

INNOVATIVE PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN BRAZIL

Brazil is a country of continental proportions whose many states and geographic regions feature the dynamics of profound inequalities, which make it even more complex and challenging to find solutions to problems that impact the lives of the population.

Given the circumstances, we shine a light on the complexities revealed by qualitative research on preventing and combating violence against children and adolescents, including social vulnerability, regional, gender, and racial inequalities, and the ways that families are organized as centres of protection. This violence has serious consequences for the physical, psychological, and sexual health of children and adolescents, which prevents their full development and leads to irregular school attendance, early school leave and high dropout rates.

35 K

Children and adolescents aged 19 and under were violently killed in Brazil between 2016 and 2020.
- Unicef

81%

Of the adolescents (aged 10 to 19) victims of lethal violence are black.
- Unicef

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1 OUT OF 10

Children with disabilities have experienced sexual violence.
- The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health

In addition to preventing children and adolescents from fully developing, this violence also impacts the economy by lowering the productive capacity of the population and increasing the costs of compensatory policies. Other conditions of vulnerability such as poverty, misery, and hunger also prevent children and adolescents from taking advantage of institutional facilities and programs that offer assistance and protection. This violence against children and adolescents is not uniform, but rather, is expressed and impacts victims in different ways and to varying degrees in terms of inequalities of gender, race/colour, ethnicity, social class, and disabilities, among other social markers.

In order to build a less violent country and provide safer environments for children and adolescents, society and governments need to work together to prevent violence by reducing its related risk factors. National public policies to prevent violence must be created and implemented in cities and towns nationwide, providing interventions which are both intersectoral and based on best available evidence.

Following are ten innovative Brazilian experiences with violence prevention which are building a less violent country for children and adolescents, now and in the future.

THE INNOVATION IN PREVENTION MAP

“It is the duty of the family, society and the state...with absolute priority...to guard children and adolescents from all forms of negligence, discrimination, exploitation, violence, cruelty and oppression” (Article 227 of Brazil’s Federal Constitution). The prevention of violence against children and adolescents is a legal imperative provided for in the Statute of Children and Adolescents (ECA - Federal Law 8.069/1990) and assigns to the family, state, and society the responsibility to prevent the occurrence of threats to or violation of the rights of children and adolescents (ECA, Article 70).

Accordingly, interventions to prevent violence are a shared responsibility, whose investment should be a budgeting priority in public policies, programs, services, and materials, and should include coordinated and intersectoral actions.

Following are ten innovative practices for preventing violence against children and adolescents.

DIGITAL CITIZEN PROGRAM - NATIONWIDE

Training of young mobilizers aged 19-25 in digital security, media education, and digital citizenship issues, in addition to promoting remote educational actions for these subjects across the country with public school educators and teens aged 13-17. Remote training and education for teens aged 13-17.

new.safernet.org.br

GROW WITHOUT VIOLENCE PROJECT - NATIONWIDE

Implementation of a methodological audiovisual project for confronting sexual violence. It also uses print materials and flow training to equip the public assistance network.

[Institutional presentation](#)

PACT FOR PEACE - SEVERAL LOCATIONS

Socio-emotional education for children and adolescents. The institute uses evidence-based methodologies that support the entire socio-emotional formation of children and adolescents.

institutocidadessegura.com.br/tag/pacto-pela-paz/





● NAVIGATE, DON'T SINK - PA

Raising awareness and clarifying the importance of identifying, preventing, and combating sexual violence against children and adolescents in the school community. Also strengthens the role of the school in relation to the provisions of Article 245 of the ECA.

[Institutional presentation](#)

● INTEGRATED CENTRE OF CHILD AND ADOLESCENT RIGHTS - BA

Implementation of a single structure comprising every agency in the child and adolescent protection network.

[Institutional contacts](#)

● MENINADANÇA - MG/BA

Working with girls who are highly vulnerable, at risk, or victims of sexual abuse and exploitation in communities along the BR-116 federal highway. The program offers a place where the girls can be sheltered, conducts interventions with families, and organizes campaigns with the community.

www.meninadanca.org

● CUNHATAÍ IKHÃ PROJECT - BA

Education for indigenous girls that includes indigenous law, racial discrimination, and female empowerment. Promotes leadership and raises awareness through campaigns for indigenous education.

www.instagram.com/meninas.naluta

● SHELTER PROGRAMS - SP

Shelters for child and adolescent victims of abuse or mistreatment, or who are living on the street, in addition to mothers or expectant mothers.

www.santafe.org.br

● PORTAL NAAPA - SP

Implementation of a communication tool between students and educators, which is designed to provide continuous monitoring of child and adolescent victims of violence.

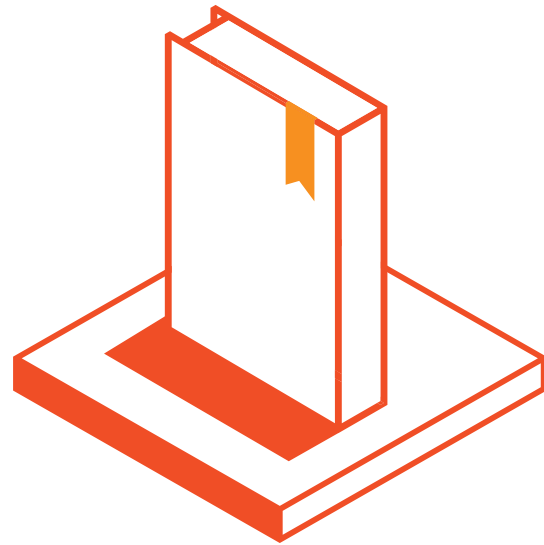
educacao.sme.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/noticias/category/naapa/

● FIGHT FOR PEACE - RJ

Boxing, martial arts, education, employability, and citizenship classes in communities affected by inequality and violence, helping young people to develop and contribute to building safe and inclusive societies.

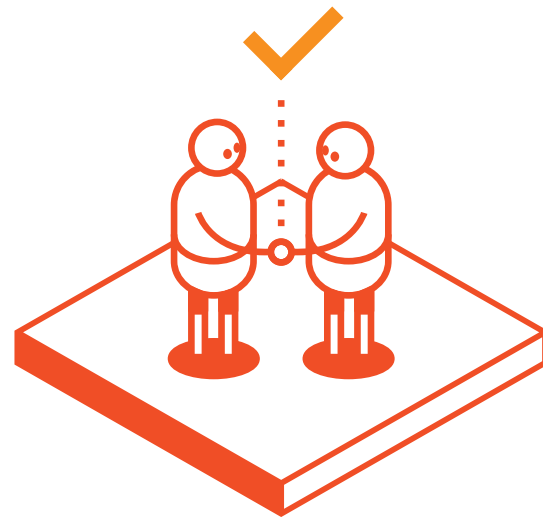
lutapelapaz.org

INNOVATION PATHWAYS



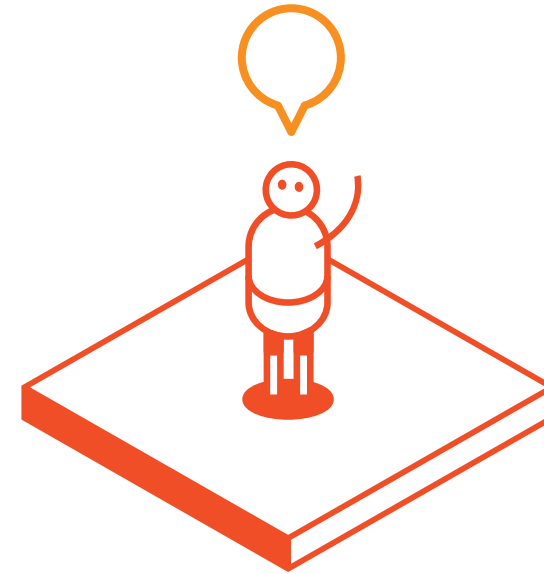
EDUCATE

Art education as a means to affirm that children and adolescents have rights, to help identify the violence they have suffered, to show how they can exercise their rights, and to discover the assistance available to them.



LISTEN

Close proximity relationship with the community being served, to develop an active, sensitive, and present ear in the daily lives of the participants.



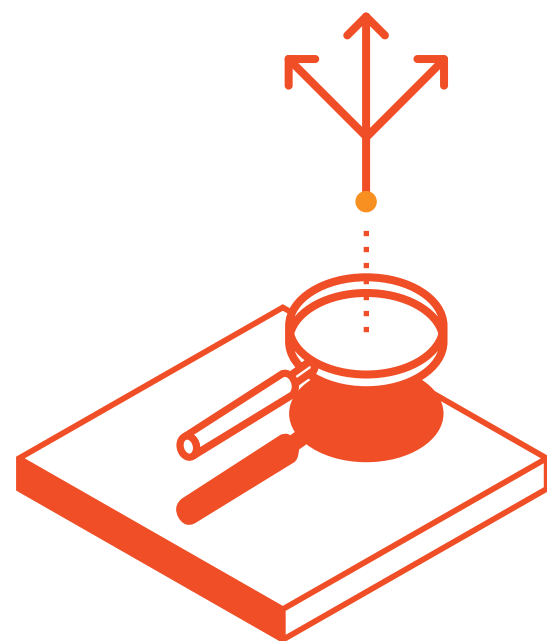
PARTICIPATION

Participation of children, adolescents, and young people in decision-making processes, including discussions on the rules and operation of projects, initiatives, services, and programs for preventing violence.



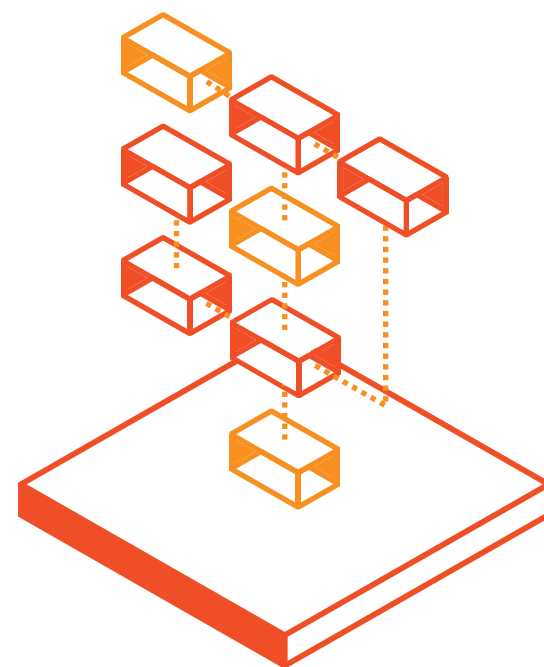
MONITOR

Post-assistance practices, whether within the family environment or as opportunities for continuing education and access to housing and employment, aimed at monitoring children, young people, and adolescents who are victims of multiple violence and rights violations.



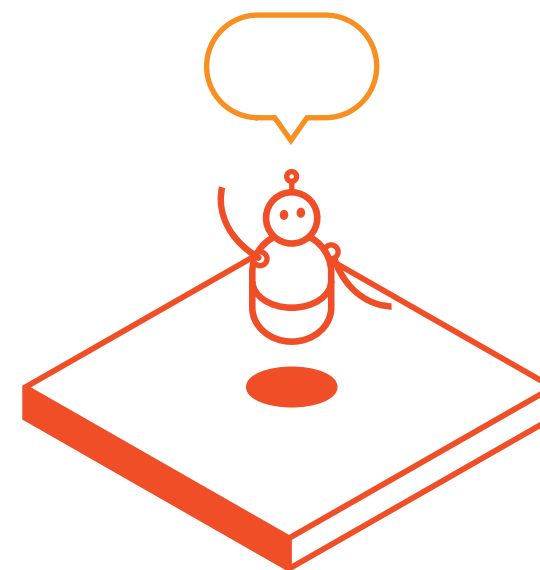
DIAGNOSIS

A broad situational analysis of the child and adolescent assistance network in the municipality, designed to identify possible gaps and develop a work plan for actions to implement Law 13,431/17.



STRUCTURE

Specialized equipment and structures for carrying out and adopting the methodologies to take special testimony from child and adolescent victims of or witnesses to violence, with trained interviewers in compliance with National Council of Justice (CNJ) resolution 299/2019 and Justice and Public Safety System regulations, in order to avoid occurrences of revictimization.



CHATBOT

Chatbot technology with friendly and accessible language for children and adolescents as a tool for reporting violence and providing guidance.



SYSTEMATIZATION

Public database with the systematization of “good practices”, increasing the potential for the multiplication of innovative initiatives.

SEVEN STRATEGIES FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE BRAZILIAN CONTEXT

The INSPIRE package offers ideas for tested, effective, and promising approaches to end violence against children and adolescents, based on the best available evidence.

| | |
|--|---|
| SAFETY OF THE ENVIRONMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduction of violence by acting in “critical areas”Interruption of the spread of violenceImprovement of urban space |
| SUPPORT FOR PARENTS, MOTHERS, AND CAREGIVERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Through home visitsThrough community groupsThrough comprehensive programs |
| STANDARDS AND VALUES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Change in adherence to restrictive social and gender normsCommunity mobilization programsWitness interventions |

| | |
|--|--|
| IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Laws that prohibit fathers, mothers, teachers, or other caregivers from inflicting violent punishment on childrenLaws that criminalize sexual abuse and exploitation of childrenLaws that prevent the misuse of alcoholLaws that limit youth access to firearms and other weapons |
| INCREASE IN INCOME AND FINANCIAL STRENGTH | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Income transfersSavings and loan associations combined with education for gender equityMicrofinance combined with education on gender norms |
| RESPONSE OF CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Therapeutic counseling and supportCase tracking combined with interventionsTreatment programs for young people in conflict with the law in the justice system |
| EDUCATION AND SKILLS FOR LIFE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increasing enrollment in preschool, primary, and secondary schoolsCreating a safe and nurturing school environmentImproving children’s knowledge of sexual abuse and ways to protect themselvesSocial and life skills trainingPrograms aimed at adolescents to prevent intimate partner violence |



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS TO BUILD A LESS VIOLENT COUNTRY

1

Increase investments in research, studies, and the evaluation of the impacts of prevention projects and programs to better understand violence against children and adolescents, and the production of data that support the creation of intersectoral programs to prevent this scourge.

2

Accelerate the implementation processes of Law 13,431/2017, which, by establishing the System of Guaranteed Rights of child and adolescent victims of or witnesses to violence, focuses on Brazil's responses to this issue, with a view to improving the integration of services through the creation of coordination instruments at the local (municipal) level, establishing Integrated Service flows and protocols, and implementing case management systems for incidents of violence.

3

Consolidation of the National Policy for the Promotion, Protection, and Defense of Child and Adolescent Rights, through the renewal of the Ten-Year Plan for the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents, with consequent revisions of sectoral plans.

4

Increase budgetary allocations for policies and programs focused on preventing violence against children and adolescents, based on evidence and on the INSPIRE technical package of the "Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and Adolescents".

5

Promoting the participation of children and adolescents in the discussion, development, and social control of programs and policies to prevent and confront violence, based on the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, and social groups.

ABOUT US

The **Brazilian Coalition to End Violence against Children and Adolescents** (Coalizão Brasileira pelo Fim da Violência contra Crianças e Adolescentes) began in 2017 and currently coordinates approximately 50 civil society organizations, forums, and networks which are dedicated to preventing and confronting violence against children and adolescents in Brazil. It was responsible for the Brazilian government's adherence to the **Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**, an initiative launched by the United Nations in 2015 to promote actions for achieving **Target 16.2** of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs): End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

The Brazilian Coalition works on advocacy and strategies to coordinate, mobilize, and engage with civil society and governments for the expansion of public investment in interventions to prevent violence, based on evidence and guidelines from the INSPIRE package, which offers seven globally tested strategies to prevent and confront violence against children and adolescents.

This study was co-funded by Fundação José Luiz Egydio Setúbal, and the research was conducted by the non-profit Serenas - Effective Rights for Girls and Women.

Realization



Co-funded



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