Victory Over Violence (VOV) is a movement to help inspire young people throughout the world to identify and root out violence in their daily lives and in their communities and is in support of the United Nations “Culture of Peace” initiative.

VOV is inspired by universal principles of nonviolence and respect for all living beings. Its goal is to contribute to a culture of peace through awareness, introspection, individual empowerment and a courageous and creative commitment to dialogue. It encourages respect, trust and friendship among young people, families, schools and communities across all boundaries such as race, religion and culture.

The VOV movement begins with you. Starting on the personal level, we will collectively build a culture of peace worldwide. Visit the VOV.com website and launch your personal peace movement today!

Launch Your Personal Peace Movement Today!

www.vov.com
**What Is Passive Violence?**

Passive violence fuels the fire of physical violence. If we want to put out the fire of physical violence we have to cut off the fuel supply.

Passive violence is when physical violence is beforehand.

**Physical Violence**

Passive violence is when physical violence is beforehand.

If we know how much passive violence we perpetrate against one another, we will understand why there is so much physical violence plaguing societies and the world.

- **Mahatma Gandhi**

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**Passive Violence**

Passive violence is when physical violence is beforehand.

**Psychological Abuse** - ranging from propaganda to teasing —is intended to undermine the fundamental dignity of a person or group.

Kids who feel powerless and rejected are capable of doing horrible things.

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The use of force or authority.

- Oppression can come in many forms including economic, cultural, social, religious and political.

**Apathy/Indifference**

Choosing to do nothing when there is violence in our environment.

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**Columbine High School**

Welcome Back!

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were frequently picked on and excluded by other students at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. Apparently, this cruelty occurred every day and nobody tried to stop it. On April 20, 1999, the two boys shot and killed twelve students, a teacher and themselves.

When we are continually subjected to passive violence, including being excluded from cliques, we can react to physical violence.
OPPRESSION
/
Suppression

OPPRESSION is the unjust use of force or authority. Inhumane laws and behaviors based on economics, gender, race, culture, religion or politics are some of the forms oppression can take.

Anti-Black laws operated primarily in the American South from the 1870s to the 1960s. Under this racial caste system, Whites could mistreat, beat, rape and even lynch Blacks with little fear of legal recourse. Such violence maintained the social order. Today Jim Crow laws have been eliminated, but racism continues to thrive.

It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority.

Benjamin Franklin
and a portrait of Martin Luther King Jr.

APATHY
/
Indifference

Choosing to do nothing when there is injustice or violence in our environment is a common form of passive violence.

Many German religious leaders, fearing persecution by the Nazi state, swore allegiance to Adolf Hitler. Those that protested were arrested, because Hitler was successful at creating jobs, revitalizing the economy and restoring military strength to the country. Most Germans were indifferent to this religious persecution.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Indifference to injustice empowered Hitler’s reign of terror.
WHAT IS PASSIVE VIOLENCE IN THE HOME?

Emotional, psychological, and financial abuse are forms of passive violence that can lead to criminal violence. Passive domestic violence includes intimidation, withholding money or resources, name-calling, and put-downs.

Abuse: Constant criticism, belittling, destruction of personal property, accusations and threats erode self-esteem. Such behaviors can generate feelings of anger, uncertainty, and hatred.

Threats to hit or kill another person, to leave, to take away children or to withdraw financial support can cause a victim to live in constant fear.

Cycle of Abuse

Tension Building
Tension increases, breakdown of communication, victim feels the need to placate the abuser.

Incident
Verbal and emotional abuse, anger, blaming, arguing, threats, and intimidation.

Reconciliation
Abuser apologizes, gives excuses, blames the victim, denies the abuse occurred or says it wasn’t as bad as the victim claims.

Calm
Incident is “forgotten,” no abuse is taking place.

WHAT IS PASSIVE VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS?

Passive violence in schools includes various forms of disrespect and forced exclusion. Bullying, teasing, intimidation, conning a student out of money, ignoring a request for help, protecting a student for a fee and sabotaging a friendship are only a few examples. Teenagers are particularly vulnerable to mistreatment from classmates.

A government study says that 71 percent of students responsible for violent school attacks felt bullied or persecuted by classmates.

There is a 28% dropout rate among gay, lesbian, and bisexual students due to harassment and verbal attacks. A 1995 Health and Human Services study shows that gay and lesbian youth account for 30% of all teen suicides.

If you go to school, and people make fun of you every day, and you don’t have friends, it drives you to insanity.

Jason Sanchez
New York City, Age 17

Youth Suicide
Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students and the third leading cause of death among 5 to 24 year olds. It is estimated that one of every five high school students has thought seriously about trying suicide, and one in four has made an actual attempt.

What is the little stuff? The little stuff is guilt-tripping, eye-rolling, name-calling, teasing,frmaliy, and pete-talking. If the little stuff is allowed at home, at school, or in the office, the big stuff will be allowed. It all starts with the little stuff, but know what, punching, and lighting.

Draw Reactions: 1995 Health and Human Services Study

Teenage Suicide
Teen suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students and the third leading cause of death among 5 to 24 year olds. It is estimated that one of every five high school students has thought seriously about trying suicide, and one in four has made an actual attempt.
WHAT IS PASSIVE VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY?

Examples of non-physical violence in the community include certain kinds of hate crime, road rage, and threats. Indifference towards the violence in one’s environment is also passive violence.

Road Rage: Some people feel free to release their inner anger while driving. Incidents range from shouts and hand gestures to attempting to run another motorist off the road. In its most extreme form, road rage can lead to death.

Indifference: I’m generally a mild-mannered guy, but the road rage I’ve experienced is one of the worst things I’ve ever been witness to. Just one tiny step, mere being consumed by rage. Any encounter with the stupid behavior of fellow drivers is immediately perceived as targeting me. And that’s one of the nastiest things I’ve ever been witness to.

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It is a flash point where you forget that the other person is a person. It reduces us to our primitive animal level: flight or fight.

– Thom Cavali

Real dialogue involves both truthful speech and active listening. Through dialogue we can cut through superficial differences and come to recognize our common humanity. When we see ourselves in other people it is hard to take violent action against them.

If we want to live in a peaceful environment, free of violence, we must actively reach out to others. We cannot live in isolation thinking only of ourselves. The actions we take in our lives will affect the way the people in our environment respond to us.

Throughout the United States, grassroots Jewish-Palestinian dialogue circles aim to educate each other and promote peace. One organizer says, “We couldn’t stand reading the paper and feeling like we weren’t doing anything about it.”
A school shooting in San Diego, California, inspired Adam Schiffer, a high school senior, to develop a non-violence youth seminar. Other Southern California youngsters have begun anti-bullying and tolerance groups.

18 year old Kimmie Weeks was born in the war-torn West African nation of Liberia. At age 10, he decided to make a difference. He founded two children's organizations to fight for the rights of children. In 1996, he launched a successful campaign to get guns out of the hands of child soldiers.

After the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Carol Adams decided to do something. She founded an organization called the Peacemakers’ ARK, “ Acknowledge and Reward Kids.” Today over 400 children take part in the program designed to teach the skills necessary to resolve conflicts with talking rather than with violence.

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We have to do the change we wish to see. We can’t wait for the other person to change. We have to change individually and collectively. For generations, we have been waiting for the other person to change. Now we have to do it ourselves. The change we cannot be legislated; it must come out of personal conviction.

— Mahatma Gandhi (1909)