


**Assisting Teen Peer Culture
to Resist Dating Violence**

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Crossroads Nonviolence Education

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*When we show our respect for other living things,
they respond with respect for us.*

-Arapaho Proverb



**The World we Have Passed on
is the World we are Living in**

- Take responsibility for our actions, doing so we model the change we wish to see for and from children and youth in our communities.
- Promote empathy and understanding

The belief of Sovereignty for our Nations and Safety for our Communities can be viewed as a strong foundation for supporting safety and sovereignty for children & youth and their non-offending primary care givers.

Children Deserve an Opportunity to Grow and Thrive in Safe and Nurturing Environments

- Our communities are not always safe
- Our community members are not always healthy
- We have not always had the best role models
- We have not always been the best role models

This is not an excuse, more a path to empathy and understanding

Defining the Reality

Perceptions define the effects on the community

Exposed to Violence
Making someone aware, educating

Witnessing Violence
See, Hear and Be Present at (spectator, bystander, observing)

Experiencing Violence
Personally encountering, undergoing

Example:

Think about how someone may learn about Auto Accidents

Duluth Children's Wheel



Effects are Varied Based on:

- Their interpretation of the event
- Having to learn to survive in fear and stress
- Availability and use of supportive resources
- Having access to that support

Children Are Gifts From The Creator

- Traditionally they are placed in our care
- We have a responsibility to care for them and grow them well
- When we harm the Mother, we harm the Child
- Children are our most valuable resource
- Undervaluing children undermines our future

Create a Climate of Change for the Behavior

- Encourage activities that promote cooperation and camaraderie
- Model and Teach non-violent conflict resolution
- Teach jealousy is not love and love is not control and ownership
- Acknowledge that we too had to learn that anger is merely an emotion and that verbal & emotional cruelty and physical and sexual violence are actions
- Model taking responsibility and encourage respect for differences
- Listen to their voices, but don't necessarily talk like them
- Find time and energy for them

Undervaluing Children and Youth

- Corrupting
- Intruding
- Cruelty
- Physically Abusing
- Sexually Abusing
- Abusing Others
- Ignoring
- Absence
- Neglecting

Team with youth to turn these dynamics around

Holistic Support

Promote and provide healthy cultural and traditional opportunities and activities, to balance out the never ending flow of modernity.

Catch them doing things right, we are often better at catching them doing things wrong.

Enlist their help and support their efforts and endeavors.

Use gender balanced teams to model the balance of power.

Teach our daughters, granddaughters, and nieces; that respect alone is a minimum expectation-

Teach our sons, grandsons, and nephews: ***the same truth***



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