

## Government Pledge [Sri Lanka]

DATE:	7 November 2024	
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PLEDGE TOPIC AREA(S):		
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☐ Parent and caregiver support		☐ Governance and coordination structure
☑ Safe and enabling school environments		☐ Minimum standards and oversight
☑ Response and support services		☐ Human, financial and infrastructure resources
□ Legal and policy frameworks		☐ Child participation and community engagement
☐ Addressing online harms		☐ Continuum of services
☐ Addressing harmful norms		☐ Data collection and monitoring
		☐ Other

## Safe and enabling school environments

- Revise the 2016 Circular banning corporal publishment in schools to update guidance to better address strategies for eliminating corporal punishment and different types of violence in school, in alignment with the Government of Sri Lanka's ongoing legislative process to ban corporal punishment of children in all settings by mid-2025.
- Pilot and scale nationwide capacity development for teachers on "positive discipline techniques" and 21 skills to prevent and respond to violence in schools, building on lessons learned from existing initiatives.

## Response and support services

- Set up a continuum of child-sensitive services for survivors of violence.
  - o The Ministry of Women, Child and Youth Affairs and Sports will coordinate with relevant ministries and stakeholders to create an effective response mechanism for reported cases of violence.
  - Establish interagency standard operating procedures and referral pathways, and address bottlenecks in case processing.
  - o A model of a continuum of services will be implemented in one province by the end of 2025, with plans for a national rollout by the end of 2027.
- Conduct a functional analysis to clarify the roles of the social services workforce in responding to violence. Develop violence response protocols and capacity-building initiatives, aiming for the completion of training for all relevant personnel by the end of 2026. These trainings will become institutionalized under the Ministry's existing human resource development plans.



## Legal and policy frameworks

• Complete the legislative process to ban corporal punishment in all settings by mid-2025. Following this, an implementation plan, inclusive of costed actions for each responsible stakeholder, will be developed by the end of 2025.