

October 4, 2022

Mr. Ron Ensom and Dr. Joan Durrant
National Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth
c/o 1858 Sharel Drive
Ottawa, ON
K1H 6W4

Dear Mr. Ensom and Dr. Durrant:

The Victimology Research Centre at Algonquin College is pleased to endorse the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*. We commend the national coalition of organizations, facilitated by the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), for the hard work put into the *Joint Statement*.

The *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth* provides an overview of the developmental outcomes associated with the use of physical punishment. There is clear and compelling evidence that physical punishment of children and youth poses a significant risk to their development, which can impact them into adulthood.

The Victimology Research Centre engages in research related to victims and survivors of trauma, including those who have experienced physical punishment as children and youth. The Victimology Research Centre works in partnership with non-profit organizations and local, provincial, and federal government stakeholders to study victimization, resilience, and the experiences survivors have with the criminal justice system and service providers. We corroborate the research used to inform the *Joint Statement*, finding that the use of physical punishment of children and youth is detrimental to development and can create ongoing trauma.

We endorse the *Joint Statement* and the recommendations to help support public and parental education to encourage alternative and positive approaches to discipline. As noted in the *Joint Statement*, public education can be a powerful mechanism for decreasing caregivers' use of physical punishment and increasing their use of effective discipline strategies. Supporting positive discipline through knowledge mobilization, advocacy for legislative change, and case assistance for parents in difficult circumstances is vital to ending the use of physical punishment of children and youth.

The Victimology Research Centre thanks the National Coalition on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth for creating this *Joint Statement* and advocating to mitigate the long-term impacts on victims and survivors. We enthusiastically offer our support for the recommendations provided in the *Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children and Youth*.

Thank you for contributing to a safer future for children and youth.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Roebuck, PhD.
Research Chair and Professor of Victimology
Victimology Research Centre
Algonquin College

We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people.