

Violence in the home and how to deal with it

South Africa is a violent country with one of the highest rates of murder in the world. The culture of violence exists everywhere – in our homes, our schools and our communities. It is important to learn how to deal with it effectively.

Violence happens regularly in many South African homes. Not only does it affect the victims, but also those who have to witness it.

If you are a child living in a household where there is violence, make sure you have a safe place to go to, where there is someone you can trust who will look after you. You must report any violent situation to the police.

Let us check

- Have you ever been a victim of violence at home, at school or in your community?
- What happened? How did you deal with it?

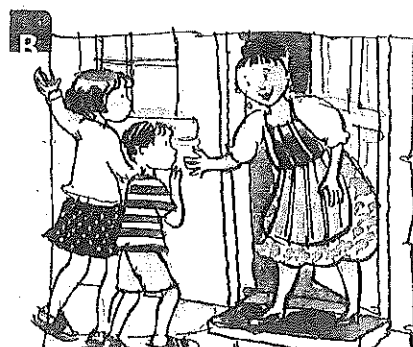


Activity 8 Identify responses to domestic violence

Imagine you were one of the children in the picture above, seeing your mother being beaten.

- 1 Now look at the pictures below. Explain what action the children are taking in each picture to help them deal with the violence at home.
- 2 Which picture do you think shows the best way to cope with this violent situation?

Discuss reasons for your choice.



Violence at school and in the community

New word

victims – people that are hurt, damaged or killed by somebody

At school we may see a type of violence called bullying. We could be the victims, the perpetrators or the spectators.

Bullying can turn into extreme violence, such as using knives and guns and sexual abuse. This is common gang behaviour. In some communities, people are too afraid to leave their homes because of gang violence.

A bully is a person who:

- makes someone else do something against their will, by using violence or force;
- hurts someone else to give themselves a feeling of power;
- does a violent act in order to be accepted into a gang or group.



How to respond to violence at school and in the community

It is a bad idea to respond to bullying with more violent behaviour. It is also not a good idea to show how upset you are, because this makes the bully feel more powerful and dominant. The victim should always report bullying to an adult they can trust, like a teacher. If you experience gang violence, you must call the police.

Did you know?

SAPS
08600 10111
Emergency
112

Phone the South African Police on 08600 10111 as soon as possible. Keep the number by your telephone at home. You could also phone the emergency number 112 on any cell phone if you need to.

Read about safe places

Case study

The Home of Hope – a place of safety for children

The Home of Hope began in 2005 as a safe house for children who were victims of domestic violence and abuse. It is a voluntary association and is registered with the Department of Social Development as a Child Protection Organisation. The organisation now finds **foster homes** for children so that they can grow up in family surroundings.

Their first foster home was Ikhaya Luthando House. Here, the family is made up of a **retired** couple and children aged three, five, seven, nine, thirteen and sixteen. There is an equal number of boys and girls.

The children at the Ikhaya Luthando House are safe and happy. They attend nursery schools, primary schools and high schools. They participate in sports activities.

New words

foster homes
– homes where children live as part of a family, without being adopted by the parents

retired – elderly, no longer of working age

Activity 9

Discuss places of safety

- 1 Give words that mean the same as the ones listed below. Use a dictionary to check your work.

voluntary	nursery	participate
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- 2 Name the government department that looks after the safety of children.
- 3 What is a foster home?
- 4 Why are the children at the foster home an equal number of boys and girls?
- 5 Why are the children in the foster home all different ages, from three to sixteen years old?