved by the Governing Board Members.

Turid Heiberg, Chair, SACG in her introduction said that SAIEVAC has been a very exciting process. She emphasized that the SAIEVAC process relies heavily on the cooperation between governments, international organizations, UN agencies, civil society organizations and children. SACG will continue to support SAIEVAC in the implementation of the Workplan. She also stated that all agencies present should agree to align with the SAIEVAC Workplan. The participants fully supported this. Ms Heiberg further noted that the Governments need support of all organizations and agencies including children to realize the Workplan. She made a brief presentation on the SAIEVAC Workplan and said that the child participants will also be following-up on the implementation of the Workplan.

4. Country Presentations

The Governing Board Members from each Member State presented the status of various child protection issues as identified in the Five Year SAIEVAC Workplan.

Afghanistan: Mr. Wasil Noor Muhmad, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) presented the progress made by the Government of Afghanistan on legal measures, development of a comprehensive national strategy, policy, plan of action on violence against children and progress in line with the SAIEVAC Work Plan, existing gaps and challenges. He highlighted that Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) has been established for responding to and following-up child protection cases, for ensuring case reporting tools for documenting and reporting, strengthening the provincial referral system and development of prevention strategies and addressing under-reporting.

Bangladesh: Dr. Md. Aminul Islam, SAIEVAC Coordinator, Government of Bangladesh stated that violence against Children (VAC) is a very sensitive and much talked about issue in South Asian countries. Girls and boys are often subject to various forms of violence within their family, at schools, at work places, in institutions and/or on the streets. The Government of Bangladesh has undertaken various activities, policies and action plans to ensure the rights of children and to end violence against children. He said that the Draft Children Bill has set minimum standards of care for children, privacy during trials, in-camera trials and a special trained investigator for investigation. The High Court has prohibited corporal punishment in school as a crime and asked concerned Ministries to take appropriate measures. In this direction, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education have issued directives to the educational institutions to stop corporal punishment.

Bhutan: Mr. Norbu Gyaltshen, Governing Board Member, Government of Bhutan in his presentation stated that the Child Care and Protection Bill can be termed as the first movement for a complete justice system for children. It is also the first ever Bill that has been tabled with a complete costed plan of action. The Bill harmonizes international, regional and national provisions for children and provides provisions for all thematic areas of SAIEVAC Work Plan. Bhutan is confident that SAIEVAC will provide not just the necessary momentum and support for implementing the thematic areas in the Five Year SAIEVAC Work Plan, but also provide the much needed platform for advocating for greater accountability by the Member States for children.

India: Mr. R Chatterjee, representative from the Government of India, gave an overview of the situation in India: laws, policies and programme interventions. He informed participants that the Integrated Child Protection Scheme seeks to create a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances. He highlighted some of the challenges faced which include improving the nutritional status of children living in the poorest and most marginalised communities, increasing availability and access to pre-school services for children 0-6 years, bridging the gap in Early Childhood Care and Education between rural and urban areas and reducing school drop-out rates.

Maldives: Ms. Mariya Ali, Governing Board Member, Minister of Health and Family, Government of Maldives, gave a brief introduction of actions taken by the Government of Maldives on Child Protection. She informed participants that the Government of Maldives is in the process of developing a child friendly website to strengthen child participation and to deliver necessary information to support children in safeguarding themselves; developing a Behavioral Change Communication campaign on child abuse prevention in Maldives; working to develop inter-agency guidelines for child and family protection and working to mobilize local communities, including NGOs and stakeholders at all levels, to establish community level intervention systems for child abuse prevention.

Nepal: Mr. Divakar Devakota, Governing Board Member, Government of Nepal, gave the current status on legislation and programmes in the identified areas of the Five Year SAIEVAC Workplan. He drew attention to the National Plan of Action developed by the Government of Nepal. He also highlighted some of the challenges faced by the Government in full realization of child rights.

Pakistan: Mr. Kalay Bux Rind, Governing Board Member, Government of Pakistan, in his presentation highlighted the steps undertaken by the Government of Pakistan in protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence. He stated that coordination, capacity, awareness, resources, infrastructure, attitude and commitment at various levels are some of the challenges faced in protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence.

Sri Lanka: Mr. Sarath Abayagunawardana, Governing Board Member, Government of Sri Lanka gave the status of various indicators as provided in the SAIEVAC Workplan. He said that lack of coordination, lack of resources, socio-economic factors, lack of law enforcement, court delays and social and cultural values are some of the challenges faced in realizing protection rights of children.

5. Global progress on ending violence against children

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, the Special Representative to the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, said that law reform is a key priority in her agenda. Legislative reforms were also given high prominence at the recently held High level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights for Asia Pacific Region in Beijing. As highlighted by the Beijing Declaration, countries pledged to strengthen well resourced national protection systems based on laws that safeguard children from any potential harm and which ban all forms of violence against children. She considered legal reform a crucial area for various reasons:

- Legislation is a key component of any comprehensive strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children. Legislation encourages positive discipline and the education of children through non-violent means; and safeguards the protection of victims, as well as their redress, recovery and re-integration.
- Law reform is highly valuable when used in support of public information, social mobilisation and behavioural change. When harmful practices persist behind deeply entrenched traditions, legal reform can open avenues for mobilizing key actors and institutions, including religious leaders, local authorities and parliamentarians, and can support efforts aiming at abandonment of those practices.
- Law is not only a technical instrument for legal experts, but also an essential tool to raise awareness of children's rights; to enhance capacity building of professionals working with and for children, and to set standards of ethical conduct; as well as to challenge deeply rooted traditions, helping to promote behaviour change and the abandonment of harmful practices.

Ms. Santos Pais noted that law reform for children's protection from violence is gaining momentum. In a large number of countries, legislations has been adopted to prohibit specific forms of violence. In this region, critical steps have been taken to prohibit child trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation, child marriages, violence in the context of child labour and violence in the education system.

Around the globe, there is also an increasing commitment to adopt legislation that explicitly prohibits all forms of violence in all settings, including in the community, in institutions, in work settings, in the school and also within the home. Currently, 29 countries have introduced such an explicit ban on all forms of violence.

In spite of many positive developments, law reform is an area where many challenges prevail. Violence against children is still accepted as a lawful practice in the education system, as a form of sentencing by judicial bodies, as a disciplinary measures in care institutions, and also as a child rearing practice. The gap between law and practice also remains wide and challenging.

Good laws should also promote easily accessible, child sensitive, confidential and independent counselling and complaint mechanism for child victims. Professionals working with and for children need to be sensitized on children's protection from violence; and children need to be informed of where to go and what to do when violence takes place; they need to feel reassured that they are listened to in a safe confidential manner, that their testimonials will not be disclosed or misused, and that their protection will not be put at further risk.

The SAIEVAC Work Plan, 2010-2015, provides that by 2015, all States should have developed and be enforcing national legislative measures to prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, including in the family, in schools, in communities, workplaces, institutions and emergency situations. In this process, it is important to be guided by the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 1) the best interest of the child should be at the centre of our concerns and countries can introduce provisions that are specifically tailored to the protection of children, for instance introduce child sensitive proceedings adjusted to children's age and concerns; 2) it is critical to reflect in the legislation the right of the child to be informed, to be consulted and to influence the outcome of any investigation of an incident of violence affecting him or her. Child participation is a fundamental right and entails concrete safeguards, including the promotion of child sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms; 3) protection of children from discrimination needs to be visibly reflected in the legal reform process. Similarly, the legal protection of children in the justice system and the prevention of criminalization of child victims of violence, including trafficking and sexual exploitation, need to be given due attention.

Once legislations is put in place it remains important to ensure its effective enforcement and to narrow the gap between the legal prohibition of violence and its impact on the daily reality of children.

6. Legislative measures: Eliminating violence against children in all settings

Mr. Peter Newell introduced the topic of legislative measures and said that advocating for clear laws that genuinely and explicitly prohibit all forms of violence challenges deeply-held and very old traditional attitudes to children, attitudes which have seen children as possessions and violent punishment of them as routine; attitudes which have not recognised children as individual people and rights-holders.

When violence against children becomes visible in societies and advocacy for changes in the law begins, the debates are not easy. When we are trying to explicitly write into the law clear prohibition, to assert children's equal right to protection or challenging age-old traditions around marriage and sexual relations, then it becomes very difficult, and that's when compromise sets in. A key message is that there can be no compromise in legislating to prohibit and eliminate all violence against children.

Mr. Newell said that focussing first on getting the law right is to start with the logical foundation. All governments in the region have made strong commitments to respecting all children's rights, including the right to protection from all forms of violence; the governments have accepted legal obligations to do so by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and have confirmed these commitments under the CRC through the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia.

But unless these commitments are reflected in clear and explicit domestic law – in each of the eight countries – all the other necessary measures for eliminating violence will be undermined. We have to be clear that prohibiting all forms of violence against children is not simply a good thing to do; it is not doing children a favour. It is a human rights obligation - asserting children's right to full and equal respect for their human dignity and physical integrity and to equal protection under the law. Prohibition of all forms of violence against children is also the only safe foundation for child protection.

Prohibition of all forms of violence against children is the only safe foundation for positive, non-violent relationships with children – in their homes and families, in institutions and other forms of care, in schools, in penal systems, child labour and the community. Having bad laws in place, laws which authorise or condone violence or allow child marriages and so on, undermines every positive action to try to prevent violence.

Getting laws through Parliament is all a question of political will. With political will, law reform can proceed rapidly and efficiently, but there are always competing demands on governments, and children - having no vote and generally little influence - seldom maintain a high place in the political agenda for long. Review and reform of legislation seldom happens in an ideal, systematic and logical way. But particular reforms can become possible because of relevant events: new research being published into violence against children, civil society advocacy, media attention to scandals. Parliamentary time is limited and legislative programmes focus on particular sectors.

So it is absolutely vital that any opportunities for law reform – even partial reform only covering one sector or one form of violence – are used and not lost. It is also vital that there is no compromise in protection of children from violence. Achieving perfect legal frameworks in isolation will not achieve much. They must be accompanied by full implementation plans and the provision of necessary resources. But equally the development of positive child protection policies, systems and measures is hopelessly undermined and weakened if it lacks a clear rights-based legal foundation.

There need to be legal obligations on at least some professional groups to report violence if they come across evidence of it – and there have to be designated bodies to report to, with legal obligations to investigate and take necessary action if a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm. People who risk their jobs, for example by reporting violence in institutions where they are working – whistle-blowers– need legal protection.

There must be legal powers to intervene to protect children in emergency and remove the child or the perpetrator. And also powers for various forms of intervention to protect children in the longer term – care, supervision, parenting orders and so on. And where these involve separation of a child from parents, they must be tested by a judicial process respecting the rights of both child and parents.

Legislation must ensure that children, or those acting on behalf of them, have real remedies when they suffer violence. Rights without remedies are meaningless. Children – and those working on their behalf (babies are rights-holders too) must have access to the courts with appropriate legal aid and advocacy. In institutions and other forms of care, children need to know where they can go to complain to independent complaints procedures and so on.

There needs to be legislation to place a duty on those involved in child protection decision-making to enable the child to express their views freely and to have those views given due weight, in the language of article 12 of the CRC, throughout all the processes of child protection.

7. Ensuring implementation and enforcement of legislation is in the best interest of the child

Mr. Newell in his introduction to the topic said that in pursuing children's right to protection, we have to make sure that we do so for all children, without discrimination on any grounds – discrimination on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion, caste, class, disability or other status, national or social origin, political or other opinion.

Girls and boys face varying risks of the different forms of violence in different settings and there are varying consequences of violence for boys and girls. Assumptions about gender and violence are dangerous, and have led for example to an absence of laws in some countries in the region against sexual abuse of boys – at least until the prevalence of it was discovered.

Extra special attention should be given to children with disabilities. It is known that they suffer violence to a disproportionate extent, in particular in – often inappropriate – institutions. They require above all inclusion, but also special measures of protection. Also refugee children and children on the move are at special risk of violence and need special measures.

It is highly important to ensure that child victims of adult violence are not themselves criminalized, for example for their involvement in prostitution. It is the adult abusers and organizers who are the criminals.

When parents are the perpetrators of violence against children, which is sadly often the case, the law needs to be enforced with particular sensitivity, acknowledging the dependent nature of

children and the special importance of the family. This cannot, however, lead to any compromises over the prohibition of all violence.

Prosecuting parents, fining them or sending them to prison is very seldom in the best interests of their children. It often makes the child victim's position worse. The primary purpose of the law here should be seen, except in extreme cases, as educational, not punitive: sending clear messages into the family that it is as unacceptable and unlawful to hurt a child as to hurt anyone else. Supportive, rather than punitive interventions are needed. Prosecution and formal intervention within families should only take place when judged necessary, after careful investigation, to protect the child from significant harm – and to be in the child's best interests.

When cases of violence against children have to be taken to court, we need child-sensitive investigation and courts and procedures which do not add further abuse to child victims or to child witnesses. Legislation and child-sensitive procedures must be in place to ensure that the best interests of child victims are considered throughout child protection. The child's views must be heard and must be central to any determination of their best interests.

In developing mandatory reporting duties, there is a need to ensure that children also have some people to whom they can turn for genuinely confidential advice and counselling, who will only report on with the child's consent, unless they believe the child or another to be at immediate risk of death or serious injury if they do not report.

8. Law Reforms as a foundation: *The human rights imperative to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment*

Mr. Newell said that the scale of deliberate punitive violence against children, in their homes and families and also - in many countries in all regions - in schools, penal systems and alternative care, has only begun to become visible quite recently.

Visibility of the issue has increased, particularly in the context of the almost universal acceptance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, requiring protection of children from all forms of violence, and the insistence of the Committee on the Rights of the Child that this must include all corporal punishment – however light. The Committee has systematically recommended prohibition to states, insisting that all states have an immediate obligation to prohibit all corporal punishment and to work to eliminate it through linked educational and other measures. More recently there has been the UN Study on Violence against Children in which children themselves spoke out about the particular hurt caused to them by this violence disguised as discipline, perpetrated by those they want to love and respect – parents, teachers and so on.

With visibility has come growing recognition, across regions and systems, that the legality and social acceptance of any corporal punishment of children is a fundamental human rights violation.

The harmful impact of corporal punishment on children is well-researched, with more than 100 studies reviewing its developmental outcomes. The findings are strikingly consistent. Corporal punishment is associated with higher levels of aggression and antisocial behaviour in children, and this association continues into adulthood. Although many parents believe that corporal punishment will teach their children right from wrong, the opposite is the case. Children who are physically punished are less likely to internalize moral values, such as justice, fairness and empathy because they are learning to make decisions out of fear of being hurt themselves, rather than on the basis of what is good for others. Corporal punishment places children at risk of injury; thousands of children are killed by extreme corporal punishment and many, many more suffer serious injury. There are no research findings demonstrating that physical punishment leads to positive long-term outcomes; all findings reveal negative effects on children's development.

Violence of any kind cannot be dignified or justified by reference to religion; increasingly this is accepted in relation to women, and it has to be accepted in relation to children – the most vulnerable to the ill-effects of violence. Now, respected leaders of all faiths, including Islam and Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism, are increasingly speaking out against all violence against children, and supporting the prohibition and elimination of all corporal punishment.

But beyond the child protection context, the acceptance and legality of this daily punitive violence is highly symbolic of children's low status in our societies, as possessions not people. Just as challenging routine domestic violence is a fundamental part of women's empowerment and protection in our societies, so it is with children. When we challenge all corporal punishment, however light, we are pursuing children's equal right to respect for their human dignity and physical integrity. This is as fundamental as anything can be to improving children's status and gaining recognition and respect for children as rights holders alongside the rest of us. Children have the right to a childhood without violence now and this cannot be achieved while laws still justify or authorize any form of violence against them.

9. Elements of Law Reform to Prohibit all Corporal Punishment

The foundation for pursuing legal reform is a clear understanding of what the law says now, and what must be changed to achieve clear and complete prohibition, according to Peter Newell.

(a) Reviewing current law

The first step must be to research the relevant legal frameworks in detail. It is important to establish definitively whether corporal punishment is currently lawful or prohibited in all settings where there are children.

We define children - as the SAIEVAC Workplan does, as in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as all persons under the age of 18.

The governments in the region need to review all laws and regulations relating to corporal punishment:

- In the home, by parents and others with parental responsibility;
- In schools, including all education settings, e.g. there may be different laws or regulations applying to state schools, religious schools and private schools, or to schools at different levels of education (primary, secondary), or to full and part-time provision;
- In alternative care settings, including institutional and non-institutional forms of care;
- In the penal system, as a sentence of the courts, including mandatory and discretionary punishments under Islamic law, and in relation to the disciplinary measures available in prisons and other institutions accommodating children in conflict with the law;
- In situations of child labour, e.g. employers may use corporal punishment in situations of child labour, particularly in domestic work situations;
- In any other institutions which include children and where corporal punishment may be used.

Reviewing the legislation involves looking for:

- Legal defences and justifications. In all South Asian States (and a majority globally), the right of parents, teachers and others to use “reasonable” corporal punishment has been written into the law, with special defences available, so that the general criminal law on assault does not apply to “disciplinary” assaults on children by parents, teachers or others. The English common law – case law - defence of “reasonable chastisement” exists in very many countries across the world – so that if a parent is charged with assaulting their child, they can claim that the assault was “reasonable chastisement”;
- Authorising/regulating laws. These are laws which specify that children may be subjected to corporal punishment, who should inflict it and how it should be carried out, e.g. as a sentence of the courts or in schools;
- “Silent” laws. Sometimes there is no reference to corporal punishment in written law, e.g. in education law or family law. But this does not mean that it is prohibited. In some countries even though the law does not address the issue, the “right” to use corporal punishment has been confirmed in court judgments; in others it is simply accepted throughout society.

(b) Reforming the law

- The next step is to identify what is needed in the place of the laws allowing corporal punishment, and to draft new legislation. The task of prohibiting corporal punishment is often made to seem very complicated. But the aim is simply to make sure that the law explicitly prohibits all corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading punishment of children in all settings.

(ii) Enacting explicit prohibition of corporal punishment and other cruel and degrading punishment

There are many different models for the language to prohibit all corporal punishment; the Global Initiative’s website (www.endcorporalpunishment.org) and its handbook on law reform contain many examples.

The only way to ensure clear, uncompromising prohibition of all corporal punishment is to use clear, uncompromising language in legislation. And because the first purpose of this law is educational – to move parents, other carers and teachers on from using corporal punishment to positive, non-violent forms of discipline, the message needs to be clear and explicit.

Amending existing law and enacting new legislation

Simply removing provisions which justify or authorise corporal punishment is a “silent” reform. It does not send a clear educational message to society that corporal punishment is no longer lawful. The law needs to be clear and explicit so that adults and courts cannot misinterpret it. Prohibition is achieved when the repeal of any defence is accompanied by the insertion of a statement which makes it clear that assault can no longer be justified as punishment or correction or discipline.

Getting the language right

Because corporal punishment is almost universally accepted as a disciplinary measure in childrearing in many countries in all regions, it is not generally perceived as harmful, abusive or even violent. For this reason, legislation which prohibits “violence” or “inhuman or degrading treatment”, or which protects “physical integrity” or “personal honour and dignity”, does not do the job of prohibiting all corporal punishment. To explicitly prohibit corporal punishment, the law must use the words “corporal punishment”.

10. Promoting positive non-violent discipline at home and in school

Ms. Bhuvaneshwari Mahalingam, Regional Education Manager, Save the Children Sweden, took the participants through various dimensions of positive discipline. She said that positive discipline includes respecting children’s and students’ stage of development, sensitivity to the child’s academic and social needs, empathy with the child’s feelings, emotional security and expression of caring and affection.

Furthermore, she noted that positive discipline is not permissiveness, letting children and students do whatever they want, having no rules, limits or expectations, nor is it simply a short-term reaction and alternative punishments to slapping, hitting, yelling and shaming. Positive discipline is about long-term solutions that develop children’s and students’ own self-discipline, clear and consistent communication of teachers’ and parents’ expectations, rules and limits, building a mutually respectful relationship with children and students, increasing students’ confidence and competence to handle academic and social challenges, and teaching courtesy, non-violence, empathy, self-respect, human rights and respect for others. She also shared details of resources on positive discipline.

11. Advocacy Messages to support legal reforms to ban corporal punishment in all settings

Mr. Rasha Sekulovich, Regional Child Rights Programme Specialist, Plan International, Asia Regional Office in his presentation outlined advocacy components and steps and gave participants a practical exercise in shaping messages. He stated that child rights based advocacy is a strategic process, based on well researched and defined issues, reflecting child rights principles and values which make lasting and positive sustainable changes in the lives of all children.

The initial advocacy steps should include identifying and prioritizing issues, setting targets, analyzing operational environment, advocacy style and approach, defining monitoring and evaluation, shaping communication strategies and using various techniques from awareness raising to campaigning. He also talked about mapping stakeholders, recognizing allies and opponents, engaging broader public and defining roles and responsibilities. If risks are not analyzed than implementing activities could become an obstacle. Children themselves are powerful advocates. There are many children's clubs and organizations that can be engaged.

Advocacy for legal reform should be based on an evidence-based approach. It is important to have resources to enable stakeholders and children to bring about positive changes. When shaping advocacy messages, it is important to have a participatory and inclusive process. The messages should be clear, concise and evidence based.

Additionally, one should not forget the implications of advocacy work as advocacy can be time consuming and is an ongoing engagement; it can be expensive, it can result in changes in organizational culture, and involves cooperation based on common agendas, risks and ambitions and social mobilization.

At the end of the presentation, the participants undertook a small energizer on conceiving appropriate messages. (Box 1)

Box-1---Hot Spot Exercise

You have come across your Parliament Speaker in the elevator at a conference center: you have 30 seconds to convey a message that will convince the Speaker to prioritize the issue of banning corporal punishment in the next parliamentary session. Each group has 10 minutes to come up with the message and report back!

Child Participants: Mr. Speaker, Corporal Punishment should be banned because it not only harms physically but it also hinders the cognitive development of the child. All say children are the citizens of tomorrow and if the cognitive development of children is hindered, then there won't be a bright future in the society. So these issues should be given the priority in the parliament in order to have productive citizens in future.

Afghanistan: Greetings to you! I am the SAIEVAC Governing Board Chairperson, selected by the South Asia Region. So as the Corporal Punishment is a high concern this country, I am requesting you to consider it as a high priority on your agenda. Help us to achieve a ban at home, in schools and community.

Bhutan: Mr. Speaker, imagine a time in your childhood when you were punished in front of the whole assembly for a small mistake that you had made out of ignorance. How it has affected you mentally and emotionally. That has affected your development for a long time. So in this light what do you think as a Member of Parliament about the corporal punishment existing in the schools today?

Bangladesh: Honorable Speaker, as we enter the new millennium the children are looking at you in tears as 71% children of our children are exposed to physical and humiliating punishment at home, schools and institutions. It means that in the future the largest section of our citizens will grow up with violent attitudes. Many of our outdated laws support such punishments. We have signed CRC and the High Court has also given directives to ban such violence. Children are also human beings and they have equal rights to be protected from assault – Let's protect our children now from violence by enacting a law to ban all forms of violence against children!

India: Congratulations for outlawing corporal punishment in schools! But Mr. Speaker, the problem is much wider—children are being abused in the home, at work-places, institutions - everywhere! It is an urgent matter, Mr. Speaker. The child cannot wait—his name is TODAY. Please help us in outlawing violence on children everywhere.

“Stop the cane, it gives me pain”

“Stop the stick, it makes me sick!”

Nepal: Zero tolerance to Corporal Punishment. Let us make it our commitment. Mr. Speaker, let us commit for banning corporal punishment as today's children are future of tomorrow. Say no to violence, break the silence!

Pakistan: Mr. Speaker, It is our belief that 50% of children become dropouts from their schools in the first 3 years due to corporal punishment. We have proposed a Bill and presently it is with the Standing Committee. Please expedite the process. Your timely intervention will save a number of children from becoming dropouts.

Sri Lanka: Good morning Speaker, we the National Child Protection Authority had to handle so many cases of assaults by principals and teachers, where some ended up in the Intensive Care Unit in Hospitals. So we hope to bring some amendments to the expected Education Bill and the Child Protection Bill. Please help us as we cannot wait any more. It is urgent.

12. Children's Participation

During the technical workshop on legal reform, six children (1 from Bhutan, 1 from India and 4 from Nepal) participated and had separate sessions and discussions on various topics identified in the workshop. The recommendations made by children are as follows:

1. Recommendations from children on a Regional Program on Child Participation

- Bringing children together through establishing centers like the “coaching centre” or organizing issue based workshops
- Create linkages at national level among existing children forums and networks
- Form Child Clubs
- Develop better understanding and also capacities on child protection issues through comics, schools curriculum, printing drawings, media etc...
- Organize awareness campaigns on child labor, corporal punishment, and physical torture using dramas in public places, poppet shows, films etc...
- Develop child friendly materials, child friendly laws and policies in simple language
- Ensure children participation in law making process
- Ensure child friendly discussions with simple language and recreational time when organizing consultation between children and government representatives
- Develop and support internet and Face book interface
- Ensure studies on child protection issues to inform laws and policies involving all stakeholders

2. Recommendations of children on processes to identify and report cases of violence

Towards the victims of Corporal Punishment:

- Adults should protect the child victims from further victimization or violence
- Immediate protection of children reporting cases of violence involving their family is needed
- Set up system to protect the victim

Towards adults, governments and children:

- Awareness, sensitization of adults and children on child rights is essential
- Break the power relations where adults is dominant
- Stronger law implementation is needed
- Child friendly schools
- Stronger punishment of parents perpetrators of violence
- Simple and friendly access to reporting procedures including privacy for children who reports
- Involvement of children in school management meetings
- Child participation in Local Governance

To break the law of silence:

- Children should be courageous, report cases of violence and fights for their rights
- Adults should support the children

- Children should be united together irrespective of their disabilities
- Breaking barriers and law of silence

3. Recommendations from the children on Legal Reform to Prohibit Corporal Punishment in all settings

- Government of all countries should have a law that prohibits corporal punishment in all settings.
- Children have to come together, find supporters and break the silence
- Awareness campaigns through drama, street theaters etc...should be conducted and advocacy campaign
- The children also identify one challenge: children are also perpetrators of violence and therefore this has also to be addressed

4. Recommendations from the children regarding prohibiting Corporal Punishment in all settings:

- Organize a national campaign led by children through Media, street theaters
- Develop and implement a training Programme for teachers and code of conduct to promote positive discipline
- To set-up mechanism to ensure systematic consultation of children by the government at all levels.
- Situation analysis at national level to better understand the scope and nature of the corporal punishment, where it takes place and how many children are affected
- To develop a monitoring mechanism on cases of corporal punishment at all level
- To ensure appropriate budget allocation to implement laws and policies
- Set up a complaint mechanism where children who are reporting cases of violence are supported and action taken.
- Support regional cooperation with SAARC countries to address cross regional child protection issues such as trafficking
- Draft laws that prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings and share it with all stakeholders (civil society and children)
- Translate laws in simple and child friendly language for children to aware of the law
- Develop a regional portal/website for effective networking among all actors that promote the realization of children rights and especially child protection.

13. Action Plans and Strategies

During the workshop, participants from each country in the region worked together as a group on Action Plans and Strategies in the following areas:

- Legislative Measures Action Points: Identifying necessary legal reform in countries in South Asia--Hyperlink
- Prevention, response and child-friendly justice system--Hyperlink
- Developing an Action Plan to achieve prohibition of all corporal punishment for each country in South Asia—Hyperlink

The presentations and action plans can be found in the accompanying zip folder or on the SAIEVAC website at www.saievac.info

14. Way Forward

Ms. Turid Heiberg, Chair, SACG stated

“The technical workshop on legal reforms was very successful. We had the great opportunity to have Peter Newell with us. He has openly advertised that we can continue seeking his expert views. He would be a great support to governments and everybody else in changing the situation of children in South Asia. She said that Dr. Rinchen has facilitated the meeting in an excellent manner and that he has a great vision on preventing violence and promoting the rights of children. There are many who made this meeting and workshop a success. Many of the participants have come from far away places and it was an effort to bring them here. Also, people came on their own to be part of this workshop. She thanked everyone from Save the Children for working so hard behind the scene and the Government of Nepal have been very kind to organize this event. She thanked the Secretary, Mr. Ram Bhattarai and Mr. Divakar Devakote and Sampreety for their support.

All proceedings will be recorded and sent to all participants and also put on the website of SAIEVAC. SACG will assist SAIEVAC in developing a matrix which will show how countries are progressing. The 2nd SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting will be held in October, 2011 and will be followed by a technical session on “Child Friendly services and care standards”. SACG members will meet on Monday 15th November, 2010 to discuss how we can take this forward in a coordinated way.

Mr. Jerome Conilleau, Programme Manager, Save the Children Sweden on behalf of all child participation facilitators said that, *“ The last five days gave plenty of opportunities of learning for us and for children too. Many facilitators have been involved and children got to interact with them. Having children participating in the 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting was very important as they are key actors of SAIEVAC. He thanked Ashish, Sodhashi, Laxman, Chiranjeet, Rasa, Sumnima, Bhavana, Dr. Rinchen, Catherine for making children participation a success.”*

Ms. Ugyen Dorji and Mr. Rakesh Shaw, Child Representative SAIEVAC Governing Board Members were invited to say a few words:

Ms. Dorji said that it was very nice to be part of this meeting, noting that she has responsibility towards children in South Asia as a Governing Board Member. She said that the children participating in the workshop have successfully created on Facebook a “South Asia regional forum to end violence against children”, which is open to all children. She said that she is the moderator and requested everyone present to support child participants in this effort.

Mr. Shaw was thankful for being allowed to be part of the 1st Governing Board Meeting. He requested all participants to visit the website and see what children are doing.

Mr. Wasil Noor Muhamand, Chairperson, SAIEVAC Governing Board, thanked the Government of Nepal and SACG for facilitating this workshop. He also thanked Save the Children Sweden as Chair of SACG in organizing the workshop and Dr. Rinchen for facilitating the workshop. He also thanked the children for their participation. He said that in the last five days we have got a workplan and also action plans.

Mr. Tilak Ram Sharma, Acting Secretary, expressed sincere thanks to all participants for fruitful experience. He thanked children for their participation. He thanked SAIEVAC Secretariat, South Asia Coordinating Group against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG) and Save the Children Sweden for organizing the meeting. He stated that he is confident that all Member-States will also follow-up on their action plan in their respective countries.

ANNEXURE

Participant List

SAIEVAC TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON LEGAL REFORM

11-14 November, 2010

1. SAIEVAC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS AND COORDINATORS	
AFGHANISTAN	
1. H.E. Wasil Noor Muhmand SAIEVAC Governing Board Member, SAIEVAC Coordinator and SAIEVAC Governing Board Chair Deputy Minister Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Government of Afghanistan Add: Opposite of 1st Makroryan Market Kabul, Afghanistan Tel: +93 (0) 700 290 532, 93 (0) 798 454 506, 93(0)752014152 Mobile: +93(0)700290588,(0)799043034 Email: wasil_noor@yahoo.com , wasil_noor@hotmail.com	
BANGLADESH	
2. Dr. Md. Aminul Islam SAIEVAC Coordinator Deputy Secretary Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Government of Bangladesh Add: Building No 6 Secretariat, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh Tel: +88-02-7161575 (O), 8359402 (R) E-mail: dramindir@gmail.com	3. Mr. Rafiqul Islam SAIEVAC Governing Board Member Representative Senior Assistant Secretary Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh Add: Building No 6 Secretariat, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh Tel: +88-02-7160996 Mobile: +88-01-550500842
BHUTAN	INDIA
4. Mr. Norbu Gyaltsen SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and SAIEVAC Coordinator Acting Executive Director National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) Add: Kawang Jangsa, PO BOX 556 Thimpu, Bhutan Tel: +975 2 334552 Mobile: +975-17115044 Fax: +975-2 334709 Email: ngyaltshen@hotmail.com	5. Mr. Robin Chatterjee SAIEVAC Governing Board Member Representative Under Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India Add: Shastri Bhawan New Delhi – 110001, India Tel: + 91-11 23382743 Fax: +91-11-23382071 Email: robin.chatterjee@nic.in
MALDIVES	
6. Ms. Mariya Ali SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and SAIEVAC Coordinator Deputy Minister Ministry of Health and Family Government of Maldives Add: 1st Floor, Health Building Block No : 20379, Ameenee Magu Male', Maldives Tel: +960-3324909 Mobile: +960-971888 Fax: +960-3336646 Email: mariyaali@health.gov.mv , mariyaa@hotmail.com	

NEPAL	
<p>7. Mr. Divakar Devkota Governing Board Member Director General Department of Women and Children Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Add: Singh Durbar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: 977-1-5547015 Fax: 977-1-5521214 Email: divakardevkota21@hotmail.com</p>	<p>8. Mr. Ram Bhatara SAIEVAC Coordinator Under Secretary Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal Add: Singh Durbar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: +977-4200082, 4200413 Mobile: +977-9851099897 Fax: +977-1-4200116 Email: bhattarairampd@gmail.com</p>
PAKISTAN	SRI LANKA
<p>9. Mr. Kalay Bux Rind SAIEVAC Governing Board Member Secretary Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education Government of Pakistan Add: G-8, Opposite N-O-R-I Hospital, Islamabad, Pakistan Tel: +92-51-9107555 Mobile: +92-51-3008388814 Fax: +92-51-9263325 E-mail: secretary.swsr@hotmail.com, R.bux@hotmail.com</p>	<p>10. Mr.Sarath Abayagunawardana SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and SAIEVAC Coordinator National Commissioner Department of Probation and Child Care Services Add: No 150 A Nawala Road, Nuggedoda, Sri Lanka Tel : +94-2853549 Mobile: +94-0723272177 Fax : +94-2852393 E-mail: pcc@slt.net.lk , dmsarathmail@yahoo.com</p>
2. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS	
INDIA	MALDIVES
<p>11. Mr. Lov Verma Member Secretary National Commission for Protection of Child Rights Add: 5th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi 110 001 Tel: +91-11-23724020 E-mail: ms.ncpcr@nic.in</p>	<p>12. Ms. Aminath Raya Ali Assistant Public Prosecutor Prosecutor General's Office Male', Maldives Tel: +960-3003229 Mobile: +960-7975655 Email: raya@pgoffice.gov.mv</p>
NEPAL	
<p>13. Mr. Laxmi Prasad Tripathi Under Secretary Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Tel: +977-4200413 Mobile : +977-9841408870 E-Mail: laxmitripathi@hotmail.com</p>	<p>14. Mr. Sher Jung Karki Under Secretary Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Tel: +977-4200413 E-Mail: sherjangkarki@hotmail.com</p>
<p>15. Ms. Goma Chemjong Section Officer Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Tel: 4200413 Mobile : 9841745979 E-Mail: gomachemjong@yahoo.com</p>	<p>16. Ms. Sharada Basyal Women Development Officer Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Email: basyalsaru@gmail.com</p>
<p>17. Mrs. Namuna Bhusal Program Manager Central Child Welfare Board Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Tel: 977-1-5010045 / 5010046 Email: namuna@ccwb.gov.np</p>	<p>18. Ms. Chhiring Kippa Lama Inspector Women and Children Service Centre, Nepal Police Headquarters Tel: 977-1-14414745 Email: nepolwccsd@gmail.com</p>
<p>19. Ms. Indira Dahal Under Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice Tel: 977-1-4211987 Fax: 977-1-4211684 E-Mail: info@moljpa.gov.np</p>	<p>20. Mr. Punya Prasad Dhakal Section Officer Ministry of Home Affairs Mobile: 977-9851097397 Email: dhakalpunya2010@yahoo.com</p>
<p>21. Mr. Yam Bahadur Khadka Under Secretary Department of Education, Ministry of Education Mobile: 977-9841365591</p>	<p>22. Mr. Yograj Baral Deputy Attorney Office of the Attorney General Email: info@attorneygeneral.gov.np</p>

Email: khadkayambahadur@yahoo.com	
23. Mr. Thakur Prasad Chapagain Human Rights Officer National Human Rights Commission Tel: 977-1-5010015/16/17 Email: thakur.chapagain@nhrcnepal.org , tpchapagain@gmail.com	
SRI LANKA	
24. Ms. Anoma Dissanayake Chairperson National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) Sri Lanka Add: 330, Thalawathugoda Road, Madiwela, Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka Tel: +94 11) 2778911-4 Fax: +94 11) 2778915 E-mail: chairperson@childprotection.gov.lk	
3. OFFICE OF SRSG ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN	
25. Ms. Marta Santos Pais Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children Add: 3 United Nations Plaza, Room 506 New York, New York 10017 E-mail: msantospais@unicef.org	26. Ms. Sanna Käki Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children Add: 3 United Nations Plaza, Room 506 New York, New York 10017 Tel: +1-2123267424 Email: skaki@unicef.org
4. REPRESENTATIVES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA	
BANGLADESH	
27. Mr. A.K.M. Masud Ali Executive Director INCIDIN Bangladesh Add: 9/11 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh Tel: 88-02-81298733 Mobile: 88-01-713001660 E-mail: akmmasuda@yahoo.com	28. Ms. Zannatul Ferdous Project lawyer Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA) Bangladesh Add: 48/3 Monico Mina Tower, West Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh Tel: 88-02-8112858 Mobile: +91-8126058508 E-mail: zf.borna@gmail.com , ibnwla@hse.net
INDIA	
29. Mr. Ashok Massey President Cedar Woods Consulting Group Add: 'Hilcrest Brick', Green Valley 284/2 Rajpur Road - I Dehra Dun – 248001, India Tel: +91-94103-68508 & Mobile: +91-8126058508 E-mail: ashokmassey@gmail.com	30. Ms. Kasturi Mahapatra Secretary Open Learning Systems, Bhubaneswar Add: The address is: G-3A/1, Gadakana Mouza, P.O. Mancheswar Railway Colony, Bhubaneswar – 751017, Orissa India Tel: 0674 - 2301806 / 2301498 Fax: 2301626 E-mail: kasturi_m@hotmail.com
NEPAL	
31. Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar Director Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) Add: Ravi Bhawan, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4282255, 4278064 E-mail: sumni100@gmail.com , cwin@mos.com.np	32. Ms. Rashmila Shakya Programme Coordinator Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) Add: Ravi Bhawan, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4282255, 4278064 Mobile: 977-9851104052 E-mail: rashmila@gmail.com
33. Ms. Sushila Adhikari Administrator Consortium of Organization working for Child Participation Bijuli bazar, Kathmandu, Nepal Phone: 977-1-4490297 Email: consortium@mos.com.np	34. Mr. Milan Dharel Executive Director Children-Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH) P.O Box number : 21433 Triratna Marg, 89/11, Buddhanagar, Ward No: 10 , Kathmandu, Nepal Phone: 977-1- 4784545, 2061213 Fax: 977-1- 4781386 Email: info@cwish.org.np

PAKISTAN	
<p>35. Ms. Manizeh Bano Executive Director Sahil Add : Office # 13, First Floor, Al Babar Centre, F-8 Markaz, Islamabad, Pakistan Tel : 051-2260636, 2856950 E-mail: info@sahil.org</p>	
ENFANTS & DEVELOPPEMENT, NEPAL	
<p>36. Ms. Anita Shrestha Coordinator Enfants et Developpement Add : GPO box 8975, EPC 1936 Sanepa, Lalitpur - Nepal Tel: +977 01 5551573</p>	
5. SACG MEMBERS	
ECPAT INTERNATIONAL	
<p>37. Ms. Junita Upadhyay Programme Officer for Child and Youth Participation & Coordinator for the Global YPP ECPAT International Add: 328/1 Phaya Thai Road, Bangkok 10400, Thailand, Tel: + 66 (0) 2 215 3388 ext. 112 Fax: + 66 (0) 2 215 8272 E-mail: junitau@ecpat.net</p>	<p>Mr. Bimol Bhetwal YPP Project Coordinator & Focal Point for South Asia ECPAT International Add: 328/1 Phaya Thai Road Bangkok 10400, Thailand Tel: + 66 (0) 2 215 3388 Fax: + 66 (0) 2 215 8272 Nepal Add: Pingaisthan, Gaushala, POB 9599, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977 9841405918 Fax: +977 4489978 E-mail: bimolb@ecpat.net</p>
PLAN INTERNATIONAL	
PLAN, REGIONAL OFFICE	PLAN, NETHERLANDS
<p>38. Mr. Rasa Sekulovich Regional Adviser, Child Rights and Protection Plan International Asia Regional Office Add: 18th Floor, Ocean Tower 2 Building; 75/24 Sukhumvit 19 Road, Klongtoey Nua; Wattana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand Tel: +66 2 204 2630-4 Mobile: + 66 8 67763454 E-mail: rasa.sekulovic@planinternational.org</p>	<p>39. Ms. Samira al-Zwaini Senior Child Protection Advisor Plan Netherland Tel: +31 (0)20 549 53 93 Fax: +31 (0)20 644 40 65 E-mail: samira.al-zwaini@plannederland.nl</p>
PLAN, NEPAL OFFICE	
<p>40. Mr. Donal Keane Country Director Plan Nepal Add: Shree Durbar, Pulchowk Lalitpur Tel: 5535580, 5535560 or 5522712 Fax: 5536431 Email: donal.keane@plan-international.org</p>	<p>41. Mr. Subhakar Baidya Programme Support Manager Plan Nepal Add: Shree Durbar, Pulchowk Lalitpur Tel: 5535580, 5535560 or 5522712 Fax: 5536431 E-mail: subhakar.baidya@plan-international.org</p>
<p>42. Ms, Madhuwanti Tuladhar Gender and Child Rights Coordinator Plan Nepal Add: Shree Durbar, Pulchowk Lalitpur Tel: 5535580, 5535560 or 5522712 Fax: 5536431 Email: madhuwanti.tuladhar@plan-international.org</p>	

PLANETE ENFANTS	
<p>43. Ms. Cecilia Conilleau Country Director Planete-Enfants Add: PO box 8975, EPC 5307, Dashrathchand Marga, Bishal Nagar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: +977-1 4414902/ 01 4445669 Fax: +977 -1 4443685 E-mail: cecilia@pe-nepal.org</p>	<p>44. Ms. Shodashi Rayamajhi Project Coordinator, Child prevention Planete-Enfants Add: PO box 8975, EPC 5307, Dashrathchand Marga, Bishal Nagar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: +977-1 4414902/ 01 4445669 Fax: +977 -1 4443685 E-mail: shodashi@pe-nepal.org</p>
<p>45. Mr. Rajendra Raut Programme Development Manager Planete-Enfants Add: PO box 8975, EPC 5307, Dashrathchand Marga, Bishal Nagar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: +977-1 4414902/ 01 4445669 Fax: +977 -1 4443685 E-mail: rajendra@pe-nepal.org</p>	<p>46. Mr. Hari Joshi Anti-trafficking Programme Manager Planete-Enfants Add: PO box 8975, EPC 5307, Dashrathchand Marga, Bishal Nagar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: +977-1 4414902/ 01 4445669 Fax: +977 -1 4443685 E-mail: hari@pe-nepal.org</p>
<p>47. Ms. Laxmi Joshi Programme Coordinator Planete-Enfants Add: PO box 8975, EPC 5307, Dashrathchand Marga, Bishal Nagar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: +977-1 4414902/ 01 4445669</p>	
SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN	
SCS HEAD OFFICE	SCS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA
<p>48. Ms. Mali Nilsson Senior Global Advisor Save the Children Sweden Add: Landsvägen 39, Sundbyberg, SE-107 88 Stockholm, Sweden Tel: +46 (0)8 6989052 E-mail: mali.nilsson@rb.se</p>	<p>49. Mr. Enyo Gbedemah Regional Child Protection Advisor West Africa Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South Africa Add : l'Ouest, Point E; Rue Cx6 BP: 25934 Dakar-Fann, Sénégal Tel: (221) 33 869 18 00 Fax: (221) 33 864 44 63 E-mail : enyog@waf.savethechildren.se</p>
SCS REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA	
<p>50. Ms. Turid Heiberg Regional Director Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South & Central Asia Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4251389/4251627 Email: turidh@sca.savethechildren.se</p>	<p>51. Mr. Jerome Conilleau Regional Programme Manager Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South & Central Asia Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4251389/4251627 E-mail: jeromec@sca.savethechildren.se</p>
<p>52. Ms. Radha Kamath Regional Child Protection Manager Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South & Central Asia Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4251389/4251627 E-mail : radhak@sca.savethechildren.se</p>	<p>53. Mr. Laxman Belbase Regional Programme Officer-Gender Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South & Central Asia Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4251389/4251627 E-mail : laxmanb@sca.savethechildren.se</p>
<p>54. Mr. Ashish Damle Regional Manager for Civil Society and Child Rights Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South & Central Asia</p>	<p>55. Ms. Bhuvanewari Mahalingam Regional Education Manager Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South & Central Asia</p>

<p>Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4251389/4251627 E-mail : chiranjeetd@sca.savethechildren.se</p>	<p>Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4251389/4251627 E-mail : bhuaneswarim@sca.savethechildren.se</p>
<p>56. Ms. Catherine Kates Regional Advocacy and Communication Manager Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South & Central Asia Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4251389/4251627 E-mail : catherinek@sca.savethechildren.se</p>	
<p>SCS PAKISTAN</p>	
<p>57. Mr. Khuram Gondal Programme Manager- Child Protection Save the Children Sweden, Pakistan Programme Add: P.O.Box 307 F-8 Markaz Tel : + 9251 228 70 66-68 Fax : + 9251 228 70 70 E-mail: khuramg@sca.savethechildren.se</p>	<p>58. Mr. Sarwar Hakimi North Regional Senior Manager Save the Children North Regional Office, Afghanistan Add: House#134, Chaharachi Shaheed, Shahri Naow, D-10, Kabul Tel: +93 (0) 798 45 45 06 E-mail: shakimi@savechildren.org</p>
<p>SCSD BANGLADESH</p>	
<p>59. Mr. Firozul Islam Programme Coordinator Save the Children Sweden Denmark Add: House# 09 (4-6th Floor), Road# 16, Gulshan -1, Dhaka Bangladesh Tel: (880-2) 8828118, 8814985 EXT-301 E-mail: firozul@scsd-bd.org</p>	<p>60. Mr. Dorji Wangdi, Adolescent Development and Child Protection Coordinator Save the Children Bhutan Country Office Tel : +975-2-323419/325599 Fax: +975-2-322290 Email: dorji.wangdi@savethechildren.org.bt</p>
<p>SC INDIA</p>	
<p>61. 53. Mr. Abhijeet Nirmal Child Protection Specialist Save the Children India Add: 159-A, Patliputra Colony, Patna, Bihar – 800013. Tel: +91 612-2274650 Mobile: +91 9771493486 E-mail: a.nirmal@savethechildren.in</p>	<p>62. 54. Ms. Tara Kanel Child Protection Team Leader Save the Children Add: JDA Building, Baghdurbar Kathmandu Tel : 977 1 4258140 Fax: 977 1 4227389 E-mail: tara.kanel@savethechildren.org.np</p>
<p>63. Ms. Neelam Dhanuse Child Protection Coordinator Save the Children JDA Building, Baghdurbar Kathmandu Tel: 977 1 4258140 Fax: 977 1 4227389 E-mail: neelam.dhanushe@savethechildren.org.np</p>	<p>64. Ms. Sita Ghimire Deputy Director / Team Leader Child Protection Save the Children JDA Building, Baghdurbar Kathmandu Tel: 977 1 4258140 Fax: 977 1 4227389 E-mail: sita.ghimire@savethechildren.org.np</p>
<p>SC IN SRI LANKA</p>	
<p>65. Ms. Shanali Athukorala Programme Specialist - Legal Protection Child Protection Section Save the Children in Sri Lanka Add : 58A Horton Place, Colombo 7 Tel: 2672 672 ext 166 Email: shanali@savethechildren.lk</p>	
<p>TERRE DES HOMMES FOUNDATION</p>	
<p>66. Ms. Muna Basnyat</p>	

Anti-trafficking Programme Coordinator and Regional Adviser Terre des hommes Foundation Add : PO Box 2430 Jhamsikhel, Patan Tel: +977 1 5555 348 E-mail: muna@tdhnepal.org	
UNICEF REGIONAL OFFICE, NEPAL	
67. Mr. Ron Pouwels Regional Advisor, Child Protection UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) Add: P.O.Box 5815, Lekhnath Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977 1 4417082, ex-270 Fax: +977 1 4419479 E-mail: rpouwels@unicef.org	68. Ms. Antariksha Roka Research Assistant, Child Protection UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) Add: P.O.Box 5815, Lekhnath Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977 1 4417082 ext 218 Fax: +977 1 4419479 E-mail: aroka@unicef.org
UNICEF-NEPAL	
69. Annette Lyth UNICEF-NEPAL Add: UN House, Pulchowk, Nepal Tel: +977-1-5523.200 Fax: +977-1- 5535.395 E-mail: alyth@unicef.org	
UNODC REGIONAL OFFICE	UNODC NEPAL OFFICE
70. Ms. Cristina Albertin Representative United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for South Asia Add: EP 16/17 Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri New Delhi- 110021 Tel: 0091 11 42225052 Fax: 0091 11 24104962 Email: cristina.albertin@unodc.org	71. Ms. Archana Singh United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Add: UN House: Annex 4 KSK Building:2nd Floor Pulchowk, P.O. Box: 107 Kathmandu, Nepal Tel : (977-1) 5523 200
UNFPA NEPAL	
72. Ms. Naveeda Khawaja Regional Adviser, HIV and SRH UNFPA-Sub-Regional Office Add: P.O.Box 5940,Lalitpur, Kathmandu Tel: +977-5523880 Mobile : +977-9851076220 E-mail: khawaja@unfpa.org	
UNHCR NEPAL	
73. Ms. Karuna David Senior Regional Global Community Services Officer UNHCR Representation Add: Dhara Marg 1, Anil Kuti, Maharajgunj PO No: 2374 Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4412521, 4414724 Mob: +977- 9851106523 Fax: +977-1-4412853 E-mail: davidk@unhcr.org	74. Ms. Manju Bhandari UNHCR Representation Add: Dhara Marg 1, Anil Kuti, Maharajgunj PO No: 2374 Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977-1-4412521, 4414724 Mob: +977- 9851106523 Fax: +977-1-4412853
ILO	
	NEPAL OFFICE
75. Mr. Ronald Ernest Berghuys ILO Office in Nepal Add: P.o. Box: 8971, Kathmandu, Dhobighat, Nayabato, Lalitpur, Nepal. Tel: +977-5555777 (ext.203)	76. Mr. Uddhav Raj Poudyal Chief Technical Advisor IPEC/SECBCL-II ILO Office in Nepal Add: P.o. Box: 8971, Kathmandu, Dhobighat, Nayabato, Lalitpur, Nepal. Tel: +977-5555777 (ext.203) Email: uddhav@ilo.org
6. WORLD VISION	
WORLD VISION CAMBODIA	WORLD VISION NEPAL

<p>77. Ms. Neng POR Advocacy Coordinator World Vision Asia Pacific Regional Office Cambodia Tel: +855-23 216052 Fax: +855-23 216220 Email: neng_por@wvi.org</p>	<p>78. Ms. Anu Shrestha Guest Relation and Assistant to National Director World Vision International Nepal Add: Jhamsikhel, Ward #3, Lalitpur District, Lalitpur Nepal Mailing Address : G. P.O. Box No 21969, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: 977-1-5548877 Fax : 977- 1 – 5013570, Mobile : 977-9849195381 E-mail: anu_shrestha@wvi.org</p>
WORLD VISION SRI LANKA	
<p>79. Mr. Chandila Colombege Senior Manager Children In Ministry World Vision Sri Lanka Email: chandila_colombege@wvi.org</p>	
7. CHILDREN PARTICIPANTS	
BHUTAN	
80. Ms. Ugyen Dorji	81. Mr. Deki Kelzand (chaperone)
INDIA	
82. Mr. Rakesh Shaw	83. Ms. Swagata Sen (chaperone)
NEPAL	
84. Mr. Keshab Khadka	85. Ms. Nirmaya Magrati
86. Mr. Salam Khan	87. Mr. Anurag Chawdhary
88. Ms. Sunita Gurung	
8. OTHER EXPERTS	
<p>89. Ms. Mihiri Fernando Consultant, Child Protection Tel: +977 1 4417082 ext 218 Fax: +977 1 4419479</p>	
9. SAIEVAC Secretariat	
<p>90. Ms. Sampreety Gurung Programme Manager South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) Secretariat Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Tel: + 977-1-4200413 ext: 115 Mobile: + 977-9849257640 Email: sampreety@gmail.com</p>	
FACILITATORS	
<p>91. Mr. Peter Newell Director Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children Tel: +44 (0) 208 889 9034 E-mail: peter@endcorporalpunishment.org</p>	<p>92. Dr. Rinchen Chopel Technical Advisor Tel: +977-9803526313 E-mail: rinchophel@gmail.com</p>

Agenda

Technical Meeting on Legal Reform Part 1

Kathmandu 11th and 12th of November

Venue: Hotel Annapurna

The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children is organising the technical meeting on Legal Reform as part of the first SAIEVAC Governing Board meeting. The Governments in South Asia have adopted a 5 year Workplan and the technical meeting will set standards for the implementation of legal reform to bring national legislation on par with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and with other international and SAARC regional instruments.

Objectives for the meeting Part 1:

- *Promote follow-up to the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children*
- *Review national legislation in eight countries and its scope and limitations*
- *Identify necessary steps for developing and implementing a holistic preventive and responsive child protection system.*
- *Discuss the status of legal reform in each of the thematic areas of early marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation, child trafficking, child labour and corporal punishment as identified in the five year SAIEVAC Work Plan.*
- *Develop a progress plan setting out the steps needed for legal reform and other supportive mechanisms to support legal reform in the identified areas*
- *Clarify roles and responsibilities of the SAIEVAC Secretariat, Government representatives, SACG, children and other actors*

Facilitated by Dr. Rinchen Chopel and Peter Newell,

Time	Session	Purpose/objective
Day 1		
13:00 – 13:30	Registration	
13:30 – 14:30	Introduction and presentation of participants	
14:30 – 17:30	Thematic presentations by Government Representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka	Identifying progress and gaps/challenges
17:30 – 18:00	Discussing action points	
Day 2		
08:45 – 09:30	Global progress on ending violence against children	Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative to the UN Secretary –General on Violence against Children inspiring the participants to move the region forward and link up to global processes
09:30 – 10:30	Legislative measures	Addressing the goal of eliminating violence against children in all settings
10:30 -11:00	Tea Break	
11:00 - 13:00	Group work: Legislative measures action points	Identify needs of legal reform in countries in South Asia
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00- 15:00	Ensuring that the implementation and enforcement of legislation is in best interest of the child	Addressing prevention, response and child-friendly justice systems
15:00 – 15:30	Tea break	
15:30 – 17:00	Group work: Prevention, response and child-friendly justice systems	
17:00 – 18:00	Presenting the regional action plan – discussion	Developing a common understanding about how to proceed

Technical Meeting on Legal Reform Part 2

Kathmandu 13th and 14th of November

The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children is organising the technical meeting on Legal Reform in two parts. The first part of the technical meeting is centred around Government Representatives from South Asia developing national action plans to progress on achieving SAIEVAC's 5 year Workplan. Representatives from UN-agencies, INGO's, civil society and children/young people are encouraged to participate alongside official representatives.

The second part of the Technical meeting on legal reform will address the specific issue of corporal punishment (physical and psychological violence) in all settings. Governments in South Asia have committed to prioritise this issue through the SAIEVAC Workplan. This meeting will help facilitate the development of national action plans and future progress through the participation of governments, UN-agencies, INGO's, civil society and children/young people who can support national and regional implementation.

Objectives for the meeting Part 2:

- Addressing corporal punishment of children as a human rights issue
- Developing national action plans to eliminate corporal punishment
- Developing advocacy messages

The meeting will be facilitated by Dr. Rinchen Chopel and Peter Newell

Time	Session	Purpose/objectives
Day 3		
08.45 – 09:15	Introduction and presentation of participants	
09:15 – 10:00	Law reform as a foundation: The human rights imperative to prohibit and eliminate corporal punishment	Identifying global and regional progress and the context for national action plans to achieve prohibition
10:00 – 10:30	Tea break	
10:30 - 11:30	The elements of law reform to prohibit all corporal punishment	What needs changing and how – examples from the region
11:30 – 13:00	Group work: Developing an Action Plan to achieve prohibition for each country in South Asia	Getting down to the details and roles of government, civil society, children and young people
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	The challenges to achieving prohibition of all corporal punishment: small groups for 15 minutes to identify list of challenges.	Sharing on how to overcome common challenges
15:30 – 17:00	Group work: Working on the Action Plan	
Day 4		
8:45 – 9:15	Recap	
09:15 – 09:45	Promoting positive non-violent discipline at home and in school	Evolving capacities of children
09:45 – 10:30	Advocacy messages to develop support	Addressing communication and involvement
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break	
11:00 – 12: 00	Group work: Finalising Action Plans	
12:00 – 13:00	Presentations of Action Plans: discussion and conclusions	Ways forward
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	