

**VIOLENCE
AGAINST
CHILDREN**

**ACTION
BOOKLET**






ABOUT THE ACTION BOOKLET

Welcome! This booklet is about helping children and young people like yourself learn about the issues of violence against children. In it, you'll learn about some of the types of violence against children so that you can better recognise the risks and protect yourself from harm.

It is our hope that after reading this booklet, you'll want to learn more about these issues and what you can do to end violence against children in your community. We hope this booklet will inspire you to discover the people and organisations in your community who work to help children.

Finally, this booklet is also about taking action. You'll find many great ideas - created by young people - for projects on how to share what you've learned in this booklet and inspire your friends, family and community to help stop violence against children.



CHILD TRAFFICKING

The Issue:



THE ISSUE

Child trafficking is defined as the recruitment, transport and receipt of a child for the purposes of exploitation. Children who are trafficked are often forced into labour, sexual exploitation, the drug trade or even the military. Over a million children are trafficked every year.

THE CHALLENGE

Raise awareness of child trafficking in your community.

Ideas you could try include:

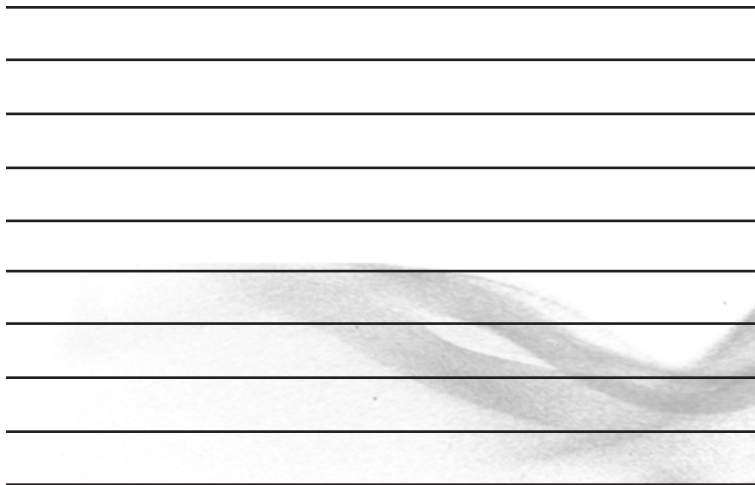
- ★ Do a street drama on child trafficking.
- ★ Invite your local police and support organisation to speak about child trafficking at your local child club.
- ★ Ask your local community leader or religious leader to speak to parents about the risks of child trafficking.



YOUR ACTION JOURNAL

You are informed. You are inspired. You want to take action.

Use this space to write down your own ideas. Some things to think about include: **What types of violence against children do you see in your community? How can you and your peers protect yourself from violence and abuse? What resources are available in your community to help you?**



PHYSICAL ABUSE

The Issue:



THE ISSUE

Physical abuse is a form of violence against children. Physical abuse can happen anywhere, whether at home, at school, at work or anywhere else in your community. Children have the right to be safe from harm.

THE CHALLENGE

Raise awareness in your community about the harmful impact of physical abuse and domestic violence on children.

Ideas you could try include:

- ★ Write a drama showcasing the harmful attitudes of parents who abuse their children.
- ★ Speak with your religious leaders about the negative impact of physical abuse on children and ask that they discuss these in a community forum.
- ★ Create and distribute pamphlets on violence in the workplace.

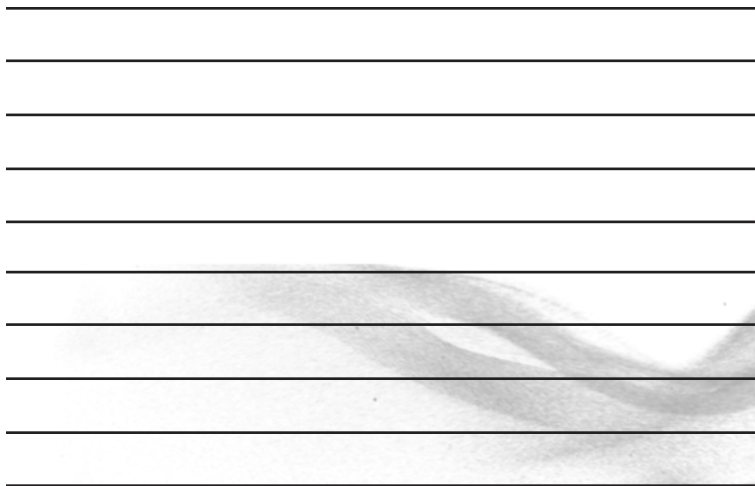


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CHILD LABOUR

The Issue:




THE ISSUE

Child labour is a form of violence against children. Child workers become an issue when the work prevents them from fulfilling their potential or is hazardous to their physical well-being. Nearly 215 million children world-wide are victims of child labour.

THE CHALLENGE

Start a dialogue about child labour in your home, school, workplace or community. Ideas you could try include:

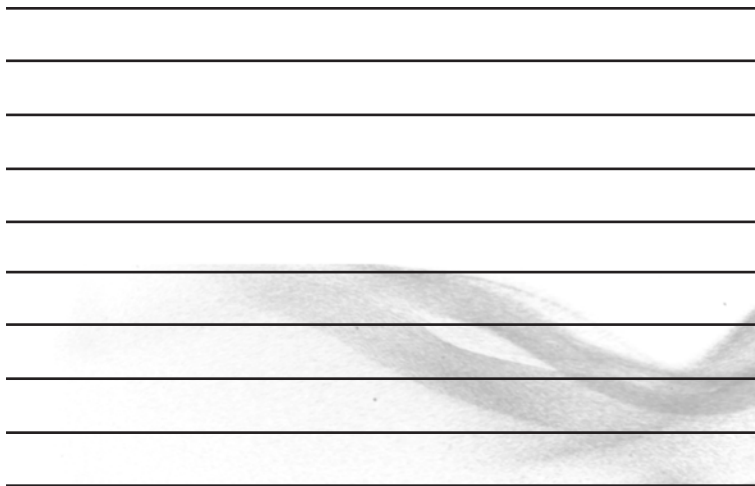
- ★ Write a radio script on child labour and ask your local radio station to air it.
 - ★ Start a letter writing campaign to bring awareness of this issue to your local leaders.
 - ★ Go door-to-door to your local shops and hand out pamphlets on the issue of child labour.
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SEXUAL ABUSE

The Issue:



THE ISSUE

Sexual abuse is a form of violence against children. Sexual abuse comes in many forms including rape, unwanted sexual advances, being touched in a sexual way and sexual exploitation. Like many other forms of violence against children, sexual abuse occurs in settings such as homes, schools, workplaces and communities. Victims of sexual abuse can be girls and boys.

THE CHALLENGE

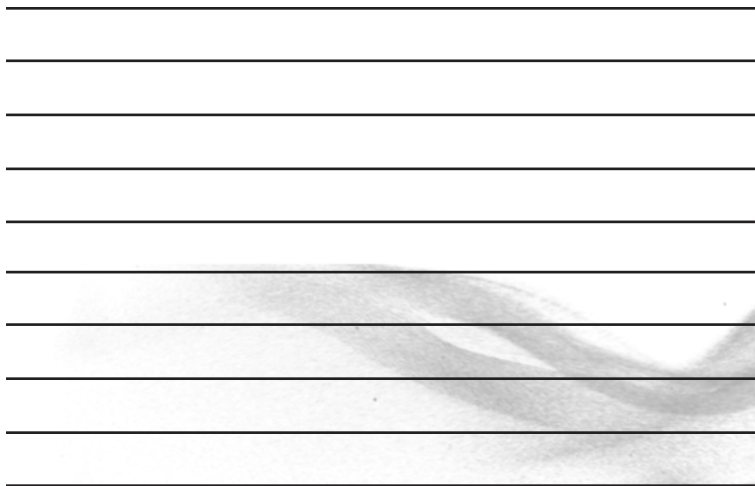
Start a dialogue about sexual abuse in your home, school, workplace or community. Ideas you could try include:

- ★ Create posters that address sexual abuse from a child/youth's perspective.
- ★ Form an “anti-sexual abuse” club in your school or children's club where children can share their ideas on how to stop it.
- ★ Identify community organisations that focus on sexual abuse and ask them to speak at your school, work or community centre.



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DRUG ABUSE

The Issue:



THE ISSUE

Drug abuse and drug trafficking is a growing problem in many communities. Drug syndicates target street children by offering them support they have often been without. Drug related violence and drug abuse have devastating effects on the health of children and their communities.

THE CHALLENGE

Raise awareness among your peers about the harmful impact of drugs in your community.

Ideas you could try include:

- ★ Organise an awareness raising music concert using local bands.
- ★ Design and post posters about the negative impact of drugs in your community. Post them where your peers hang out.
- ★ Write an article on the impact of drugs on children in your community. Ask to get it published in your local newspaper.



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EARLY CHILD MARRIAGE

The Issue:



THE ISSUE

Every year 10 million girls are married before the age of 18 years. Child marriage however is a form of violence against children. Girls who marry early are most often deprived of the opportunity to reach their full potential and rise out of poverty.

THE CHALLENGE

Raise awareness of child marriage in your community.

Ideas you could try include:

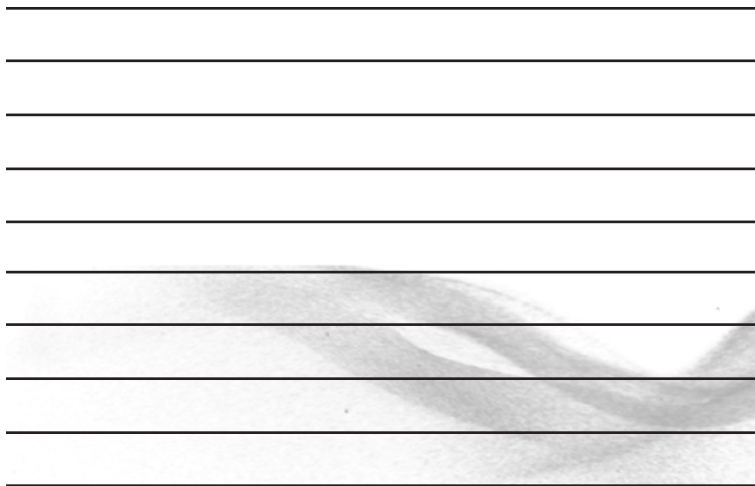
- ★ Create a door-to-door campaign to create awareness about child marriage.
- ★ Ask your child club leader to speak with religious leaders in your community about child marriage.
- ★ Write and perform a drama about child marriage and present it in your community.

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BULLYING

The Issue:



THE ISSUE

Taunting, criticising, intimidating or name-calling a child is a form of violence against children known as bullying. Being “different” is not a reason to be bullied. All children deserve to be treated with respect.

THE CHALLENGE

Raise awareness of bullying in your school.

Ideas you could try include:

- ★ Give a presentation on bullying to your classmates. Make sure to invite teachers, counsellors and coaches so they too can understand children’s perspectives on bullying.
- ★ If you have access to a computer, post a blog about the issue or even tweet about it!
- ★ Talk to your friends about bullying and how to stop it. Ask them to talk to their friends too.



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VERBAL ABUSE

The Issue:



THE ISSUE

Verbal abuse is a form of violence against children. Children should not be yelled at or blamed unnecessarily even at school. Children should be treated respectfully and with care.

THE CHALLENGE

Raise awareness of verbal abuse in your school.

Ideas you could try include:

- ★ Give a presentation on verbal abuse to your classmates.
- ★ Create a training guide for teachers to teach respectfully.
- ★ Create placards for a school rally.

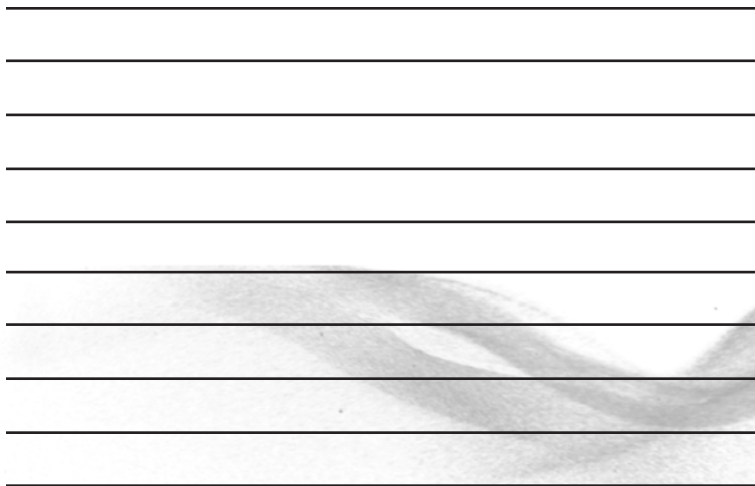


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TIPS FOR CREATING IDEAS:

So you are ready to take action, but you want to try and create your own idea for a project. Here are some tips to help get you started:

Think about the thoughts and feelings of the people you are creating the new project for. When you think about what other people might be thinking or what they might need, it's easier to create tools they will use or messages they will listen to.

All ideas are good ideas. Don't limit yourself by judging your ideas too quickly.

Come up with as many ideas as you can! You can always choose the best ideas later.

Prototype your ideas! One of the best ways to see if your idea will work is to build a simple version of it (a prototype) and test it out. It doesn't need to be complicated, some paper, markers or whatever materials you have available will do.

