



Culture of Peace: Transforming the School Environment

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What is SDG 16?



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Goal 16 is about promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. People everywhere should be free of fear from all forms of violence and feel safe as they go about their lives whatever their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation.

Why should I care?

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law. Governments, civil society and communities need to work together to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive participation at all times



How does this apply to where I live?

- Goal 16 aligns with the broader human rights framework by promoting societies that respect and uphold individual rights, as well as the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information.
- Peace is a fundamental precondition for social and economic development. Without peace, societies are often plagued by conflict, violence, and instability, which can hinder progress and result in the loss of lives and resources.
- Equal access to justice is essential for protecting the rights of individuals, resolving disputes, and ensuring that vulnerable populations are not marginalized or mistreated.
- Crimes threatening peaceful societies, including homicides, trafficking and other organized crimes, as well as discriminatory laws or practices, affect all countries.

What can we do?

Exercise your rights to hold your elected officials to account, to freedom of information and share your opinion with your elected representatives. Promote inclusion and respect towards people of different ethnic origins, religions, gender, sexual orientations or different opinions.

What if we don't take action?

- Armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long-standing grievances among communities.
- Lack of access to justice means that conflicts remain unresolved and people cannot obtain protection and redress. Institutions that do not function according to legitimate laws are prone to arbitrariness and abuse of power, and less capable of delivering public service to everyone.
- To exclude and to discriminate not only violates human rights, but also causes resentment and animosity, and could give rise to violence.

Our school: A place for peace?

- Does our school environment promote peace and inclusion?
- What problems of violence or exclusion have you seen or heard about?



Let's list and categorize challenges together

Reflection activity: "How does this affect me?"



- In pairs, share how situations of violence or exclusion impact you personally.
- Write one sentence about how you want to transform the school.
- How do you feel in moments of exclusion or inclusion?
- What can we do to improve our school?

Why should I care?

Do these challenges exist in our school?

- School violence statistics.
- Exclusion and discrimination.
- Racism and sexism.



Using technology to promote peace



- In groups, brainstorm how to adapt or create tech solutions for our school.



Spreading the message through art

- "Be creative and impactful. Think about what inspires others."



- Create a poster or slogan promoting peace and inclusion.
- Use phrases like 'Peace Begins with Empathy' or 'Our School, Our Responsibility.'

Reflection and commitment

- How can we apply what we learned today in practice?
- What changes will you lead in school starting tomorrow?

"Be creative and impactful. Think about what inspires others."



Thank You!

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