

**PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN:  
EFFECTIVE PRACTICES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND  
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

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**Abstract:** this article analyzes the documents adopted by international organizations to prevent violence and abuse against children, as well as the positive experiences of developed countries. Additionally, proposals for improving the child protection system in Uzbekistan have been developed. Addressing the issue of violence against children requires legal improvements, raising public awareness, and strengthening international cooperation.

**Keywords:** children's rights, violence and abuse, prevention, international organizations, legislation, society, protection, international cooperation.

The issue of pressure and violence against children has become a pressing global concern today. Such cases not only negatively affect children's physical and mental health but also pose a threat to the future of society. In this regard, New Uzbekistan is also paying special attention to protecting children from pressure and violence. In particular, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, at the first session of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the new convocation, emphasized that he would personally take control of the issue of combating violence and pressure against children.

Moreover, on November 14, 2024, the Law "On the Protection of Children from All Forms of Violence" was adopted, which is an important step in protecting children's rights.

At the same time, to prevent violence against women and children, a system of providing comprehensive social services based on the principle of "family – mahalla – district – region" has been introduced. This system provides for social, psychological, and legal services for victims of pressure and violence.

In general, the fight against pressure and violence against children is one of the key tasks facing the global community. In this regard, work is being done to improve legislation and raise public awareness.

In this context, a relevant question arises: What international documents have been adopted by international organizations to prevent violence and pressure against children? What are the distinctive features of these documents?

Currently, several important documents have been adopted by international organizations to prevent pressure and violence against children, including:

The first document is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), which was adopted by the United Nations (UN) on November 20, 1989, and entered into force on September 2, 1990. It is considered the primary international document aimed at protecting children's rights. The Convention consists of 54 articles and recognizes every person under the age of 18 as a child.

The main principles of the Convention include:

a) Non-discrimination (Article 2): Every child has the right to enjoy all the rights set forth in the Convention without any discrimination, regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs, national, ethnic or social origin, property status, health condition, birth, or any other circumstances.

b) The best interests of the child (Article 3): In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by social welfare institutions, courts, administrative authorities, or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

c) The right to life, survival, and development (Article 6): Every child has the right to life, and State Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and healthy development of the child.

d) The right to express opinions (Article 12): Every child has the right to freely express their views, and their opinions shall be given due weight in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity.

The uniqueness of this Convention lies in the fact that it is the first legally binding international document recognizing and protecting children's rights on a global scale. It comprehensively covers children's civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. The Convention obliges states to take legislative and administrative measures to protect children's rights. Additionally, it establishes international standards for the protection of children's rights and encourages states to ensure these rights. It serves as an important legal foundation for the well-being and development of children.

The second document is the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (2000), which was adopted by the United Nations (UN) on May 25, 2000, and entered into force on January 18, 2002. This crucial

international document aims to combat severe forms of child exploitation and calls on states to strengthen legislation and implement appropriate measures in this area.

The main objectives of this Protocol are:

- a) Child trafficking: Prohibiting the sale of children, their exploitation, or their involvement in human trafficking for profit.
- b) Child prostitution: Banning the coercion, use, or exploitation of children for prostitution.
- c) Child pornography: Prohibiting the production, distribution, and possession of pornographic materials involving children.

Additionally, this document plays a significant role in international relations by:

- Strengthening legislation – The protocol obliges states to adopt and reinforce laws against child trafficking, prostitution, and pornography.
- Ensuring criminal liability – It mandates the prosecution of individuals involved in these crimes.
- Promoting international cooperation – It encourages states to exchange information, collaborate in investigations, and assist in judicial processes.
- Prevention and rehabilitation – It requires measures to protect children, support their reintegration into society, and rehabilitate victims.
- Overall, this protocol is crucial in uniting and coordinating the international community's efforts to combat the worst forms of child exploitation.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict was adopted by the United Nations (UN) on May 25, 2000. The aim of this document is to prevent the participation of children in armed conflicts, protect them, and encourage states to strengthen their legislation in this area. It focuses on combatting the forced or voluntary recruitment of children into military service.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 was adopted on June 17, 1999, in Geneva during the 87th session of the ILO General Conference. The purpose of this convention is to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

The main objectives of this Convention include:

- a) Identifying and prohibiting the worst forms of child labor, such as:

Forced or compulsory labor, including the sale of children and slavery-like practices.

Child prostitution, child pornography, and the involvement of children in sexual exploitation.

The use of children in illegal activities, particularly in drug production and trafficking.

Work that endangers children's health, safety, or morals (hazardous labor).

b) Taking immediate action – States must urgently implement effective measures to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

c) Protecting and rehabilitating children – Measures should be taken to rescue affected children, rehabilitate them, and reintegrate them into society.

d) Education and awareness – Ensuring free primary education and encouraging children to return to school. Raising public awareness about the dangers of child labor.

This international convention is unique in that it is one of the most rapidly and widely ratified conventions adopted by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This has helped to ensure the unity of the international community in the fight against the worst forms of child labor.

We have reviewed international documents adopted by organizations to prevent and combat violence and pressure against children. Now, it is relevant to consider what preventive measures have been implemented in developed countries to protect children from violence and abuse.

Today, some developed countries have implemented effective measures to prevent and combat violence against children. Below, we will explore the experiences of some countries and their positive aspects.

Sweden – The First Country to Ban Corporal Punishment (1979). Sweden became the first country in the world to ban corporal punishment of children in 1979. This law prohibits any form of violence against children and plays a crucial role in protecting their rights. As a result, the incidents of violence against children in Swedish society have significantly decreased.

Additionally, in 1979, Sweden adopted the "Law Prohibiting Corporal Punishment of Children", which explicitly banned any physical punishment of children, reinforcing their rights and protection. Sweden was not only the first country to introduce such a law, but also the first to adopt the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) as national law.

As a result of these reforms, cases of violence against children in Sweden have significantly decreased. A culture of respect for children's rights and protection has been established in society. Child well-being has become one of the top priorities in Swedish society.

In conclusion, Sweden's ban on corporal punishment was a major step in protecting children's rights. These reforms have been effective in reducing violence against children and have strengthened society's respect for children's rights.

In Canada, child protection services are organized in accordance with the legislation of each province and territory. For example, in the province of Ontario, the Children's Aid Societies (CAS)

operate, while in British Columbia, this function is carried out by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Currently, these services are responsible for ensuring children's safety and well-being and operate in the following areas:

a) Detection of Abuse and Neglect – Child protection services receive reports and complaints regarding cases of violence or neglect against children. These organizations conduct investigations to assess the level of risk and take necessary measures to ensure child safety.

b) Rehabilitation and Support – Canada has developed special rehabilitation programs for children who have suffered from violence. These programs provide psychological counseling, therapy, and support services to help children recover mentally and reintegrate into a normal life.

c) Family Support Services – The main goal of this direction is to protect children, provide counseling and assistance to families, and help resolve family issues. These services also aim to develop parenting skills and create a safe environment for children.

Additionally, Canada operates the Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect (CIS), which conducts research on child welfare and protection to ensure children's safety and well-being.

Based on the above studies, child protection services in Canada today play a crucial role in preventing violence and neglect, rehabilitating affected children, and helping them reintegrate into society. These services make a significant contribution to ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

In Japan, educational programs have been introduced in schools to teach children about the various forms of violence, their negative effects, and methods of protection. Through these programs, children are informed about their rights and safety measures.

Additionally, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities organize seminars, training sessions, and lectures on preventing violence against children. These initiatives help raise public awareness.

Furthermore, educational programs and social advertisements focusing on violence prevention are broadcast on television, radio, and the internet. These efforts contribute to shaping a zero-tolerance attitude towards violence in society.

Research shows that educational and awareness-raising measures in Japan are effective in reducing cases of violence against children. As public knowledge and awareness of this issue have increased, a zero-tolerance attitude towards violence has been established in society.

In Germany, an effective system of cooperation and information exchange has been established between law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and healthcare organizations to early detect and respond to cases of violence and abuse against children. This collaboration plays a crucial role in protecting children. Specifically:

a) Law Enforcement Agencies – The police and prosecution authorities actively investigate cases of violence and abuse against children and assess them from a legal perspective. Through rapid information exchange, these agencies take preventive measures to combat crimes and protect victims.

b) Educational Institutions – Teachers in schools and kindergartens closely observe children's well-being and report suspected cases of abuse or violence to the relevant authorities. This enables timely assistance to be provided to affected children.

c) Healthcare Organizations – Doctors and medical professionals pay special attention to identifying physical and psychological signs of abuse when assessing children's health. If suspicious cases are detected, they immediately inform law enforcement agencies.

The strength of this collaborative approach lies in the efficient cooperation and information-sharing system between these institutions. This enables the early detection of abuse and violence against children and allows for rapid intervention. As a result, this system plays a significant role in ensuring children's safety and improving their well-being.

In the United States, several effective programs have been implemented to protect children. Below are some of the key initiatives:

a) Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) – This federal law, enacted in 1974, aims to prevent child abuse and neglect and provide support for affected children. It offers financial assistance to states for establishing and maintaining child protection services. CAPTA sets standards for the identification, reporting, investigation, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

b) Violence-Free Education Programs – These programs ensure that schools provide a safe learning environment for children. They also train teachers and students on preventing violence, resolving conflicts peacefully, and fostering positive relationships. Such programs help develop children's social and emotional skills.

c) Child Protection Agencies – These agencies operate in every U.S. state to investigate cases of child abuse and neglect, relocate children to safe environments when necessary, and provide family support services. They play a critical role in ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

In the United Kingdom, the "Safeguarding Children" program has been adopted to prevent child abuse and neglect and to take immediate action when necessary. Within this program, the following measures are implemented:

a) Specialized Training – Teachers and social service workers undergo special training to recognize and respond to cases of child abuse. This training helps professionals understand children's needs, identify signs of abuse, and take appropriate action.

b) Rapid Information Exchange – A fast communication system has been established between police and social services to detect abuse cases early and take quick action. This system helps protect children more effectively.

Research indicates that a comprehensive approach to child protection—collaboration between education, social services, and law enforcement agencies—is an effective method for ensuring children's safety. Specialized training for professionals and a systematic exchange of information contribute to reducing cases of violence against children.

Based on the best practices of international organizations and foreign countries, the following scientific recommendations are proposed for improving child protection legislation in New Uzbekistan:

1. Enhancing the Protection Order System – To ensure the protection of minors' rights, it is essential to improve the system of protection orders. In many countries, protection orders are a crucial tool for safeguarding children from violence. According to current legislation, protection orders are issued by law enforcement agencies and are valid for up to 30 days. Extending this period and simplifying the process of obtaining protection orders will help ensure long-term protection for children.

2. Improving the Qualification of Specialists – Today, early detection of child abuse cases and prompt response measures require better training for teachers, healthcare professionals, and law enforcement officers. It is recommended to introduce specialized training programs and workshops to enhance professionals' skills in identifying, reporting, and responding to cases of violence against children.

3. Strengthening Information Exchange and Collaboration – Establishing an effective system of information exchange between law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and healthcare organizations will enable early detection and immediate intervention in cases of child abuse and violence. Improving this coordination system will play a crucial role in ensuring child protection.



4. Raising Public Awareness – Public campaigns and awareness programs should be conducted to inform society about the harmful effects of violence against children and preventive measures. These efforts will help promote a zero-tolerance attitude toward violence within the community.

5. Aligning Legislation with International Standards – Uzbekistan's legislation should be harmonized with international conventions and protocols on child protection. Strengthening legal frameworks in accordance with global best practices will help ensure comprehensive protection for children from all forms of violence.

These recommendations will contribute to reducing cases of violence and abuse against children in New Uzbekistan, improving their physical and mental well-being, enhancing societal respect for children's rights, and increasing the efficiency of the child protection system.

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