



WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Contents

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Independent Expert for the United Nations
Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children



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Published by the United Nations

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Designed by the United Nations Publishing Services (UN Geneva)
and Services Concept (www.services-concept.ch)

Printed in Geneva, Switzerland by ATAR Roto Presse SA

This book may also be consulted and downloaded on the following websites:

<http://www.violencestudy.org>

<http://www.ohchr.org>

<http://www.unicef.org>

<http://www.who.int>

ISBN-10 92-95057-51-1

ISBN-13 978-92-95057-51-7

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well as early intervention when problems arise, and safe and supervised activities and facilities for children and young people.¹⁶⁵

This Study has concluded that the most effective approaches to countering violence in schools are tailored to the unique circumstances of the schools in question, but that they also have key elements in common. Specifically, they are based

on recognition that all children have equal rights to education in settings that are free of violence, and that one of the functions of education is to produce adults imbued with the non-violent values and practises.

The overall approach can be called 'rights-based' and 'child-friendly'. It is consistent with the CRC, other international conventions on

THE UNITED NATIONS GIRLS' EDUCATION INITIATIVE (UNGEI) ROLE IN PROMOTING GIRLS' PARTICIPATION

In 2000, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan showed his strong commitment to girls' education by launching the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), a partnership for girls' education and gender equality. It is emerging as an effective strategy for the prevention of violence against girls. In countries where UNGEI is established, partners work together to strengthen interventions that promote girls' access to quality education. Interventions which include those that accelerate and encourage the participation of girls and boys in their own empowerment. For example, the Girls' Education Movement (GEM) operates in Botswana, Lesotho, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe as an important aspect of UNGEI. When GEM was launched in 2001, it was conceptualised as a pan-African education initiative through which girls would become leaders in the transformation of Africa and agents in the decision-making processes concerning their educational chances. In Uganda, GEM is very active in making sure that orphans and other vulnerable children access school, and work with local authorities and traditional leaders to address the issue of early marriage. In Botswana, GEM has done a baseline study on safety in schools which is being edited for publication. In South Africa, GEM works through Public-Private Partnerships to support the education of girls in mathematics, science and technology and, sponsored by UNICEF, has a number of different activities for ensuring that the voices of girls and young women are heard, particularly in relation to policy-making. Girls' Parliaments, sponsored by GEM, in conjunction with the National Department of Education in South Africa, have offered girls the opportunity to contribute to policy-making around issues of sexual violence in schools. The first Girls' Parliament in South Africa took place in 2003. It is worth noting that GEM in South Africa has also developed posters addressing gender violence, and a chat line for girls to speak out.¹⁶⁸