



# #ENDviolence Youth Talks

## Toolkit

2018



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## 1 | Introduction

A child dies every five minutes as a result of violence.<sup>1</sup> Countless others live with the scars of physical, sexual and psychological violence, from beatings to bullying—often experienced in places where they should feel safe, like school.

Indeed, for far too many young people around the world, school is a dangerous place. Worldwide, close to 130 million students between the ages of 13 and 15 experience bullying. 732 million children—or 1 in 2—live in countries where physical punishment in schools is not fully prohibited. And in 2016 alone, there were 500 attacks or threats of attacks on schools.

Violence in schools is common enough to feel inevitable. But it's not. **Violence against children is preventable. And because we can prevent it, we must.**

On September 6th, UNICEF will be launching the latest phase of our #ENDviolence campaign, focused on violence in and around schools.

### You can join us by:

**1 |** Participating in our September 6<sup>th</sup> digital campaign (a full social media packet will be available [here](#) later in August), and

**2 |** Holding an #ENDViolence Youth Talk in your community between August and November.



## 2 | Why Youth Talks?

Students around the world are emerging as agents of change in their schools and communities. With the kick-off of #ENDviolence in Schools, UNICEF seeks to encourage this momentum and spark additional action. #ENDviolence Youth Talks are designed to hear young people's thoughts on

**1) What they commit to doing; and**  
**2) What they need from others – caregivers, teachers, school personnel, local or national policymakers, etc. – to feel safe in and around schools.**

The reflections offered in person and online through November 2018 will culminate in an #ENDviolence Youth Manifesto. This Manifesto will serve as a reminder to member states of their commitment to protecting children in and around schools (please see UN Resolution 72/245, adopted on 24 December 2017 on the Rights of the Child [here](#).)

### Each #ENDviolence Youth Talk should:

- Raise awareness about the type of violence in and around schools most relevant locally (e.g. bullying, corporal punishment, sexual abuse, gender-based violence, gang violence, attacks on schools), as well as the impact of that violence on both children and their ability to learn;
- Elevate youth voices, creating a safe space for children, adolescents and young people to discuss what they commit to doing and what they need from others to feel safe in and around schools;
- Produce one or more recommendations to help #ENDviolence in and around schools at the local, national or global level; and
- Engage influencers and decision-makers as endorsers and amplifiers of youth voices.

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2015 data.



### 3 | Structure

#### What's the best format for a Youth Talk?

#ENDviolence Youth Talks are intended to be flexible, easily adaptable to each country context. Below are three suggested formats, all of which keep youth voices at the centre. It's up to each organization to select from among these options or to blend them as appropriate. We recommend that the Talk last between 1 and 1.5 hours, followed by an optional networking session of 30 minutes or more.

**1 | Student Roundtable:** Focused discussion among 10-20 youth leaders or activists working to #ENDviolence in and around schools.

**2 | Talk Show:** Moderated panel discussion among 3-5 youth leaders and / or a series of short presentations by 3-5 young activists in front of an audience of 50-125 people.

**3 | Town Hall:** Gathering of 50-200 students and other participants to foster dialogue about violence in and around schools and propose and / or vote on possible solutions.

#### Where should Youth Talks be held?

Ideally, the Youth Talks will be held in local schools. Other possible venues include public libraries, museums, community centres, parks and other places where children, adolescents and young people feel comfortable.

## In-Depth: Student Roundtable

- Moderator greets participants and sets the goals for the roundtable: to agree on one or more recommendations to #ENDviolence in and around schools
- OPTIONAL: Moderator kicks off the discussion by interviewing a select youth leader or activist
- Moderator opens the conversation to the full group, guided by the two framing questions:  
*What do you commit to doing to feel safe in and around schools?*  
*What do you need from others to feel safe in and around school?*
- Discussion among moderator and participants (about 40 minutes)
- Moderator summarizes the proposed recommendation(s) to #ENDviolence in and around schools
- OPTIONAL: Pledge by roundtable participants to collectively pursue one or more of the agreed recommendations and identification of next steps to #ENDviolence in and around schools

## In-Depth: Talk Show

- Moderator provides an introduction to violence in and around schools in the local context
- Q&A session between the moderator and speakers and / or a series of short (no more than 5-minute) presentations addressing the two framing questions:  
*What do you commit to doing to feel safe in and around school?*  
*What do you need from others to feel safe in and around school?*
- OPTIONAL: Q&A session enabling the audience to engage with the speakers
- Concluding statement by the moderator, summarizing the proposed recommendation(s) to #ENDviolence in and around schools
- OPTIONAL: Pledge by moderator, speakers and audience – or by a specific decision-maker in attendance – to pursue one of the proposed recommendations to #ENDviolence in and around schools

## In-Depth: Town Hall

- Moderator provides an introduction to violence in and around schools in the local context and introduces one or more recommendations to be discussed / voted on
- OPTIONAL: Brief remarks by one or more youth leaders or activists
- Moderator opens the floor for comments, giving youth participants a chance to voice their thoughts and make additional recommendation(s), guided by the two framing questions:  
*What do you commit to doing to feel safe in and around school?*  
*What do you need from others to feel safe in and around school?*
- Concluding statement by the moderator summarizing the discussion
- OPTIONAL: Participants vote on proposed recommendation(s)
- OPTIONAL: Pledge by moderator, speakers and audience – or by a specific decision-maker in attendance – to pursue the winning recommendation(s) to #ENDviolence in and around schools



## Sample booth hosts for networking session

**Student organizations** advocating to #ENDviolence in and around schools

**Parent organizations** or **parent-teacher associations** working to #ENDviolence in and around schools

**Local NGOs** advocating to #ENDviolence in and around schools

**Local police officer(s)** who can talk about her / his work in local communities to #ENDviolence in and around schools

**Local School Superhero Comic Contest** contestant(s)

**One or more young artists** (singers, musicians, painters, street artists, actors, dancers, etc.) exploring the issue of violence in and around schools through creative expression



## Optional networking session

Organizations may opt to host a networking session after the main event is over. Doing so will provide an opportunity for attendees to get to know one another and to find out more about local efforts to #ENDviolence in and around schools. A networking session can be done simply by providing a designated space adjacent to the main event for refreshments and mingling. It can also be more structured, including booths for students, local organizations and others to showcase their work.

## 4 | Moderators, speakers and participants

### Who should the moderator be?

The moderator should be somebody that the young people participating in the event trust and respect. Some options include:

- Local celebrity (e.g. athlete, singer, actor)
- Local journalist covering relevant topic(s) or digital influencer with young followers
- Local teacher or principal helping to #ENDviolence in and around schools •

### Who should the speakers be?

We encourage organizations to select presenters who can: speak about their personal experience with violence, showcase the work they and their peers are doing to #ENDviolence in and around schools, and / or introduce a creative element to the event, such as music, spoken word, dance, video, etc. Lengthy participation from officials are discouraged, as are PowerPoint presentations. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring gender balance among the speakers and including representation from marginalized communities. Sample speakers include:

- Youth Affected by Violence: Children, adolescents and young people who can speak personally about violence in and around schools and the impact it has had on their lives and / or solutions that they have seen work
- Youth Leaders / Activists: Children, adolescents and young people actively engaged in advocacy to #ENDviolence in and around schools
- Youth Artists: Children, adolescents and young people helping to #ENDviolence in and around schools through creative expression

## For the Talk Show format: What should the moderator ask the speakers?

While the discussion should be as organic as possible, most speakers will appreciate receiving a set of questions in advance so that they can prepare. Write your own questions or use some of the below:

- What inspired you to take action to #ENDviolence in and around schools?
- What change have you seen as a result of your / your organization's efforts to #ENDviolence in and around schools?
- Do you think the issue of violence in and around schools gets proper attention from the public? From teachers? From school administrators? From politicians?
- What is one thing everyone here today could do to help #ENDviolence in and around schools?
- What is your advice and / or wish for students around the world?

## Who is invited to the Youth Talks?

- Children, adolescents and young people aged 10-24
- Teachers and other school personnel
- Parents and parent associations
- Youth bloggers, journalists and digital influencers
- Adult bloggers, journalists and digital influencers
- Relevant partner and NGO staff
- Policymakers and other public sector representatives social welfare, etc.)
- Business leaders supportive of ending violence in and around schools

## Working with the moderator and speakers

**Secure bios and correct titles / affiliations** for the moderator and all speakers

**Prepare and send a draft run of show** to the moderator and all speakers, including talking points for the moderator and any questions to be asked of the speakers

**Incorporate feedback** from the moderator and speakers and circulate an updated run of show

**Host a prep call or meeting** with the moderator and all speakers one week ahead of the Youth Talk to review the run of show together and answer any questions

**Offer to rehearse** any presentations or performances with speakers

**Request** that the moderator and all speakers arrive at least **30 minutes before** the Youth Talk is scheduled to begin, to introduce them with one another and familiarize them with the room (including where they will be sitting and how they will enter and exit the stage, if there is one)

**Invite** the moderator and all speakers to post about the event on **social media** before and / or after their time on stage, using the hashtag #ENDviolence

**Ask the moderator** to remind the audience to do the same

**Following the event**, send 'thank you' notes to the moderator and all speakers

## Safeguarding youth participants

#ENDviolence Youth Talks are designed to provide students with a safe, positive way to lift their voices and have their opinions heard. All organizations hosting a Youth Talk are expected to adhere to UNICEF's commitment to safeguarding young people and to ensure the wellbeing of all Youth Talk participants by putting relevant practices and policies in place. Below are some steps you may want to consider taking, but please note that this is not an exhaustive list. Each context will require its own set of protections, and special care should be taken to ensure that those protections are both identified and implemented.

- 1 | It is critical to safeguard all panelists and speakers by making sure that they understand the purpose, content and format of the Youth Talk well in advance of their participation and that any concerns they may have are addressed adequately.
- 2 | Young people should be asked to participate in the event only if they are comfortable talking publicly about their or hearing about others' experiences with violence in and around schools. Moreover, appropriate support and supervision should be available and clearly identifiable to all participants from a trusted member of the host organization (or an appropriate partner organization) before, during and after the Talk.
  - a. Any panelists / speakers under the age of 18 should sign a consent form along with their parent or legal guardian. This consent form should detail their agreement to participate in the event and to any photo, video or media requests. Any requests to prevent the disclosure of personally-identifying information should be honored.
  - b. Prior to the event, all panelists and speakers should receive a full briefing about who else will participate, moderate and attend the Talk. Participants should have the opportunity to raise any questions and concerns they may have in advance. Panelists and speakers should also be made aware that the Talk will be attended by media outlets and that, should they feel uncomfortable with the direction of the Talk, they can decide to stop participating at any point.
  - c. Following the event, all participants should have the right to refuse additional media interviews or to elaborate on their stories or reflections in further detail.
- 3 | The moderator should strive to create a trusting environment in which all



participants and attendees feel safe to discuss violence in and around schools. The moderator and participants should agree in advance to adhere to certain guidelines regarding what types of question(s) youth participants feel comfortable answering, particularly where personal stories are concerned. Furthermore, the moderator should encourage a diversity of voices to be heard and be able to skillfully navigate questions and comments that arise from the audience. These qualities should be considered when choosing a moderator.

- 4 | Contact information for local child protection organizations should be readily available at your Youth Talk for any participants or attendees who express an interest in or a need for this type of support. We suggest handing out pamphlets to audience members or having this information clearly displayed at the venue.

For more information on strengthening children and young people's participation in advocacy events, please explore UNICEF's [Children as Advocates](#) handbook.





## 5 | Who to contact

If you decide to hold an #ENDviolence Youth Talk, please reach out to the UNICEF contacts below to be put in touch with the relevant focal points in your country and to ensure that the reflections and recommendations offered during your Talk are included in the deliberations for the global #ENDviolence Youth Manifesto.

**Co-Leads:** Siobhan Devine ([sidevine@unicef.org](mailto:sidevine@unicef.org)) and Rudina Vojvoda ([rvojvoda@unicef.org](mailto:rvojvoda@unicef.org))

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UNICEF is teaming up with DFID, UNESCO, other members of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and UNGEI to shed light on and spark action to #ENDviolence in and around schools. This toolkit is designed to help organizations develop and host #ENDviolence Youth Talks as part of this initiative.