


The Learning Curve: Twenty-One Years of Prevention Education through RespectED: Violence & Abuse Prevention

Banff, Alberta
October 2005

Judi Fairholm
National Technical Director
RespectED: Violence &
Abuse Prevention
Canadian Red Cross







Definition of Violence

- The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation.

~World Health Organization, 2002


www.redcross.ca



A Typology of Violence

World Health Organization. (2002). *World Report on Violence and Health*. Geneva: WHO.

~World Health Organization's *World Report on Violence and Health, 2002*


www.redcross.ca

Respected
Violence & Abuse Prevention

Continuum of Violence

Childhood → Adolescence → Adulthood

Discrimination Anger Confusion Fear Control
power

Normative Aggression Bullying Harassment Dating/Relationship Violence War/Kidnape Harassment Spousal Abuse Child/Youth Abuse Elder Abuse

Canadian Red Cross www.redcross.ca

Respected
Violence & Abuse Prevention

In The World

Canadian Red Cross www.redcross.ca

Respected
Violence & Abuse Prevention

Canadian Red Cross www.redcross.ca



In Disasters

- Hurricane Hugo, South Carolina
- Loma Prieta Earthquake, California
- Refugee Camps
- Tsunami Disaster

 www.redcross.ca



In Canada






 www.redcross.ca



RespectED's Aim:

To break the cycle of abuse, neglect, harassment and interpersonal violence through prevention education, and in so doing, to promote safe, respectful and supportive relationships for individuals, within the family and within the community.



 www.redcross.ca

RespectED:
1984 - 2005

16 different programs

- 1 children's
- 4 youth
- 6 adult
- 5 training programs

Delivered to:

- 1.4 million children/youth
- 295,000 adults
- Over 2000 certified Prevention Educators
- Working with over 750 communities

 www.redcross.ca

Learnings: Vision



World Health Organization. (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. Geneva: WHO.

 www.redcross.ca

Learnings: Program Development

- One size does not fit all
- Rights-based
- Framework
- Participatory, fun
- Applicable
- Comprehensive approach





 www.redcross.ca


Violence & Abuse Prevention

Learnings: Systems

- Development
- Training
- Sustainability
 - Pricing
- Marketing
- Monitoring/Support
 - Internal Communication
- Data Collection
- Evaluation
- Research




 www.redcross.ca


Violence & Abuse Prevention

Learnings: Program Implementation


- Community Mobilization
 - Owning the problem and solution
- Partnerships
- Diverse delivery systems
 - Safe learning environments
- Continuity of standards/best practices
- Integration
- Recognized/recommended


 www.redcross.ca


Violence & Abuse Prevention

Learnings: Internal


- Address barriers/challenges
- Silos stop ownership and build competition
- Actively recruit internal partnerships
- Develop education plan for all RC personnel
- Develop integration plan
- Build capacity
- Work as a RC team
- Apply for awards


 www.redcross.ca


Violence & Abuse Prevention

Learnings: External

- Address Challenges
- Develop Relationships
- Nurture Relationships
- Have Evidence-based practice
- Build Capacity
- Listen - "We want to work with you"
- External Framework




 www.redcross.ca


Violence & Abuse Prevention

Recommendations


- Be long term, age specific, and culturally appropriate
- Foster development of individuals and communities
- Establish policies, institutional practices, and environmental supports
- Select, screen, train and support personnel to implement programming effectively
- Incorporate and adapt evidence-based programming; develop best practices
- Use pilots and evolve


 www.redcross.ca


Violence & Abuse Prevention

Enough

Enough of the gnawing hunger
 Enough of rejection
 Enough of the children in the streets
 Enough of child soldiers
 Enough of the bruises and blood
 Enough of sexual abuse and violence
 Enough of children used as slaves
 Enough of all the people displaced by war
 Enough of the peace treaties that are not respected
 Enough of all the tears—the pain
 Enough! Enough! Enough!




 www.redcross.ca


Respect
 Violence & Abuse Prevention

- Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
 ~Margaret Mead



 www.redcross.ca


Respect
 Violence & Abuse Prevention

We owe our children—the most vulnerable citizens in any society—life free from violence and fear. In order to ensure this, we must be tireless in our efforts not only to attain peace, justice, and prosperity for countries, but also for communities and members of families. We must address the roots of violence. Only then will we transform the past century’s legacy from a crushing burden into a cautionary lesson.
 -Nelson Mandela





Photo credit: Jonathan Barth

 www.redcross.ca
