

Recommendations

from Children
on Violence
Against
Children

Children's Forum for the East Asia Pacific
Regional Consultation for the UN Study on
Violence Against Children
11-12 June 2005.



Illustrations in this booklet show recommendations written by Under 18 Delegates during workshops at the Children's Forum.

The photographs in this booklet show Under 18 Delegates taking part in the Children's Forum on 11-12 June 2005.

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The Children's Forum

This booklet has been written for children aged 12 -18. It explains recommendations made by children during a meeting that was held from 11-12 June 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was called the Children's Forum.

This Forum gave children who were delegates to the Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence against Children in East Asia Pacific a chance to prepare for their involvement. The Regional Consultation was held from 14-16 June 2005.

During the Children's Forum, as well as during the Regional Consultation, the issue of violence against children was discussed by looking at it in seven different areas:

Violence against children...

1. in the home
2. in schools
3. in institutions
4. in workplaces
5. in the community and on the street
6. in conflict with the law
7. in cyberspace

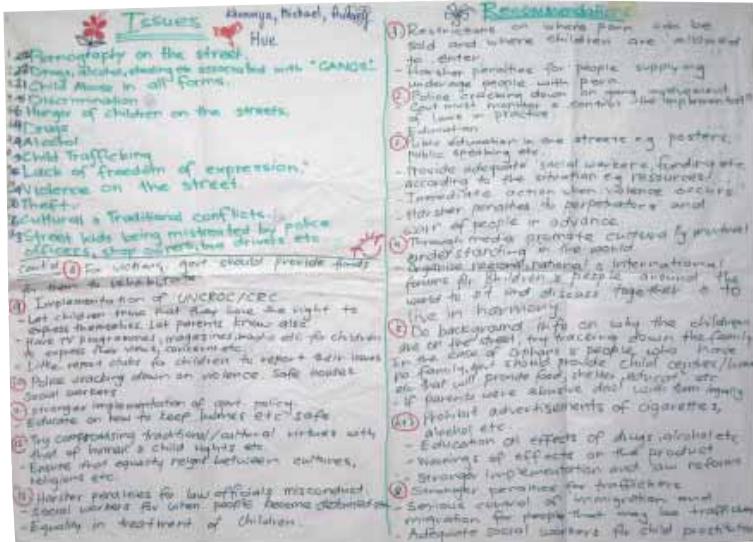


The children used the recommendations from the Children's Forum in their discussions at the Regional Consultation to influence decisions on the recommendations in an Outcome Statement (made by adults and children) at the Consultation.

You can see how much influence children had by comparing the recommendations from the Children's Forum with those from the Regional Consultation.

When we made this comparison, just over half the recommendations in the Outcome Statement from the Regional Consultation were similar to recommendations that had been made in the Children's Forum.

To find out what happened at the Regional Consultation or to read the Outcome Statement, please see the booklet 'What happened at the East Asia Pacific Regional Consultation on Violence against Children', also provided in this folder.



Before reading this booklet you may like to know the way it uses some words.

Children-friendly: For places such as schools, cities or offices, children-friendly means they are re-organised so that the space, equipment, practices and behaviour makes children feel comfortable. For reports or documents, children-friendly means that the way the report is presented and the language used make the information easy for children to understand.

Cyberspace and the online environment: Space that exists within computer networks where each computer around the world is connected through telephone systems. (Cyberspace activities include the Internet – email, websites, chat rooms as well as mobile phones.)

Corporal Punishment: When someone hurts another person as a punishment by hitting them or hurting them in a way that is shameful. Punishment might be physical or emotional and is used to try to control, educate or discipline a child.

Institution: This is a place where children have to live together because they do not have parents or families who can take care of them. Children can also be sent to special institutions (called penal institutions) when they have broken the law.

Marginalised children: Children who are treated like they are unimportant, they have no voice to ask for their rights or do not dare to do so as they think that they do not belong. Marginalised people often come from another country or from a small tribe or are people who live on the streets.

Monitoring and evaluation: Checking and then looking carefully to see whether something is really working properly. Laws and policy can be monitored and evaluated to make sure they are helping to stop violence.

Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO): This is an organisation that is not part of a government and is not for profit. Many NGOs exist to help people who have some sort of problem (such as poverty or disability) or to protect something (such as animals or plants).

Participation: Children's participation is about being involved in something or being able to influence decisions. It is having your voice heard and being taken seriously – usually when decisions are being taken about something.

Policy: Statements that explain what should or should not happen (in this case, to help stop violence). They are often agreed by organisations or governments.

Region: Our region is called 'East Asia and Pacific'. It includes Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, The Pacific Islands (including 14 different islands), The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Research: Careful study and investigation to discover and explain new knowledge.

Recommendations: Suggestions or advice on what to do.

Rights: All human beings have the same rights – to be treated fairly, to have food, drink and shelter, healthcare, education and protection from being hurt. Everyone also has the right to be involved in decisions made about their lives. One important right is protection from violence.

Services: Activities to help people, this might be a telephone hotline for children, or giving out free food, or a training course on mending bicycles.

Sexual abuse: When someone forces or tricks another person into having sex or having a sexual relationship with them. A sexual relationship might include kissing, touching or having sex. In most countries it is strictly forbidden for adults to have a sexual relationship with a child.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: This is document, agreed by the United Nations, which explains exactly what rights children have, it is also an agreement between countries to obey the same laws about children. Nearly all the governments in the world have agreed to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and have agreed to make sure all children get all their rights.

UN Study: An international project that looks at violence committed against children across the world and what can be done about it. The Study will be finished in 2006. It will help the United Nations (UN), governments, communities, parents, children and organisations working with and for children to learn and better understand:

- what violence is faced by children around the world;
- how violence affects children;
- what needs to be done to prevent all types of violence against children;
- how best to help children who have faced violence;
- what children can do to protect themselves from violence;
- what are the causes of violence against children.

Issues and Recommendations

The following is a children-friendly copy of all the issues and recommendations written by the Under 18 Delegates at the Children's Forum.

1. Violence against Children in the Home and Family



Important issues

- Divorce/marriage break-up
- Child labour
- Verbal abuse (saying bad things)
- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse (hitting, beating, hurting the body)
- Neglect (when children are not looked after properly)

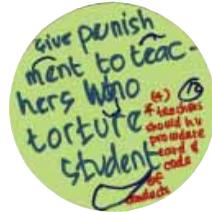
Recommendations

1. Governments should **stop early marriage** and educate parents on the impact of early marriages. Girls should be ready and mature before they marry and not get married just because of a dowry (when money is paid for a girl to get married). Governments should stop people from having more than one wife or husband at the same time. Those who have more than one wife or husband at the same time should be punished harshly.
2. Governments should give equal education opportunities to children who work. Governments should enforce strict laws to **stop child labour**, to promote children's rights and punish those who do not respect children's rights.
3. Governments should give **training to parents** on how to communicate with children in a nice way. Parents should not say bad words that cause children to lose confidence. Governments should educate parents and others on the roles and responsibilities they have to children. Children should not be called bad names.

4. The United Nations, governments and communities should share information and work together to **prevent sexual violence** from happening to children in the family. They should help children who have been victims of sexual violence. Strict laws should be put into practice for those who sexually abuse children.
5. Organisations should be set up that **protect children from physical abuse** and educate parents and others who have responsibilities towards children to prevent violence in families. Governments should put into practice harsh penalties for people who use corporal punishment in the family.
6. Children who are neglected by their families should be taken care of. Governments should look after those children and put them in institutions. All types of **neglect should be stopped** and strict laws should be put in place.

2. Violence against Children in

School



Important issues:

- Corporal punishment by teachers and other school staff.
For example:
 - teachers force students to kneel down;
 - children are hit with a stick by teachers because they don't know the answers to questions;
 - teachers threaten students;
 - teachers throw erasers at students (for no reason);
 - care takers abuse young children in school;
 - teachers force students to stand under the sun.
- Bullying by students, both physical and mental. For example, students say bad things to each other or fight each other.
- Mental abuse by teachers. For example, teachers treat some students better or worse than others or teachers use bad language (swearing).

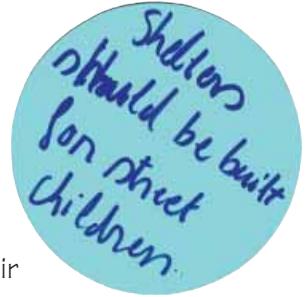
- Sexual abuse by teachers. For example, teachers touch students' bodies in a sexual way.

Recommendations

1. We should **educate children about their rights** at school.
2. We should provide **training to teachers** on how to keep control of students without using violence.
3. Every school should have a **child protection policy** and procedures (statements that explain what people should or should not do to protect children and information on the proper action to take).
4. Every school should have a system for children to **report teachers** who use corporal punishment.
5. We should set up and **strengthen laws** to stop corporal punishment.
6. We should create **magazines for students** promoting non-violence in schools.
7. Children should have places they can go to for **free legal advice**.
8. We should be able to check **laws and guidelines** to make sure they are working properly.
9. Schools should make it possible for students to **give advice** to other students.
10. Governments should give training on **children's rights** for teachers.
11. We should set up groups of students and teachers to **monitor and take action** on violence.
12. Teachers who **torture** students should be punished.



3. Violence against Children in Institutions



Important issues

- People working in institutions say bad, hurting words to children.
- Sometimes when children do not do their work they are punished and not allowed to eat.
- Older children beat younger children.
- Older children make younger children personal servants.
- In some institutions nobody stops children fighting.

Recommendations

1. All children in institutions should be able to **go to school**.
2. We should **train** the people who look after children in institutions on how to prevent violence.
3. Children should be involved in monitoring that **no violence takes place** against children in institutions.
4. Children in institutions should have **equal medical care**.
5. In **organisations made up of children** there should be children of different backgrounds and skills involved.
6. Children should have somewhere to **report violence** and a place where they can get help.
7. Governments should give money to organisations, where **children gather together** to discuss about violence against children and find solutions.

4. Violence against Children in Workplaces

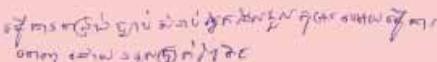
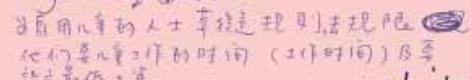
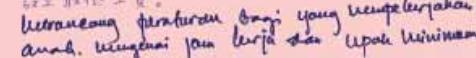
Important issues

- A lack of education about children's rights.
- Laws are not working that say how old a child can be before they are allowed to work (minimum age requirements).
- There is no opportunity for working children to study.
- There is unfair treatment of children who are working.

Recommendations

1. Guidelines should be written on **working conditions** and minimum age requirements for children who work.
2. Adults should be taught about the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Working children should be trained to learn specific skills (such as catering courses).
3. Stronger ways to **punish** people who are violent to working children should be found.
4. **TV, radio and newspapers** should tell people about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Draft regulations for those who employ children on working times & minimum salaries. 4

- X1. 
2. 
- X3. 

5. Violence against Children in the Community and on the Streets



Important issues

- Pornography (photos, films or stories of people having sex) is available on the streets.
- Drugs, alcohol and crime (when people break the law) related to 'gangs'.
- All types of child abuse.
- Discrimination (when one group of people is treated better or worse than another), cultural and custom conflicts.
- Children go hungry on the streets.
- Bad treatment from shop owners, police and others.
- No freedom for children to express themselves.
- Child trafficking (when a child is bought, moved somewhere and sold – they are often moved from one country to another).

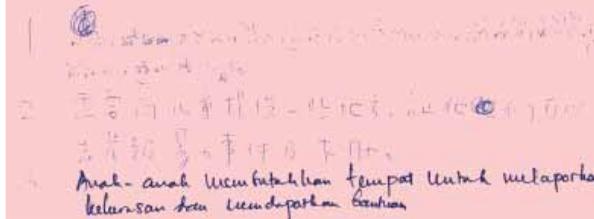
Recommendations

1. Children should not be able to enter places that sell pornography. There should be harsher punishments for people who bring **pornography** to under-aged children.
2. Police should be stricter in dealing with **gangs**. Governments must monitor and control laws. People should be educated on these issues.
3. The public should understand more about children's rights. There should be more social workers and money for organisations trying to stop violence against children in the streets and community. There should be **immediate action** when violence takes place. There should be harsher punishment for people who are violent to children and

- warnings for people in advance of action that will be taken.
4. Children's rights should be respected within different traditions and cultures. People's culture and religion should be treated equally. There should be national, regional and international meetings for children and adults. TV, radio and newspapers should promote and encourage an **understanding and sharing of different cultures**.
 5. Information should be gathered on children's circumstances, for instance, why children are on the street. Governments need to ensure that children who have no family are able to go to **child centres or homes** where they can get food, shelter and education. There should also be places where street children can get help. Families should be encouraged to analyse their situations and find solutions. If parents abuse children they should be brought before the court.
 6. Adverts for cigarettes and alcohol should be banned. People should be **educated on the bad effects** of drugs and alcohol. For example by adding warning labels on cigarette packets or bottles (of alcohol). There should be harsher punishments for people who sell illegal drugs. Laws on these issues should be strengthened.
 7. There should be **harsher penalties for people who traffic others**. More social workers are needed for children who have sex with others for money, gifts or favours. There should be money available to help children get out of this situation.
 8. People should have a better understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. There should be **training for parents and children**, children's TV and radio programmes and report clubs for children to report issues.
 9. Government **policy** should be working properly. People

- should be educated on how to keep their houses safe.
10. There should be harsher punishments for law officials who do not follow guidelines. There should be more **social workers** for when children are locked up.
 11. Children should be treated **equally**.

Children need somewhere to report violence and provide help.



6. Violence against Children in Conflict with the Law

Important issues

- Countries have laws that do not protect children against corporal punishment.
- Children don't know their rights and the laws of their government.
- Children are imprisoned with adults.
- Children are convicted through the adult justice system (adult courts and prisons).
- Children are abused or feel threatened when the police are asking them questions.
- Countries allow children to be beaten or hit as a punishment from court or in penal institutions.

- Countries are not promoting and enforcing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children in penal institutions are abused by people who work there.

Recommendations

1. a) Laws should be changed to forbid parents, teachers and others to use **corporal punishment** against a child.
b) Adults need to be taught **non-violent ways** of raising children and solving conflicts or arguments.
2. Non-government organisations and governments should **work together** to educate ALL children (in schools, institutions and other places) about their rights and the laws of their country.
3. Children-friendly penal institutions should be set up. But where possible **children should not have to go to court** and should not be put into institutions.
4. Ways should be found to make sure that a child is **questioned in a fair way** (by police) with a family member present.
5. Countries should put in place specific laws to enforce and carry out the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Non-government organisations should be able to monitor how governments enforce these laws.
6. **Special courts** for children should be set up.
7. Courts and penal institutions should not be allowed to use **corporal punishment** against a child.



7. Violence against Children in Cyberspace

children are
not totally prevented
from reaching publication
with icky contents

Important issues

- Bad people who take advantage of emotional children (who easily feel lonely) and try to make friends with them online.
- Children who meet up with someone they know on the Internet.
- Pornography (photographs, film or stories of people having sex). Some pornography is about children and some photographs are taken secretly. Children see pornography on the Internet.
- Threatening comments, swear-words, hateful language and abusive text messages are being sent to children in chat-rooms, by email and through mobile phones.
- Violence is found in online games, in photos and video and in messages sent to mobile phones.
- Nasty things can be bought from online shops easily such as weapons, drugs, sexual relationships or pornography.

Recommendations

1. People should be **educated about online safety**. Parents should be educated on how to prevent children coming across violence and how to use computers. Children should be educated on how to prevent themselves from getting into violence.
2. **Advice and counselling** should be available online. Online psychologists (people who are trained to help others with emotional problems) should be available and hotlines for children should be set up.
3. Parents or others can **prevent bad websites or emails from reaching children** by installing special software (special information for computers) and by monitoring the use of computers by children.

4. Governments should have **strict control** over information put on the Internet.
5. There should be more **cyber police** (experts for checking and finding bad websites). Programmers should make the software for filtering websites free of charge.
6. More **outdoor activities** for children should be run so that they spend less time on their computers.



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Do you want to know more?

To find out more about what is happening in your country contact your UNICEF Country Office or the National Focal Agency for your country.

The official UN website for the UN Study on Violence Against Children:

<http://www.violencestudy.org>

To find out more about the UN Study:

<http://www.crin.org/violence>



Child Workers in Asia



Save the Children



Plan
Be a part of it.



terre des hommes

