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| **Many cultures accept 'shocking' child abuse; [Final Edition]***Steven Edwards*. [**Leader Post**](http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?RQT=318&pmid=52941&TS=1233782823&clientId=29440&VInst=PROD&VName=PQD&VType=PQD). Regina, Sask.: [Oct 12, 2006](http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?RQT=572&VType=PQD&VName=PQD&VInst=PROD&pmid=52941&pcid=33760071&SrchMode=3). pg. A.3 |

**Abstract (Summary)**

The United Nations Study on Violence Against Children says seven per cent of the world's boys under age 18, and 14 per cent of the world's girls have been raped. That translates into 73 million and 150 million respectively.

It also estimates 275 million children worldwide witness violence in the home each year, while it cites a survey that found 53,000 youngsters aged 17 and younger were murdered in 2002 alone.

Almost all of the UN's 192 member states have approved the world body's 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which says countries must pass laws ensuring children are treated with dignity. Almost half have approved a 2000 "protocol" to the treaty that says world governments must end the sale of children in their countries, and protect the young from people who would turn them into prostitutes or use them in pornography.

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| **Full Text** (460  words) |

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UNITED NATIONS -- A shocking level of violence against children is documented in the first-ever global mapping of the issue by the United Nations.

Released today, the landmark study shows much of the sexual and physical abuse is both hidden and approved in many cultures -- meaning statistics on the numbers of young victims is almost certainly far higher.

The other implication is international treaties guaranteeing the rights of children are, for millions of youngsters around the world, mere words on a piece of paper.

While Canada and other developed countries have, for the most part, extensive government programs aimed at trying to minimize the level of violence against children, similar efforts in much of the rest of the world are lagging or non-existent.

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Amid the statistics, the report presents the chilling words of some of the world's abused youngsters.

"With these two hands, my mother holds me, cares for me. This, I love," says one young girl from East Asia. "With these two hands, my mother hits me. This I hate."

In a section on the excessive violence imprisoned children face in some countries, a Palestinian boy speaks of his experience.

"Sometimes, one day in prison feels like a year," he says. "But after 10 days, you get used to it, and you don't cry as much."

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Yet, the study reports between 100 million and 140 million women and girls worldwide have undergone female genital mutilation or cutting, which is a practice particularly prevalent in Muslim countries.

It also cites figures for 2000 that show 5.7 million children were in forced or bonded labour in that year.

Another 1.8 million had been made to work as prostitutes or in the pornography industry. The number of child victims of trafficking, meanwhile, totalled 1.2 million.

While extreme violence against children hits the headlines, the study says children around the world face "routine" violence that has life-long implications.

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