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.

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