



#ENDviolence Youth Manifesto

The youth manifesto calls on world leaders to end violence in and around schools.



Photo © Barbara Davidson for End Violence





The **Youth Manifesto** was written on December 1st, 2018 by more than 100 young people from around the world. These young people gathered at the Junior Chamber International (JCI) African Youth Development Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, at a session facilitated by UNICEF, Global Citizen, JCI and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children ahead of the Global Citizen Mandela 100 Festival. The Manifesto draws on the input of one million young people who responded to a global poll conducted by UNICEF.



OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

Diversity & tolerance

Equality is the foundation of promoting diversity and tolerance in schools. Equality should be taught and demonstrated at home and reinforced in schools. We must recognize that we are all equal. Our differences, including culture, gender, identity, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, race, ethnicity, migration status, and religion make us unique and should be celebrated rather than divide us. Our curricula, teachers, society, media, and institutions like government, bear a responsibility to promote, practice, teach and ensure that schools are a safe and inclusive space for everyone. They have responsibility to remove and prevent stigma that holds us back from equality in the classroom and in the world.

Protection for all students

In keeping with the principle of peaceful, respectful coexistence, and as institutions through which change can be made, schools, in collaboration with parents, peers and society at large, must **care for, support and protect all students**—those who experience violence and those who engage in violent behaviour.



WE COMMIT

Being kind

We commit to being respectful and careful in how we treat our community and to speak up when it is safe to do so. Kindness is a responsibility that begins with each of us.

Reporting violence

We commit to breaking taboos and the victimization around reporting violence. We will seek out trusted authorities such as teachers, counsellors, community representatives and other students when we witness or learn of violence in and around school. We also commit to creating youth-led channels for reporting violence.

Taking action

We commit to start and support initiatives that will promote unity, curiosity, and mutual respect at home, in school, and in our communities—including online. We will protect each other and have each other's backs.





WE DEMAND

Take us seriously

We demand that our parents, guardians, school as an institution, policymakers, and communities recognize our essence of being, our equality, our right to dignity, our right to exist in harmony in environments that are free of violence in all its forms. We demand that where violence may exist it must be addressed with the required urgency, without placing the burden on the child.

Establish clear rules

We demand the protection and prevention of all forms and levels of violence in schools governed by clear rules, regulations, and action plans to enable reform and recourse for a safe learning environment for all.

Make laws restricting weapons

We demand that policymakers pass and implement laws restricting the presence and use of any objects as weapons in schools, including but not limited to guns and knives.

Ensure our safety to and from school

We demand safety on our journey to and from school. We don't want anyone to harm us in any way. We also demand to be protected by the law, and punishment for the lawbreakers.

Provide secure school facilities

We demand safe learning environments, including buildings and grounds, playing fields, and fixed equipment. We want hallways, classrooms, and bathrooms with gender neutral options to be adequately lit. We expect security measures like gates, cameras, and properly trained security personnel where appropriate. School staff and students need instruction about what to do in the case of an emergency.

Train teachers and counsellors

We demand that teachers and counsellors undertake on-going training and are able to identify, respond to, support and refer learners who are affected by issues of school-based violence to appropriate services. Training should equip teachers and counsellors to be emotionally intelligent, to deal with inclusivity and diversity issues and to provide positive discipline for all children.

Teach consent and respond to sexual violence

We demand that all schools teach all students, regardless of age, gender identity, sex, disability, religion, race and sexual orientation, to respect one another's physical and sexual boundaries. All schools must provide accessible and reliable means of reporting cases of sexual harassment and assault (be it physical, psychological, emotional and/or verbal) as enshrined within school governing documents/policies which must be inclusive.

