

# 10 things

## you need to know about violence against children in Asia Pacific



### 1 Too much violence against children is not yet banned by law.

- + The definitions of 'child' and 'violence' in national laws are inconsistent across the region compared to the Convention on the Rights of a Child definition.
- + Corporal punishment of children is still permitted by law in many countries.
- + Mongolia is the only country in the region to prohibit all forms of violence against children in legislation, including corporal punishment in the home.

### 2 Ending violence against children requires changing hearts and minds.

- + Harmful social norms and values perpetuate violence against children.
- + Utilising the influence of community and faith leaders and the reach of the media, it is possible to change hearts and minds.
- + Empowering children and encouraging their participation has a powerful impact on harmful norms and values.



### 3 Child marriage is violence against children.

- + Child marriage is a form of violence against children and a violation of a child's human rights. It affects girls disproportionately.
- + The impact of child marriage is devastating for girls, communities and the economy.
- + Child marriage can be prevented by a combination of interventions that address its root causes.

### 4 Breaking down myths: Boys suffer from violence, too.

- + Boys suffer from sexual violence too, but are less likely to report it.
- + Boys are more likely to be victims of homicide.
- + Boys are more likely to suffer from corporal punishment, bullying and gang violence.



### 5 Violence may be virtual: Dealing with online abuse and exploitation.

- + Increased use and access to the internet means forms of violence in the real world coexist with violence online, including bullying and exposure to violent material.
- + Online sexual exploitation is a particular risk for children in Asia, especially East Asia.

## 6 Vulnerable children are at a higher risk of violence.

- + Certain risk factors increase children's vulnerability to violence.
- + Precise data on vulnerable children is sparse.
- + The combination of multiple vulnerability factors increases the risk of violence against the child.



## 7 Harming children is bad for the economy.

- + It is estimated that violence against children costs US\$7 trillion per year globally.
- + The consequences of violence during childhood last a lifetime and affect a child's ability to prosper.
- + There is an economic imperative to act now.

## 8 A coordinated child protection system is needed to end violence.

- + Ending violence against children requires working with multiple aspects, interventions and actors at the same time.
- + Most child protection services across Asia are reactive and issue-focused. Strengthening child protection requires a systems approach.
- + Strengthening child protection systems to end violence against children requires targeted funding from national governments.
- + Strengthening child protection systems can also be achieved through strong and empowered 'informal structures' such as families, caregivers and communities.



## 9 What we know about violence is only the tip of the iceberg.

- + Statistics on violence against children – including its prevalence, cause and impacts – are still very limited in numbers and quality.
- + In Asia Pacific, there is a lack of information on violence against children, including a lack of national surveys and an underreporting of actual instances of violence against children.

## 10 Businesses can end violence against children.

- + To end violence against children in Asia Pacific, policymakers must engage a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses in the private sector.
- + Businesses must eliminate all practices in their own operations and services that promote violence against children and may also offer unique solutions and services to end violence.

