

# Prevent

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NEWSLETTER FOR THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION



With the publication of this fifth issue of the newsletter of WHO's Global Campaign for Violence Prevention, we mark the emergence of the Violence Prevention Alliance as a driving force behind the Global Campaign, as well as the launch of a new title and new look for the newsletter. We are also changing from paper to electronic format – so watch for us in your inbox!

## Council Of Europe Tackles Violence

The integrated project of the Council of Europe, *Responses to violence in everyday life in a democratic society*, aims to raise awareness among member governments of the extent of violence in everyday life, showing what can be done to prevent such violence and providing a set of policy recommendations. During 2003–2004, WHO has worked with the project's national correspondents to complete the final report and recommendations. The project will culminate in a ministerial conference in Oslo, Norway, in November 2004 at which Council of Europe member governments will be asked to adopt a resolution and a set of principles for an integrated policy response to violence in everyday life. For more information, please see [www.coe.int/T/E/Integrated\\_Projects/violence/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Integrated_Projects/violence/)

## Safety 2004 Conference a Huge Success

More than 1200 delegates representing 102 countries attended the 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion in Vienna, Austria on 6–9 June 2004. All forms of violence and all approaches to prevention were covered by the many excellent posters and presentations. These were largely descriptive studies attempting to

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## Violence Prevention Alliance Begins Work

### Alliance is open to all

In November 2004, the Violence Prevention Alliance will be open to any WHO Member State, as well as to other institutions, including nongovernmental and community-based groups. During its first eight months, the Violence Prevention Alliance was supported by 10 founding participant organizations who helped set up its framework. Participation in the Alliance is free and on a voluntary basis for any agency with a clear and demonstrated interest or expertise in preventing interpersonal violence and improving victim services through a public health approach. For more information, please visit [www.who.int/violenceprevention](http://www.who.int/violenceprevention)

## Guidelines for international cooperation

Fifteen representatives of seven of the core participants of the Violence Prevention Alliance met on 25 May 2004 at the offices of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in Eschborn, Germany, to design guidelines for violence prevention in international cooperation. The resulting document, tentatively entitled *Interpersonal violence prevention in international cooperation and development: a multisectoral approach*, will provide guidance – to both donor and recipient agencies – for incorporating interpersonal violence prevention into international cooperative agreements and activities.

The document will encourage a coordinated, science-based approach, guided by public health principles, for technical and financial support for violence prevention research, programming and policy. The guidelines are expected to be released by the end of February 2005.

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GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
CAMPAGNE MONDIALE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE  
VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE / ALLIANCE POUR LA PREVENTION DE LA VIOLENCE

The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) is a network of WHO Member State governments, nongovernmental and community-based organizations, and private, international and intergovernmental agencies working to prevent violence. VPA participants share a public health approach that targets the root causes and risk factors underlying the likelihood of an individual becoming involved in violence and recognizes the need for improved services to mitigate the harmful effects of violence when it does occur.

VPA activities aim to facilitate the development of policies, programmes and tools to implement the recommendations of the World report on violence and health in communities, countries, and regions around the world, and attempt to strengthen sustained, multisectoral cooperation around this shared vision for violence prevention.

define the magnitude and nature of violence. The 8th World Conference, to be held on 2-5 April 2006 in Durban, South Africa, is expected to have a strong focus on violence prevention as more projects move from descriptive research to activities involving the primary prevention of violence. For more information, please see [www.safety2006.info](http://www.safety2006.info)

### TEACH-VIP Pilot Testing Moving Ahead

More than 20 sites from around the world have signalled their interest in participating in the TEACH-VIP pilot testing phase. TEACH-VIP is a modular injury prevention and control curriculum that has been developed over several years by WHO and a global network of injury experts (see Newsletter No. 4). Pilot testing of the curriculum began in September 2004 and will run until June 2005. The curriculum is slated for general release in September 2005.

The modular nature of the curriculum, the fact that it is designed to be adapted to local priorities and realities, and its comprehensive coverage of topics related to injury and violence all contribute to making the curriculum a unique prevention tool at the global level. Violence-specific topics include: sexual and gender-based violence; child abuse and neglect; elder abuse; youth violence; suicide and self-inflicted harm; and collective violence.

WHO expects TEACH-VIP to play a central role in the Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention's strategic long-term plan for injury and violence capacity-building at the country level. For more information, please visit [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/national\\_capacity/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/national_capacity/en/)

### Secretary-General's Study On Violence Against Children

In 2001, acting on the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations General Assembly called for a Study on Violence

Against Children. The Study intends to catalyse global action by drawing together existing research and relevant information about the forms, causes and impact of violence against children up to the age of 18 years. It will also make suggestions on how to strengthen prevention efforts at local, national and international levels.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro to lead the study, working in close collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO. The study will also involve the participation of a range of other United Nations, governmental and nongovernmental organizations and other parts of civil society, including national human rights institutions. Governments have been asked to provide information on their efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children and a series of regional consultations is planned for 2005. Submissions from other sources are also solicited. For more information



More than 1200 delegates attended the Safety 2004 Conference in Vienna, Austria, on 6-9 June 2004

*“Please **share** with us your ideas and experiences; **challenge** our prevention strategies and initiatives; **express** your information needs in injury prevention; **combine** forces with us, so that we can all **work together** for the benefit and health of the citizens of Europe and of the whole world.”*

**Mr Horst Kloppenburg**, Directorate-General of Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission. Opening address, 7<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion—Safety 2004

Posters from the violence prevention poster series, *Violence in Red* and *Explaining away Violence*. Each series offers eight posters focusing on a different type of violence. Download or order the posters at [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/global\\_campaign/campaign/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/global_campaign/campaign/en/)



and instructions on how to submit information, see [www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/study.htm](http://www.unhcr.ch/html/menu2/6/crc/study.htm)

## Announcements

### WHO Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention Gets a New Look for Web Site

The web site of WHO's Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention is being reorganized to make it easier for visitors to find what they need – including publications for downloading, news on recent and forthcoming events in the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention,

information on current country work and collaborative activities, and the order form for the two poster series, *Violence in Red* and *Explaining Away Violence*. The site is at: [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/en/)

### Responding To Sexual Violence In Emergency Settings

In a joint effort by WHO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the 2002 document *Clinical management of*

*survivors of rape* is being revised based on feedback from pilot testing. The new guide, expected for release in late 2004, will be a resource for health care professionals that describes best practices for providing care to rape survivors in emergency settings and suggests how to adapt practices according to local policies, protocols and the availability of materials and medications. In 2003, WHO also published *Guidelines for medico-legal care for victims of sexual violence*. This document is currently being pilot tested and is available at [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/publications/violence/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/en/)

# Publications

*Preventing violence* responds to requests from Member States and others for a framework for implementing the six country-level recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*. The guide presents concepts, policy issues and actions to help countries develop a comprehensive national plan to prevent interpersonal violence. The publication is currently available in English, with a Spanish translation to follow.

*The economic dimensions of interpersonal violence*, a peer-reviewed report prepared by researchers from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and WHO, reviews the literature on the economic costs of interpersonal violence. The findings highlight the enormous costs of interpersonal violence and the limited but striking evidence for the cost-effectiveness of primary prevention programmes. The authors recommend that future research on the subject should develop a standardized methodology that includes both direct and indirect cost categories and permits comparisons across countries and settings. The report was launched on 9 June 2004 at the 7th World Conference in Vienna (see above). A review is available in *The Lancet*, 363(9426), 19 July 2004:2058.

*Guidelines for essential trauma care*, released in June 2004, provide clinicians, health planners and administrators with an adaptable template for strengthening country-level trauma treatment systems. These guidelines seek to set achievable standards for trauma treatment services that could realistically be made available to almost every injured person in the world. They are based on the premise that improvements in organization and planning can result in improvements in injury outcomes, with minimal increase in expenditures.

Publications can be downloaded from [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en/)



*“...Many who live with violence day in and day out assume that it is an intrinsic part of the human condition. But this is not so. Violence can be prevented. Violent cultures can be turned around. In my own country and around the world, we have shining examples of how violence has been countered. Governments, communities and individuals can make a difference.”*

**Nelson Mandela**, Foreword,  
*World report on violence and health*

*“...One of the major challenges in the years ahead... is to systematically establish a solid base of evidence about the costs of interpersonal violence in all societies, and then to feed this evidence into policy-making and advocacy where it can complement and strengthen moral arguments for the prevention of interpersonal violence. To do any less would mean that public health has failed to meet its obligations to promote health and safety for all.”*

**Dr Etienne Krug**, Director, WHO  
Department of Injuries and Violence  
Prevention. Foreword, *The economic dimensions of interpersonal violence*

## Recent Events

### **3–9 August 2004: International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)**

More than 600 medical students from 60 countries attended IFMSA's General Assembly in Ohrid, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. A keynote address by WHO's Coordinator for Violence Prevention, Dr Alex Butchart, as well as a series of workshops, lectures and other activities, introduced the theme of violence and health.

### **July 2004: Armed Violence Prevention Project**

Proposed project activities for Brazil and El Salvador were discussed at a meeting between representatives from headquarters, regional offices and country offices of WHO and the United Nations Development Programme.

### **12 July 2004: Launch of the *World report on violence and health* in Romania**

Some 80 participants attended the national launch of the *World report on violence and health* in Bucharest, an event jointly hosted by the Romanian National Agency for Family Protection, WHO and UNFPA and opened by the Minister of Health.

### **24 May 2004: Onex Santé roundtable event**

Onex Santé, a community health promotion centre in the Swiss canton of Geneva and a member of WHO's Global Network of Healthy Cities, hosted an event, open to the public, entitled "Violence: between prevention and solution". The participants – violence prevention practitioners from across the canton – described the particular circumstances of the populations they serve, their approaches to violence prevention, and ways to strengthen the links between their agencies. The event also featured an exhibition of WHO's violence prevention posters (see page 3).

## Looking Ahead

- Jamaica's Ministry of Health will launch the Jamaican Chapter of the Violence Prevention Alliance on 12 November 2004, at a research symposium at the University of the West Indies entitled "The impact of violence on the health services: the role of prevention".
- Over the next two years, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Thailand will produce national reports on violence and health, with assistance from the WHO Kobe Centre for Health Development in Japan [www.who.or.jp/](http://www.who.or.jp/)
- With the slogan "For the health of women, for the health of the world: no more violence", this year's annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign encourages participating organizations around the world to stage events stressing the impact of violence on women's physical, reproductive, sexual, emotional and social health. The 16 days of the campaign, from 25 November to 10 December, cover International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November), World AIDS Day (1 December) and International Human Rights Day (10 December). To highlight the links between these issues, participants are being asked to address the relationship between violence against women and HIV/AIDS during this year's activities. For more information, and to access the 2004 Take Action Kit prepared by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, visit [www.cwgl.rutgers.edu](http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu)

Prevent will be produced three times per year in three languages and can be downloaded from our website: [www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/en](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en)

To request print copies of the newsletter, please contact us at: [violenceprevention@who.int](mailto:violenceprevention@who.int)