

## Short response No. 5

### Children and violence

#### References:

Safe communities – safe schools.

<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/safeschools/>

**Student's related website:** Children and violence

Violence is a social issue with deep roots in human society. In many case what some societies believe is violence, other may accept as a norm. The last especially applies to children, since the human history is a network of a variety of enculturation and socialization systems. Some children have been prepared to become warriors even today since their childhood, or other play electronic games that teach them in details how to kill. Since at the earlier stage of the childhood the physical intelligence is leading, the violence starts with the first children fighting games that we accept as normal. Bullying is just increasing the scale and intensity of the non-conscious or non-recognized violence.

Violence is not unpreventable and usually education is one of the means for its decreasing. The education not only occupies and develops the cognitive intelligence but also makes the children learn about positive values.

Recognizing early signs of violence is essential for society. They can be visible and invisible. In the Safe communities – safe schools fact sheet<sup>1</sup> are listed important signs. It is worth mentioning that some of them itself is an indicator of violence. They should be analyzed in combination and relate to specific context.

We can distinguished the listed signs in the following groups:

Psychological (social withdrawal, excessive feelings of isolation and being alone, excessive feelings of rejection, feelings of being picked on and persecuted, uncontrolled anger, intolerance for differences and prejudicial attitudes)

Social (being a victim of violence, affiliation with gangs, inappropriate access to, possession, of and us of firearms))

Cognitive (low school interest and poor academic performance)

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<sup>1</sup> Date from <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/publications/factsheets/safeschools/FS-SC06.pdf>.

Behavioral (patterns of impulsive and chronic hitting, intimidating and bullying behaviors, history of discipline problems, past history of violent and aggressive behavior, drug use and alcohol use

Communicative (expression of violence in writings and drawings)

My personal experience shows that usually violence is not very popular in the central parts of the cities and in all schools. Since downtown has been my typical living environment and I attended specialized schools, I don't have recall about witnessed violence. But bullying as a form of violence is popular in some schools. It is more typical about boys and can be explained by a complex of reasons, mostly as a form of physical expression, especially in the teen years. Bullying is a form of the transformation of some children games and it can be preventable if the schools have special programs that could eliminate its signs listed above. However, I am not sure what would do if I witness directly bullying.

In our changing society of re-inventing humanity we should be able easily to transform the negative violence in a positive although a little bit wild behavior. Probably involving the students in specific games would help in this direction. Also, increasing the academic learning motivation, training in positive thinking and development of integrity would probably to resolve at least partially one of the most crucial problems in our society – violence among children.