

REPORT ON SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN NETWORK TO END CORPORAL AND HUMILIATING PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN

*Cape Town Lodge, Cape Town, South Africa
22 – 23 February 2011*

Introduction

The annual meeting of the Network was hosted by RAPCAN (Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and the meeting gathered regional members of the Network from Botswana, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and the UK.

The Southern African Network to End Corporal and Humiliating Punishment of Children met in Cape Town to discuss and reflect on the activities of the previous year, and plan for the coming year.

Participants

- Childline SA: Joan van Niekerk
- Centre for Child Law: Karabo Ngidi
- Community Law Centre: Samantha Waterhouse
- Ditshwanelo: Faith Phillima
- Global Initiative UK: Peter Newell
- Global Initiative Ethiopia: Sonia Vohito
- Human Rights Commission Zambia: Mwenda Mwiba
- Legal Assistance Centre Namibia: Rachel Coomer
- Lifeline/Childline Namibia: Reginald Mouton
- LINALI: Carol Bower
- Ombudsperson for Children's Office Mauritius: Ismail Bawamia
- RAPCAN: Christina Nomdo, Kerry-Jane Coleman, Vuyiswa Sidyiyo, Vivienne Lalu Mentor, Eugene Patientia, Moefeeda Salie-Kagee, Nondwe Miki, Wilma Jantjies Mitchell
- Save the Children Swaziland: Elizabeth Kgololo
- Save the Children Sweden: Deidre Kleinhans
- Save the Children Zambia: Petronella Mayeya
- South African Council of Churches: Keith Vermeulen
- UCARC: Nomzamo Dlamini
- Zambia Civic Education: Judith Mulenga
- Zambia Interfaith Networking Group: Yusuf Phiri

Objectives

The meeting objectives included the following:

Sharing initiatives that took place in different countries (within the Network),

Explore how the Network could strengthen the work of the international NGO Advisory Council to the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children in relation to universal prohibition of corporal punishment, via the Eastern and Southern African representative to the

Council and adopt resolutions which would feed into the Strategic Consultation on corporal punishment in Burkina Faso.

Agenda

The issue of membership to the Southern African Network to End Corporal and Humiliating Punishment (SANECHP) was placed on the agenda. Day two delegates discussed how to expand the network and reasons for this. Day two also reviewed the achievements of the network. A key question to look at is what happens after the network's annual meetings.

Of interest since the last meeting was the statement that two African countries have banned corporal punishment. These countries, Kenya and Tunisia were unfortunately not represented at this meeting. The two countries processes had been very different and lessons could be learned from their experiences.

Country report-backs by the countries represented were presented. The Powerpoint presentations to each are available from the forum co-ordinator.

Country report presenters:

1. Namibia: Rachel Coomer
2. Zambia: Petronella Mayeya
3. Mauritius: Ismail Bawamia
4. Botswana: Faith Phillima
5. Swaziland: Elizabeth Kgololo
6. South Africa: Carol Bower

1. Namibia: Rachel Coomer

Alternatives to corporal punishment: Activities and developments in Namibia

Current practice

- The use of corporal punishment is common

Legislation

- 1991 Supreme Court ruling banned the use of corporal punishment in schools (but still used)
- Reasonable chastisement permitted in the home
- CCPB: Provision on corporal punishment

How likely are you to report the beating of a child by a parent to someone who could take action?

- Not at all likely: 33%
- Very likely: 15%
- Not very likely: 28%
- Somewhat likely: 24%

Child rights instruments/legislation

- The Namibian Constitution: Article 8 Respect for Human Dignity
- 1991 Supreme Court ruling on punishment in schools
- Education Act of 2001

Corporal punishment in the penal system

- Corporal punishment may not be used as a form of punishment in the penal system (1991 supreme court case + Prisons Act 7 of 1998)

Corporal punishment in alternative care

- Theoretically permitted under the Children's Act
- To be banned under the Child Care and Protection Act

Legal Assistance Centre Resources

- *A Betta Way* film (film screened to 11 000 people in 4 regions in Namibia)

Film feedback:

Children are experiencing corporal punishment in the home & at school

Most frequent question asked: "Where to get help?"

At schools Principals are either using corporal punishment or do not address issue

- 2 comics (in 3 languages)

Distributed through the newspapers to approximately 20% of the population

155 000 copies of the comics distributed in 2010

- Posters (in 3 languages)
- Training sessions for adults and children
- Detailed report on national and international perspectives

Summarises information in the literature

Summarises the national and international framework

Presents Namibian public opinion about alternatives to corporal punishment

Discusses alternatives to corporal punishment.

Consultation on the Child Care and Protection Bill

Summary of feedback:

- Most adult participants were unhappy that the final provisions on corporal punishment would probably be more restrictive than under

current law. However the participants generally understood the rationale for the proposed provisions.

- Corporal punishment was deemed unacceptable by the majority of children who were consulted directly.

Feedback from OYO discussions

- Received approximately 2000 comments from learners and out-of-school youth
- Approximately 1200 children (60%) considered the use of corporal punishment to be bad, especially when beatings were combined with withholding of food
- Approximately 450 children (23%) expressed positive feelings about corporal punishment

Common ways that children in Namibia are beaten

- Beaten on the hands
- Beaten with a stick
- Beaten on the buttocks
- Slapped
- Beaten around the head

Who administers corporal punishment?

- Step parents
- Grandparents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters
- Mother and father

Most common reasons for administering corporal punishment

- Failure to complete school work
- Failure to complete household chores

Common responses to corporal punishment

- Anger
- Unhappiness
- Suicidal thoughts

Effects of corporal punishment

- Increased aggression: *"The other night, my dad hit me and it made me cry. I wish I could hit him back."* Quote from a Namibian child

- Adult abuse of spouse and children: *"If kids grow in an abusive environment, they will absorb that behaviour when they grow up and pass it on to their children. The solution is to discipline the kids in appropriate manner because if you apply abusive discipline, then it just ruins their future. Parents should just apply a verbal warning."* Quote from a Namibian child
- Poor mental health: *"When I grow up and have children I won't use corporal punishment on my kids. Beating a child makes the child feel worthless and unloved. You must show a child love. Beating a child makes the child turn to alcohol."* Quote from a Namibian child
- Poor relationship with parents
- Poorer academic achievement

Methods of outreach on alternatives to corporal punishment used by Legal Assistance Centre Namibia (LAC)

- Comics
- Posters/fact sheets
- DVD screened at workshops and on TV
- Fact sheets and comics placed as inserts and adverts in the newspaper
- Opinion-piece in the newspaper

Discussion

Comment: A participant recounted an incident of when he lived in Namibia with his family 24 years ago. His daughter was hit by teacher then. He was pleased by the changes and progress made on corporal punishment in Namibia.

Question: What training model was used with children and what was the message to children.

Answer: Basic training was done with children. Showed them the DVD and then discussed their issues and how they can get help and that corporal punishment was unacceptable.

Comment: Corporal punishment has been banned for 20 years yet it still continues.

Response: Promoting positive discipline in schools. With funding from Amnesty International has worked with teachers training colleges. Arrange

conference with Ministry of Education on positive discipline. Hope that this will trigger changes.

Question: Commended the use of different kinds of material. Was children engaged in the development of the materials.

Answer: The script for the DVD was developed with input from children. The comics were first piloted with children.

Question: With the Bill almost complete is it clear on parents' defence?

Answer: It does take away reasonable chastisement.

Question: How are you dealing with the challenges of working with parents?

Answer: The size and spread of Namibia is a big challenge. Approach is to work holistically with communities.

Comment: In South Africa we thought we had a ban on parental corporal punishment in the bag until the eleventh hour. Part of the problem was that the campaign did not have a political figure supporting it. Response: There are other controversial bits in Namibia's bill. The clause dealing with parental corporal punishment does not victimize the parent and it is quite broad. The hope is that it does not stick out as an issue.

Comment: In South Africa the Children's Act was passed in two pieces. Corporal punishment ended up in the wrong place: in implementation and not rights.

Response: In Namibia the Bill is a single piece of legislation.

2. Zambia: Petronella Mayeya Zambian Coalition to End Corporal Punishment and Promote Positive Discipline of Children

- Zambia has in place a Coalition to end corporal punishment and promote PD established in 2007
- Coalition meetings for planning and review of implementation of activities are held on a quarterly basis
- Developed IEC materials posters and stickers with messages against corporal punishment and for PD

Lobbying Activities

- Submitted to the 2010 National Constitution Conference (NCC) urging the NCC to not only uphold the previous (2006).
- Constitution Review Commission's recommendations but to extend prohibition to family setting. The NCC had watered down what had been provided for children in the previous Constitution review.

- Wrote a letter to Minister of Education urging her to ensure express prohibition of corporal punishment in the new Education Bill (2010). This resulted in invitation to final consultation on the Bill. The Bill as presented to Parliament in January 2011 contains express prohibition of corporal punishment.
- Presented a Position Paper against CP and for PD to the House of Chiefs in Dec 2010. Members of the House of Chiefs present at the meeting stated that a legal prohibition of corporal punishment is needed to back up their advocacy against corporal punishment and for PD. All agreed for the need to stop corporal punishment against children but acknowledged the huge challenges and their limited powers.
- Made a submission to the African Peer Review Mechanism at a consultative meeting with non state stakeholders (Feb 2011) that Zambia needs to offer full protection of children under the law by prohibiting corporal punishment and others forms of violence in Zambia is currently being reviewed.

Awareness Raising Activities

- Developed posters and stickers with messages anti CP and pro PD.
- Conducted media campaigns (print and electronic media – (both TV and radio).
- At the launch of the PD Module for Zambian Teacher Trainers, the guest of honour, the Provincial Education Officer, stated that CP is nothing short of barbaric and that children’s rights are the last colony to be liberated.
- Whenever Judith is on radio or television, callers to the programme steer their calls to corporal punishment even when the topic is not CP - an indication that CP is on the national agenda and is associated with ZCEA through Judith.

Progress

- Express Prohibition of CP in the Education Bill
- House of Chiefs favour PD as opposed to CP
- Through intensified public education the Coalition has kept issue of CP as a violation against children’s rights on the national agenda.

Challenges

- Same as in 2010 - the Coalition generates an uneven workload on the hosting organization and lack of political will by the Zambian Government to follow through recommendations made by the UN Study on VAC.

Conclusion

- The Coalition against CP and for PD has been sustained thanks to Save the Children Sweden that supports the meetings.
- Window of opportunities exist for prohibition of CP through the review of children's legislation that is currently in progress.
- The NCC Draft Constitution in Article 50 (4) also provides for Parliament to enact legislation to provide for:
 - (a) the promotion and protection for the rights of the children; and
 - (b) the regulation of child health care services and child care facilities.
- An opportunity for public interest litigation on prohibition of corporal punishment still exists and ZCEA is hopeful that this avenue will be strengthened with its signing up to be part of the Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria initiated informal network of children's rights NGOs in eastern and southern region interested in child related public interest litigation to promote children's rights or which are interested in doing so in the future.

Discussion

Question: Explain more about how you engage with traditional leaders?

Comment: In Zambia there is a structure called the House of Chiefs that meet. We thought that if we get to them they will speak to their headmen which will take it to the villages. The House of Chiefs consists of representative from various groups in the country. A network member has a long standing relationship with the House of Chiefs and they could gain access. The network also generated a position. The chiefs acknowledge that corporal punishment should not be encouraged as tool to discipline children. They raised the concern that the law prevents them to intervene in households and they can only encourage. They would like to see specific legislation that they can use.

Question: In South Africa traditional leaders almost unanimously insist that corporal punishment is traditional practice and a cultural right. What can we learn from the Zambian experience?

Comment: The House of Chiefs members are generally very educated and progressive. However maybe once back in the palaces where they are

holding traditions and when they are being watched then they may be different to how they present their opinion in the House of Chiefs. However this is still an advantage. The legitimacy attached to being a member of the House of Chiefs is very high. The representatives who form the House of Chiefs come from various regions and the chiefs from each region meet to choose their representative.

Question: What was in the position paper that helped? Is it how the message was transferred?

Comment: The messages in the position paper were the same like the messages developed on corporal punishment by other organisations. It seems that the House of Chiefs did not want to be seen as responsible for holding back children's rights.

Comment: Save the Children Sweden is doing study on customary law and children's rights. The study only covers Zambia and South Africa. It could be a useful tool to use when dealing with leaders. Save requests any information that can input into the study.

Comment: Maybe the key is to identify the right person to do the presentation to traditional leaders. Response: In Zambia we found a partner who had a pre-existing relationship with the chiefs. So they were already open to hear our messages. It is a good idea to present a message that does not undermine the leaders. As we talk about membership tomorrow, we need to ensure that we have a broad base even if they are not very active as members they can provide a link.

Comment: It would seem that South Africa was ahead of the pack and ended up inadequate laws. Other countries are making a better impact on laws that we did in South Africa.

Question: Can you elaborate on challenges to litigation.

Comment: Because in the domestic sphere it is difficult for a child stand against adults especially their parents. We have been asking how we can ensure that a case can stand in court. We had a good case but good not continue after child passed away. Any case that we take on the child will need somewhere to live because Zambia does not have a system of homes for children.

Comment: It is good to see CLC getting involved regionally.

Question: Why are parents targeted for litigation and not teachers?

Comment: Cases against public officials have already been litigated. It is the home environment that is the problem.

Comment: Concerns were raised about the constitutional review underway. The NCC shouted down any provision enhancing general human rights and specifically children rights. Socio-economic rights are seen as too expensive. The minister of justice was quoted saying that the right to food and water is a Utopian ideal.

Comment: With litigation it is important who your client is. It can complicate matters. It becomes important to find the right case - not excessive cases which can boarder on assault. Also question around whether the child must be involved or are there ways to litigate without the child. Litigation is complex. The Network cannot do anything until we

get that 'perfect case'. There are so many ways it can go off the rails. And support needs to be built into the case for the child and the parents.

Question: Should we continue to look for cases if it is so difficult for Zambia.

Comment: Don't look for one 'big bang' case but maybe smaller cases – incremental gains.

Comment: In other African countries there are not the legal centres that will support public interest cases like in South Africa. Incremental cases may work in South Africa but not in other countries because of the high costs associated with litigation.

Comment: United Nations general comment of child protection (Article 19) states that children have the right to protection from corporal punishment. It was also raised that general comment number 8 has been around for years specifically on corporal punishment.

3. Mauritius: Ismail Bawamia **Corporal and humiliating punishment: the situation in Mauritius**

Legal Provisions

- Child Protection Act (1994)

Section 13(1): Any person who ill-treats a child or otherwise exposes a child to harm shall commit an offence.

Section 2: Harm includes physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or moral injury, neglect, ill-treatment, impairment of health or development.

- Section 11 of the Child Protection Act

"Notwithstanding any other enactment, where a person exercising any medical, paramedical profession or a member of the staff of a school has reason to suspect that a child he is examining or who is frequenting the school as the case may be, has been ill-treated, neglected, abandoned or otherwise exposed to harm, he shall immediately notify the Permanent Secretary"

- Section 39(A) of the Criminal Code

"Culpable Omission"

(1) Any person who is able to take prompt action, without risk to himself or to a third party, so as to prevent the commission of a crime, or a misdemeanour which is an offence against persons and who wilfully fails to do so, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding 10,000 rupees and by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

(2) Any person who wilfully omits to provide to a person in danger such assistance as he could, without any risk to himself or to a third party, provide to that person by his own intervention or by calling for help, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding 10,000 rupees and by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.”

- The Criminal Code now provides that in cases of assault, or infliction of wounds and blows, if the victim is under the age of sixteen, it is considered as an aggravating offence carrying a minimum term of imprisonment of not less than two years, if such violence has caused any sickness or incapacity, irrespective of the minimal penalties of 10 years imposed for each specific type of offence.

- Education Regulations 1957

Section 13(4): “No Corporal Punishment shall be inflicted on any pupil in any school”

However despite these provisions children are still being beaten

- At home
- At school
- In residential care

Complaints at Ombudsperson for Children’s Office (OCO)

Corporal punishment in schools:

- No child-friendly reporting and investigating mechanism in schools
- Teachers always deny that they inflict CP
- Word of pupils against the word of teachers
- Many pupils are transferred to other school
- Humiliating and degrading language widely used in schools

Corporal punishment in the home

- Many parents still believe that CP will help them to control and correct their children
- However gradually they are trying to use alternatives but wrongly
- Not enough trained social workers to support them
- More problems in families and violence in families
- More people report cases of violence against children

Corporal punishment in institutions

- CP is inflicted in RCIs but they are rarely reported
- Too many children in shelters
- No proper rehabilitation programme for CICWTL
- Carers and Rehabilitation Officers are not properly trained
- Norms and standards need to be reviewed

In 2010 there were two high-profile cases:

1. A young girl who was sexually abused and burnt to death by her uncle
 - OC investigated on the Child Development Unit
 - Report submitted to the concerned minister
 - Changes in the pipeline
 - Barrier: a lack of funds
2. A young girl violently beaten by her stepfather because she refused to come out of a public playground. The child died some hours later.
 - OC opened an investigation on the responsibilities of the CDU, Police and Doctors
 - Lack of concern of the medical staff established
 - Report submitted to the Minister of Health

Changing the mindset

- Training teaching and non-teaching personnel
- Training of Headmasters and inspectors
- Public sensitization
- Parental education
- Training of frontline workers working with children
- Advocate for child-friendly evidence in court
- Active involvement in the preparation of the Children's Bill

Training and sensitisation

- Aspiring babysitters
- Frontline officers in the medical field
- Pre-school managers
- Pre-school caretakers
- Youth leaders
- Parents

- Primary school teachers
- Rehabilitation Officers

Opportunities for change

The following projects are in the pipeline:

- Community Child Watch
- Community Child Protection Committee (multidisciplinary)
- Parent's school
- Child mentoring
- Children's Bill
- A manual for Headmasters and Rectors on implementing positive discipline in schools
- A comic book for parents

Challenges

To change the mindset of policy makers, parents, teachers, and even social workers working with children on the negative effects of corporal and humiliating punishment on child victims.

Discussion

Comment: It is nice to see cross pollination with members being able to use and adapt each other's resources.

Question: Have there been any corporal punishment cases?

Comment: No corporal punishment cases have gone before the court yet. However corporal punishment is widely practiced in schools.

4. Botswana - Faith Phillima Update on corporal punishment in Botswana

Current Situation

- Corporal Punishment remains legal in Botswana. It is administered at home, in schools and under civil and customary law as a conviction for offender.
- Constitution of Botswana provides that no person should be subjected to inhuman or humiliating or degrading treatment or punishment.

Education Act

- Provides for corporal punishment to be administered in Primary and Secondary school.
- It is administered for offences of a serious or repeated nature
- It has to be administered by a head teacher or teach authorised by head teacher
- CP has to be reasonable and moderate
- A male teacher cannot administer it to a girl above the age of 10
- A light cane has to be used
- The punishment should not exceed 10 strokes

Children's Act

- Its role is to protect children but it makes corporal punishment legal as a sentence for child offenders [sec 85 (d)]
- It has to be in accordance with the CP&E Act and the PC
- It does not have to exceed 12 strokes, less than 7 strokes for boys below 18
- It cannot be administered on girls and women, men above the age of 40 years or anyone sentenced to death
- Customary Courts Act, also makes CP legal for all offences.

Corporal punishment as a traditional practice

- It is considered as the best form of discipline
- There is a practice of 'go kopela ngwana thupa'
- Children still consider that they should receive CP when they deserve it

Strategies

- Improve coordination among national NGOs and other stake holders such as government in order to mount concerted advocacy and lobbying against CP.
- Engage more with parents and teachers as a way of creating awareness
- Engaging with Chiefs as they believe that CP is a good form of child discipline
- Come up with suitable alternatives to CP

Discussion

Comment: There is an inconsistency in the law between the constitution and the laws that allows corporal punishment.

Comment: We need to encourage the strategy to build allies that can speak on corporal punishment and that can work together to tackle the issue. It may look hopeless but your organisation has a good reputation with the state.

Comment: Often parents ask for practical ideas as an alternative to corporal punishment and it is very hard to speak concretely on the matter. Maybe alternatives are different for each country. We need to develop alternatives that can be used as an advocacy tool.

5. Swaziland - Elizabeth Kgololo

Discussion

Question: What is happening with law reform?

Comment: The Children's Bill has been under review and sitting in cabinet for years. It still has to be debated in parliament. Reasonable chastisement is allowed for. Need to lobby parliamentarians to get corporal punishment out. Trying to use case law to try to change laws even though corporal punishment is allowed.

Comment: There are very specific rules and regulations around teachers' use of corporal punishment. Teachers do not follow the regulations. According to teachers who have been asked about this issue, they have responded that if they should follow the complex regulations before administering corporal punishment their anger would already have dissipated. This confirmed that corporal punishment is about anger and frustration, not discipline.

Question: It seems that there is a focus on extreme cases for litigation. How will this deal with the more endemic and subtle cases of corporal punishment.

Comment: Only looking at cases in schools at the moment.

Comment: People who advocate for corporal punishment think that by providing recipes or steps to administer corporal punishment somehow makes it acceptable.

Question: Should teachers even be encouraged to adhere to the existing regulation on how to administer corporal punishment. Would it not be better to say that these regulations are not being used and are therefore not working?

Comment: We have been able to use the provision that teachers are not allowed to bring a cane into the classroom for example. It is not ideal but it does prevent teachers from having easy access to a can to hit children. Trying to assist children in any way possible.

Comment: In South Africa the NGOs did not present a united front in Parliament. There is merit to NGOs working together and investing energies to build that.

Comment: Swaziland is customary and traditionally based. Traditional leaders are key role players to bring about a change in behaviour. The parliamentary route here may not be the best option.

Comment: There are plans to work more with traditional customs.

Comment: All Africa Conference of Churches passed a mandate two years ago to work on corporal and humiliating punishment and has to report back in 5 years time. We need to ask what is the crisis in faith based structures where they support laws and practices that are harmful in particular to women and children. Hold faith based organisations accountable. The network needs to go to the Council of Churches to help them reach their mandate. Hold them answerable also.

Comment: In Swaziland the Council of Churches was approached but was unaware of the mandate.

6. South Africa - Carol Bower

Activities

- Today's Children Tomorrow's Parents (TCTP)
- Meeting with the faith sector
- Annual Working Group on Positive Discipline (WGPD) meeting

Today's Children Tomorrow's Parents

- Project linking adolescent pregnancy and future parenting – development of curriculum for grade 8 learners
- Role players are: RAPCAN, Childline, Parent Centre and Dept. of Basic Education
- Many problems with getting ahead, including funding issues
- Pilot implemented in Lavender Hill
- Funding being sought for roll-out
- MRC has received funding to develop a parenting intervention for school-going learners and their parents to prevent child abuse and GBV

Meeting with the faith sector

- Theme: the role of the faith-based sector in strengthening families and building capacity to parent positively and discipline without violence
- Deliberate attempt to broaden the reach into the faith-sector beyond the SACC
- Attended by members of the Jewish and Muslim faiths
- Increased local WGPD membership

WGPD annual meeting

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for WGPD members to reflect on achievements to date and share information about their current projects
- To interrogate Department of Social Development (DSD) implementation of the Children's Act, including budgetary provisions
- To explore what WGPD members could include in their 2011 plans to support DSD efforts
- To plan collaboratively for projects and activities in 2011
- Opportunity to share work and experience

WGPD

- two newsletters produced (April, September)
- e-mail info alerts
- Circulation of materials (e.g. from LAC, Namibia)
- Incremental approach to litigation – following up on cases brought to our attention
- Referral to Centre for Child Law
- Encouraging debate and discourse

Discussion

Comment: In South Africa we did not get prohibition on corporal punishment in the home. Although amendments will be made to the Children's Act it is unlikely that it will deal with corporal punishment. The Working Group on Positive Discipline (WGPD) took a decision to focus on issues of parenting and corporal punishment in schools where we do have prohibition but it is not being implemented.

Comment: The Children's Institute's budget analysis of the Department of Social Development's (DSD) prevention and early intervention programming revealed unacceptable low levels of budgetary allocation for prevention. Budget analysis is an important advocacy tool to see. Biggest challenge is the mindset of officials regarding the prevention model.

Comment: Zambia had training with planners who prepare budgets and found that lots of ignorance existed. The planners were mostly economists and we needed to ensure that they have the child's face.

Comment: If one looks at the behavioural change approach, participants are repeatedly exposed to the same message. We need to use the same approach with child protection. Often with parenting programmes only women come. Violence is gendered and we need to take that into account.

Regional level report back – Carol Bower

Activities

- CSO Forum meeting
- African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) – new members
- International NGO Advisory Council to the UN Special Representative on VAC

ACERWC new members

- Benyam Mezmur
- Julia Sloth-Nielsen

International NGO Advisory Council

- Judith Mulenga

Agreed actions and activities

- Members need to consider whether activities are part of projects housed within their organisations or within the Regional Network.
- Follow-up on activities will be strengthened by Sam and Carol.

Agreed actions and activities

Regarding Peter's lobbying of Marta Santos Pais (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children): can anyone else also strengthen or contribute to the lobby? Marta's involvement in the Africa Child Policy Forum, and similar forums was noted. It was suggested that a letter be developed on behalf of the Regional Network, to try to engage her at these forums through seeking access to present the letter on behalf of the Regional Network in these forums. A need exists to find more information on the NGO Council which exists to support Marta. Peter is in regular communication with her, but is this is not regarded as the right channel. A short e-mail should be written to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

- Peter Newell will circulate the New Zealand research.
- Sonia Vohito will circulate the reporting schedule for the ACERWC.
- Carol Bower will circulate handbook on accessing ACERWC.
- Research on corporal punishment in the region should be collated.
- General Comment 8 should be simplified – this has been started and Judith Mulenga will complete it.
- SCS will analyse the SADC OVYC framework document.

- Patricia Martin and SCS will make recommendations about structured advocacy with SADC.
- Yusuf Phiri will coordinate a subgroup to follow up on the status of AACC resolution.
- Yusuf Phiri will coordinate setting up meetings with other national Councils of Churches and the Interfaith Network. Members who will work with him are Berta, Keith, Deidre, and Nontobeko.
- Friday will approach World Vision to publicise information on children's rights
- Ulrika (SCS) will share the SADC Minimum Package of Services for Vulnerable Children with all.

Other

- Regular e-mail communication and updates
- Circulation of materials (e.g. from LAC, Namibia)

Discussion

The CSOs meeting will be attended in March and the November meeting was missed.

One of the plans is to tackle the Corporal Punishment issue and corporal punishment was added to the agenda after a vote. To most CSO members corporal punishment is "not big issue". Formal acknowledgement that corporal punishment is an issue. As Civil Society, we should nominate governments to nominate representatives. As a Network the agreement was to support Benyam Mezmur (who although from Ethiopia has worked in SA) and he was elected onto the committee. Most of committee members have a welfare background - African and UN need to have representatives with solid children's rights backgrounds. Benyam Mezmur is therefore a success as he's strong supporter of non-corporal punishment methods but could fortunately not attend this meeting due to logistical reasons. Also the aim is to support him through the Network.

Julia Sloth Nielsen is the newest member of committee but not strong on corporal punishment as main issue - and believes there are other pressing issues. Has a strong relationship with committee through presentations on child rights. She is an ally but couldn't make this meeting due to lecturing demands. Two representatives via the Network to the committee a strategic option. Changes are incremental and take time. Logistical problems/resourcing exist e.g. SA and submission of country reports. Committee recently advertised for a person to monitor the individual complaints mechanism in African Charter, etc.

UNGASS was postponed due to 911 in 2002. The Global Study was supposed to start and after slight delay took place. Supposedly worldwide

response but ended up less than that. Carol Bower and Peter Newell were involved. The Special Representative was instituted.

Regional organisations in East/Southern African organisations asked to motivate for a representative - Judith Mulenga was motivated for. The NGO Advisory Council level and Committee level representative good. Carol reported that often we agree on issues but there is little follow-through but members are generally busy. Members need to decide on action e.g. your NGO agenda or someone else's agenda. It's good where we can make plans fit each agenda. Sam Waterhouse's leaving affected the efficacy of strengthening follow up activities.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children Martha Santos Pais was mailed by Carol Bower but no response was received. Peter: This matter is to be followed up on day two of the meeting. The Special Representative was described as being a "hesitant advocate".

General Comment 8 'on ice' due to Benyam Mezmur's research 'so two avenues not followed'. SADC communication is difficult and ideas requested to promote better SADC communication. Yusuf Phiri mentioned document to be circulated which Carol Bower will check on. Yusuf Phiri /Zingo to be referenced on with Faith-Based sector due to their success with this sector.

Judith Mulenga queried how the business sector can consider child rights in their activities.

An approach to World Vision was queried.

Regular email communication took place in 2010 - but what is to happen in 2011?

Strategic consultation in Burkina Faso (Sonia Vohito)

- Key strategic level to inform prohibition
- To agree on strategic plan for the future
- Key participants –
- Save
- Plan international
- African committee
- UNCRC
- UNICEF
- Minister of Social Affairs, Burkina Faso
- Programme outline (see slides)

Peter Newel

- Logical outcome: some kind of strategic plan for the prohibition of corporal punishment

- Circulation of short questionnaire to inform strategic plan (previously circulated)
- This will be developed in working groups during consultation
- Strategic plan aimed at pan African organisations, African union, all Africa conference on churches, network of child helpline, national civil society, pan African parliamentary bodies. To be useful need to set out who the audience is
- Need to produce text that is useful to all these partners in order to accelerate prohibition and elimination
- An assumption that all have the same aim on prohibition but rather to explore different strategies
- Challenge to make this strategic plan a useful living instrument
- Progress of how the debate grows needs to be layered to get people on board (caution to not go too fast)
- What can we do to increase international pressure to raise the issue (universal periodic review). How to make it more useful in Africa through dissemination and getting quoted
- What are the best possible actions for regional groupings in Africa as well as national level processes
- Participants urged to send responses to the questionnaires previously distributed
- When and how will results are circulated, how will it be reviewed, etc.

This session explored what would make the meeting most useful: (See slides?)

- How to overcome challenges
- Research needed and how to disseminate research available
- Campaign slogans (African examples of good messaging)
- Key supporters

Questions and comment

How does this consultations link to other meetings?

(This meeting is very specifically focused on corporal punishment and also only with key stakeholders for purpose of strategic planning. UNICEF internationally signed up to global initiative and need to push on global initiative, UNICEF though moving away from single campaigns and moving

to national child protection systems. OK as long as it does not leave out legalised violence against children)

Who from UNICEF will be attending? As much as they say they want to work with Faith based organisations, they refuse to work on issues of corporal punishment but rather move to general issues of child sexual abuse. They do not seem to be taking on issue "they are child beaters"

We need to get people to understand the different kinds of abuse is not that different? Review of literature 2000-2010, reconfirmation that children are vulnerable to a range of abuse and not only one type. Corporal punishment is part of a continuum of types of abuse and not in isolation. Child protection is not only about one thing but the vulnerability lives in a continuum of types of abuses. How can we communicate that message so people see the bigger picture in how we "do" prevention?

Spread the perception (of carols point) to help them see things as how we do what they do as one with what we do i.e. the continuum of abuse

How do we adopt a platform of not antagonising people but rather how we bring them on board, they are strategies we need to adopt rather than take on a rigid stance, at the core we need to ensure that children live in safe environments? For example, work with plan international entitled "how do we help children learn in safe environments"

What informs UNICEF's brief, a country position or an organisational brief? (UNICEF offices have much autonomy on how they work with governments and what issues they prioritise; strategy up to 2014 does not mention corporal punishment as a strategy at all. corporal punishment is particularly personal issue as it is much more universal hence making it more difficult. For some people in UNICEF have taken on this personal issues whilst others have not transformed or regard as a necessary issue.

What is the likely affect those 2 African countries that have prohibited. In the gaining of momentum are we seeing a swell in advocacy and how do we use that.

(It may be helpful but for others may have prohibition, but no law reform)
Attitudes have not changed.

As much as we fight for law reform in what ways can we ensure that people take personal responsibilities for changing behaviour. What else can happen can we do that can have a snowball effect (like Tunisia or Kenya) weather in public or private

Law reform on its own will not do anything but without law reform programmes i.e. PD - positive parenting, etc will be undermined.

Law in SA on corporal punishment in schools changed over a decade ago, but the law does provide some leverage with teachers. Creates space in debate to help people to question what they do. Issues around law reform have created space to give people other ideas on how to manage their children.

Role of the ACRWC is significant in the prohibition of corporal punishment. Committee constantly comments, makes recommendations, general comment etc, and makes links to other international treaties - is important and needs to happen.

Experience of global study significant, since it started as a small idea but regional consultations with young people are important in informing process. Ensure that child participation is meaningful and significant. This is the idea of the place of children is so entrenched and a comfortable space needs to be found.

Legal reform important but even small actions important are as important.

Broadening debate to not only include UNICEF but also UN committee on UN security, also host development of acre and protection of children, which redefines the whole issue of children.

What is a developmental state, and understanding this in the context of human development and broadening the debate, and draw in a more integrated reaction to this debate. Expand debate and bring in role players that can bring in social and developmental issues but also emotional and human development issues through a broader forum.

Through the world people say that corporal punishment is part of culture, but rather it is part of a western culture in how it has built such punishment into law and colonisation. Get beyond defensive belief that it is part of culture. Need to get through it at consultation. We need to get beyond defensive attitude, that it is not African but rather a completely global phenomenon, not about methodology but rather approach.

Tunisia and Kenya have prohibited it will help the region; arguments were very emotive, what was lacking was a body of knowledge of human rights and child rights among participants.

It would have helped argument when we have embedded the body of knowledge on human rights and don't see the link to the enjoyment of other human rights

As activist how do we document the positives that come of law reform, publish etc this will help in the snowball effect. If people do not see, it will not help the cause. As activist we need to go beyond law reform but also how we can motivate people on how they can change behaviour.

If the masses are fully on board it will help a lot to the change on top.

Change is inevitable, even culture will/ does also change, not even culture remains static, we must push on with law reform.

Despite traditional views consultations with teachers, schools, kids

Employees into activist and the investment into this

Focus conversation on what is useful

How much is already happening in other countries and number of active campaigns particularly in Africa?

Precedents of champions for children linked to important committees like the European, African unions can be very influential in providing impetus

to campaigns which will compel governments to buy into campaign for abolition of corporal punishment.

Trying to work with SADC to develop special unit for children, bets option via Benyam Mezmur to enable a political statement which must be approved by his other members

Prohibition is an executive mandate in any government and hence needs political will, the status of ACRWC in the AU structure is not that high. The commission in Abuja has much more significant status, hence we should not leave out commission, as well as the foreign ministers committee that makes decisions in the AU for the heads of state to talk about to complement special representative (Benyam Mezmur). It is knowing how the AU works, who does the ground work and where the significant decisions are made.

Multi pronged approach is required, including different parliamentary forums in Africa which provides space for engagement and to make representations.

SADC conference which can bring forth some kind of reference group to influence things in different countries. Names of committees of Pan-African parliament - Save to circulate these. Examples of the 8 countries in south Asia.

How best do we ensure dissemination of acceptance in law reform etc? Tricked down of law and policy to the communities that children actually live in.

Key Ideas to take forward

- Presented with hopefulness and affirmation of what has and can happen
- Prohibition (Law reform) and elimination (Practice) of CP.
- Use the network as a model to other parts of Africa to inform process e.g. strategies such as being broad based e.g. faith based important, human rights commission, etc to broaden the agenda
 - Input of traditional leadership into Network
 - Strategy includes capacity building and sharing and dissemination of resources to adaptation in local context
 - Research to get reform into place
 - What is the strength of the network

- A body within the Pan-African level to co-ordinate the movement and mirrored on the role of co-ordinating organisation to enhance the functionality of the regional network for the example.
- Law reform is what we need to work toward to make the prohibition meaningful
- The linking of children's rights broadly to human rights
- What we need from other levels (African committee) in the committee to make these networks possible, what will be helpful to help networks to be more effective
- Need clearer support from African Committee on Experts on supporting the prohibition
- What strategies can we put in place ensuring mass awareness of CP to get by in from the masses and will influence the creation of law reform
- Working with a multiple group of people/agencies such as UN security mechanism to have a consolidated approach
- What inhibits law reform, understanding what these obstacles are without glossing over realities? Who among these bodies (in SADC) can help to deliver what we actually want. Who does our government actually listen to?

We show that we have listened to the region.

23 February 2011: Day 2

Peter Newell session

- Resolution to June meeting of HR council, latest version is available from Peter (no more space for collective input unless totally rejected) – should have worked more with national NGOs, even lobbying from Benyam Mezmur did not achieve the aim
- Marta – committed to children's rights and law reform not talk explicit of Corporal Punishment but all rights, one opportunity where she did call for prohibition, not confrontational with states, if she comes to Africa take the opportunity to engage with her

specifically to advocate a stronger position, mandate 2012 trying to extend her time

Comments and questions

- Opportunities to engage with states on the optional protocol – worthwhile lobbying that it be rejected for further deliberations
- Answer: NGO campaign not sure how to respond waiting to see the official document agree that the statement is inadequate asking states to give themselves more time to deliberate, depend on whether the states behind it e.g. GRULAG group in Latin America asking for stronger statements and more time (Portugal and Lichtenstein supportive), committee had stronger stance e.g. statement confirmed the status of children as tiny human beings with tiny rights, be careful that we do not weaken it by being too forceful, stronger involvement of NGOs to criticise the gap which will add to collective communication intent

- Would there be benefit in the regional network making comment? Answer: Pressure on ministries of foreign affairs and key officials for children in countries

- Where would Martha be likely to come to in Africa, do we include an invitation? Answer: Special assistant that should be copied to propose a regional visit, goes to regional conferences, invite to a regional meeting and talk about legislative reform opportunities and success stories like Kenya and Tunisia, send short letters or briefings

- Opportunities for moving mindset about the watered down rights for children? March CSO meeting opportunity for advocating optional protocol on formal or informal agenda Answer: good idea to get a strong statement from that forum, details of the optional protocol not significantly below standards of other treaty statements, most dangerous threat limit which children can submit communications and define the representation that children can have (i.e. only by parents)

- What were reasons against collective communications procedures? Answer: arguments that communications procedures were reparations for individuals but there are even procedures that allow for inter-state communications, collective communications duplicate reporting procedures as there is already opportunity for input but not the same as quasi legal process with result, duplicated enquiry procedures which points to the value of using enquiry procedures but it is not the same as collective communications

- Twenty three countries made public commitments to the prohibition in what form and by whom to understand in country strategies. Answer: including a bill before parliament, public commitment means public statement in the media by government officials (law reform), not an electioneering promise?
- Insight into the Kenya and Tunisia strategies? Answer: after Burkina Faso meeting, defence in the Kenyan children's act but written out by new constitution, bringing subsidiary laws in line and comprehensive public awareness, Tunisia did not know what they were doing but generally respect for human dignity and the political will of the president, need a proper write up
- End point not law reform but implementation as crucial for collective action and advocacy. Answer: Need for a guide to tell governments what to do beside law reform – list of steps needs to be produced as a handbook – awareness raising of children's rights, law enforcement principles required for children, awareness of dangers of corporal punishment and positive non violent behaviour management with children, show governments not new and expensive process, take materials and programmes to scale by governments (e.g. Costa Rica), regional network could put together for Africa, ask Benyam Mezmur for avenues to secure funding for documenting avenues for litigation, Open Society Initiative another avenue
- Global campaign advocated for the revision of even after signing Answer: NGOs do not know the supervisory mechanisms to increase government accountability, we need to be trained.
- What does global and regional story mean for this network? What support can network provide to Judith Mulenga? Answer: It was explained that the structure and mandate of advisory council to mobilise civil society (CS) to advocate for government to follow up of study, needs information on East Africa (Qubid Okinango), bringing synergies together to feed into the mandate, passing communications and feedback a conduit for NGOs, logistical support (currently from Africa Child Policy Forum need funding from regional network, UNICEF is a possibility)
- Meeting in Geneva next meeting with Marta Santos Pais (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children) is an opportunity to present the network to her as well as other key WHO, UNICEF, ILO persons, etc will be there to lobby,

inter-agency group made up of the key agencies should be chaired by Martha and ask for civil society (CS) to be invited (no meeting for three years); purpose of council to support Martha Santos Pais but she is not very receptive to proposal for example, on corporal punishment global survey follow up on Pinheiro study, may only do a limited follow up of study therefore own call for research on CRIN on prevalence on all forms of violence to be published as an advocacy report in October; Office of High Commissioner will fund a small consultation with Martha to prohibit all forms of violence.

Global-level Development Southern African Network

Peter Newell

The most significant development undoubtedly is the achievement of complete prohibition in the first two African states: Kenya and Tunisia. Together with Poland this has brought the total of states which have prohibited all corporal punishment in all the settings of children's lives, including the home, to 29 states.

The more visible this issue becomes, the stronger the human rights consensus against it, the more intolerable it is that another generation of children should have to live with this daily legalised adult assault. I get more impatient every year, and I think we all need to. There can be no excuses now.

A big consideration is that we have not been so effective at achieving follow-up of them at national level, using them to the full to force governments to fulfill their legal obligations.

But the possibilities of using these mechanisms needs to be investigated too, because they are not complex processes or expensive to use, but they do require the exhaustion of domestic remedies.

A starting point for every state is to consider commissioning a formal legal opinion which should cover both how domestic law defending or authorizing corporal punishment conflicts with – in many cases – constitutional provisions and also with obligations which the state has accepted under international and regional human rights instruments. It also needs to set out the possibilities for challenging the legality of corporal punishment. What is the legal status of the child. Can an action be brought on behalf of a child? If the state's practice is to incorporate international instruments into domestic law, then can the CRC be applied directly in national courts, and are names victim children required, or can there be an action to strike down a law because of its incompatibility with the CRC and/or other instruments, without identifying victims?

We need more strategic litigation, more use of international and regional human rights mechanisms. There may of course be good reasons not, in the end, to go to court, but surely the investigation of these possibilities,

the threat of legal action, the reality that this gives to our insistence that we are talking about human rights violations under international law – surely all that is useful?

This brings us in a round about way to the drafting of the new Optional Protocol; to provide a communications procedure for the CRC.

At the end of the just finished February session of the Open Ended Working Group of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the States sort of adopted a full draft (although some groups of states including the African States reserved their position). The possibility of the Committee considering collective communications, communications alleging recurrent violations of children's rights affecting multiple individuals without the identification of individual child victims. Benyam Mezmur attended, accredited by the AU, and tried to convince the African Group of the value of collective communications to children, but they played a negative role in the negotiations, as did Russia, China, Canada and some but not all European states. States gave all sorts of reasons for the rejection, but plainly in reality felt threatened by the potential effectiveness. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, NHRIs, European children's ombudspersons and every expert involved in the process advocated acceptance of collectives – Paulo Pinheiro, Marta Santos Pais, me (Peter Newell) and others.

There is a chance that the process will not be finalized with a resolution annexing a draft OP at the June HRC meeting, in which case a strong lobby is needed, addressed to Ministries of Foreign Affairs. CRIN reports on this with ongoing proposals for civil society lobbying.

Finally the SRSG - Marta Santos Pais (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children) has recently completed her second report that is to be delivered to HRC in March - when the International NGO Advisory Council will also meet with her. Marta Santos Pais has made two visits to Africa within her mandate, but not as yet to Southern Africa.

Strategic Review of Network and Planning for 2011

Carol Bower presented an overview of the Regional Network's past activities since establishment

Overview

- Opportunities for sharing (experiences, learning, etc)
- Opportunities for sharing resources
- Opportunities regional cooperation
- Thanks as Network being milestone, e.g. work around Child Bill, linking of NGOs, sharing models on CP. Helped with progressive steps.

- Process has helped to determine what's needed nationally.
- Networks more effective learning from SA experience.
- Aim from start Also work with Faith Based leaders as some challenge traditional/religious based.

Need to be covered in this session:

Membership organic? Membership has become sensitive to democratise membership.

Sustainability issues:

SCS role changing; do we charge membership fees? Relationship with SCS till 2012 and put still need measures in place sooner for clarity.

Need for Network to exist at all?

There are new requests for membership but no process for this. Membership historically linked to SCS fund recipients (SAHRC the exception). Change in funding climate change - impact? Years 2-5 future planning. Advocacy enhanced by more members, invited organisations who resonated with our work area but not have too many SA members. Members need to be active for network to be beneficial - criterion for members and costs always high so electronic communication is important. Membership affects hosting costs.

Meetings always start with country reports.

Membership now an issue, due to the current financial context.

Period of questioning for Network as new people get involved e.g. Kerry, Vuyiswa. Forum now open to review and map the way. Collectively take the way forward.

Deidre: SCS never wanted only partner linked only. Gap seen that needed to be filled to promote corporal punishment agenda - still on SCS agenda as it is important. SCS want say as part of Network, but not 'control' membership. Strings not attached by SCS involvement and ownership by Network members important. It is difficult to comment concretely on future funding. Quite an effective Network, up to RAPCAN to work out budget as it is costly to get members to these meetings.

Achievements versus membership anxiety as dynamism by mixture of individuals and organisations - personal dynamism has been crucial e.g. would not want Sam Waterhouse not to be available after leaving RAPCAN. Need to have accountability, continuity of representatives.

Propose individual and organisations joining but what do they bring to 'Network's table'. Some discontinuity and reason for this lack of attendance?

When it's an organisational membership, it should go to the Executive Director (ED) not individuals - some protocol membership/invites required.

Need to keep Network simple as general agendas are busy. All work in broader contexts so Network has served that too. Support for this not to be 'overformalised'.

But what to do if members are not active? Network's response to this? How do we ensure robust Network? Communicating via the Executive Director doesn't always make sense. Follow request by organisation on how to communicate (ED or individual).

If the Executive Director and individual representative linked/shared often created level of understanding/trust. Need for clarity about representative to Network. Network should be guided what works for each organisation. Network administration list should indicate who to communicate with. Network co-ordinator to provide form to members on who to communicate with. Organisation/Network and RAPCAN on who will attend re cost issues. Single person has be affiliated but would it be better to have organisation represented.

As organisation representative Executive Director should be aware of individual staff attendance.

A membership procedure required?

Individual wants to join - need to determine if they have capacity at national level where they're from. Organisations - are they working nationally with other organisations on corporal punishment issues.

Mauritius process of consultation with Ombudsperson and internal communication. Head needs informing but focal person needs to attend - mention focal person.

Mandate is important - if you move, new organisation covers mandate as in past membership beyond efficacy. Need to strengthen national processes and democratising important - e.g. SA and Zambia are big enough to provide multiple members. At start more than one organisation from country sought. Building capacity might require having 2 representatives from one organisation.

Membership problems also due to not being email contactable - bounced back and eventually removed. In early days aim just to find enough like-minded people/organisations on corporal punishment.

Problems with email linkages in Zambia (e.g. wrong contact details). National networks will help as just 1 representative from that country network - keeps numbers/costs down - increase efficacy and mandate.

Network administration from RAPCAN has responsibilities but also members have responsibilities. Have had simple older list of criteria on membership - new members have a 'role' in their national environment. New issues - some country may need representation.

Aim to have transparent process on membership as in the past so aim to keep that going based on our member criteria. Co-ordinators need advice on membership needs, start from scratch Network administration e.g. Network list/details, etc.

What is expected/needed?

Role of co-ordinator historically 'not anyone's job' - Sam: challenge to co-ordinate but other work also. Carol Bower read out document titled '2008 tasks of Co-ordinator'. Idea never to create full-time job for someone as added to main tasks.

What are you doing on national level before going regional - this is an important factor to membership.

As it evolves, new clarity/discussion required. Increasing Network complication with time, increased clarity and protocol needed.

If co-ordination simple, certain loss of follow up and co-ordination e.g. tasks allocated to members. RAPCAN needs to know what Regional Network needs/expects then we can plan. RAPCAN subsidises the work of Regional Network from other funding as funding doesn't sully cover Regional Network activities. If for example, Regional Network wants full time person, not necessarily a RAPCAN person. Questions for all as all members couldn't fully follow through. Full-time person probably not fundable right now. Search for possible funders in 2011. Everyone added Regional Network to their other work tasks, therefore kept it small/simple and that has been a strength.

Often there are long term advantages to going 'formal' versus 'loose' network. Danger can exist though to just to exist to sustain Regional Network 'jobs'.

Thoughts

Query: Membership to Network

Need to know what Individuals are doing nationally? Yes/No

Case by case basis of new member evaluation

Resolution: Members should be organisational but Regional Network can appoint distinguished members. Organisational members must be nominated from national coalition if it exists. Or be a leading organisation to create national coalition if it doesn't exist.

Carol Bower: danger is national-level work may only happen after exposure to Regional Network (this excludes potential members). Sam Waterhouse: need to get active members in their country. Perhaps individuals of Archbishop Tutu's stature (as a possible Network patron).
Funding situation

Query: What does the Regional Network want from us

Query: Objectives of the Regional Network

Query: Save's relationship - then what

Query: Subscription fee

Have specific purpose not administration fees. Supporting strategic meeting, etc, NOT sustaining an organisation. Issue of exclusion raised when fees raised. Proposal to include small clause to funders for Regional Network activities. Funding to effective Network operation is important. Members need to think which of their funders may be approachable on this matter. Angle: this is what we achieve by our Regional Network membership. Conversation about fees, etc, looking at a 2013 scenario. Alternative funders are important. Planning/workshop session required bring in new funders/proposal. Members to look for Regional Network funding opportunities while looking for general funding. Need information on what subscription fees will be used for e.g. regular newsletter produced.

Query: Sustain co-ordination of the post.

Generate ideas in interim and finalise in next general meeting.

Network Support to Judith Mulenga:

Kenya events as a starting point.

Target countries doing law reform and exploit opportunities that exist for law reform e.g. Egypt.

Community Law Centre (Lorenzo's project) examining law reform in region. CLC contact to be followed up on.

Following up on UN violence against children study on country basis - 'name and shame' basis.

What has worked best - difficult to determine. Also find other African regional structures and their policy documents e.g. GBV. There exist linkages where corporal punishment issue can be added.

Address corporal punishment in its context but also look at broader context of violating children's rights.

Indian Ocean islands observatory - almost dormant through lack of funding.

Engaging with: a) law reform b) practice

Corporal punishment reform of 'public spaces' first and target 'private spaces' secondly.

Meeting is important as a guide for future.

How do you change mindsets? Cultural and religious framing e.g. SA unpacking and unbundling biblical support of corporal punishment

Repackage existing document e.g. in two languages. Document (Carol Bower to check English and disseminate Judith; Sonia Vohito: French version)

Danger to press corporal punishment issue too quickly with African Committee - diplomacy is needed. Check with individual members African Committee for guidance on approach

Resolutions and Future Strategy

Key Ideas

- working at national level for prohibition and elimination of CP
- child participation: a cross-cutting issue
- non-discrimination: a cross-cutting issue (identify and ensuring attention to vulnerable groups of children - children with disabilities, institutionalised children, etc)
- challenges and how to overcome them
- research needed and dissemination of existing research
- resources and technical assistance required for effective advocacy
- communications: key messages, key supporters
- key event to promote campaign for prohibition

Resolutions

Membership on basis of individual versus organisation (structure, capacity and passion)

Building capacity within the country is important

Members should be organisational based and individuals will be considered depending on their impact in their communities

Organisational members must be nominated, must lead efforts to national cohesion and upon recommendation from the Regional national

network/national cohesion on corporal punishment or also depending on the individual

Things need to be democratic

Organisations need to identify funding for their participation (for further consideration)

Unpack subscription

Sustainability of funding

Membership subscription

Joint funding proposals: Generate ideas in 2011 and finalise at next regional meeting

Objectives to be achieved at strategic meeting

- Key message:

- Target:

ACERWC response to position paper

Countries where law reform happening → prohibition

- Where opportunities present we should use the platform
- On the lookout for possibilities
- Target decision-makers → UN on violence against children
- Find existing regional structures and link ourselves with them
- Lobby structures to have the topic on their agenda
- To grow the campaign link to existing topics that match with CP
- Law reform Practice

WHO?

- Change of mindset on VAC on African agenda in general
- Package existing research presentation
- Judith to assess the situation in the meeting and utilise an opportunity

Thanks to Network delegates

Thanks to Sonia Vohito and Judith Mulenga

Special thanks to Carol Bower for interim co-ordination of the Regional Network