

STOP VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS!

THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF BULLYING

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Bullying is aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. It occurs across all geographic, racial and socioeconomic boundaries.

Bullying occurs when a student is subjected to negative behavior, repeated over a period of time, by another student or group of students.

TYPES OF BULLYING

Bullying can take many forms:

- **Direct Bullying:** teasing, verbal attacks, shoving, assaults, extortion, destruction of property.
- **Indirect Bullying:** shunning, spreading rumors, malicious practical jokes, and similar verbal and social behavior.
- **Cyber-Bullying:** use of Internet technology, including social websites, text messaging and e-mails.

Verbal bullying is the most common type of bullying experienced by both boys and girls. Boys are more likely to be physically bullied by their peers (*Olweus, 1993; Nansel et al., 2001*); girls are more likely to report being targets of rumorspreading and sexual comments (*Nansel et al., 2001*). Girls are also more likely than boys to bully each other using social exclusion (*Olweus, 2002*).

HOW COMMON IS BULLYING

80% of primary school students have been bullied, and the majority happen in the classroom ¹

CHILDREN WHO BULLY

Children who bully tend to have average or above average self-esteem. Other characteristics may include:

- Impulsive, hot-headed personalities
- Lack of empathy
- Difficulty conforming to rules
- Positive attitudes toward violence (*Olweus, 1993*)

¹ Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris Cognitive Science and Human Development Faculty Dean; STAR, 9 & 15 February 2004