

Consultation on ending violence against children



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The Vice Chancellor of Assam [Don Bosco](#) University ([ADBU](#)), Dr Stephen Mavelly inaugurated a two day [National](#) Children's [Consultation](#) on Ending Violence Against Children, organized by NACG-EVAC [India](#) ([National](#) Action & Coordination Group for Ending Violence Against Children), in collaboration with [Don Bosco](#) University and [UNICEF](#), on 21 June [2016](#) at the Azara [Campus](#) of the University.

Forty six children from 11 different states with 20 chaperons are participating in the two-day consultation.

Explaining the rationale behind the [Consultation](#), Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakoty, Director, [North East](#) Society for the Promotion of Youth & Masses, said, “This [Consultation](#) has been organized with the express intention of listening to children, to hear their voices and to focus on steps to [stop](#) Corporal Punishment. Even though the RTE [Act](#) discourages corporal punishment, it is still quite prevalent in our country. The Government of [India](#) (MWCD) Report on Child Abuse has [found](#) that [2](#) out of three children still face physical punishment. We are trying to address this issue”.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Dr. Mavely said, “[Don Bosco](#), our founder, started [Don Bosco](#) Society on the very same ideals – to give shelter to youngsters and provide them with an ambience of safety, security, love and nurture. It is just befitting that the University plays host to this event”.

Also speaking at the inaugural session was Ms. Serena Tomasino, Specialist in Corporal Punishment Issues, [UNICEF](#), Delhi. In her short speech she invited the participants to share their experiences saying, “We want to hear your voices, your opinions – we want you to share with us what makes you happy and what makes you feel safe”.

This [Consultation](#) is expected to strengthen the capacity of NACG-EVAC [India](#) to understand and address Corporal Punishment better at the local and national levels so that they can take collective actions together with other Civil Society Organizations and Government of [India](#).



CM Paul

Former HoD, Dept of Mass Communications at Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati, C.M. Paul was editor of The Herald weekly in Kolkata and director of Don Bosco International News Agency (ANS) based in Rome. He did MA in Journalism & Mass Communication from FORDHAM University, New York.

BY CM PAUL

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