



Learn

without fear.

Learn Without Fear: An evidence-based campaign against school violence

Cesar Bazan
Campaign Research Coordinator
Global Advocacy Team
Berne, 14 October 2008





Learn

without fear.

Table of contents

- Introducing Plan
- Learn Without Fear, the global campaign to end violence in schools
- The Learn Without Fear report
- Case study
- Insights
- Recommendations
- Campaign video



Learn

without fear.

Plan's global campaign against school violence

Learn Without Fear will focus on **sexual violence, bullying** and **corporal punishment**, but school violence also includes:

- Neglect
- Verbal/emotional abuse
- Use of weapons
- Peer-to-peer violence
- Youth gangs
- Harassment on the journey to and from school

Sexual violence – any kind of sexual activity inflicted on children, especially by someone who is responsible for them, or has power or control over them and who they should be able to trust.

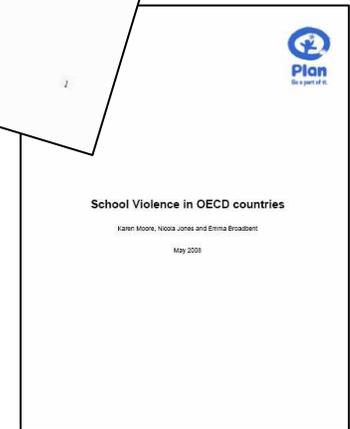
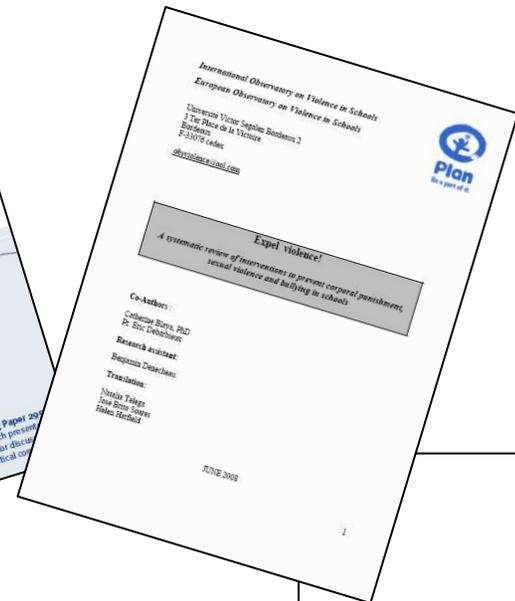


Learn without fear.

The learn without fear report (1)




THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO
END VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS



Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children

Download from learnwithoutfear.org



Learn

without fear.

The learn without fear report (2)

Legal framework – this research mapped law in 66 countries to see which protected children from corporal punishment, bullying and sexual violence. 65 countries have laws protecting school children from sexual violence, but not all of them enforce those laws.

Procedures – Plan believes an holistic approach best tackles school violence, so we work with health and welfare workers, police representatives, youth leaders and of course, with the entire school community.

Enforcement – building on the evidence we now have, we will advocate for and with children to prevent and respond to sexual violence eg Dutch colleagues are working towards an international court for children's rights in The Hague and other colleagues are considering strategic litigation work to uphold child rights



Learn

without fear.

Case study – Tanzania (1)

Two men, acting on behalf of a foreign boss, are alleged to have used a woman to lure a girl from school. The girl was taken to a yard where she was stripped naked and forced against a cage, where a dog was allowed to have sex with her for an hour. The woman was paid TSH 70,000.00 (\$56.00) and the girl TSH 1,000.00 (\$0.74).

The girl has been physically injured and psychologically tortured. She has been seen by a doctor and is recovering. But the stigma is so high in the community that the girl ran away from home. She has been branded the 'wife of a dog' and her mother has been called 'in-law of the dog'. She does not feel she belongs and nor is able to go back to school.

We understand that the owner of the dog has hired a lawyer for both his accused employees and himself.



Learn

without fear.

Case study – Tanzania (2)

Legal framework

Global instruments

- UNCRC – Articles 19, 34, 39
- Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

Regional instruments

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

National instruments

- United Republic of Tanzania's Sexual Offences (Special Provision) Act 1998



Learn

without fear.

Case study – Tanzania (3)

Procedures

- The two men and the woman accused have been arrested and legal proceedings are ongoing at district court level – Plan is monitoring the case
- Staff have made home visits and counselled the girl
- Staff will monitor the social environment and see if the girl and her family need to be relocated
- Plan and a local NGO will also promote debate and dialogue about this kind of case with government leaders, communities, children and child rights activists



Learn

without fear.

Case study – Tanzania (4)

Enforcement

Working on this case is strongly linked to Plan's vision and call to action, which includes:

- No one can inflict violence on children in schools without facing punishment
- Children can report violent incidents and expect appropriate care and support when they are affected by violence
- Significant resources must be earmarked by governments and international organisations to tackle violence in schools



Learn

without fear.



Insights

- Schools that are already organised in a **democratic manner** with links to communities have a better chance to stop violence.
- Victimization and aggression diminish when children feel **supported by family and teachers and when local stakeholders** such as residents' associations, the police and social services work together to protect children.
- Local interventions, although critical to reducing violence in schools, **cannot be expected to be successful without a supportive legislative environment**. But it is not enough to have laws unless they are enforced.
- We need to see **law as a culturally specific and enabling tool**, not as a complicated set of rules that dictate inappropriate solutions to local problems.



Learn

without fear.



Recommendations

- Secure **budget allocation** in the relevant sectors as an expression of political will and commitment to protect children
- Develop and maintain **child-friendly reporting systems**
- Perpetrators must be identified and **prevented from being rehired in a different area**
- We need the **best global evidence** to inform policy and practice
- **Harmonise child protection policies and standards**
- Train teachers, healthcare professionals, judicial and police personnel **in the identification and referral of children affected by sexual violence**
- Include issues of gender equality, rights and power relations between men and women, boys and girls, as part of the **school curriculum**



Learn

without fear.

Thank you, any questions/suggestions?

cesar.bazan@plan-international.org

www.learnwithoutfear.org

