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Record Item Title

Violence - Reference Book: Preparatory & Reference Documentation on the World Summit for Children (1990: July); Special Session for Children

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**Current Location** 

Rijuta Tooker (Temp Assist)

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Notes

[Archives: CF/NYH/SP/SUM; Folder: S0355.] Contents: Section 1: Members of the Planning Committee - Schedule of (remaining) meetings and activities; Section 2: Schedule and Programme of the World Summit for Children; Section 3: Draft Declaration of the World Summit for Children - Draft Plan of Action; Section 4: Report of Meetings: - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Meetings of the Planning Committee - Meetings of the Working Group on the Declaration - Statement of Agreement of the six Initiating Governments -

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# Global challenges/provocative questions

• Are children being turned into vectors of violence, rather than zones of tranquility?

• Can children be 'immunised against violence'?

• Can we help make non-violence an aspiration for children?

[Bring together various references (Conventions, platforms) addressing children, women and violence. In summary: right to freedom from fear].

### Identifying key transformations needed

- How do societies regard violence? What permits violence to occur?
  - Socially acceptable forms of violence
  - Socially unacceptable forms of violence

[Violence in war and armed conflict, in the family, sexual violence, violence and gender issues (models of masculinity and femininity), political violence, violence and social status, related to resource disparity/basic needs, as a form of problem-solving, verbal violence, violence in the media, violence and authority...]

- How do societies regard non-violence?
  - Associated with positive or negative role models? With spirituality and reconciliation? Consistent with the folk image of the society?

#### Where is UNICEF's role?

- In underlining that violence <u>always</u> impedes the child's development to his/her fullest potential.
- In addressing the causes and expressions of violence against children and women through programmatic interventions.

[Entry points might include: with adolescents, addressing violence and status issues, and developing one's own identity;

with *ECCD*, questions of violence and child survival; breaking cycles of violence within families; socialisation of boys and girls; education for conflict resolution; with different forms of *children's participation*, their aspirations vis-à-vis violence; promoting the concepts of human interdependence and working together; gender equality;

with armed conflict, preventing child recruitment; working for demobilisation and reintegration; for ratification of the landmines convention & related educational initiatives; broadening our own range of interlocutors; supporting the current anti-small arms trade initiative.

## Programme/advocacy strategies

- 1. Preventing violence against children and women by
- Strengthening its social unacceptability (principally among men and boys, at community level)
- Encouraging 'self-help' skills for women, children and men
- [Promoting steps to strengthen the family as a source of stability e'g' improved provision of childcare]
- Pursuing an antiwar agenda
- Promoting legislation which criminalizes violence against women and children and eliminates inequitable extenuating circumstances
- 2. Providing shelter from violence
- Drop-in centres/alternatives for children scared to return home
- Researching loci of violence (family, police stations, against marginalized)
- 3. Addressing consequences of violence
- Addressing PTSD and psychosocial needs
- Promoting (e.g.) medical 'entry points' to individual victims, leading to counselling and legal action
- Seeking legal redress mechanisms which are accessible to women and children