

TEN STEPS TO CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

How organizations and communities can prevent, mitigate and respond to interpersonal violence

KEY MESSAGES

- Interpersonal violence is a global humanitarian catastrophe with profoundly negative consequences, especially for children and women.
- Violence is preventable.
- Organizations and communities have an important responsibility to prevent, reduce, mitigate and respond to violence.
- “Ten Steps” are concrete actions that organizations and communities can take to address violence.

GLOBAL STATISTICS

- **Each day 4,200 people die from violence** (1.6 million a year); more than 90 per cent of them in low and middle income countries; approximately 2,300 die from suicide, 1,500 from interpersonal violence and 400 from collective violence.¹
- Each year, 16 million cases of injury, due to violence, are severe enough to receive medical attention in hospitals.²

I would like to thank you because I found out things I never knew – it gave me hope.

Youth participating in a Red Cross workshop on violence prevention

Violence touches everyone – it is a global humanitarian catastrophe that affects all continents, countries and communities.

IFRC

THE TEN STEPS

1. Understand the problem
2. Recognize people’s vulnerability and resilience
3. Define protection instruments
4. Create a prevention team
5. Complete a risk assessment
6. Develop policies and procedures
7. Educate adults, youth and children
8. Respond to disclosures of violence
9. Meet the challenges
10. Maintain safe environments



For more information about the Ten Steps or to download an electronic copy, please visit: www.redcross.ca/tensteps

¹ Butchart, A., Brown, D., Wilson, A., & Mikton, C. (2008). *Preventing violence and reducing its impact: How development agencies can help*. World Health Organization. Retrieved from: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241596589_eng.pdf.

² Ibid.