

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



East Asia and Pacific Launch of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children

What constitutes:

Violence in work situations

- Hazardous conditions, pollution and toxic waste.
- Long hours without breaks to rest or food to eat
- Kept away from school
- Punished through beatings or verbal abuse
- Sexual harassment and exploitation
- Confined during non-working hours
- Enslaved or bonded, forced into criminal activities, the sex industry or soldiery

Violence on streets and in communities

- Affects children living, working or spending time on the streets
- Denial of rights such as schooling, an identity and a voice
- Untreated illnesses, respiratory problems and injuries
- Sexual abuse and rape
- Beatings and gang violence
- Racial or religion-motivated violence
- Harassment by authorities
- Drug abuse and other self-harming behaviour

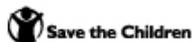
Violence against children in conflict with the law

- Harassed and blackmailed by authorities prior to arrest
- Beaten and handcuffed
- Arrest without charges or warrants
- Intimidation, forced confessions and torture
- Denial of legal representation or contact with parents
- Imprisoned in degrading or inhumane conditions
- Brutal corporal punishment from prison guards
- No education or recreation opportunities
- Imprisonment alongside adults, leading to bullying and sexual violence

Violence against children in cyberspace

- Delivered through mobile phones, emails and Internet
- "Grooming" to meet up for sexual exploitation
- Coercion to post naked or suggestive pictures
- Online interaction or information used to stalk, blackmail or threaten
- Sexual assault fed live via web cam to child porn sites
- Exposure to violent pornography, which distorts understanding in both boys and girls of sexual behaviour
- Bullying by other children, including circulation of humiliating pictures (real or "morphed") and persistent abusive messaging

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Cont.

What constitutes:

Violence against children in homes

- The most prevalent form of violence but the most difficult to identify or stop
- Corporal punishment sanctioned by law and family tradition
- Domestic violence from parents, grandparents or other relatives
- Emotional abuse
- Alcohol-related physical and sexual abuse
- Neglect, including malnourishment, poor hygiene or lack of attention to medical conditions
- Witnessing family violence, especially violence from father to mother or sexual abuse of a sibling

Violence against children in institutions

- Includes children in state care, orphanages, foster homes, hospitals and nursing homes, as well as children displaced by war or disaster
- Housed indefinitely with no power to make decisions for themselves
- Neglect as a result of bad training, support or safeguards among staff
- Corporal and emotional punishment from staff and authorities
- High levels of physical and sexual abuse
- Limited access to education and recreation
- Community and peer stigma

Violence against children in schools

- Discipline through punishment, including whippings, humiliations and endurance tests, like being made to stand in the sun or on one leg for hour
- Bullying by teachers to force children out of school
- No recognition of or protection from schoolyard bullying
- Spontaneous punishment by teachers, for instance throwing objects at children or hitting them without warning
- Sexual harassment and rape from teachers or fellow students
- Racial or religion-based persecution