



## CELEBRATE THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

November 20, 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – the first binding international agreement recognizing that children have fundamental human rights and should grow up in a family environment of happiness, love and understanding.

Canada played a major role in promoting the Convention and proclaimed November 20 as an annual National Child Day to celebrate this recognition of children's rights, including the right to be free from all physical or mental violence, injury or abuse.

The United Nations Committee overseeing the Convention has twice called on Canada to honour this right by removing section 43 of the Criminal Code, which allows hitting children for discipline, and by explicitly prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment.

Two hundred Canadian organizations have urged repeal of section 43, but while Canada has made progress in implementing other provisions of the Convention, it has still not recognized a child's right to freedom from violence by repealing this 19<sup>th</sup> century section of the Code.

**Let's treat children with understanding and dignity.  
Let's respect their right to non-violent discipline.  
Join us in urging the government to repeal section 43.**

For information on the Convention, see [www.unicef.org/crc/](http://www.unicef.org/crc/)

For information and developments on Section 43, visit [www.repeal43.org](http://www.repeal43.org)

For research on physical punishment see the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* at [www.cheo.on.ca](http://www.cheo.on.ca)