

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



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

What children say about:

Violence in work situations

"How can I go to school? My mother is sick, my father is old; I have to support them."
12-year-old boy, Thailand.

"Every time our employer left the house, she would lock the doors and gates from the outside. She would put chains in the outer side of the grills, and then padlock everything."
17-year-old girl, the Philippines

"I used to work on the dumpsite from morning till evening just making 1,500 riels (around US\$0.4). With this small amount, I could not buy enough food for both my mother and myself. Sometimes I went hungry so my mother wouldn't be so weak and ill."
10-year-old girl, Cambodia

Violence on streets and in communities

"On the streets they would pull my hair and call me 'scavenger girl'. I would say, 'A scavenger is better than a glue sniffer!'"
12-year-old girl, Cambodia

"Here boys swear or fight with each other and then they go home and swear and fight with their mom and dad. Little kids see it and get scared, but later you can see they copy the boys."
14-year-old boy, Vanuatu

"The way to decrease violence is to work together with all our leaders in our village."
A young boy, Solomon Islands

Violence against children in conflict with the law

"Rights? Maybe we do not have that because we are still too young ..."
Child detained in jail in Davao, Philippines

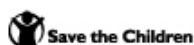
"The police told my uncle that they would release me for 5 million rupiah (US\$580) but my family didn't have the money. When he couldn't pay, they came into my detention cell and beat me."
16-year-old boy, awaiting trial, Indonesia

"As a young Mongolian I would like to say this: Stay away from alcohol and cigarettes and don't steal. My big regret is that I am passing away my youth in this manner."
16-year-old boy, serving a five year sentence for theft, Mongolia

Violence against children in cyberspace

"Chatting by using inappropriate language, such as sexually explicit language, is OK with young people because they do not see or talk to each other face to face."
Teenager, Thailand

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Cont.

What children say about:

Violence against children in homes

"My friend is just 13 years old. She cleans the house, washes the clothes and cooks for her family everyday but she is still regularly beaten up by her parents."

16-year-old girl, the Philippines

"I discovered that my stepfather was abusing my sister. I ran from the hut screaming 'Come and help us!' The people in the community took the matter to the local authority, but then our mother appealed to us, saying 'Please don't make me look a fool to the community.'"

10-year-old girl, Myanmar

"I ran away from home because I was whipped by my grandmother. She once put me inside a sack and 'smoked' me but I can't remember why. I am not loved."

13-year-old boy, Philippines

"My father sometimes gets angry. If he has been drinking, this anger turns to violence. I used to argue with him until I felt threatened, but then I would run away. One day, instead of arguing back, I put my arms around my father's legs and begged him not to be like this any more. I didn't want to fight, I didn't want to run."

Young boy, member of Children's Peace Club, Cambodia

Violence against children in institutions

"In addition to beating and hitting us our teacher also insults our family backgrounds. He says: 'You can just leave, you have nowhere else to go.'"

Young boy in institution, Mongolia

"You have got to help us...I was placed here at the home for protection because I was caught living on the streets. But now boys like me are mixed with the bad boys and now we can't even bathe or sleep properly because we are scared of getting stabbed, assaulted or something like that. Please help us, you have to talk to the Minister."

14-year-old boy in detention without charge, Fiji

Violence against children in schools

"Sometimes our teacher would whip us or pull our ears because we spoke our home language at school. When it happened to me I didn't want to go to school ever again."

Kalcot, 10, Vanuatu

"Senior officials really don't seem to know about how much violence there is in Fiji or how it really affects children. Especially at the highest office of the country. They ask us why is corporal punishment wrong and say, 'We don't have any evidence that it is bad.'"

Teenage boy, child advocate against violence, Fiji

