

VLADYSLAVA DMYTRIIVNA VOLOKHOVA
Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

What counts as violent discipline?

The two main forms of violent discipline are corporal punishment and psychological violence. According to UNICEF, physical discipline, also known as ‘corporal punishment’ refers to any punishment in which physical force is used to cause any degree of pain or discomfort. It includes, for example, pinching, spanking, hitting children with a hand, or forcing them to ingest something. Violent psychological discipline involves the use of verbal aggression, threats, intimidation, denigration, ridicule, guilt, humiliation, withdrawal of love or emotional manipulation to control children. Violent discipline is a violation of a child’s right to protection from all forms of violence while in the care of their parents or other caregivers, as set forth in the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under the leadership of WHO, a group of 10 international agencies have developed and endorsed an evidence-based technical package called INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children.

The seven strategies are:

- Implementation and enforcement of laws.
- Norms and values change.
- Safe environments.
- Parental and caregiver support.
- Income and economic strengthening.
- Response services provision.
- Education and life skills.

Observational studies suggest these laws can reduce the use of violent punishment against children, deepen understanding of the negative effects on children of violent punishment, and change attitudes towards the use of such punishment.

Language adviser N. L. Horbach