

## Issues

40%

**Physical punishment** is widespread and still legal in most settings. **40%** of parents surveyed in 2013 had physically abused their child in the previous month.

14%

**Sexual and gender-based violence:** one study found **14%** of both adolescent girls and adolescent boys reported experiencing some form of sexual abuse.

31%

25%

**Emotional violence and mental health:** **31%** of adolescent boys and **25%** of adolescent girls surveyed in 2009 experienced emotional abuse in the previous three months. About 14,175 children in institutions are at risk of emotional and physical abuse.



**Child marriage** continues to impact some girls, although rates appear to be in decline.



**Online safety:** increased access to information and communication technologies has led to concerns that children will be exposed to harm. Laws need to be put in place to mitigate risks.



**Data on violence against children:** there is a lack of up-to-date and disaggregated data on the prevalence, trends and drivers of violence against children of all ages.

# Preventing Violence Against Children in Sri Lanka



## Preventing Violence Against Children

### Implementation and enforcement of laws

Good legal coverage exists in Sri Lanka but implementation is a challenge.

### Norms and values

Some public norms and values continue to expose children in Sri Lanka to various forms of violence.

### Safe environments

More information is needed on 'hot-spots' for violence against children in communities

### Parent and caregiver support

Vulnerable parents, including migrating mothers, need support to care for and protect children.

### Income and economic strengthening

A range of schemes seek to improve family incomes but child impacts are not well understood.

### Response and support services

Actors are delivering services and support to children, but the quality is inconsistent, fragmented and can re-victimise children.

### Education and life skills

Excellent school uptake is protective but children need access to improved life skills.

## Pathways

Priority actions to end violence against children in Sri Lanka

1

**Conduct a study** on the drivers of violence against girls and boys in Sri Lanka

2

**Accelerate action** to end sexual violence against girls and boys

3

**Tackle physical and humiliating punishment** in family, school and institutional settings

4

**Build momentum with some quick wins:**

- Finalise the Draft National Policy for Child Protection
- Convene Grassroots Learning Forums on preventing violence against children
- Explore pathways to work with the Private Sector
- Amend, finalise and enact the Children (Judicial Protection) Bill.

Despite some important data gaps, it is clear that **many children in Sri Lanka are exposed to various forms of violence. Stakeholders are already working hard to prevent violence. Building on these strong foundations, Sri Lanka is committed to accelerating action to end violence against children.**

