

## RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

### WAYS TO CREATE A PEACEFUL SCHOOL

#### In the Classroom

- Have a 'Peace Corner' where children can go to cool off from conflict and regain emotional control
- Allow students to take part in setting classroom rules and consequences
- Encourage intercultural friendships and interaction across social divisions to break down ignorance and hatred
- Provide opportunities for students to express themselves in open ended writing

#### In the School

- Have child rights groups so that children can hold adults accountable
- Have programs to address how males' 'innocent' teasing makes girls feel unsafe
- Ensure that teachers have training on non-violent teaching and discipline
- Train students in peers support and mediation, which builds accountability and their communication skills

#### At Recess

- Provide safe physical spaces for students, including gender-segregated areas for play or relaxing.
- Encourage bystander intervention among students

## CURRICULUM IDEAS

- Visit [cprep.ca](http://cprep.ca) for free access to Dr. Hetty Van Gorp's practical book, *Creating Caring Schools*
- <http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org/about>
- <http://www.seedsofpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/PeaceGames.pdf>
- <http://ploughshares.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Ploughsharesteachersmanual.pdf>
- <http://www.projectpeacemakers.org/sites/default/files/content/Content%20-%20early.pdf>
- [peacebypeace.org](http://peacebypeace.org) (Toronto area)
- [www.cfchildren.org/](http://www.cfchildren.org/)
- <http://journeyofpeace.ca/>



Canadian Physicians for Research and Education in Peace (C-PREP) is a charitable organization to support research and education in peace from a health perspective. Visit <http://cprep.ca/> for more information in the Peaceful Childhoods Series.

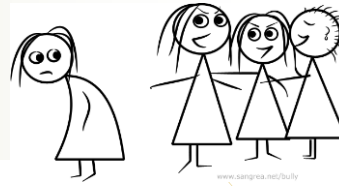
## PEACEFUL EDUCATION



**C|PREP**

Canadian Physicians for Research and Education in Peace

# VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS



Peaceful places of education should focus on the values of **cooperation, assertion, responsibility, respect, empathy, communication, and self-control**. Although conflict will happen, **violence is a learned reaction** to conflict; **peace can also be learned**.



Peace education is “the **process of promoting the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values** needed to bring about **behaviour changes** that will enable children, youth and adults **to prevent conflict and violence**, both overt and structural; **to resolve conflict peacefully**; and **to create the conditions conducive to peace**, whether at an intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, national or international level.”

Fountain, S. (1999). Peace Education in UNICEF. Retrieved from <http://www.unicef.org/education/files/PeaceEducation.pdf>

## VIOLENCE & EDUCATION

Violence and education interact in a multitude of ways, which may include **conflicts at home** affecting children’s ability to perform academically, focus, make friends, or stay enrolled in school.

At school, violence may occur through:

- **Stereotypes**
- **Physical aggression** or assault
- **Cyberbullying**
- **Corporal punishment** by teachers
- **Gender inequality**
- Continued **marginalization** due to social attitudes, **prejudices**, and hatred towards certain political, ethnic, religious or other groups

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR EDUCATORS

**Gender:** Female students can be subject to sexual abuse by teachers or peers.

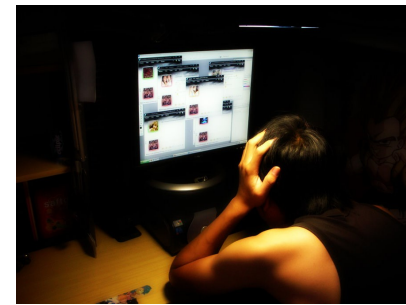
**Bullying:** Though often viewed as an acceptable part of school culture, bullying can **harm both the bully and the victim**. Being bullied increases the risk of self-harm, mental disorders, and trouble making friends. Bullies are more likely to display delinquent, violent, or anti-social behaviour. This may be **physical violence**, but may also involve **psychological violence** which includes feelings of being unworthy.

## Cyberbullying:

This involves the use of **electronic means** (including cellphones, Facebook and social media, email, and YouTube) to upset or harm someone. It includes making threats, **sharing private information or pictures without permission**, and spreading rumours. It is the main type of low-level violence in schools and **50%** of Canadian students have experienced this.

## Resources on Anti-Bullying

- <http://nobullying.com/>
- <http://www.stopabully.ca/>
- [http://cyberscan.novascotia.ca/#first\\_blue](http://cyberscan.novascotia.ca/#first_blue)



## RISK AND MITIGATING FACTORS FOR VIOLENCE

Poor academic performance, missing school frequently, **unstructured free time**, weak social ties, **poor parent relationships** and **poor discipline** all contribute to violence in educational situations. Strong family bonds and peer support, having goals and high self-esteem, and having **good relationships with adults** who support pro-social attitudes and provide guidance and protection can help decrease the likelihood of violence in schools.