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COI QUERY RESPONSE

EGYPT CHILDRENS ISSUES

In April 2025 an article published by *Nature Human Behaviour* states that: “...violence against children (VAC), represented by forms of direct abuse or neglect of children, has been linked to a spectrum of adverse health outcomes, including physical injuries, developmental issues, chronic diseases, childhood pregnancy and a range of mental health conditions...”¹

A report published in December 2024 by the *European Union Agency for Asylum* states that: “Specific information and statistics on children in street situations and orphaned children could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA...”²

UNICEF in December 2024 states that: “Parents in Egypt are likely to adopt violent disciplinary Practices...”³

The *WHO* in November 2024 states that: “Child maltreatment has often severe short- and long-term physical, sexual and mental health consequences. These include injuries, including head injuries and severe disability (in particular in young children), post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression...”⁴

In October 2024 the *European Parliament* points out that: “Children exposed to violence, whether they are the direct victims or merely witnesses, are at risk of disorders affecting their nervous and immune systems, possibly causing cognitive disorders and leading to behaviours that are dangerous to their health both mentally and physically. Crucially, negative short-term effects can spread and provoke additional negative effects in various domains, constituting what is known as a developmental cascade...Violence can therefore undermine the wellbeing of children, harm their

¹ *Nature Human Behaviour* (10 April 2025) Health effects associated with exposure of children to physical violence, psychological violence and neglect: a Burden of Proof study, p.1

² *European Union Agency for Asylum* (16 December 2024) Situation of children, p.15

³ *UNICEF* (December 2024) Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents, Egypt Country Brief, p.15

⁴ *WHO* (November 2024) Child maltreatment, p.2

ability to learn and develop, and prevent them from building normal social relationships, thereby sometimes permanently affecting their future adult lives...”⁵

In September 2024 the *United States Department of Labor* notes that: “Children from poor families are most likely to engage in child labor, with some families forcing their children into street work and domestic work.”⁶

In June 2024 the *United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child* includes commentary on: “...the high levels of violence against children...”⁷

This document also comments on: “...article 7 bis of the Children’s Code provides for the right of parents or caregivers to discipline their children using legitimate means...”⁸

In June 2024 *End Corporal Punishment* states that: “Corporal punishment is lawful in the home.”⁹

This document also states that: “A ministerial directive of 17 November 1998 states that corporal punishment should not be used in schools but there appears to be no explicit prohibition of corporal punishment in law.”¹⁰

A report issued in April 2024 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of 2023 states that: “The constitution required the government to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, mistreatment, and commercial sexual exploitation. According to a local rights group, authorities recorded hundreds of cases of alleged child abuse each month but struggled to address the scope of the problem. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, which operated a telephone hotline, worked on child abuse matters, and several civil society organizations assisted runaway and abandoned children.”¹¹

A paper issued in April 2024 by the *Journal of Experimental and Clinical Medicine* states that: “Children who have experienced physical abuse may struggle with trust issues, have difficulties forming healthy relationships, and exhibit aggressive or impulsive behaviors.”¹²

In 2024 *UNICEF* states that: “There is very limited data related to children in street situations and the number of cases of child trafficking. Experts in Egypt estimate the number of children in street situations to be between 200,000 and one million.”¹³

An undated document from *UNICEF* states that: “Children who have been severely abused suffer lifelong consequences. They often experience significant learning difficulties, low self-esteem and

⁵ European Parliament (October 2024) Violence against children in the European Union, p.6

⁶ United States Department of Labor (5 September 2024) 2023 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor: Egypt, p.2

⁷ United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (20 June 2024) Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Egypt, p.6

⁸ *ibid*, p.7

⁹ *End Corporal Punishment* (June 2024) Corporal punishment of children in Egypt, p.2

¹⁰ *ibid*, p.2

¹¹ United States Department of State (22 April 2024) 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Egypt, p.26

¹² *Journal of Experimental and Clinical Medicine* (29 April 2024) The effects of the child physical abuse on the children's mental health, p.1

¹³ *UNICEF* (2024) Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Egypt 2024, p.66

depression that can lead to self-harm. In early childhood, toxic stress associated with violence can permanently impair brain development and damage other parts of the nervous system.”¹⁴

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