



FREE. SAFE. EDUCATED.

# VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY ACTION PACK



## WHY DEMAND AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN?

In every society across the world, it is often the youngest members who are most impacted by violence. Violence is common and widespread, but not equally distributed: those facing the worst levels often experience other discrimination simultaneously. These are the most marginalised children and young people, denied multiple rights that increase their vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

Ensuring every child and young person grows up without violence is not just fair and progressive, it is the fulfilment of everyone's universal human right: whoever we are and wherever we live.

Yet, currently, an adolescent is killed by a violent act every seven minutes, and 75% of children between the ages of 2 and 4 experience physical or psychological aggression at home. And this is probably only a tiny part of the whole reality, as fewer than half of all countries worldwide have data on violence against children. ([UNICEF, 2017](#))

So how can we make sure that communities respect all children's right to a life without violence?

One really important way is to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that fuel violence in your community and result in the most marginalised children being either ignored or actively excluded from justice.

This Action Pack is your group's opportunity to address these issues in your community and beyond, so that, together, we can create a world in which every child is **free, safe and educated**.

## STEP 1: KNOW

Almost all young people have seen or experienced community-based violence in some form. These injustices can be physical, sexual, psychological or (especially for the most marginalised children and young people) a combination of all three. They are also perpetrated by people the victims know, like family members, friends, teachers and neighbours, *and* tolerated by many other members of the wider community.

As it's such a varied issue, equipping your campaign group with some facts will strengthen your actions by linking your local experience of violence to the global situation. It's also important to remember that although anyone can be affected, the most marginalised children, girls, ethnic minorities, children on the move, those in poverty or those with a family history of violence are particularly vulnerable.

### Different parts of the world see different types of violence:

A third of adolescent murders occur in just five countries: **Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Venezuela.** ([UNICEF, 2017](#))

In the **European Union**, at least 10,000 child migrants are missing and vulnerable to kidnapping, trafficking and exploitation. ([EU Committee, 2016](#))

30% of all girls in **South Asia** marry as children. ([UNICEF, 2018](#))

Only a third of students in **Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland** think that schools are safe for students perceived as having different gender identities, like young LGBTI people. ([UNESCO, 2016](#))

**Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander** children are almost seven times more likely to be harmed or at risk of harm than non-Indigenous children. ([CFCA, 2017](#))

But, almost all countries have one thing in common: their leaders continue to allow violence against children. This can be actively, through discriminatory policy and practice, or passively, by failing to create and implement laws and services that guarantee children and young people's right to safety.

According to the Convention of the Rights of the Child (1990), an international child rights treaty that all countries have signed, all forms of violence violate young people's rights to life, survival, freedom, and security.

So, however it is perpetrated and wherever it happens, violence against children can and must be stopped. To explore how your community can unite to achieve this goal, complete the activity with your group on the next page.

## MAKING AND BREAKING THE CYCLE

It can be difficult to talk about addressing violence. This is partly because violence against children is so varied and has many (often changing and overlapping) causes and effects.

It's also a very delicate issue that you, some of your community, school or campaign group may have seen or experienced directly, so remember to approach the issue sensitively and, if they feel able, let those with experience of violence lead discussions. Don't use insulting words or language that might remind someone of a personal trauma and never force somebody to talk about anything if they don't want to.

Violence doesn't come from nowhere. It is always perpetrated by an individual, or individuals, and motivated by wider attitudes and behaviours. So, although there is no single solution to the many types of violence that exist, community action is often effective when it begins to change these underlying attitudes and behaviours.

**FIRSTLY**, discuss with your group the types of violence faced by the most marginalised children. You can use examples from your community or the global situation described on the previous page. Then think about what attitudes and behaviours fuel these injustices? Don't forget these ideas – you will need them for the next steps, so write them down or keep a note of them elsewhere!

**SECONDLY**, ask everyone to write one attitude or behaviour that fuels violence on each of their arms or a piece of paper, if they prefer. They don't have to relate to the same type of violence, as communities experience lots of injustices at the same time. You could write the attitude 'Girls should marry young' on one arm, and the behaviour 'People make and sell drugs locally' on the other arm.

**FINALLY**, discuss different ways you could change these attitudes and behaviours. For example, if an attitude that promotes violence is 'Girls should marry young', then a change could be 'Ensuring that all girls go to school'. If the group agrees with your suggestion, the person with the attitude on their arm breaks their link with the next person. Continue until you have broken as many links as possible.

**THIRDLY**, form a large circle by linking arms or holding hands with each other. This physically represents a cycle of violence. In the same way that your circle has been formed by small parts, community violence is often very complex, but, just like your circle, it is a construct that can be broken down, piece by piece and person by person.

### AS THE LINKS IN YOUR CYCLE OF VIOLENCE BREAK, YOU'LL SEE HOW A COMMUNITY CAN TOGETHER HELP END THE FACTORS THAT LEAD TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN.

If the group doesn't agree with a suggestion, don't worry. This is a great opportunity to discuss your different perspectives on violence in the community and to see how violence affects everyone differently.

At the end of the activity you could discuss the following questions: Have you learnt anything new? How did you feel about the discussion? How does violence in your community relate to violence globally, particularly against the most marginalised children and young people?

If anyone in your group has been particularly affected by the issues you've discussed and wants more support, contact a trusted local service provider, like a social worker, doctor or teacher.

## STEP 2: CONNECT

As we saw in the **KNOW** step, violence against children affects almost all communities around the world. Many people often know it's happening around them, but don't know how to help. This is especially true for the most marginalised children and young people, who have less access to support than others, but are often at greater risk of violence.

That's why this **CONNECT** action is about reaching out to local community projects, government bodies or voluntary groups that work to tackle violence against children in your area and finding out about their focus and the services they provide.



These people and organisations probably have different structures and do different activities, but they may share goals and values with your 100 Million campaign group. Getting in touch with them will help you, your campaign group and those around you discover the resources available to young people experiencing violence in your community. You might even be able to share ideas and coordinate activities!

Follow this simple, step-by-step guide to making campaign allies throughout your community and use the template on the next page to collect your answers:

<b>FIND GROUPS</b>	<p>Ask friends, family, teachers or neighbours about local violence prevention projects or organisations. Local government services, like the town hall, library or hospital, should also be able to direct you to their youth services.</p> <p>Social media is a great tool for charities and social projects – just search for local anti-violence and youth rights initiatives on Facebook or Twitter.</p>
<b>MAKE CONTACT</b>	<p>Before getting in touch, think of a few questions to ask, for example: “What are your services or projects for young people?” or “How do you work to tackle violence in the community?”.</p> <p>If they have a local office, you could go in person. Remember to ask for an email or phone number, so you can contact them with more questions or information later. If they don't have an office, try messaging via social media, emailing or calling them.</p> <p>Don't forget to tell them a little about your 100 Million group, for example, it's <b>youth-led</b> and campaigns for every child in <b>your community and the world, especially the most marginalised, to be free, safe and educated.</b></p>
<b>STAY IN TOUCH</b>	<p>This is a great moment to build or join a network of youth activists and workers in the community – invite them to your group's events and see if they run any workshops or projects that your group could attend.</p> <p>If they seem open to the idea, could you do an activity together or invite a key person from their organisation to talk to your group about their work?</p>

## PREVENTING VIOLENCE IN MY COMMUNITY:

NAME: _____	CONTACTED?
ADDRESS: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NUMBER: _____	
FOCUS: _____	
SERVICES: _____	

NAME: _____	CONTACTED?
ADDRESS: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
NUMBER: _____	
FOCUS: _____	
SERVICES: _____	

NAME: _____	CONTACTED?
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ADDRESS: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FOCUS: _____	
SERVICES: _____	

## STEP 3: MOBILISE

To really change the attitudes and behaviours that drive violence, we need other community members to recognise the scale and intensity of the problem, and, most importantly, understand that change is possible.

Violence is not just perpetrated, it is also tolerated. But a community that knows how serious violence against children is, as well as what services are available, is more able to help prevent it. That's why this Action Pack's **MOBILISE** step calls on the community to open its eyes and act.

As a group, think back to the **KNOW** activity, or research more yourself, and choose some of the statistics on violence against children that are most relevant to your community. Then, reflect on what you found out when researching local projects and organisations in the **CONNECT** step. What violence prevention activities, support services or methods to achieve justice stood out to you?

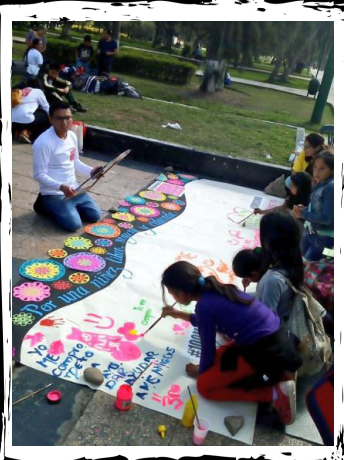
In chalk (or on posters!) draw eyes and hands all over your community, highlighting to your neighbours the severity of violence against children and ways to help end it. You could invite the organisations you contacted with in **Step 2**, as well as your friends, family and anyone else who wants to get involved to do the same!

### WHY EYES?

If we close our eyes to the reality of violence, we allow it to continue. By drawing eyes next to facts and figures, we symbolise the community opening its eyes and becoming more aware of violence, especially against the most marginalised children who are often overlooked and excluded from justice.

### WHY HANDS?

If we don't speak out against violence, we are allowing it to continue. Hands symbolise the community reaching out to its most vulnerable members. By drawing hands and sharing ideas of how to help next to them, we showcase ways our community can come together to support children experiencing violence.

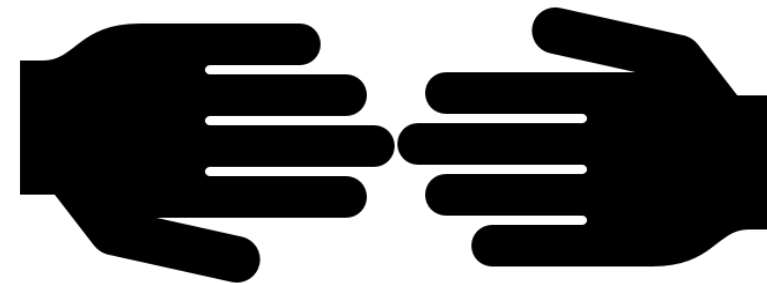


On the next page, there's an example of how this action could look – but feel free to be more creative!

#### MORE IDEAS TO MAKE AN IMPACT:

- Post the drawings on social media using #100Million and we will share them!
- Decide your location by thinking about who you want to see it most: for example, is it teachers and pupils in your school, medical professionals in the local clinic or the general public in a park or shopping centre?
- Ask everyone to take part at the same time. Unity demonstrates collective support for change. Could you pick a busy time of the day or a national or global moment to link with?

A YOUNG PERSON IS KILLED  
EVERY **SEVEN** MINUTES



WE NEED MORE  
**ANTI-VIOLENCE WORKSHOPS!**

FIND OUT MORE AT [WWW.100MILLION.ORG](http://WWW.100MILLION.ORG)

## STEP 4: INFLUENCE

This step builds on the same principle as the previous **MOBILISE** action: the more people know, the stronger they are at effecting change. As violence against children and young people is often perpetrated by people close to them, it is important that the wider community feels confident on how and when to intervene.

Local figures like teachers, doctors, nurses, police officers, social workers, community centre leaders, and even local shop owners, may see, hear or find out about violence against children during their working days. They and everyone who uses their services can play an important part in preventing abuse by contacting the appropriate authorities or support organisations.

To help them feel surer of who to get in touch with, create a poster sharing the contact information of local organisations or projects that support children and young people facing violence in your community.

Most importantly, these posters could give young people who are experiencing violence, especially the most marginalised who are often excluded from formal routes to justice, the knowledge on where to find support.



### HOW-TO GUIDE:

On the next page, there is a suggestion of how your poster could look or you can create your own from scratch.

**FIRST**, choose one or two local services or businesses that you think young people experiencing violence might visit. This could be a school, hospital, police station or public space such as a shopping centre or market. It might be easier to contact someone you or your group already know, like a family doctor or teacher.

**NEXT**, choose some of the organisations you found in the **CONNECT** step and summarise their information in the red textboxes. It doesn't have to be a lot of information – the most important thing is that the community knows who they are, what support they give, and how to get in touch with them. Make sure you ask the organisation if they feel comfortable, willing and able to be included in this poster first. If it's successful they could be contacted more than usual!

**THEN**, ask the local services or businesses you chose above to display the poster publicly as a resource for those that need it. Think about powerful ways to ensure they show your poster. Could you deliver it in person and ask to put it up yourself, checking again in a week to see if it's visible? Or why not take a photo of your group sending the poster and upload it to social media, tagging the service or business for more publicity and accountability?

*Make this action even stronger by asking them to put it in a busy part of their workplace, like the staffroom or corridor, and actively encouraging their community to use the information.*

## OPEN YOUR EYES TO VIOLENCE



Violence against children and young people, especially the most marginalised, is endemic in every country and community. We will not tolerate it any longer.

**COMMUNITY LEADERS AND MEMBERS**, you have the power, influence and the duty to change the attitudes and behaviours that fuel violence in our community.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**, you have the right a life free from violence.

The local groups and people listed below work to support children and young people who are at risk, have experienced or witnessed violence. *If you see, hear or experience any case of violence against children, please do not hesitate to alert them.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICES PROVIDED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICES PROVIDED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICES PROVIDED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICES PROVIDED: \_\_\_\_\_

## USEFUL LINKS

### [End Violence Against Children](#)

Global partnership of nearly 300 organisations across 6 continents

### [A Familiar Face, UNICEF \(2017\)](#)

Report with recent statistics on violence against children

### [Child Helpline International](#)

Network of 180 helplines worldwide that provide telephone and online support to children and young people



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