

France criticised for failure to ban smacking 法国因没能禁止家长打孩子受批评

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法国政府因没能有效阻止一些家长在对儿女进行管教时打孩子而受到批评。欧洲委员会说法国有关体罚方面的法律条约“不够明确，没有足够约束力，也不够具体”，但与此同时委员会也认可家长“管教孩子的权利”。以下是 Lucy Williamson 的报道：

France allows parents the "right to **discipline**" their children, while **banning** violence against them. In 2013, a father was fined 500 Euros for smacking his nine-year-old son - the ruling **sparked** a fierce debate about the rights of parents and their children, with one **poll** suggesting more than 80% of French saw the matter as a personal one - not one for the courts to decide.

Responding to the European **ruling**, France's minister for the family, Laurence Rossignol, told the French news agency AFP that she didn't believe a law on smacking was necessary: "for **abusive** parents, we have the **penal code**" she said, but we do need a **collective debate** on the usefulness of **corporal punishment**.

At the moment, it is up to French courts to decide where the line between violence and acceptable punishment lies. The Council of Europe committee has called for an **explicit prohibition** of all corporal punishment of children.

Questions

1. According to the report, why was a parent fined 500 Euros in 2013?
2. True or false? *A poll found that fewer than half of French people thought the courts should decide how to punish their children.*
3. Who currently decides what is right and what is wrong in terms of punishing children?
4. What word used in the report means 'spoken to someone' or 'demanded action is taken by someone'?

Vocabulary and definitions

discipline	管教
banning	禁止
sparked	触发了, 引发了
poll	民意调查
ruling	裁决, 裁定
abusive	虐待的
a penal code	一个刑法典
a collective debate	集体讨论
corporal punishment	体罚
explicit	明确的
prohibition	禁令

Answers to the questions

1. According to the report, why was a parent fined 500 Euros in 2013?
ANSWER: A father was fined 500 Euros for smacking his nine-year-old son.
2. True or false? *A poll found that fewer than half of French people thought the courts should decide how to punish their children.*
ANSWER: True. One poll suggested more than 80% of French saw the matter as a personal one - not one for the courts to decide.
3. Who currently decides what is right and what is wrong in terms of punishing children?
ANSWER: At the moment, French courts decide where the line between violence and acceptable punishment lies.
4. What word used in the report means 'spoken to someone' or 'demanded action is taken by someone'?
ANSWER: Called for.