PEER VIOLENCE

Violence in schools can have serious long-term consequences on children's lives, their futures and the future of the communities where they live.

Children who are already marginalized are especially vulnerable to bullying. Factors that increase a young person's vulnerability to violence include disability, extreme poverty, ethnicity and sexual orientation or gender identity.

FACTS: Half of the world's teens experience peer violence in and around school.

More than 1 in 3 students aged 13–15 experience bullying.

Around 1 in 3 students aged 13–15 are involved in physical fights.

In Ireland, 28% of students aged 13 to 15 said they had been bullied at school at least once in the past couple of months, with 27% saying they had been involved in a physical fight at least once in the past year. 44% of teens say they have experienced peer violence at school.

Source: UNICEF REPORT *A FAMILIAR FACE Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*

DISCUSS: Your general thoughts on the video/issue.
What rights are not being protected for these children?
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How many children are and are likely to be impacted by this issue?
Describe what children experience as a result of this issue.
Describe what actions you think need to happen to protect children from this issue?
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FAMILY ABUSE

Worldwide, around 1.1 billion caregivers, or slightly more than 1 in 4, admit to believing in the necessity of physical punishment as a form of discipline. To date, only 60 countries have adopted legislation that fully prohibits the use of corporal punishment at home, leaving more than 600 million children under age 5 without full legal protection. This lack of legal prohibitions is a clear sign that violent discipline remains a largely unacknowledged form of violence against children.

FACTS: Three-quarters of the world's 2- to 4-year-old children – around 300 million – experience psychological aggression and/or physical punishment by their caregivers at home;

Around 6 in 10 one year olds in 30 countries with available data are subjected to violent discipline on a regular basis.

Nearly a quarter of one-year-olds are physically shaken as punishment and nearly 1 in 10 are hit or slapped on the face, head or ears.

Worldwide, 1 in 4 children under age five – 176 million – are living with a mother who is a victim of intimate partner violence.
Source: UNICEF REPORT *A FAMILIAR FACE Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*

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CONFLICT & WAR

Around 125 million adolescents aged 10 to 19 are living in countries and areas affected by armed conflict. For the adolescents living in these settings, the risks they face can range from psychological or emotional trauma to being recruited or used by armed forces or groups, or dying as a result of being caught in the crossfire.

During conflict, basic services like water, health and education, as well as family incomes, are all impacted.

Source: UNICEF REPORT *A FAMILIAR FACE Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*

FACTS:

The number of children living in conflict zones has risen by 74% over the last decade

Over the last 15 years, the UN's Children and Armed Conflict Monitoring and Reporting mechanism has documented a shocking 250,000 grave violations against children in armed conflict, including:

- **the recruitment and use of over 77,000 children;**
- **the killing and maiming of over 100,000 children,**
- **rape and sexual violence against over 15,000 children;**
- **the abduction of over 25,000 children;**
- **nearly 17,000 attacks on schools and hospitals;**
- **nearly 11,000 incidents of denial of humanitarian access.**

These are just the verified cases. The actual numbers are certainly much higher. Source: UNICEF

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STREET VIOLENCE

Interpersonal violence: Homicides or injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill by any means.
Every 7 minutes, somewhere in the world, an adolescent is killed by an act of violence. In 2015 alone, violence took the lives of around 82,000 adolescents worldwide. Those aged 15 to 19 are particularly vulnerable, being three times more likely to die violently than younger adolescents aged 10 to 14.

Homicide is the leading cause of death among adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean. Slightly less than 10% of the world's adolescents live in the region, but nearly half of all homicides among adolescents in 2015 occurred there. The five countries with the highest homicide rates among adolescents are all located in Latin America. Many are the result of gang violence. Children and adolescents are forced to join gangs to survive. Many migrate, risking their lives to escape.

FACTS:
More adolescent deaths result from interpersonal than collective violence. In 2015, nearly 2 IN 3 victims died of homicide, while the rest were killed by conflicts.
In the United States, non-Hispanic black adolescent boys are nearly 19 times more likely to die from homicide than non-Hispanic white adolescent boys.
Source: UNICEF REPORT *A FAMILIAR FACE Violence in the lives of children and adolescents*

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FGM

Female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Numerous factors contribute to the prevalence of the practice. Yet in every society in which it occurs, FGM is a manifestation of entrenched gender inequality.

Some communities endorse it as a means of controlling girls' sexuality or safeguarding their chastity. Others force girls to undergo FGM as a prerequisite for marriage or inheritance. Where the practice is most prevalent, societies often see it as a rite of passage for girls. FGM is not endorsed by Islam or Christianity, but religious narratives are commonly deployed to justify it.

FACTS: Despite being internationally recognized as a human rights violation, FGM has been performed on at least 200 million girls and women in 31 countries across three continents, with more than half of those cut living in Egypt, Ethiopia and Indonesia.

Each year, over 4 million girls are at risk of undergoing FGM. Most girls are cut before the age of 15.
By 2030, more than one in three girls worldwide will be born in the 31 countries where FGM is most prevalent, putting 68 million girls – some as young as infants – at risk of being cut.

If global efforts are not significantly scaled up, the number of girls and women undergoing FGM will be higher in 2030 than it is today.
Source: UNICEF

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CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage – marriage before the age of 18 – is a human rights violation. Despite laws against it, the harmful practice remains widespread. Child marriage can lead to a lifetime of suffering. Girls are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence. They have worse economic and health outcomes than their unmarried peers, which are eventually passed down to their own children.

Addressing child marriage requires recognition of the factors that enable it. While the roots of the practice vary across countries and cultures, poverty, lack of educational opportunities and limited access to health care perpetuate it. Some families marry off their daughters to reduce their economic burden or earn income. Others may do so because they believe it will secure their daughters' futures or protect them.

Norms and stereotypes around gender roles and marriage age, as well as the socio-economic risk of pregnancy outside of marriage, also uphold the practice.

FACTS: Globally around 21% of young women were married before their 18th birthday. Some 650 million girls and women around the world today have been married as children.
25 million child marriages have been prevented in the last decade thanks to progress.
If efforts are not accelerated, more than 150 million girls will marry before their eighteenth birthday by 2030. **Source: UNICEF**

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CHILD RECRUITMENT IN ARMED FROCES

Tens of thousands of girls and boys are estimated to be recruited and used in conflicts worldwide. Many have been taken by force, while others join due to economic or social pressure. Children who are displaced or living in poverty are even more vulnerable to recruitment.

Children are recruited or used for various functions by armed forces and groups, including as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers and spies, or they are subjected to sexual exploitation.

As emphasized in the United Nations report on the impact of armed conflict on children (Machel Study, 1996), children associated with armed forces or armed groups are exposed to tremendous violence – often forced both to witness and commit violence, while themselves being abused, exploited, injured or even killed as a result. Their condition deprives them of their rights, often with severe physical and emotional consequences.

FACTS: The numbers of children recruited into armed forces are rising – verified cases increased four times in the Central African Republic (299) and doubled in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1,049) compared to 2016. The number of verified cases of the recruitment and use of children in Somalia (2,127), South Sudan (1,221), the Syrian Arab Republic (961) and Yemen (842) persisted at alarming levels. **Source UNICEF**

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MOHAMED SIDIBAY

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