It’s time to protect children.
It’s time to remove the license to hit them.

November 20th is National Child Day – a day to celebrate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which requires governments to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse.

Unfortunately, Canada is in violation of this Convention because it has not repealed Section 43 of the Criminal Code – a 19th century provision allowing parents to hit children for the purpose of “correction.”

Physical punishment causes harm to children. It carries the risk of physical injury and negative psychological impact. Children who are physically punished are more likely to exhibit anxiety, depression or aggressive behaviour such as bullying.

We, the co-signing organizations, urge the repeal of Section 43 and call on the government to send a message that children have the same right to protection from assault as all other Canadians.