

Cross the Line

- **Cross the line if you agree, violence against children is ok if it is used as a form of discipline or punishment.** *False UNCRC Article 19 "States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child."*
- **Cross the line if you agree, that experiencing violence in childhood helps build your resilience.** *Violence can result in death, injury, can impair brain development, impact on learning, result in harmful risk-taking behaviours, increase risk of non-communicable disease*
- **Cross the line if you agree, violence against children is ok if it is an accepted cultural practice.** *Violence against children in all its forms, from the slap of a parent to the unwanted sexual advance of a peer, is harmful, morally indefensible and a violation of every child's fundamental human rights.*
- **Cross the line if you know a bully, someone who misuses their power to harm, abuse, intimidate or coerce a person whom they perceive as vulnerable.** Get the group to pause and reflect how this person makes them feel and what might this person feel of themselves.
- **Cross the line if you feel violence is normal and condoned in our society.** Pause, reflect and discuss.
- **Cross the line if you enjoy watching acts of violence, like a fight in the street, in a movie, in video games.** Pause, reflect and discuss.
- **Cross the line if you have used violence to get your way.** Pause, reflect and discuss.
- **Cross the line if you feel violence is a problem in your school.** Pause, reflect and discuss.
- **Cross the line if you are friends with a bully.** Pause and reflect.
- **Cross the line if you feel are ever threatened or intimidated by violence.** Pause, and reflect.
- **Cross the line if it does not concern you that 1 billion children aged 2–17 years have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the past year (1).** Pause, reflect and discuss.
- **Cross the line if you or someone you know has experienced bullying.** Pause, reflect on what they did to support that person.
- **Cross the line if you see violence as an acceptable way to solve a dispute.** Pause, reflect and discuss.
- **Cross the line if words you have spoken to another person could have caused hurt or made them feel threatened.** Pause, reflect on why.
- **Cross the line if you agree that violence against children can be prevented.** Pause, reflect and discuss.
- **Cross the line if you have ever crossed a line that you regret.** Pause, reflect on that moment and how you would have changed things or how you could make amends.

Closure: Ask the group to write down a statement that reflects what, if anything they gained from the exercise and what they think should be discussed further on the issue of violence against children.