# GLOBAL STRATEGIES TO REDUCE VIOLENCE BY 50% IN 30 YEARS

**FINDINGS FROM THE WHO AND UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE GLOBAL VIOLENCE REDUCTION CONFERENCE 2014**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# FOREWORD

The overarching goal of reducing violence by 50% in the next 30 years is a much-needed rallying point for the global violence prevention community. Achieving this goal, especially in the most affected societies, will require sustained intersectoral collaboration and concerted action. We should join forces in establishing global baselines and specifying targets for global violence reduction in the next 30 years, identifying the scientific and political prerequisites for having those baselines and targets fully owned by national stakeholders, and preparing a road map for action. At the Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014, which was jointly organised by the Violence Research Centre at the University of Cambridge and the World Health Organization's Department for Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability and funded by the UBS Optimus Foundation, we convened leading experts to identify the essential ingredients for a global violence reduction strategy. The conference was a platform to share knowledge and ideas between scholars and representatives of international organisations, as well as civil society and philanthropic bodies, to support decision makers in their efforts to prevent and respond to violence.

This report combines the accumulated expertise from the Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 in a synthesis of findings and recommendations to enhance the impact of policy-making. It comes at a critical juncture in time: In May 2014, the 194 Member States of the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution entitled "Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children". This resolution calls for the development of a global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system in addressing interpersonal violence. Moreover, recognising that violence has a major negative impact on development and human well-being, the current draft of the United Nations post-2015 development goals includes "peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective and capable institutions" as a core development goal. To further the political momentum towards reducing violence by 50% in the next 30 years, we need a better understanding of the evidence base and its policy relevance. The report is promoting this end.

Manuel Eisner – University of Cambridge, Director of the Violence Research Centre, Deputy Director of the Institute of Criminology and Professor of Comparative and Developmental Criminology at the Institute of Criminology

Christopher Mikton – World Health Organization, Prevention of Violence Technical Officer at the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability

Alexander Butchart - World Health Organization, Prevention of Violence Coordinator at the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability

Patricia Lannen - UBS Optimus Foundation, Programme Director of Child Protection

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## FINDINGS FROM THE GLOBAL VIOLENCE REDUCTION CONFERENCE 2014

Is it possible to cut worldwide levels of interpersonal violence in half within the coming 30 years? This question was at the centre of the first Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014, jointly organised by the University of Cambridge and the World Health Organization. The conference lured experts out of their comfort zone, asking to reflect on big strategies to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. It brought together 150 leading representatives from international organisations, academia, civil society institutions and philanthropic organisations to discuss how scientific knowledge can contribute to the advancement of this violence reduction goal. The main message of the conference was that a global violence reduction by 50% in the next 30 years is achievable if policy makers harness the power of scientific evidence on violence reduction.

The WHO and University of Cambridge Global Violence Reduction Conference came at a critical juncture in time to create further political momentum for the Global Violence Prevention Field. On 24 May 2014 the 67th World Health Assembly adopted a historic resolution entitled "Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children". The resolution has taken the 20-year long commitment of the WHO to global violence prevention to a new level: It calls on the WHO to prepare a global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system in addressing interpersonal violence within the coming two years. Also, the WHO is requested to strengthen efforts to develop the scientific evidence on magnitude, trends, health consequences, and risk and protective factors for violence, to support member states by providing technical assistance, and finalise its global status report on violence prevention in 2014.

Even more significantly, the current draft of the United Nations post-2015 development goals includes "peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions" as core goals for the coming 15 years. Specific targets include "to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere", to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children", and to "promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all". If adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in early 2015, the world community of nations will commit itself to taking concerted global action to reduce violence in all its forms.

The Global Violence Reduction Conference provided an academic complement to the WHO's "Milestones in a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention" meetings with the aim to review the recent policy progress and define targets for the Global Violence Prevention Field. On 17-19 September 2014 experts convened at King's College, Cambridge to identify the existing knowledge and develop policy recommendations to support the goals of the Global Violence Prevention Field. This report aims to contribute to the development of a global road map for reducing violence with a set of policy recommendations that have been discussed at the first Global Violence Reduction Conference. The conference findings are grouped into six key policy recommendations that are each accompanied by a number of findings.

### KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Tackle the Biggest Problem Areas First: Focus on Low- and Middle-Income Countries, Hot Spots and Top Violent Cities

2. Stop the Reinvention of the Wheel: Disseminate, Adapt and Replicate Best Practices Globally

3. Harness the Power of Big Data in Violence Reduction: Develop Data Scope, Access and Standards

4. Protect the Most Vulnerable: Focus on Children, Youth and Women

5. Institutional Context Matters: Improve Leadership, Governance and Policies for Violence Prevention

6. The Whole is Bigger than the Sum of its Parts: Create Global Strategic Alliances to Prevent Violence

# KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

**1.**

**TACKLE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM AREAS FIRST:**

FOCUS ON LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES, HOT SPOTS AND TOP VIOLENT CITIES

**2.**

**STOP THE REINVENTION OF THE WHEEL:**

DISSEMINATE, ADAPT AND REPLICATE BEST PRACTICES GLOBALLY

**3.**

**HARNESS THE POWER OF BIG DATA IN VIOLENCE REDUCTION:**

DEVELOP DATA SCOPE, ACCESS AND STANDARDS

**4.**

**PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE:**

FOCUS ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND WOMEN

**5.**

**INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT MATTERS:**

IMPROVE LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

**6.**

**THE WHOLE IS BIGGER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS:**

CREATE GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

**1.**

**TACKLE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM AREAS FIRST:**
FOCUS ON LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES, HOT SPOTS AND TOP VIOLENT CITIES

**2.**

**STOP THE REINVENTION OF THE WHEEL:**
DISSEMINATE, ADAPT AND REPLICATE BEST PRACTICES GLOBALLY

- Partner with philanthropies that have the advantage of "patient capital" to evaluate and implement violence prevention programmes in low- and middle-income countries

- Introduce specialised degree programmes that teach scientific approaches to prevent violence

- Promote cooperation with leading institutions in the Global Violence Prevention Field to build implementation capacity in low- and middle-income countries through training in strategic and financial planning, development of performance measures and results-based programming, research and documentation of best practices, development of a communication and advocacy infrastructure, fundraising for additional financial support, and leadership development

- Concentrate prevention efforts on a limited number of top violent cities nationally and globally

- Invest in urban planning of the fastest growing cities that are most vulnerable to violence

- Promote mutual learning between cities about best practices in violence prevention through cross-countries comparisons and twinning of cities

- Identify hot spots in cities through systematic data collection for hot-spot mapping

- Target hot spots through urban upgrading

- Promote corporate social responsibility for violence reduction and partner with businesses to reduce violence through product safety that prevents violence-related property crime

- Prioritise scientifically supported violence prevention programmes in replication and avoid scaling up interventions with ineffective and harmful effects

- Develop evaluation tools for practitioners and collaborate with experts to identify violence prevention programmes with the "best fit" for a particular need by considering the theoretical basis, core requirements, staffing and organisational needs, targeted participant characteristics, costs, duration, and expected outcomes

- Collaborate with experts to explore the strengths and weaknesses of scientifically evaluated programme choices for new contexts

- Develop implementation plans for violence prevention programmes, following established best practices in implementation sciences including impact evaluation, manualisation of programme contents, development of a theory of change, provision of training for implementers, local ownership and local drive of programme implementation, improvements in cost-effectiveness, and introduction of booster sessions

- Establish "Centres of Excellence" in implementation science that can serve as a benchmark for best practices in replicating violence prevention programmes

- Integrate more protective factors and structural-level factors in violence prevention programmes for low- and middle income contexts

- Adapt violence prevention programmes to new contexts using mixed methods research and cost-effective alternatives to test cause and effect

## 3.

### HARNESS THE POWER OF BIG DATA IN VIOLENCE REDUCTION:
DEVELOP DATA SCOPE, ACCESS AND STANDARDS

- Build violence prevention research capacity in low- and middle-income countries through cooperation between research institutes (e.g. North-South cooperation), partnerships with philanthropic organisations, trainings in evidence-based research practices and advocacy to increase support for investing in "hard data" among decision makers

- Improve reporting of sensitive data related to violence and abuse through indirect questioning

- Improve the quality of academic data reporting standards through the development of better trial conduct and reporting guidelines, preregistration of all evaluation studies, and better systematic review and meta-analysis standards

- Support violence prevention research in fields that are currently underrepresented, such as maltreatment of the elderly

- Develop international standards for violence prevention baseline, progress and outcome measures

- Make violence prevention data more accessible through open-source software, online databases and data visualisation programmes

- Spend a minimum amount of 10-20% of total programme budget on monitoring and evaluation of violence prevention programmes

- Establish observatories to coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of violence prevention programmes

- Prioritise local policymakers' questions and concerns in the monitoring and evaluation of violence prevention programmes (rather than foreign agendas) and place scientific tools at the service of these questions

- Invest in monitoring and evaluation of proven violence prevention programmes to identify the optimal level of adaptation versus fidelity for successful programme transfers to low- and middle-income countries

## 4.

### PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE:
FOCUS ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND WOMEN

- Replicate evidence-based parenting programmes, giving more attention to the role of fathers

- Promote school-based social-emotional learning initiatives to prevent violence against children that integrate socio-emotional skills in the curriculum and facilitate well-being of students through classroom management and emotional support

- Recognise the vulnerability of adolescent men in youth violence prevention programmes and policy

- Develop more gender-sensitive initiatives that transform gender norms, while actively involving boys and men

- Support inter-disciplinary research that goes beyond "shopping lists" of risk factors and explores gender issues and other latent variables underlying violence against women and girls

- Collaborate with the health care sector to increase the identification and referral of victims of violence

- Adopt human rights and victim-centred approaches to prevention, focusing on the three victim centred "Rs" (redress, rehabilitate, reintegrate) to reduce re-victimisation

- Develop National Action Plans to prevent violence against vulnerable populations based on recommendations of international organisations

# 5.

## INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT MATTERS:
### IMPROVE LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Promote access to executive leadership training in violence prevention

- Improve leadership for violence prevention by reinforcing self-legitimacy and self-control in leaders

- Promote good governance for violence prevention through locally-driven and locally-owned reform by political elites (rather than foreign military intervention or conditional aid)

- Strengthen the role of peaceful civil resistance in institutional reform through the study and dissemination of best practices and tools in successful nonviolent campaigns and the normative discussion of the "responsibility to assist" nonviolent activities

- Reform the police force to better prevent violence, considering existing recommendations for good governance in policing including deepen respect for the rule of law, develop clear jurisdiction and protocols, introduce anti-corruption measures, improve human resources, establish accountability procedures for police performance and establish external oversight mechanisms

- Control situational triggers for violence such as easy access to alcohol and guns

- Prevent organised crime by directly targeting illegal markets and organisational hubs/nodes with policies based on international cooperation and network analysis

- Integrate violence prevention considerations in existing public policies not directly related to violence itself (e.g. health policies, socio-economic policies, security and social control policies, education policies)

- Implement penal polices that reduce violent offending by introducing swift and fair sentencing (rather than harsh and long punishments) and granting the right to offender treatment

# 6.

## THE WHOLE IS BIGGER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS:
### CREATE GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

- Mandate international organisations to address violence

- Advocate for global political prioritisation of violence prevention and ensure that violence prevention stays in the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals agenda

- Get champion countries to ask the General Assembly to come up with a policy document that requests countries to strengthen their violence prevention capacities and multi-sectoral planning

- Call upon international organisations to prepare recommendations for voluntary reduction targets and develop a global plan of action for violence prevention

- Introduce National Action Plans and National Rapporteurs for violence reduction

- Partner with philanthropies to absorb the political risk of tackling types of violence that are culturally sensitive and often neglected by governments (e.g. sexual abuse, child maltreatment)

- Create a social movement by adapting "mixed vector strategies" for violence prevention that combine the strengths of different actors and create synergies between sectors, disciplines, violence types, prevention types and levels in the ecological model

- Establish a world body that brings ministers together to discuss evidence-based policies for violence reduction

# INTRODUCTION

## VIOLENCE REDUCTION IS A GLOBAL POLICY PRIORITY

Violence is a significant global problem with high economic and social costs. By some estimates the global costs might be as high as 9.5 trillion dollars per year, equivalent to 11% of the world gross domestic product[1]. Most of these costs are attributed to homicides, violent crime, child abuse, domestic violence and sexual violence. The costs are likely to be higher, considering the burden that violent injuries place on the healthcare system, draining resources that could be used to improve quality of life and meet health needs. Unfortunately, the costs are often not met by proportionate state spending to contain violence. For instance, the World Bank[2] estimates that the total economic costs of violence (which includes health costs, institutional costs, private security costs and material costs) as share of GDP are 7.7% in Guatemala, 10.8% in El Salvador, 9.6% in Honduras and 10% in Nicaragua but the countries' spendings on containing violence are not proportionate to these costs. As a consequence, high numbers of violent deaths remain worldwide, many of which could have been prevented with the existing scientific knowledge on violence prevention. According to the World Health Organization[3] (WHO), approximately 1.4 million people die annually as a result of violence. Suicide accounts for 56% of these deaths, while 35% are homicides and about 9% are war-related killings. The United Nations Children's Fund[4] (UNICEF) reported that violence is the leading cause of death among children worldwide and one of the leading causes of death among those aged 15-44.

### THE GLOBAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION FIELD

The "Global Violence Prevention Field" emerged to tackle the global threat of violence with scientific evidence on best practices in violence prevention. Alexander Butchart (World Health Organization), one of the convenors of the first Global Violence Reduction Conference, defines the Global Violence Prevention Field in the following way: "A group of international actors with intellectual, institutional and financial links and a shared focus on evidence-based prevention and control that acts in support of national actors. It develops standards and norms, identifies priorities and builds capacity [for violence prevention]." The group entered its formative phase between the 1970s and the 1990s when several United Nations agencies established their first mandates to address violence with scientifically informed strategies. At the turn of the new millennium, the community entered the normative phase of development, as organisations published the first guidance

documents on violence prevention. The Global Violence Prevention Field has now entered the operational phase in which concrete plans of action are developed to implement the normative guidelines. At the conference, Butchart called upon the leading experts to "join forces in specifying global baselines and targets for violence prevention in the next 30 years, identifying the scientific and political prerequisites for having those baselines and targets fully owned by national stakeholders, and preparing a road map for how to get there".

### POLITICAL MOMENTUM

The WHO and University of Cambridge Global Violence Reduction Conference came at a critical juncture in time to create further political momentum for the Global Violence Prevention Field. On 24 May 2014 the 67th World Health Assembly adopted a historic resolution entitled "Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children". The resolution has taken the 20-year long commitment of the WHO to global violence prevention to a new level. It calls on the WHO to prepare a global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health care system in addressing interpersonal violence within the coming two years. Furthermore, the WHO is requested to strengthen efforts to develop the scientific evidence on magnitude, trends, health consequences, and risk and protective factors for violence, to support member states by providing technical assistance, and finalise its global status report on violence prevention in 2014.

Even more significantly, the current draft of the United Nations post-2015 development goals includes "peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions" as core goals for the coming 15 years. Specific targets include "to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere", to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children", and to "promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all". If adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in early 2015, the world community of nations will commit itself to taking concerted global action to reduce violence in all its forms.

### THE GLOBAL VIOLENCE REDUCTION CONFERENCE 2014

The Global Violence Reduction Conference provided an academic complement to the WHO's "Milestones in a Global

> "We should join forces in specifying global baselines and targets for violence prevention in the next 30 years, identifying the scientific and political prerequisites for having those baselines and targets fully owned by national stakeholders, and preparing a road map for how to get there.

Campaign for Violence Prevention" meetings with the aim to review the recent policy progress and define targets for the Global Violence Prevention Field. The conference lured experts out of their comfort zone, asking them to reflect on big strategies to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. It brought together 150 leading representatives from international organisations, academia, civil society institutions and philanthropic organisations to discuss how scientific knowledge can contribute to the advancement of this violence reduction goal. On 17-19 September 2014 experts convened at King's College, Cambridge to identify the existing knowledge and develop policy recommendations to support the goals of the Global Violence Prevention Field. This report aims to contribute to the development of a global road map for reducing violence with a set of policy recommendations that have been discussed at the first Global Violence Reduction Conference.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In the following chapters the main ideas presented at the Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 are grouped into six key policy recommendations. They do not represent a formal consensus among conference participants but are based on the synthesis of all conference draft papers, recordings and the conference documentation (available online at: www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk). Each main recommendation is accompanied by a number of findings that are outlined in a text box at the end of each chapter. This report highlights the following six policy recommendations that were discussed at the Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014:

1. Tackle the Biggest Problem Areas First: Focus on Low- and Middle-Income Countries, Hot Spots and Top Violent Cities
2. Stop the Reinvention of the Wheel: Disseminate, Adapt and Replicate Best Practices Globally
3. Harness the Power of Big Data in Violence Reduction: Develop Data Scope, Access and Standards
4. Protect the Most Vulnerable: Focus on Children, Youth and Women
5. Institutional Context Matters: Improve Leadership, Governance and Policies for Violence Prevention
6. The Whole is Bigger than the Sum of its Parts: Create Global Strategic Alliances to Prevent Violence

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2 World Bank (2011). Crime and violence in Central America: A development challenge. Washington DC: World Bank.
3 World Health Organization, 2012. Global health estimates. Available from: http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/en/ [Accessed: 26 February 2015].
4 United Nations Children's Fund (2014). Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children. New York: UNICEF.
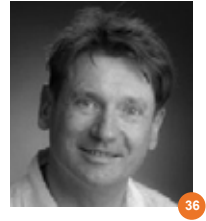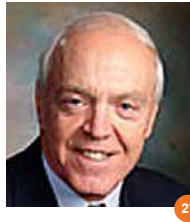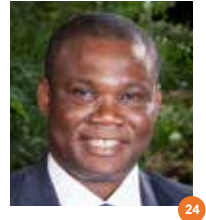
# SPEAKERS

**1 Alexander Butchart** | World Health Organization, Prevention of Violence Coordinator at the Department of Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability
**Title:** Where Do We Want to Get and How? Outlining the Challenges

**2 Theresa Betancourt** | Harvard University, Director of the Research Program on Children and Global Adversity and Associate Professor of Child Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, Affiliated Faculty Member of the Harvard Center on the Developing Child
**Title:** Linking Developmental Science and Prevention Research to Intervene More Effectively in Child Development

**3 Bernadette Madrid** | Programme at the Institute of Criminology
**Title:** Reducing Child Abuse: Tackling Challenges in High Violence Societies

**4 David Finkelhor** | University of New Hampshire, Professor of Sociology, Director of the Crimes Against Children Research Centre, Co-director of the Family Research Laboratory
**Title:** Dilemmas in International Strategies to Reduce Violence Against Children

**5 Rachel Jewkes** | South African Medical Research Council, Director of the Gender and Health Research Unit
**Title:** Global Strategies to Reduce Violence Against Women

**6 Manuel Eisner** | University of Cambridge, Deputy Director of the Institute of Criminology, Professor of Comparative and Developmental Criminology at the Institute of Criminology, Director of the Violence Research Centre
**Title:** Reducing Homicide by 50% in 30 Years – Universal Mechanisms and Evidence-Based Public Policy

**7 Nancy Guerra** | University of Delaware, Director of the Institute for Global Studies, Professor at the Department of Psychological and Brain Scienes
**Title:** Principles of Evidence-based Practice for Youth Violence Prevention: Lessons from Around the World

**8 Maria Fernanda Tourinho Peres** | University of São Paulo, Professor at the Department of Preventive Medicine, Associate Researcher at the Center for the Study of Violence
**Title:** Drop of Homicide Death and Youth Violence in São Paulo, Brazil: Tackling the Challenges in High Violence Societies

**9 Robert Rotberg** | Harvard University, Founding Director of Harvard Kennedy School's Program on Intrastate Conflict, President Emeritus of the World Peace Foundation, Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center
**Title:** Preventing Civil Conflict: Effective Leadership and Good Governance

**10 Lawrence Sherman** | University of Cambridge, Director of the Institute of Criminology, Wolfson Professor of Criminology, Director of the Jerry Lee Centre for Experimental Criminology, Director of the Police Executive Programme at the Institute of Criminology
**Title:** The Global Social Movement for Evidence-Based Policing: Reducing Violence by Police Self-Legitimation

**11 Friedrich Lösel** | University of Cambridge, Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Criminology; University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Professor of Psychology at the Institute of Psychology
**Title:** Treating Violent Offenders More Effectively: Alternatives to Pure Punishment

**12 Richard Matzopoulos** | Medical Research Council of South Africa, Specialist Scientist at the Burden of Disease Research Unit; University of Cape Town, Honorary Research Associate at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine
**Title:** The Western Cape Government's New Integrated Provincial Violence Prevention Policy Framework: Successes and Challenges

**13 Karen Hughes** | Liverpool John Moores University, Professor of Behavioural Epidemiology at the Centre for Public Health
**Title:** Is the Violence Prevention Evidence Base Fit to Inform a Global Violence Reduction Strategy?

**14 Joseph Murray** | University of Cambridge, Wellcome Trust Research Fellow and Senior Research Associate at the Department of Psychiatry
**Title:** Universal Risk Factors for Violence? Evidence from Low- and Middle-Income Countries

# SPEAKERS

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**15** **Arturo Cervantes** | Anáhuac University Mexico, Carlos Peralta Chair of Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences, General Director of Information Systems at the National Institute for Educational Evaluation Mexico
**Title:** Challenges and Opportunities for Large Scale Violence Prevention Efforts in Mexico

**16** **Abigail Fagan** | University of Florida, Professor of Criminology and Law at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
**Title:** Overcoming Obstacles to High Quality Implementation of Evidence-based Principles in Violence Prevention

**17** **Maha Almuneef** | National Family Safety Program, Founder and Executive Director; International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Regional Councilor; Arab Professionals Society for Prevention of Violence Against Children, President; King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Associate Professor of Pediatrics
**Title:** Addressing Child Abuse and Neglect in Arab Societies

**18** **Charlotte Watts** | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Sigrid Rausing Professor at the Department for Global Health and Development, Director of the Gender, Violence and Health Centre
**Title:** Prevention of Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents in East Africa

**19** **Joy Ngozi Ezeilo** | United Nations Human Rights Office, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons
**Title:** Strategies to Reduce Human Trafficking and Protect the Human Rights of Vulnerable Groups

**20** **Robert Muggah** | Igarapé Insitute, Research Director and Program Director for Violence Reduction
**Title:** Fragile Cities: Confronting the Changing Landscapes of Violence

**21** **Alys Willman** | World Bank, Conflict and Social Development Specialist in the Crime and Violence Team
**Title:** Community-based Strategies to Reduce Youth Violence

**22** **Amy Nivette** | University of Oxford, Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow at the Department of Sociology
**Title:** Lessons From a Comparative Analysis of Successful Reductions of Public Violence Across Cities

**23** **James Putzel** | London School of Economics, Director of the Crisis States Research Centre (2000-2011), Professor of

Development Studies at the Department of International Development
**Title:** Why Liberals are Poor Peace-Makers: Discarding Orthodoxies to Reduce Violence in Developing Countries

**24** **Innocent Chukwuma** | Ford Foundation, Representative for the Ford Foundation West Africa Office
**Title:** Fair and Accountable Security Forces as a Strategy for Reduction of Identity-based Violence in West-Africa

**25** **Maria Stephan** | United States Institute of Peace, Senior Policy Fellow; Atlantic Council, Non-Resident Senior Fellow
**Title:** Civil Resistance as a Powerful (and More Effective) Alternative to Violence

**26** **Susanne Karstedt** | University of Leeds, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the School of Law
**Title:** Global Hotspots of Violence: How to Focus Intervention and Prevention

**27** **James Finckenauer** | Rutgers University, Founding Faculty Member of the School of Criminal Justice, Professor at the School of Criminal Justice
**Title:** Criminal Groups and Violence

**28** **Susan Bissell** | United Nations Children's Fund, Chief of Child Protection at the Programme Division
**Title:** UNICEF's Strategy in Prevention of Violence Against Children

**29** **Patricia Lannen** | UBS Optimus Foundation, Programme Director of Child Protection
**Title:** The Role of Private Philanthropy in Violence Prevention

**30** **Michael Feigelson** | Bernard van Leer Foundation, Interim Executive Director
**Title:** The Role of Private Philanthropy in Violence Prevention

**31** **Frances Gardner** | University of Oxford, Professor of Child and Family Psychology at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention
**Title:** Effectiveness and Transportability of Parenting Programmes to Prevent Violence

**32** **John Lawrence Aber** | New York University, Professor of Applied Psychology at the Steinhardt School of Culture,

# SPEAKERS

Education and Human Development
**Title:** On the Front Line of Violence Reduction: Generating Evidence for School-based Strategies to Promote Children's Development in Conflict-affected Contexts

**33 Catherine Ward** | University of Cape Town, Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology
**Title:** Building an Evidence-based Support System for Parents in South Africa

**34 Harriet MacMillan** | McMaster University, Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, Behavioural Neurosciences and Pediatrics, Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry
**Title:** Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence: Current Evidence and Future Prospects

**35 Suneeta Krishnan** | Research Triangle of San Francisco, Epidemiologist at the Women's Global Health Imperative, Associate Director of the Research Triangle Institute Global Gender Centre, Technical Lead of the Research Triangle Institute India Liaison Office
**Title:** Using Health as an Entry Point to Address Intimate Partner Violence: Insights from India

**36 Graham Farrell** | Simon Fraser University, Professor and Research Chair in Environmental Criminology at the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies
**Title:** Lessons for Global Violence Reduction from Recent Crime Declines: Security, Problem-Solving and Situational Prevention

**37 Mark Bellis** | Liverpool John Moores University, Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Violence Prevention at the Centre for Public Health, Visiting Professor at the Centre for Public Health; Public Health Wales, Director of Policy, Research and Development
**Title:** Reducing Alcohol-Related Violence – Equity, Environment and Early Years

**38 Keith Krause** | Graduate Institute of Geneva, Director of the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, Programme Director of the Small Arms Survey, Professor of International Relations and Political Science
**Title:** Controlling Access to Firearms

**39 Etannibi Alemika** | University of Jos, Professor of Criminology and Sociology of Law
**Title:** Police Effectiveness, Accountability and Violence in Nigeria

**40 Daniel Ortega** | CAF Development Bank of Latin America, Senior Economist and Impact Evaluation Coordinator; IESA Business School in Venezuela, Associate Professor
**Title:** Social Experimentation and Evaluation for Better Policing

**41 Daniel Nagin** | Carnegie Mellon University, Teresa and H. John Heinz III University Professor of Public Policy and Statistics at the Heinz College
**Title:** Rising Not Falling Violent Crime: How Should Criminal Justice Systems Respond?

**42 Michael Tonry** | University of Minnesota, Director of the Institute on Criminal and Public Policy, McKnight Presidential Professor of Criminal Law and Policy at the Law Scool; Free University of Amsterdam, Senior Fellow; Max Planck Institute on Comparative and International Criminal Law, Scientific Member
**Title:** What Courts and Prisons Can Do To Reduce Violent Crime

**43 Hualing Fu** | University of Hong Kong, Professor at the Faculty of Law
**Title:** China's Penal Policy Against Violence: Resilience and Challenges

**44 Patrick Burton** | Executive Director of the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention
**Title:** Approaches to Making the Police More Effective and Accountable in Low- and Middle-income Countries

**45 Justice Tankebe** | University of Cambridge, Lecturer in Criminology and Director of the MPhil Programme at the Institute of Criminology
**Title:** Legitimacy and Violence Prevention

**46 Steven Pinker** | Harvard University, Johnstone Family Professor at the Department of Psychology
**Title:** The Past, Present and Future of Violence

**● Claudia Garcia-Moreno** | World Health Organization, Lead Specialist on Gender and Gender-based Violence at the Department of Reproductive Health and Research
**Title:** Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

**● Theresa Kilbane** | United Nation's Children Fund, Senior Advisor on Child Protection at the Programme Division

# BURSARY SCHOLARS



**Alison Swartz** | University of Cape Town, Part-time Lecturer and PhD Candidate at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine
**Title:** Gangs, Gangsters and Community Response: An Exploration of Community Perceptions of the Rise and Fall in Youth-Led Gang Violence in Khayelitsha Township, Cape Town

**Amanda Sim** | International Rescue Committee, Research and Evaluation Coordinator
**Title:** Migration, Risk and Resilience: A Qualitative Study with Displaced Burmese Children and Families in Thailand

**Arundati Muralidharan** | Public Health Foundation of India, Senior Research Fellow; Indian Institute of Public Health, Adjunct Faculty
**Title:** Transforming Gender Norms, Roles, and Power Dynamics: Evidence from Gender Integrated Health Programs on Gender Based Violence in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

**Caren Ruotti** | University of São Paulo, PhD Candidate at the Centre for the Study of Violence
**Title:** Understanding Homicide Drop in São Paulo Municipality – 2000-2010

# BURSARY SCHOLARS

**Catalina Torrente** | Yale University, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence
**Title:** Education in the Midst of Conflict: One-Year Impacts of an Intervention in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Claire Choo Wan Yuen** | University of Malaya, Associate Professor at the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine
**Title:** Is Violence Against Elderly a Neglected Issue? Building State Violence Prevention Capacity Through the Preventing Elder Abuse and negleCt initiativE (PEACE)

**Eddy Walakira** | Makerere University, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Work and Social Administration
**Title:** Evaluating the Effects of Community-Based Violence Prevention Intervention by War Child Holland in Post Conflict Northern Uganda

**Gulleng Yohanna Daskyes** | University of Jos, Lecturer II at the Department of Sociology
**Title:** Attitudes Toward Crime, Punishment and Rehabilitation: A Study of Prison Staff and Inmates in Plateau State, Nigeria

**Isaac Deneb Castañeda** | Anáhuac University, Associate Professor and Carlos Peralta Chair of Public Health
**Title:** Effects of Violence Prevention Programs and Crime in Chihuahua State (Mexico) During the Period 2010-2013

**Ivan Aymaliev** | National Research University, PhD Candidate at the Higher School of Economics and Junior Research Follow at the Laboratory for Studies in Economic Sociology and the Centre for Fundamental Studies
**Title:** Connected Firms: Evidence from Bulgaria

**Jamie Lachman** | University of Oxford, PhD Candidate at the Department of Social Policy and Intervention; Sinovuyu Caring Families Project, Research Manager and Co-Investigator; Parenting for Lifelong Health, Steering Committee Member; Clowns Without Borders South Africa, Executive Director
**Title:** Parenting for Lifelong Health Ages 2-9: Reducing the Risk of Child Maltreatment in Low- and Middle-Income Countries Through the Development, Evaluation, and Dissemination of Evidence-Based Parenting Programmes

**Karen Ortiz** | Inter-American Development Bank, Consultant at the Education Division

**Title:** Criminality in the Biggest Cities in Colombia: Evidence on the Concentration at the Street Segment Level

**Li Xi** | University of Hong Kong, PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Law
**Title:** China's Death Penalty and the Dynamic Interaction of Chinese Courts, Chinese Communist Party and the Public Opinion

**Mercilene Machisa** | University of the Witwatersrand, PhD Candidate at the School of Public Health; South African Medical Research Council, Senior Researcher and Project Manager
**Title:** Addressing Child Abuse is Key to Preventing Gender Violence and Poor Mental Health

**Nambusi Kyegombe** | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Research Fellow at the Department of Global Health and Development
**Title:** Findings from the SASA! Study on the Impact of a Community Mobilisation Intervention Designed to Prevent Violence Against Women and Reduce HIV-Related Risk in Kampala, Uganda

**Nikki de la Rosa** | International Alert, Deputy Country Manager and Head of Mindanao Operations
**Title:** Disrupting Conflict Strings in Sub-National Contexts: Experience from Muslim Mindanao, Philippines

**Priscila Susin** | Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, PhD Candidate at the Centre for Economic and Social Analysis
**Title:** Childhood, Research Approaches and Violence Reduction Strategies: The Experience in Favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Sandra Hernandez** | Child Protection Network Foundation, Associate Director for Training and Lecturer; Philippine General Hospital, Child Protection Specialist at the Child Protection Unit
**Title:** Child Maltreatment Prevention in the Philippines: A Situationer

**Tariro Mutongwizo** | Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, Senior Researcher
**Title:** Informal Networks as Formal Barriers to Risk and Violence: Cases from Urban South Africa and Zimbabwe

# A GLOBAL VIOLENCE REDUCTION BY 50% IN THE NEXT 30 YEARS IS ACHIEVABLE WITH EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES

The main message of the conference was that a global violence reduction by 50% in the next 30 years is achievable if policy-makers harness the power of scientific evidence on violence reduction. "Overall there is a strong realistic, non-romantic case for the possibility of further violence reduction", stated Harvard professor Steven Pinker at the public lecture, which concluded the Global Violence Reduction Conference. Pinker showed evidence supporting his idea that we probably live in the most peaceful moment in the existence of the human species. He argued that the astonishing decline of violence was the result of interlocking forces, which he calls the "better angels of our nature". More stable states have become better at providing justice, more interdependency has contributed to peaceful cooperation, and the growth of cosmopolitan values enshrined in human rights has limited the appeal of justifications for violence. In his view, these broad historical forces are likely to continue in the future, forming a welcome angelic tailwind to implement evidence-based violence reduction policies. Also Manuel Eisner (University of Cambridge), the main organiser of the conference, showed that in Europe the decline in homicide rates has been an on-going statistical trend in the past 800 years (1300 – 2000) that is likely to continue in the future. Homicides have fallen globally by up to 70% since the 1990s in many regions of the world and the current homicide rate of 6.4 per 100,000 people could be halved by 2045. While homicides are among the best-documented accounts of the global violence decline throughout history, other forms of violence including sexual violence, violence against children, and violence against women have also declined in Western societies over the past decades. To sustain and further accelerate the decline in all types of violence we need to learn from past best practices and use the empirical evidence-base to design new, effective programmes and policies for violence prevention.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

The "public health approach" was the main analytical framework used by experts at the Global Violence Reduction Conference to develop a scientific response to sustained violence reduction. The approach understands violence with the "ecological model" developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner. The model consists of four overlapping levels that all influence violent behaviour (see Figure 1): (1) the individual level, which includes biological and personal history factors that increase the likelihood for victimisation and/or perpetration, (2) the relationship level, which includes factors in personal relations between peers, family members and intimate partners that make involvement in violence more likely, (3) the community level, which refers to wider social relationships such as schools, the workplace and neighbourhoods that can play a role in vio-

Societal     Community     Relationship     Individual
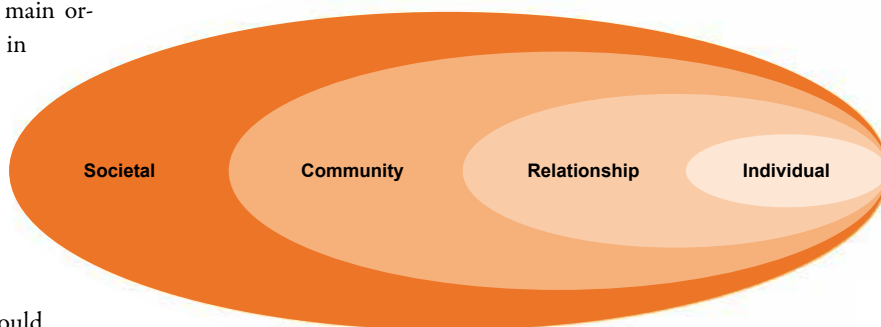
*Figure 1: The ecological model*

lence, and (4) the societal level, that consist of lager macro-level factors for violence such as violent norms and values, social and economic policies, and traditional belief systems.

The public health approach differentiates between risk and protective factors that interact on all levels of the ecological model. Risk factors are attributes or conditions that increase the propensity for socially undesirable outcomes. Protective factors are attributes or conditions that serve as "buffers" against risk by mitigating or eliminating it. Risk and protective factors are identified through cross-sectional epidemiological studies, longitudinal studies on developmental risk factors and experimental studies to test intervention effectiveness. The gold standard of the public health approach is the "randomised controlled trial" and a longitudinal study design. These are studies in which units of analysis (e.g. people, cities) are divided in two (or more) groups through random assignment and followed over a longer period of time. One group, the experimental group, receives a programme designed to reduce violence (treatment or intervention) while the other group, the control or comparison group, receives

> **A global violence decline by 50% in the next 30 years is achievable if policy makers harness the power of scientific evidence.**

no treatment. The groups are compared according to an outcome that is measured at specific times and any differences between the groups are evaluated statistically. The knowledge of risk and protective factors is used to develop science-based programmes that target the factors associated with violence. These interventions are categorised into primary, secondary and tertiary prevention according to the public health model. Primary prevention programmes are activities that take place before violence has occurred and are guided by predictions based on the theoretical and statistical knowledge of risk and protective factors. Secondary prevention programmes are immediate responses to deal with the short-term consequences of violence after it has occurred. Tertiary prevention programmes are long-term responses after violence has occurred to reduce re-victimisation and recidivism of perpetrators. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation of programmes is used to further adapt and improve prevention programmes and to deepen the understanding of causal mechanisms.

# 1.

## TACKLE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM AREAS FIRST:

FOCUS ON LOW- AND
MIDDLE-INCOME
COUNTRIES,
HOT SPOTS AND
TOP VIOLENT CITIES

RECOMMENDATION

# 1.1 PRIORITISE EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

Conference participants agreed that the largest efforts to reduce worldwide levels of violence have to concentrate on countries where rates of violence are highest and resources are lowest. Emerging evidence is suggesting that different types of violence are co-occurring geographically. Areas generally identified as highly violent are Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. For instance, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime[1] (UNODC) statistics indicate that homicide rates are significantly higher in the Americas with 16.3 per 100,000 population and Africa with 12.5 per 100,000 population in comparison to other regions of the world (2.0 per 100,000 in Asia, 3.0 per 100,000 in Oceania and 3.0 per 100,000 in Europe). Despite the high levels of violence in specific areas, most research and resources for implementing evidence-based violence prevention programmes are centred in high-income countries. Karen Hughes (Liverpool John Moores University) used the data of the "Violence Prevention Evidence Base" to show that 90% of scientific output on interpersonal violence comes from high-income countries (of which 60% come from the USA), while only 10% come from low- and middle-income countries, even though these countries account for 85% of violent deaths globally and 98% of population growth in the next 30 years. Evidence-based violence reduction interventions that are commonly used in Western contexts such as effective parenting trainings, policies to control firearms and alcohol consumption, or support services for victims and perpetrators are rare in low- and middle-income countries. The lack of evidence-based programming implies that resources are often channelled into programmes that are ineffective, aid and limited resources are used inefficiently and valuable opportunities for better investments are missed.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

The experts therefore called upon states and actors in the Global Violence Prevention Field to build capacity for evidence-based research and implementation in low- and middle-income countries. Susan Bissell (United Nations Children's Fund) recommended introducing more specialised degree programmes in evidence-based violence prevention such as the Master's in Child Protection that is being established by UNICEF. North-South and South-South cooperation between leading institutions in the Global Violence Prevention Field and emerging actors are other promising avenues to transfer knowledge, as suggested by Bernadette Madrid (University of the Philippines). The experts from

> **Resources should be invested in building local implementation capacity for evidence-based violence reduction interventions in low- and middle- income countries.**

philanthropic organisations (Patrica Lannen from the UBS Optimus Foundation and Michael Feigelson from the Bernard van Leer Foundation) discussed the role of foundations in providing a broad range of support that can help non-profits and other institutions to build their capacity in evidence-based practices. The five types of implementation support that foundations can provide are (1) strategic and financial planning, (2) development of performance measures and results-based programming, (3) research and documentation of best practices, (4) development of a communication and advocacy structure, and (5) fundraising for additional financial support. Foundations can also add value by investing in emerging leaders in evidence-based violence prevention from low- and middle-income countries. To support this development, the UBS

Optimus Foundation sponsored 20 talented young scholars from low- and middle-income countries to present their work to the leading experts at the Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014. The "Children and Violence Evaluation Fund" is another example that was initiated by a consortium of philanthropic funders to build capacity for programme evaluation in low- and middle-income countries.

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1  UNODC, 2013. *Global Study on Homicide. Vienna: UNODC.*

# 1.2 TARGET AND TRANSFORM GLOBAL VIOLENCE HOT SPOTS

Some types of violence are highly concentrated and persistent over time, and transferring knowledge and resources for violence prevention to these hot spots is key to reducing violence by 50% in the next 30 years. Manuel Eisner (University of Cambridge) showed that almost half of all 450,000 homicides committed annually occurred in 20 countries that account for 10% of the world population. Susanne Karstedt (University of Leeds) used her "Violent Cities" dataset to demonstrate that a large proportion of the 20 most violent countries remained in this group for decades. Her data also indicated that violence is highly concentrated within states and that on average only 15% of the state territory is affected by extreme violence. Daniel Ortega (CAF Development Bank of Latin America) presented the example of the municipality of Sucre in Venezuela where 80% of annual homicides happen in 6% of street segments. Similarly, Robert Muggah (Igarapé Institute) reported that 99% of violence in the USA is concentrated in 5% of street addresses.

## TARGETED PREVENTION

The high concentration of hot spots offers advantages for targeted prevention efforts. Lawrence Sherman (University of Cambridge) suggested that police intelligence plays a major role in identifying hot spots while presenting the success story of hot spot mapping in Trinidad and Tobago. Using the "Triple-T" strategy (Targeting, Testing, and Tracking) of evidence-based policing, the police identified and targeted hotspots that accounted for 80% of all national homicides,

tested different patrol times in hotspots and tracked the times to identify an ideal threshold level for reducing homicides in hotspots. Preliminary results suggest a 41% decrease in murders and shootings in the intervention sites compared to the control sites, while homicide increased nationwide. Similarly, the Western Cape Government directed funding to proven programmes that target high-risk places and times in its "Integrated Provincial Violence Prevention Policy" that was presented by Richard Matzopoulos (Medical Research Council South Africa and University of Cape Town). Civil society actors also play a crucial role in identifying hot spots, as Maha Almuneef's (Family Safety Program and International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) example of "HarassMap" showed. HarassMap uses crowdsourcing of anonymous SMS and online reports about sexual harassments in various locations in Egypt to record all incidences on an interactive digital map online. The project's aim is to make vulnerable people aware of high-risk places and times and end the social acceptability of sexual assault in Egypt by dispelling myths that shame victims.

## URBAN UPGRADING

Urban upgrading can be an effective means to reduce crime in the highest risk places by improving group interaction and state presence in public spaces. Effective infrastructural interventions include neighbourhood interventions, opportunities for inclusion and leisure by connecting members from high-risk neighbourhoods with the larger society (e.g. open parks, improved mobility and transport, schools) and safety infrastructure for hot spots (e.g. street lights in hot spots of violence, surveillance technology). Amy Nivette (University of Oxford) discussed the findings from an evaluation by Magdalena Cerdá and others on the effects of the Medellín

Metrocable in Bogotá[1], a gondola lift that was designed to connect the most violent and least developed areas of Medellín with the rest of the city. A comparison between 25 neighbourhoods that were serviced by the metrocable and 23 similar neighbourhoods that were not serviced found that the decline in homicides was 77% greater in serviced neighbourhoods than in the control group. Alys Willman (World Bank) presented infrastructural and macro-level adjustment as a priority for violence reduction, that the World Bank is increasingly investing in. One example is the World Bank's "Inner City Basic Services for the Poor Project" (2006-2013) that reportedly improved community members' perceptions of safety in 12 poor urban informal settlements with high levels of violence by increasing access to basic infrastructure.

## SITUATIONAL PREVENTION

Situational prevention through increased security measures could become a cost-effective strategy to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. Graham Farrell (Simon Fraser University) discussed the "security hypothesis" postulating that security measures have induced much of the drop in crime and violence over the past 30 years in the Western world. A large body of evidence suggests a correlation between the decline in motor vehicle theft with the introduction of electronic immobilisers and deadlocking systems. Households experienced a drop in burglaries, as double-glazing, stronger frames for doors and windows, double-paned and strengthened glass, locks and alarm systems became more mainstream. Also businesses have reportedly been subjected to less crime with improved store designs, surveillance technologies and inbuilt security measures in products. "Crime opportunity theory" explains this by viewing criminal behaviour as related to situational contexts that offer opportunities for crime and violence. Product security restricts such opportunities and disrupts the start of "criminal careers" that often begin with non-violent petty crimes, such as shoplifting, but continue with more violent crime after a certain threshold is passed, suggests the "keystone hypothesis". Farrell therefore viewed businesses as important partners in preventing crime and discussed the need to promote corporate social responsibility to reduce violence through product security. He stated that "most security measures are relatively cheap, particularly over time as per-unit costs fall" and harnessing the power of industry in situational prevention can be one of the most cost-effective ways of decreasing violence significantly in the next 30 years.

> " Violence is highly concentrated in hot spots and it can be effectively reduced through targeted policing, urban upgrading and situational prevention.

1 Cerdá, M. Morenoff, J.D., Hansen B.B., Tessari Hicks K.J., Dunque L.F., Restrepo, A., Diez-Roux A.V. (2012). Reducing violence by transforming neigborhoods: A natural experiment in Medellin, Colombia. American Journal of Epidemiology 175(10): 1045-1053.

# 1.3 TARGET TOP VIOLENT CITIES



Cities are major units grabbed by violence and, with increasing urbanisation worldwide, city governments become important actors that can help to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. The urban population is widespread and increasing, with 50% of the world population living in cities today and an estimated 75% by 2050. Robert Muggah (Igarapé Institute) illustrated that regions with high levels of violence tend to have higher degrees of urbanisation. For instance, Latin America and the Caribbean is the world's most urbanised region with 80% of people living in cities and it is home of 47 of the 50 most dangerous cities worldwide. Also other volatile regions are becoming increasingly urban, with the Middle East at 60% and Africa at 37%, making cities an important target for

new housing and infrastructure but supply is often limited and slum settlements develop that are associated with high levels of violence. Richard Matzopoulos (Medical Research Council South Africa and University of Cape Town) discussed the example of the Western Cape province in South Africa that experienced increased levels of violence after rapid growth in informal housing due to a net migration of 100% between 2001 and 2006. Statistics indicate that most slum dwellers are young males looking for opportunities in the city, and being young, poor, unemployed and male are all major risk factors for violent behaviour. Urban planning of housing and infrastructure therefore needs to become a policy priority to prevent violent outbreaks, especially considering that by 2030 about half of the 5 billion city dwellers worldwide are predicted to live in slums.

> " **City governments are important partners for violence reduction as cites become the hubs of an increasingly urbanised world.**

violence reduction. Muggah proposed that targeting top violent cities could have a significant impact on reducing national and global levels of violence. He stated that, "just a 25% reduction of lethal violence in the cities of Recife, Rio and São Paulo could potentially half Brazil's homicide rate"[1] . Alys Willman (World Bank) mentioned that Honduras has already adopted such a strategy by focusing on top violent cities within the country in the "Safer Municipalities Project" supported by the World Bank. Robert Muggah suggested that a similar strategy could be adopted at the global level by focusing violence reduction efforts on the top 20 violent cities worldwide.

## URBAN PLANNING

The fastest growing cities are the most vulnerable to violence and need careful urban planning by policy makers. The density and speed of urban growth is increasing the demand for

## COMPARISON AND TWINNING OF CITIES

Among the promising ideas that could help to better understand violence in cities was the comparison and twinning of cities. Amy Nivette (University of Oxford) demonstrated that cities could learn from each other's best practices to tackle violence through cross-cities comparisons. She studied violence declines in cities with a matched-city comparative design and demonstrated that comparisons can provide valuable insights into effective city-level public polices to reduce crime. Her comparison of violence declines in major cities (e.g. New York City, Chicago, Bogotá, Medellin, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, Glasgow and Edinburgh) identified police and criminal justice system reforms, security programmes to reduce substance abuse, campaigns to change cultural norms supportive of violence and urban upgrading as common factors for violence declines. Specific policy ideas can be identified and exchanged through twinning of cities, advised Robert Muggah (Igarapé Institute). He mentioned the Rockefeller Resilient City Framework that twins successful cities with fragile cities in a global major cities network as an example of a knowledge transfer and collaboration mechanism to guide institutional reform and policy development in cities.

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1  Muggah, R. (2014). Fragile cities: Confronting the changing landscapes of violence. In: Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 working papers: Session speaker biographies, abstracts and summaries.

# FINDINGS

Partner with philanthropies that have the advantage of "patient capital" to evaluate and implement violence prevention programmes in low- and middle-income countries

Introduce specialised degree programmes that teach scientific approaches to prevent violence

Promote cooperation with leading institutions in the Global Violence Prevention Field to build implementation capacity in low- and middle-income countries through training in strategic and financial planning, development of performance measures and results-based programming, research and documentation of best practices, development of a communication and advocacy infrastructure, fundraising for additional financial support, and leadership development

Concentrate prevention efforts on a limited number of top violent cities nationally and globally

Invest in urban planning of the fastest growing cities that are most vulnerable to violence

Promote mutual learning between cities about best practices in violence prevention through cross-countries comparisons and twinning of cities

Identify hot spots in cities through systematic data collection for hot-spot mapping

Target hot spots through urban upgrading

Promote corporate social responsibility for violence reduction and partner with businesses to reduce violence through product safety that prevents violence-related property crime

# 2.

## STOP THE REINVENTION OF THE WHEEL:

DISSEMINATE, ADAPT AND REPLICATE BEST PRACTICES GLOBALLY

RECOMMENDATION

# 2.1 SCALE UP EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMES WITH EFFECTIVE PROCESSES

While many programmes have been identified as effective interventions to reduce violence, few have been taken to scale. According to Abigail Fagan (University of Florida) more needs to be done to replicate interventions for which effects have been shown: "A bottle of medicine does not do us any good if it sits in our kitchen cupboard or bathroom medicine cabinet: It has to be used and used properly to have its intended effect." Friedrich Lösel (University of Cambridge) mentioned that too often the evidence is ignored or misunderstood and programmes are implemented that are ineffective or harmful. "Treatment does not always do good and actions and good intentions could sometimes even do harm", he said. Michael Feigelson (Bernard van Leer Foundation) and Patricia Lannen (UBS Optimus Foundation) mentioned the example of Scared Straight, a violence reduction programme that was found to increase crime up to 28% by an evaluation of the Campbell Collaboration[1]. The programme was designed to deter juvenile crime through visits by at-risk youth to adult prisons, where they would hear about the harsh reality of prison life from inmates, take tours of the prison, live in prison for a day and get aggressive "in-your-face" presentations by inmates alongside one-on-one counselling. Despite the evidence against the programme, Scared Straight continues to be used throughout the United States and abroad. All speakers strongly recommended that the evidence should be considered and taken seriously to prevent harm. Harriet MacMillan (McMaster University) suggested that more attention should be paid to potentially harmful (rather than only beneficial) effects of programmes to ensure that programmes are solving rather than creating problems. Only proven programmes with positive treatment effects should be replicated.

## PROGRAMME CHOICE

Many times proven programmes are replicated that are no good fits for situations, making them ineffective to tackle particular needs. Abigail Fagan (University of Florida) highlighted this problem by saying that "there are many different medicines in the drug store, you most select the one that will successfully treat your particular need". She listed a number of key considerations in selecting the programme with the "best fit" for replication including (1) the theoretical basis, (2) core requirements, (3) staffing and organisational needs, (4) targeted participant characteristics, (4) costs, (5) duration, and (6) expected outcome. Programme choice is a difficult task for practitioners and the speakers recommended the development of tools to facilitate it such as programme accreditations and models to assess replication readiness. They also emphasised the need for more collaborations between experts and practitioners in identifying the programme choices with the "best fit".

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> **Experts cautioned to adopt a "one size fits it all" approach in replicating evidence-based violence reduction programmes to different cultures. Programmes need to be adapted to fit the local needs and resources in new contexts.**

## PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Not only programme content but also the quality of the implementation process influences the effective replication of evidence-based programmes. Abigail Fagan (University of Florida) defined quality programme implementation as a step-by-step process that follows six consecutive stages outlined by the National Implementation Research Network[2]: (1) exploration, (2) installation, (3) initial implementation/piloting, (4) full implementation, (5) innovation, and (6) sustainability. Catherine Ward (University of Cape Town) also mentioned several best practices of programme replication, using the Western Cape province of South Africa as an example. She said that the well-established criteria for taking a programme to scale are that the programme has evidence and effectiveness, that it is manualised and has a clear theory of change. The programme should be costed, funds need to be available to finance the scale up and monitoring and evaluation should be in place. Moreover, a skilled local workforce needs to be available that

can provide strong administrative support to implement the programme. Since a specialised workforce is often limited (especially in low- and middle-income contexts), implementers should offer on-going training and technical support. Fagan added that the local workforce needs to be motived and supportive of the programme and that strong ties with the local community and local systems are important to maintain this motivation. Programmes should therefore be integrated in existing local institutions, have the buy-in of main stakeholders and involve the local community in planning and implementation. She also introduced considerations about cost-effectiveness, which are especially important in contexts with limited resources. Implementers should recruit enough participants so that the intervention is cost-effective and can make substantial impact with appropriate reach. Cost-effectiveness can also be achieved by making programmes briefer, cheaper and easier to deliver without compromising programme effectiveness. Interventions based on new media, such as web-based programmes, mobile technology and podcasts are promising examples. Suneeta Krishnan (Research Triangle Institute) mentioned "mHealth" training tools, which are mobile applications for health care training providers that have been successfully used to promote documentation and protocol adherence (through the "mTrainer" mobile application for nurses) and to update and distribute information about violence against women and available services (through mobile applications for outreach workers). One of the most important aspects of high quality programme implementation is to "match the dosage requirements specified by the developer and delivering all essential content to the right target population", said Fagan. For this the core content of the programme has to be clearly defined, the theory of change needs to be understood by implementers and the target population has to stay engaged. Lastly, Frances Gardner mentioned that too many programmes come to an abrupt end. Booster sessions after the programme has been implemented can ensure lasting effects, as Dishion's Family Check-Up Model[3] demonstrates. Unfortunately, the speakers found that programmes worldwide often fail to meet these standards of quality implementation. More rigorous implementation plans are needed that are based on best practices in implementation science. Rachel Jewkes (South African Medical Research Council) recommended establishing "Centres of Excellence" that apply the insights from implementation science and serve as benchmarks for best practices in programme implementation.

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1 Petrosino, A., Turpin-Petrosino, C., Hollis-Peel, M., Lavenberg, J. (2002). Scared Straight and other juvenile awareness programs for preventing juvenile delinquency: A systematic review. Campbell Systematic Reviews 2014: 5.

2 Fixsen, D.L., Blase, K.A., Naoom, S.F., and Wallace, F. (2009). Core implementation components. Research on Social Work Practice 19(5): 531-540.

3 Dishion, T.J., Shaw, D.S., Connell, A., Gardner, F., Weaver, C., and Wilson, M. (2008). The family check-up with high-risk indigent families: Preventing problem behavior by increasing parents' positive parenting support in early childhood. Child Development 79: 1395-1414.

# 2.2 CONSIDER CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN REPLICATION

A major challenge is to roll out programmes to new cultural settings where they have not been tested. Programmes that have proven effective in high-income countries might not be equally effective in low- and middle-income contexts. The nature and relative importance of risk and protective factors could differ across cultures and "proven medicines" might need adaptation before they become fully effective. Joseph Murray (University of Cambridge) presented two studies to demonstrate the cross-cultural differences in two widely acknowledged correlates for violence: Male gender and childhood conduct problems. Results of the Global School-Based Student Health Survey[1] conducted in 50 low- and middle-income countries indicate that the representation of males in frequent fighting (4+ fights) amongst teenagers (age 12-15) varies considerably between countries and that male gender is not a significant risk factor in some settings. In some low- and middle-income countries male and female adolescents are almost equally involved in physical fights, in others the study suggests large differences. Similarly, current evidence suggests surprisingly little variation in average levels of child conduct disorder between countries. Differences in conduct disorder are therefore unlikely to explain the very large differences in homicides or other kinds of serious violence between countries. The experts at the Global Violence Reduction Conference therefore cautioned to adopt "one size fits it all" thinking in replicating programmes.

## PROTECTIVE FACTORS

One finding about cross-cultural differences that needs to be considered in replication is the relative importance of protective factors compared to risk factors in low- and middle-income countries. Friedrich Lösel (University of Cambridge) recommended integrating protective factors in programmes, rather than only focusing on risk factors. There is still too much focus on "eliminating the disease rather than building a healthy immune system" in violence prevention research. He recommended making more use of resilience research that emphasises factors such as social relationships, family, social bonding, self-efficacy, active coping and experiences of structures and meaning in life (e.g. Good Lives Model). Such factors can be particularly important in low- and middle-income countries where family relationships, community orientation and religion are more emphasised than in Western cultures. Similarly, Alys Willman (World Bank) suggested building on "existing levels of cohesion" in her discussion of a World Bank intervention in Papua New Guinea. Children were less likely to drop out of a community-strengthening programme in Papua New Guinea when they could self-organise in groups to deliver certain community care services rather than work by themselves (as the programme was designed initially). Also Maha Almuneef (Family Safety Program and International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse

and Neglect) suggested focusing less on risk factors that are not easily changed in the Arab World (e.g. gender norms) and rather build on the protective factors that can counteract difficult-to-change risk factors.

## STRUCTURAL-LEVEL FACTORS

A number of speakers recommended targeting more structural-level factors rather than individual-level factors in violence prevention programmes aimed at low- and middle-income countries. Joseph Murray (University of Cambridge) compared the salience of individual-level risk factors in a cross-country comparative analysis of longitudinal studies in the UK and Brazil[2]. He found that none of the developmental risk factors could account for the higher levels of violence in Brazil, even though Brazilian children were exposed to more biological risk factors. Murray therefore concluded that social adversity swamps the effect of biological risk factors and violence prevention programmes should give more attention to macro-level factors in these contexts. This point was also emphasised by Alys Willman (World Bank), who stated: "Targeted interventions at lower levels [of the ecological spectrum] might have limited impact when structural conditions remain constraining".

## ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH METHODS

A mixed methods approach and cost-effective alternatives to randomised controlled trials can be used to deepen the understanding about levels of cultural adaptations that increase effectiveness in new contexts. Theresa Betancourt (Harvard University) used a mixed methods approach to adapt a family-based preventive intervention promoting healthy parenting and reducing conflict in families facing adversities in Rwanda. Qualitative interviews found that some constructs such as "good parenting" and "connectedness" have different components in Rwanda and need to be reconceptualised. Similarly, Suneeta Krishnan (Research Triangle Institute) adapted an early perinatal parenting and family support model to a new context, using initial qualitative research where she would bring in major stakeholders involved in the programme and interview them about the needs that should be addressed in the intervention. John Lawrence Aber (New York University) and Nancy Guerra (University of Delaware) pointed out that randomised controlled trials, the gold standard for programme evaluations, are often not feasible in conflict-affected contexts and low- and middle-income countries with limited resources. Several speakers therefore suggested considering cost-effective alternatives to test cause and effect (e.g. propensity score matching) to kick-start the piloting of programme adaptations in new cultural contexts.

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1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Global school-based student health survey. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/GSHS/ [Accessed: 26 February 2015]..

2 Murray, J. (2014). Universal risk factors for violence? Evidence from low- and middle-income countries. In: Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 working papers: Session speaker biographies, abstracts and summaries. Cambridge: University of Cambridge. Available from: http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/conference/csessions [Accessed: 26 February 2015].

# FINDINGS

Prioritise scientifically supported violence prevention programmes in replication and avoid scaling up interventions with ineffective and harmful effects

Develop evaluation tools for practitioners and collaborate with experts to identify violence prevention programmes with the "best fit" for a particular need by considering the theoretical basis, core requirements, staffing and organisational needs, targeted participant characteristics, costs, duration, and expected outcomes

Collaborate with experts to explore the strengths and weaknesses of scientifically evaluated programme choices for new contexts

Develop implementation plans for violence prevention programmes, following established best practices in implementation sciences including impact evaluation, manualisation of programme contents, development of a theory of change, provision of training for implementers, local ownership and local drive of programme implementation, improvements in cost-effectiveness, and introduction of booster sessions

Establish "Centres of Excellence" in implementation science that can serve as a benchmark for best practices in replicating violence prevention programmes

Integrate more protective factors and structural-level factors in violence prevention programmes for low- and middle income contexts

Adapt violence prevention programmes to new contexts using mixed methods research and cost-effective alternatives to test cause and effect

# 3.

## RECOMMENDATION

**HARNESS THE POWER OF BIG DATA IN VIOLENCE REDUCTION:**

DEVELOP DATA SCOPE, ACCESS AND STANDARDS GLOBALLY

## 3.1 DEVELOP THE GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE DATABASES ON VIOLENCE REDUCTION

If we are to turn evidence-based prevention science into a global knowledge system, a move towards "big data" is needed that can be easily accessed globally. However, data scope and access is still limited in several ways. A major issue is the lack of scientific output in low- and middle-income countries. Some 90% of all knowledge based on programme evaluations comes from the United States and a bundle of wealthy European countries. Reasons for the global knowledge divide are varied, such as governments' lacking appreciation of evidence-based approaches, lack of research funds and training in data collection as well as under-reporting of culturally sensitive data (e.g. sexual abuse or child maltreatment). The global knowledge base further lacks access to data from many studies that have shown little or no effect and are less likely to be published. According to Frances Gardner (University of Oxford), conflict of interest, poor reporting standards, underpowered trials and "cherry picking" by researchers looking for the most interesting and positive results for high impact publications also limit the completeness of data in many fields. Karen Hughes (Liverpool John Moores University) argued that most databases are restricted in certain areas of studies that are still underrepresented. An analysis of the "Violence Prevention Evidence Base" revealed that 90% of research is focused on interpersonal violence of which 62% primarily study youth violence while only one study in the database addressed elder maltreatment. Measures need to be taken to expand beyond the current limits of the global database.

### DATA SCOPE

Speakers recommended increasing the scope of data by investing in underrepresented study areas, promoting the research capacity in low- and middle-income countries and exploring innovative ways of data collection. Underrepresented study areas, such as elder maltreatment deserve more attention, particularly because 20% of the population will be elderly in 2050. Researchers in low- and middle-income countries could be encouraged to collect data through cooperation between research institutes (e.g. North-South cooperation), trainings and advocacy to increase support for collecting "hard data" among decision makers. Patricia Lannen (UBS Optimus Foundation) and Michael Feigelson (Bernard van Leer Foundation) proposed that philanthropies can be partners in promoting research capacity because they have "patient capital" to invest in long-term studies without immediate results. For instance, "Know Violence" is an Initiative launched by the Bernard van Leer Foundation with the aim to synthesise existing evidence and use the findings for advocacy with key decision

makers. Funding by the UBS Optimus Foundation enabled the WHO to produce the Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014, which has increased political awareness of advances in violence prevention by assessing countries' progress in implementing the recommendations of the World Report on Violence and Health. The issues of under-reporting on culturally sensitive topics could be addressed by exploring innovative ways of data collection. Maha Almuneef (National Family Safety Program and International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) explained that many women in low- and middle-income contexts do not report sexual violence because it is viewed as a family matter or regarded as shameful for the victim, especially in Arab societies where virginity is highly valued. Researchers need to take into account the feelings of shame and use ethical interviewing techniques that establish trust for information sharing. For example, Suneeta Krishnan (Research Triangle Institute) found that an indirect questioning approach in personal interviews is

> "
> **Global data on violence prevention is unevenly distributed, with almost 90% of all scientific knowledge coming from the United States and a bundle of wealthy European countries.**

sometimes more effective in eliciting responses on sexual abuse than direct survey questions. Instead of asking about sexual violence, health practitioners would enquire about "problems at home" and watch out for clues related to abuse. Also IMAGE in South Africa and SASA in Uganda, which were presented by Charlotte Watts and Nambusi Kyegombe (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), are examples of programmes that used indirect questioning and qualitative analysis to generate data on underreported, sensitive gender issues.

### DATA ACCESS

Data should become more accessible through aggregation in global databases that are made available online, open-source software facilitating the interpretation and manipulation of datasets as well as open-access journals (e.g. Research Gate). Promising new initiatives were presented such as the "Violence Prevention Evidence Base" a collaborative project between

Liverpool John Moores University and the WHO. The database currently contains reported findings from 390 journal articles on violence prevention outcome evaluations published after January 2007 and adds new information based on rolling systematic reviews every 6 months. The global dataset "Violent Society", developed by Susanne Karstedt (University of Leeds), combines types of organised and non-organised violence for 134 countries since 1976. Rachel Jewkes (South African Medical Research Council) developed the "Sexual Violence Research Initiative", a global knowledge transfer platform for sexual violence research. Aside from this, there are numerous examples of police intelligence and diagnostic databases that have been set up to analyse and control criminal behaviour for practical purposes. A key priority is to make the emerging databases user-friendlier with software that enables users without in-depth statistical knowledge to manipulate and visualise data. One example is the "Mapping Arms Data Visualisation Tool" that features 35,000 records of small arms imports and exports from more than 262 states between 1992 and 2011, which was developed by Robert Muggah (Igarapé Institute) in cooperation with the Peace Research Institute Oslo. Data visualisation tools could stir broader interest in data collection and application and promote political will to invest in global knowledge databases.

## DATA STANDARDS

International quality standards for measurement and operationalisation are needed to allow for a truly global comparative synthesis of findings. Joseph Murray (University of Cambridge) found that due to different methods of measurement and operationalisation of factors, the comparison between existing data is often not meaningful. Alexander Butchart (World Health Organization) therefore recommended establishing international standards and baselines for violence reduction. Operational standards and baselines are important reference points to develop actionable policies for violence reduction as part of the WHO global plan of action and other policy action plans for violence reduction. Policies need to agree on operational definitions and baseline values, define global outcomes (e.g. specified reduction of violence in different types) and document the processes by which the outcomes will be achieved (e.g. type of prevention programmes) with their associated timelines. Hypothetical examples for formulating baselines and outcomes included "In 2014, the global homicide rate is 8 per 100,000 and by 2044 this must be reduced to 4 per 100,000" or "In 2014, one in three women experience intimate partner violence, and in 2044 this must be reduced to one in six women". Examples for process formulations could be "In 2014, 20% of the world's population live in societies where evidence-based policing is practiced, and by 2044 this must be increased to 60%" or "In 2014, 20% of all new parents globally have access to parenting support programmes and by 2044 this must be increased to 60%", suggested Butchart. Frances Gardner (University of Oxford) mentioned that a precondition for the effective use of data in policy making is high quality data. To improve data quality, she advised to implement better trial conduct and reporting guidelines. She also suggested preregistering all evaluation studies and establishing better systematic review and meta-analysis standards.

" Identifying and adapting effective violence reduction programmes based on evaluation data is the only way in which the stream of policy innovation that constantly washes over low- and middle-income countries will leave a footprint deep enough to change the tide of underdevelopment.

# 3.2 INSTITUTIONALISE COST-EFFECTIVE MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEMS

Data collection through evaluations is the key to programme improvement and adaptation to new contexts. Research generally distinguishes between process evaluation, outcome evaluation and economic evaluation. Process evaluations are used to assess the implementation quality of programmes and identify areas of improvement in the programme delivery. These evaluations document exactly what occurs when and in which sequence, making replication and adaptation of successful interventions easier. Outcome evaluations assess whether a programme has achieved its intended effect and economic evaluations determine the costs to conduct, replicate and expand programmes. According to Daniel Ortega (CAF Development Bank of Latin America), the developing world's greatest problem is not so much the lack of resources to implement prevention programmes but the lack of understanding for what works through programme evaluations. Arturo Cervantes (Anáhuac University Mexico and National Institute for Educational Evaluation Mexico) presented the example of the Mexican National Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programme that lacks a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component. Lamentably, few policy makers study the recipes for success in violence prevention programmes and they have limited interest in data as long as programmes appear to have the desired effects. The lack of documentation of successful interventions impedes progress in transferring knowledge to areas where rates of violence are still high and increasing. Ortega argued that identifying and adapting successful programmes based on evaluation data is the "only way in which the stream of policy innovation that constantly washes over Latin America will leave a knowledge footprint deep enough to change the tide of underdevelopment".

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

M&E should become a political priority to improve successful transfer of evidence-based programmes to highly violent areas within states and globally. Arturo Cervantes (Anáhuac University Mexico and National Institute for Educational Evaluation Mexico) advised that governments should spend a minimum of 10-20% of total programme budget on M&E. Part of this money should be invested in the establishment of coordination units that lead monitoring and evaluation. For instance, Richard Matzopoulos (Medical Research Council South Africa and University of Cape Town) discussed the central role of the observatories in high-risk communities like the townships of Khayelitsha and Nyanga that were established as part of the Western Cape Government Integrated Provincial Violence Prevention Policy Framework. They evaluate implementation quality, provide feedback to adapt and improve the programme to fit the local context, develop baseline indicators and targets for key domains influencing violence and monitor progress towards these targets. International organisations could take a lead in catalysing more political interest to invest in impact evaluations, said Daniel Ortega from the Latin American Development Bank CAF. A necessary precondition is that international organisations make local policymakers'

questions and concerns the top priority in evaluations (rather than imposing foreign agendas) and place scientific tools at the service of these questions. Following this rationale, CAF has started the PILAR initiative (Policy, Innovation, Learning, And Results) that is cooperating with policy makers to translate policing programmes to new contexts. PILAR's project in Venezuela[1], with the aim to assess the impact of increased hot spot patrolling, is an example of a successful programme adaptation. 46 hot spots were randomly allocated to receive increased police presence of up to 4 daily visits of 15 minutes each for 3 months. No intervention effects were found, but the monitoring system helped authorities to gain better control of human resources and helped to identify the underlying reason for the apparent programme failure: Lack of police compliance with patrolling times. As a result, the programme was adapted to tackle the "cause of the cause" of police ineffectiveness in hot spots. While retaining the original design, a survey was undertaken to better understand the motivations and incentives of police officers and develop policies that would "nudge" officers into compliance with protocols. This example shows that it is beneficial to adapt programmes, but the impact of the change can only be ascertained if careful monitoring and evaluation is in place.

Monitoring and evaluation is essential for programme transfers to new contexts. M&E is an effective tool to identify the key components that make a programme effective and recognise the components that need to be adapted to fit the new cultural context. Scientists distinguish between the core, the programme components that need to stay fixed, and the periphery, the programme components that should be adapted. More data collection through monitoring and evaluation is needed to adapt programmes by identifying the programme's core components and to understand how adaptations in the periphery affect overall programme effectiveness. To date the evidence on the effectiveness of cross-cultural programme transfers and the key factors to success remain limited. Some evidence suggests that prevention programmes that have been proven in one cultural context can often be effectively transferred to new contexts with marginal changes. For example, Frances Gardner (University of Oxford) presented evidence from randomised controlled trials involving "exportation" of American and Australian parenting interventions to new contexts that suggests that "strategies and programmes are highly acceptable and wanted by parents in new countries, including those with very different cultural value systems"[2][3]. Deviations from the original programme can reduce the effectiveness and often only marginal changes are needed. Speakers at the Global Violence Reduction Conference recommended investing in monitoring and evaluation infrastructure to determine the optimal level of fidelity versus adaptation in programme replications to new contexts.

1 Ortega, D. (2014). Crime policy learning at CAF: The PILAR initiative. In: Transnational Criminology Spring 2014. Fairfax: Centre for Evidence-Based Crime Policy George Mason University.

2 Gardner, F., Knerr, W, Montgomery, P. (2014). Transporting evidence-based parenting programs for child problem behavior (age 3-10) between countries: Systematic review and meta-analysis. From Adoption to Adaptation, Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. Under review.

3 Lachman, J.M., Cluver, L.C., Ward, C.W., Sherr, L., Hutchings, J., Gardner, F., Mjware, N.S., (2014). Be a parent to all children: Integrating evidence-based parenting principles within a local Xhosa cultural context to inform the development of a parenting program for low-income families in South Africa. In submission.

# FINDINGS

Build violence prevention research capacity in low- and middle- income countries through cooperation between research institutes (e.g. North-South cooperation), partnerships with philanthropic organisations, trainings in evidence-based research practices and advocacy to increase support for investing in "hard data" among decision makers

Improve reporting of sensitive data related to violence and abuse through indirect questioning

Improve the quality of academic data reporting standards through the development of better trial conduct and reporting guidelines, preregistration of all evaluation studies, and better systematic review and meta-analysis standards

Support violence prevention research in fields that are currently underrepresented, such as maltreatment of the elderly

Develop international standards for violence prevention baseline, progress and outcome measures

# FINDINGS

Make violence prevention data more accessible through open-source software, online databases and data visualisation programmes

Spend a minimum amount of 10-20% of total programme budget on monitoring and evaluation of violence prevention programmes

Establish observatories to coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of violence prevention programmes

Prioritise local policymakers' questions and concerns in the monitoring and evaluation of violence prevention programmes (rather than foreign agendas) and place scientific tools at the service of these questions

Invest in monitoring and evaluation of proven violence prevention programmes to identify the optimal level of adaptation versus fidelity for successful programme transfers to low- and middle-income countries

# 4.

## RECOMMENDATION

**PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE:**

FOCUS ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND WOMEN

# 4.1 PROTECT CHILDREN THROUGH POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAMMES AND SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTIONS

Across the globe violence tends to affect those disproportionately who are among the most vulnerable and have the least resources. A large volume of research shows that the poor, ethnic and racial minorities, people with disabilities, orphans or the elderly are amongst those who are particularly exposed and hence more likely to be the victims of violent transgressions. Contributions at the Global Violence Reduction Conference focused on two groups that are particularly vulnerable to violent victimisation, namely children and women. The experts from the United Nations Children Fund (Susan Bissell and Theresa Kilbane) shared their findings from the recently published UNICEF report "Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children"[1]. Violence is the leading cause of death among children and over 40% of children worldwide experience severe physical punishment. The most common form of violence takes place in homes: 60% of children between the ages of 2 and 14 worldwide are subjected to physical punishment on a regular basis by their caregivers and 30% of adults worldwide still believe that physical punishment is necessary to properly raise and educate children. Catherine Ward (University of Cape Town) added that low- and middle-income countries tend to have the highest rate of violence against children. Maha Almuneef illustrated the scope and types of child abuse in the Arab World: 60% of children in the Middle East and North Africa region experience physical abuse and specific forms of abuse such as female genital mutilation, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking or child neglect. In sum, children and adolescents are the group most at risk of violence. David Finkelhor (University of New Hampshire) mentioned that they have a 2-3 times higher rate of exposure to violence than adults and Manuel Eisner (University of Cambridge) emphasised that homicide rates reach their peak during adolescence, with young men being at the highest risk of perpetration and victimisation. Alys Willman (World Bank) further pointed out that violence against children and youth is especially predominant in poor countries, as 80% of the world's youth live in low- and middle-income countries (1.2 out of 1.5 billion) and the youth bulge (the share of the population between 15 and 29) is expected to further increase in these parts of the world.

## POSITIVE PARENTING

Caregivers play a major role in reducing violence against children because parenting style is strongly correlated with children's likelihood of aggressive conduct. Parenting that enables secure attachment of children to caregivers, promotes cognitive learning and controls the socio-emotional reactions of children appears to reduce violence in children and improve a range of developmental outcomes. In turn, harsh and inconsistent parenting is associated with child conduct problems and aggression. Several speakers also discussed the evidence for the "intergenerational transmission thesis" of violence, suggesting that early exposure to violence increases the likelihood for victimisation and violent behaviour in later life. Charlotte Watts (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) recommended more involvement of fathers (rather than only mothers) in transforming violent behaviour in the household. She presented the SASA intervention in Uganda[2], a community mobilisation programme that seeks to reduce violence by promoting critical thinking about gender norms through discussion groups. SASA views gender discrimination as the main source of violent behaviour and helps participants in the intervention to develop critical thinking of gender issues by asking indirect questions about the related concept of power relationships. These discussions have the advantage of keeping fathers more involved than discussions about male patriarchy and gender discrimination against women. A 52% reduction in partner violence after the intervention was accompanied by less exposure of children to violence and more positive parenting. Additionally, a qualitative analysis of the SASA intervention conducted by bursary scholar Nambusi Kyegombe[3] (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) found that adults reported improved communication skills, better household functioning and more feelings of connectedness in the family. They also reported increased involvement of children in household decision-making, the use of more positive language, and changed attitudes towards corporal

> " **Caregivers, teachers and policy makers are at the forefront to end violence against children.**

punishment of children. Frances Gardner (University of Oxford) recommended that parenting programmes should go beyond norm or attitude change and emphasise behavioural change since it cannot be assumed that proxy measurement changes are reflected in actions. This could be assessed with reports from multiple informants on violence perpetration and victimisation advised Harriet MacMillan (McMaster University).

## SOCIO-EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN SCHOOLS

John Lawrence Aber (New York University) suggested that schools are at the frontline of violence reduction because they are primary settings to reach and teach the broadest population of children. About 90% of primary-school aged children worldwide are enrolled in schools and children aged 5-11 are increasingly spending a significant portion of their weekday hours in schools. He argued that education that reduces violence needs to (1) go beyond access to provide quality knowledge in multiple domains including literacy, numeracy and socio-emotional skills, (2) go beyond provision of classroom resources and provide instruction, classroom management and emotional support, and (3) go beyond academic skills and put more emphasis on socio-emotional skills in the curriculum that facilitate engagement, productivity and well-being. He presented the model of community-based education with a social-emotional learning component that was widely implemented by the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs in marginalised areas. While promising, the model's effectiveness on violence prevention has not been assessed. Preliminary findings of the similar "Learning in Healing Classrooms" model in the Democratic Republic in Congo showed that, while effective in other domains, the intervention had limited effects on the victimisation of children[4]. Aber's research centre IDEAS for Kids (Intervention Design, Evaluation, and Application at Scale) is currently engaging in efforts to generate further evidence to better integrate violence prevention strategies into education systems of conflict-affected countries.

## POLITICAL WILL

Several speakers at the conference reviewed evidence-based policy recommendations by international organisations and recommended to further mobilise political will to implement these recommendations in national action plans. For example, the WHO[5] has endorsed a set of policy recommendations to reduce violence against children and adolescents, which include the development of primary intervention programmes for young children and their caregivers, aimed at fostering strong, stable and stimulating relationships and programmes for enhancing cognitive, emotional, interpersonal and social life-skills in children and adolescents. UNICEF[6] identified a number of global strategies to reduce violence against children: (1) supporting parents and caregivers with programmes, (2) helping adolescents and young people to manage risk, (3) promote and provide support services for children at system-level, (4) implement laws and policies to protect children, and (5) recognise the importance of hard data in monitoring policies.

1 United Nations Children's Fund (2014). Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children. New York: UNICEF.

2 Watts, C., Michau, L. (2014). The SASA study: A cluster randomized controlled trial to assess the impact and cost-effectiveness of a violence and HIV prevention programme in Kampala, Uganda. Impact Evaluation 2014 3ie Final Grantee Report. Available from: http://www.3ieimpact.org/evidence/impact-evaluations/details/292/ [Accessed: 26 February 2015].

3 Kyegombe, N., Abramsky, T., Devires, K., Starmann, E., Michau, L., Nakuti, J., Musya, T., Heise, L. and Watts, C. (2014). The impact of SASA!, a community mobilization intervention, on reported HIV-related risk behaviours and relationship dynamics in Kampala, Uganda. Journal of the International Aids Society (17): 19232

4 Aber, J.L. (2014). On the frontline of violence reduction: Generating evidence for school-based strategies to promote children's development in conflict-affected contexts. In: Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 working papers: Session speaker biographies, abstracts and summaries. Cambridge: University of Cambridge. Available from: http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/conference/csessions [Accessed: 26 February 2015].

5 WHO (2002). World report on violence and health. Geneva: WHO.

6 United Nations Children's Fund (2014). Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children. New York: UNICEF.

# 4.2 REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH GENDER-SENSITIVE AND VICTIM- CENTRED INTERVENTIONS

High numbers of women and girls experience physical or sexual abuse every year but most victims remain hidden in official statistics and unrecognised as a policy priority. Claudia Garcia Moreno (World Health Organization) presented WHO data[1] showing that worldwide almost one third of women experience physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Intimate partner violence tends to be higher in low- and middle-income countries. The WHO data shows that levels of violence are higher in the Southeast Asian region (37.7%) and the African and Eastern Mediterranean region (37%) compared to high income countries (23%). Human trafficking is another tragic manifestation of violence against women and girls since about 75% of the 2.5 million trafficking victims globally are female, stated Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (United Nations Human Rights Office). Other forms of gendered violence are female genital mutilation, affecting 125 million women and girls worldwide despite legal restrictions in most countries where it occurs, and child marriage, which violates girls' well-being through early-child bearing and limits their access to education and employment. Numbers for most types of violence against women are unreliable and likely to be higher because women tend not to report abuse. In India, only 2% of female victims of intimate partner violence report to the police, said Suneeta Krishnan (Research Triangle Institute). The main risk and protective factors for violence against women are similar across violence types and are distributed across the ecological model. Factors for victimisation include young age, low education, unemployment, exposure to child maltreatment, substance abuse (alcohol and drugs), poverty and traditional gender norms supportive of violence. Partners and ex-partners are the most common perpetrators of violence against women. A systematic review[2] of data from 66 countries found that 1 out of 7 homicides is related to intimate partner violence and that women are six times more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner. Interestingly, the risk and protective factors of perpetration are largely shared with those for victimisation, which indicates that interventions that address common factors might be most effective. The evidence on effective interventions is still emerging but research by the WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine[3] suggests that there are already a number of promising interventions to prevent violence against women and girls. These include school-based programmes to prevent dating violence, microfinance and gender equality training, communications and relationships training, and programmes that promote cultural and gender norm change (e.g. through media awareness campaigns and working with boys and men).

## GENDER-SENSITIVE INTERVENTIONS

Speakers identified the need for more gender-sensitive initiatives that transform gender norms, while actively involving boys and men. Gender norms that justify violence lie at the heart of violence against women and girls and as long as these structural constraints are in place, interventions at lower levels of the ecological model are unlikely to have lasting effects. Charlotte Watts (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) mentioned IMAGE (Intervention with Microfinance for AIDS and Gender Equity)[4], a participatory microfinance and gender training in rural South Africa of which she is a senior advisor. The intervention empowers women from poor households financially through a microfinance programme that increases their employment opportunities, strengthens their financial bargaining power in the household and improves their social networks. The programme also provides training on understanding gender norms and issues of reproductive health, especially preventing HIV infection. A randomised-controlled trial[5] found that IMAGE reduced intimate partner violence by 55% and participants were less likely to agree with statements condoning intimate partner violence (52% of participants in the intervention group compared to 36% in the control group).

According to Rachel Jewkes (South African Medical Research Council) there is still too much reluctance to study and address

4. PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE

gender issues. She argued that standard epidemiological approaches often result in "shopping lists" of risk factors that can hinder rather than assist understanding. They "accentuate the differences through the reduction of behaviour into measurable units for surveys", she said. It is important to further "deepen the understanding of latent (immeasurable) constructs such as the construction of masculinity and femininity". This requires qualitative understanding on the theoretical connections and the dynamic nature of "gender", potential mechanisms causing violence and the construction of gendered identities. She argued for the need to support and conduct more interdisciplinary research, such as the nexus between sociology and epidemiology that has advanced understanding in the field through the application of gender theory and the study of the construction of masculinity.

## COLLABORATION WITH THE HEALTH SECTOR

Better collaboration with nurses, doctors and other actors in the health sector can help to identify victims of intimate partner violence and refer them to the right services. Suneeta Krishnan (Research Triangle Institute) presented an intervention[6] that strengthens the capacity of health care providers to respond to intimate partner violence. The intervention consisted of (1) training of health-care providers on understanding intimate partner violence and using practical guidelines to identify and assist victims, (2) establishment of agencies that provide referral services, and (3) policy advocacy to address violence against women. The evaluation showed that the knowledge of providers increased, more women reported to be asked and informed about intimate partner violence and 70% of women who disclosed abuse used referral services for counselling, shelter or legal aid.

> " More gender-sensitive interventions are needed to eliminate violence against women that actively consider the role of boys and men in transforming gender stereotypes that justify violence.

## A VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH

Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (United Nations Human Rights Office) recommended putting more emphasis on a human rights and victim-centred perspective to stop the widespread "blaming of victims" related to trafficking of women and girls. Gender and cultural norms often shame the victims of violence, decreasing their likelihood to report to the police, legal services or doctors. Ezeilo therefore identified

the need to implement the three victim-centred "R's", that is "redress, rehabilitate and reintegrate" into national policy frameworks. Policy strategies should focus on "victims by recognising and redressing the violations suffered, empowering the victim to speak out without being double victimised, jeopardised or stigmatised, while at the same time targeting the root causes of human trafficking", Ezeilo said. She recommended combining the "3 R's" with the "5Ps" (protection, prosecution, prevention, punishment, promotion of international cooperation) and the "3Cs" (capacity building, coordination and cooperation) into an 11-pillar framework for human trafficking prevention.

## POLITICAL WILL

Speakers agreed on the need to go beyond rhetoric and implement policies that protect women and girls against violence. Governments should consider the following international legislation and human rights instruments in national plans to prevent violence: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1991), the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993), the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (1995), the Millennium Declaration (2000), and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (1994). With regards to human trafficking, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo highlighted the importance of implementing useful instruments for combatting trafficking, including the Protocol on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, the Council of Europe Convention on Traffic in Human Beings (2005), and the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Trafficking Protocol) whilst considering the "Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking", developed by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

1   WHO, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and South African Medical Research Council (2013). Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. Geneva: WHO.

2   Stöckl, H., Devries, K. Rotstein, A., Abrahams, N., Campbell, J., Watts, C., and Garcia Moreno, C. (2013). The global prevalence of intimate partner homicide: A systematic review. Lancet 38(2): 859-865.

3   WHO and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2010). Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: Taking action and generating evidence. Geneva: WHO.

4   Kim, J., Ferrari, G., Abramsky, T., Watts, C., Hargreaves, J., Morison, L., Phetla, G., Porter, J., and Pronyk, P. (2009). Assessing the incremental effect of combining economic and health interventions: the IMAGE study in South Africa. Bull World Health Organ 87(11): 824-832.

5   Pronyk, P.M., Hargreaves, J.R., Kim, J.C., Morison, L.A., Phetla, G., Watts, C., Busza, J. and Porter, J. (2006). Effect of a structural intervention of the prevention of intimate partner violence and HIV in rural South Africa: Results of a cluster randomized trial. Lancet 368(9551): 1973-1983.

6   Krishnan, S. (2014). Using health as an entry point to address intimate partner violence: Insights from India. In: Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 working papers: Session speaker biographies, abstracts and summaries. Cambridge: University of Cambridge. Available from: http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/conference/csessions [Accessed: 26 February 2015].

# FINDINGS

- Replicate evidence-based parenting programmes, giving more attention to the role of fathers

- Promote school-based social-emotional learning initiatives to prevent violence against children that integrate socio-emotional skills in the curriculum and facilitate well-being of students through classroom management and emotional support

- Recognise the vulnerability of adolescent men in youth violence prevention programmes and policy

- Develop more gender-sensitive initiatives that transform gender norms, while actively involving boys and men

- Support inter-disciplinary research that goes beyond "shopping lists" of risk factors and explores gender issues and other latent variables underlying violence against women and girls

- Collaborate with the health care sector to increase the identification and referral of victims of violence

- Adopt human rights and victim-centred approaches to prevention, focusing on the three victim centred "Rs" (redress, rehabilitate, reintegrate) to reduce re-victimisation

- Develop National Action Plans to prevent violence against vulnerable populations based on recommendations of international organisations

# 5.

## INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT MATTERS:

IMPROVE LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION

RECOMMENDATION

# 5.1 PROMOTE GOOD LEADERSHIP

What must happen in societies so that citizens feel safe on the streets, organised crime and extortion are rare, children are protected in schools, and men do not beat their wives? Participants at the conference emphasised that such societies often have the benefit of governments and civil society institutions that support and protect their citizens. This includes, for example, a criminal justice system that effectively enforces the rule of law, a health care system that protects and supports victims, and a political system that positively responds to grievances and feelings of injustice amongst its citizens. Various mechanisms are involved in the creation of such institutional contexts. According to Robert Rotberg (Harvard University and Woodrow Wilson International Center) leaders are the key actors in building well-functioning institutions. In his view, good leaders create

> **"**
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> **Empowering police leadership with a sense of "self-legitimacy" is a necessary condition to build legitimate police institutions that can reduce crime and violence.**

the "political culture" that enables the development of rules needed for institutional functioning. Following his line of reasoning, institutions are not only dependent on leadership but leaders are necessary preconditions for institutional functioning. Good leadership is therefore particularly important for violence reduction in pre-institutional settings that are common in low- and middle-income countries, he said. His examples of good leaders that played a central role in shaping the political culture and institutions of countries included Seretse Karama of Botswana, Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk of Turkey.

## LEGITIMATE LEADERSHIP

Lawrence Sherman (University of Cambridge) suggested that one way of creating better leaders that can strengthen institutions is by promoting a sense of "self-legitimacy". Self-legitimacy is a belief in one's ability to make a difference and it can be promoted through professional and executive training. Sherman illustrated this by using examples of leaders in the police force, who are at the forefront of building legitimate police

institutions. Several studies have established that low legitimacy of the police force is related to higher levels of violence. Better policing institutions are therefore important elements to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. Sherman suggested that leaders could re-establish the legitimacy of institutions if they were empowered to believe in themselves and their ability to make a difference in their profession. This could be achieved through training that equips the leaders with the tools and knowledge necessary to make use of the global evidence-base in violence prevention. Knowledge is power that increases the capability of police leaders to take action trough better understanding of the problem and how to tackle it. Sherman (University of Cambridge) discussed the need for more executive leadership training and presented his Police Executive Programme "MSt in Applied Criminology and Police Management" at the University of Cambridge that teaches principles of evidence-based policing. Similarly, Robert Rotberg (Harvard

University and Woodrow Wilson International Center) recommended that aspiring political leaders should have more access to executive trainings, such as the African Council for Leadership.

## MORAL LEADERSHIP

Manuel Eisner (University of Cambridge) discussed the role of "moral entrepreneurs" as leaders that can promote self-control and morality in society. Institutions are dependent on coalitions of moral entrepreneurs that set examples, advance pro-social values and norms in governance that minimise opportunities for corruption. Several empirical studies have demonstrated the association between self-control and crime, and suggested that leaders with a lack of self-control are more likely to be risk seeking, corrupt and opportunistic. In turn, leaders with high levels of self-control and morality resist short-term temptations

and meet more socially beneficial long-term goals. He also suggested that good leadership is a necessary, but not a sufficient condition, for violence reduction. In a comparative analysis he argued that major sustained homicide declines appear to have been comprised of three elements, of which leadership is only one part. First, homicide declined where states established an effective rule of law, curbing the corruption of state officials, gaining control over private protection markets, and enhancing state legitimacy through inclusive institutions. Second, declines regularly appear to be linked to bundles of social control technologies, including monitoring technologies, increased control over disorderly conduct, and systems aimed at early identification and treatment of offenders and victims. Third, homicide declines were often triggered by coalitions of moral entrepreneurs who emphasised the importance of self-control, civility, and respect, and thereby changed societal beliefs about the wrongfulness of doing harm against others.

# 5.2 PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION THROUGH LOCALLY GROWN INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

High violence societies tend to have poor functioning institutions characterised by disrespect for institutional rules (e.g. high levels of corruption, lack of compliance with the rule of law and human rights), lack of participatory mechanisms in decision-making (e.g. democracy), lack of complaint and internal affairs procedures and lack of inclusive and equitable mechanisms that consider all groups, especially minorities and the most vulnerable (e.g. victim protection services, offender treatment). Robert Rotberg (Harvard University and Woodrow Wilson International Center) therefore argued that political elites must commit themselves to the rule of law, improved governance and inclusive state-services as the very foundations of any sustainable approach to population level reductions in interpersonal violence. Maria Fernanda Tourinho Peres (University of São Paulo) also discussed the importance of the rule of law in the fight against the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC), the largest criminal organisation in the city of São Paulo. The organisation has established itself in favelas and achieved a monopoly of violence that has generated as sense of insecurity, despite the 74% reduction in violence since 2000. A respondent in a qualitative study reported: "It is just like the stream of a river: You look and think that the water is quiet, but you know that below the strong flow is passing". Peres recommended that violence prevention needs to reinforce a real sense of security through good governance, enforcement of the rule of law with a legitimate police force and inclusive social policies.

## HOME GROWN STATE REFORM

According to James Putzel (London School of Economics) state reform to improve governance is most effective when it is "home grown", rather than imposed from external actors. He found that local political elites are the main sources for developing legitimate institutions and he advised against intervening in the affairs of other states through military interventions with the aim to bring about "good governance" associated with liberal values.

He recommended taking the perceived wisdom of promoting Western recipes for success (incl. democracy and economic liberalism) with a grain of salt. Evidence shows that destroying fragile state institutions and promoting liberal policies in fragile states too early is likely to create conditions for long-lasting violence. Thus, some of the most intractable and intense sites of violent conflict are territories where regime change was achieved through external interventions, which were justified in the name of ending state oppression and insecurity (e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria). Externally imposed regime change is no solution, as legitimate institutions are primarily created through the power struggle between local elites and inclusive political settlements between elites. These elites can establish peace by addressing the main factors of state-vulnerability to large-scale violence: (1) the absence of legitimate state control over security, (2) the absence of a fiscal system that ensures state control, taxation and spending that is inclusive across identity groups, (3) the failure of the state organisation to ensure a presence throughout significant parts of its territory, and (4) the failure to establish a hegemonic position for state institutions or rules within a country. Putzel stated that "too often foreign donors [and states] still bypass the embryonic state establishing a 'dual public authority' – while this is constructive in a consolidated state, it can be deadly where state-building is still on the agenda".

Hualing Fu (University of Hong Kong) provided an overview of the Chinese violence reduction strategy that developed through the consolidation of the Chinese elite. According to Fu, the Chinese success in reducing violence has been based on three types of interventions that are different from the "liberal ideal" of good governance: (1) a proactive authoritarian state that is the main conflict resolution mechanism and that is suppressing any disputes, (2) gated workplaces for migrant labourers that separate migrants with many risk factors for violence (poverty, marginalisation, youth, etc.) from the larger society and discipline them on behalf of the state, and (3) situational control with the help of "Good Samaritans", vigilant citizens and responsive bystanders that reinforce the principles of state order. While these policies seem to have the desired effect of reducing crime and violence, Fu concluded that the Chinese government could still benefit from some best practices for violence reduction used in Western contexts. He advised that the state should eventually move beyond ad hoc informal and extra-legal interventions by allowing more procedural justice and strengthening the conflict-resolution role of civil society.

## PEACEFUL CIVIL RESITANCE

Civil society actors can play an important role in reshaping institutions from the "bottom up". Maria Stephan (United States Institute of Peace) recommended strengthening civil society movements in their role to reform societal and political institutions. In analysing 323 civil society campaigns from 1900 through 2006, Maria Stephan and Erica Chenoweth found that campaigns of nonviolent resistance were twice as likely to succeed as campaigns of violent resistance, and that nonviolent campaigns ushered in greater chance of democracy and civil peace than their violent alternatives[1]. To illustrate this point, they mentioned examples such as the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and the civil rights movement in the USA. The single and most important factor influencing success of peaceful civil resistance is large diversity and scope of the movement. She also found that future stability of the state is related to how violent or peaceful institutional reform is. "43% of countries that experienced armed resistance relapsed into civil war 10 years after the campaign ended compared to 28% of those that experienced nonviolent campaigns", she noted. This is an important argument for strengthening the role of civil society in promoting good governance. Stephan presented a number of recommendations to support non-violent reform movements: (1) non-governmental and multi-lateral entities should invest in a systematic study of the tools available to external actors to support nonviolent campaigns and develop a framework for intervention that includes guiding principles, (2) (I)NGOs and private foundations involved in supporting civic campaigns and movements should join forces and compile best (and worst) practices related to their interventions – and develop virtual and off-line ways to disseminate those best practices, (3) the UN or other multilateral actors should fund the marketing of these practical training tools, and (4) international actors should support the normative conversation about the "responsibility to assist" nonviolent activities. She also highlighted strategies available to support civil society from the Diplomat's Handbook for Democratic Development Support[2]: Providing small grants to civic actors, monitoring trials of political prisoners, engaging in solidarity actions to support the right of peaceful assembly, helping connect civil society by providing alternative channels for information, targeting warnings to security officials who might be tempted to use force against non-violent protesters, and supporting capacity building for civic groups.

## POLICE REFORM

The police is the core institution through which the state can effectively exercise its monopoly of violence and contain violence. An ineffective police force often becomes a perpetrator of violence and reform strategies should ensure that police officers can better serve their citizens. Etannibi Alemika (University of Jos) described the widespread problems of the Nigerian police force based on an analysis of responses in the CLEEN victimisation survey[3]. Respondents viewed the Nigerian police officers as cor-

rupt (48%), many of them were required to pay bribes (40.5%) and about half of the victims that reported to the police were dissatisfied with the handling of their cases. He reported that the Nigerian government had recognised the need for institutional reform and established three presidential committees that developed recommendations for police reform. Existing recommendations centre around the deepening of a good governance culture and include (1) enhancing public-police partnerships, (2) deepening respect for the rule of law and human rights by the police, (3) introducing anti-corruption measures, (4) improving human resources, (5) and establishing accountability mechanisms for police performance, conduct and resource management. Innocent Chukwuma (Ford Foundation) added four key findings on good governance of security forces from a review of the literature and a study that was carried out by the Lagos-based CLEEN Foundations in seven West-African countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra

> " State reform is most effective when it is "home grown" rather than imposed from external actors. Civil society actors can play an important role in peacefully reshaping institutions from the bottom up.

Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, Liberia and Niger)[4]. It found that effective governance of security forces requires (1) a wider societal democratic context, (2) decentralisation of governing institutions and civil society participation, (3) clear jurisdiction and development of protocols for collaboration and coordination among security forces, detailing procedures for security interventions, and (4) external oversight mechanisms such as presidential commissions and panels of inquiry that periodically assess abuse of rights by security forces.

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1  Chenoweth, E. and Stephan, M. (2011). Why civil resistance works: The strategic logic of nonviolent conflict. New York: Columbia University Press.

2  Kinsman, J. and Bassuener, J. (2013). A diplomat's handbook for democracy development. Waterloo: Centre for International Governance Innovation.

3  Alemika, E. (2013). Criminal victimization, policing and governance in Nigeria. Lagos and Abuja: CLEEN Foundation.

4  Chukwuma, I. (2014). Fair and accountable security forces as a strategy for reduction of identity-based violence in West Africa. In: Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 working papers: Session speaker biographies, abstracts and summaries. Cambridge: University of Cambridge. Available from: http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/conference/csessions [Accessed: 26 February 2015].

## 5.3 IMPLEMENT PROVEN POLICIES TO REDUCE VIOLENCE

Violence reduction research on policy effectiveness and population-level factors that are relevant for policy-makers is gaining momentum but more needs to be done to effectively support evidence-based policies. Common macro-level factors associated with violence are alcohol and drug use, gun availability, lack of employment opportunities, high ethnic and social fractionalisation, low levels of economic development (low HDI) and high inequalities in the distribution of wealth (high Gini coefficient), gender inequality, presence of organised crime, and low social policy and health expenditure. While risk factors are commonly established, the context-specific causal mechanisms or policies needed to trigger change in the variables require further exploration. It also needs to be understood how policies can be tailored to best target different types of violence.

### POLICIES AGAINST TRIGGERS FOR VIOLENCE

Policies against triggers for violence, which include policies to control access to alcohol, firearms and drugs, can be first cost-effective contributions towards effective national violence prevention plans. Mark Bellis (Liverpool John Moores University) presented the well-established finding that consumption of alcohol is strongly associated with violence. In England and Wales, 49% of an estimated 1.9 million violent incidents annually are alcohol-related. This excludes most of the approximately 2 million cases of domestic violence and the half a million incidents of sexual assault, of which 25% - 40% are alcohol-related[1]. He reviewed a number of policies to reduce alcohol-related violence: Taxation and pricing policies that increase price and restrict the number of establishments licensed to sell alcohol, altering hours of trading, and controlling advertising of alcohol products. Keith Krause (Graduate Institute of Geneva) discussed the evidence on gun policies. He said that gun-related deaths account for around 46% of violent deaths worldwide and are an important area for policy making. Krause suggested that the disposition to use firearms for criminal acts is not related to the possession of firearms per se but rather the membership in broader criminal networks, particularly in the case of gangs and organised crime. He also emphasised that guns do not generate more violence. Rather, they increase the severity of the consequences: "The prevalence of gun ownership has little or no effect on the overall volume of violent crime – more guns, same amount of violence. The lethality of violence depends on the mix of weapons [rather than the prevalence of gun ownership] – more guns, more murders", he concluded. Firearm-related deaths should therefore be tackled with policies that disrupt criminal networks.
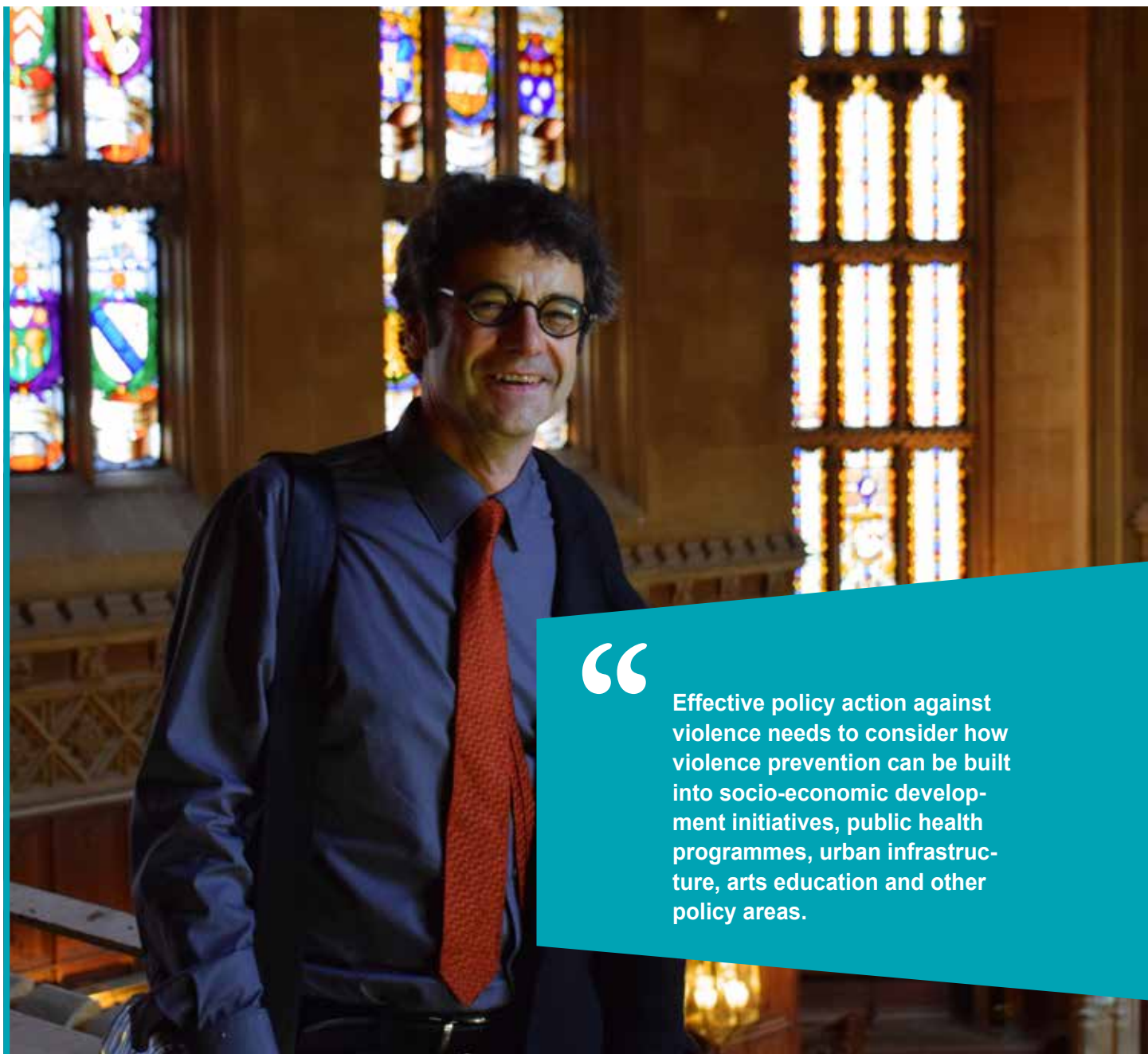
> " Effective policy action against violence needs to consider how violence prevention can be built into socio-economic development initiatives, public health programmes, urban infrastructure, arts education and other policy areas.

## POLICIES AGAINST CRIMINAL NETWORKS

Many forms of violence tend to be highest in areas with high levels of organised crime and effective policies to achieve a 50% decline of violence in 30 years therefore need to include the fight against organised crime. James Finckenauer (Rutgers University) defined organised crime as organisations with an intrinsic business purpose that allows the group to exist and thrive. They "have the ability to use, or the reputation of using, violence or the threat of violence to facilitate criminal activities, and in certain instances to gain or maintain a monopoly control of particular criminal markets; they are usually large in reach, criminally sophisticated and have continuity over time and crimes". Examples are the Italian Cosa Nostra, the Russian Solntsevskaya, the Japanese Yakuza and the Mexican Zetas.

Given the nature of these criminal business networks, criminal groups cannot be separated from their international enterprises and policies need to target the criminal markets through international cooperation at multiple policy levels. Since these networks are predominantly hierarchical, Susanne Karstedt (University of Leeds) said that it is necessary to develop policy programmes of dynamic deterrence that target leaders and other key actors in organisational networks.

1 Bellis, M. (2014). Reducing alcohol-related violence – Equity, Environment and Early Years. In: Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014 working papers: Session speaker biographies, abstracts and summaries. Cambridge: University of Cambridge. Available from: http://www.vrc.crim.cam.ac.uk/conference/csessions [Accessed: 26 February 2015].

5. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT MATTERS

integrate violence prevention into poverty reduction and education programmes. Nancy Guerra (University of Delaware) illustrated how artistic pursuits can have beneficial effects on violence reduction. She discussed the example of the El Sistema National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, an orchestra for adolescents from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, which was recently evaluated by the Inter-American Development Bank. The study examined 3,000 children between the ages 6-14 and found that participating in the youth orchestra led to lower aggression and increased levels of self-regulation, particularly in boys growing up in the most distressed environments. This implies that effective action against violence needs to consider how violence prevention can be built into socio-economic development initiatives, public health programmes, urban infrastructure, arts education and other policy areas.

## PENAL POLICIES

Effective penal policies as well as offender treatment must become part of comprehensive long-term plans to reduce violence. Daniel Nagin (Carnegie Mellon University) and Michael Tonry (University of Minnesota and Max Planck Institute) rejected some popular policy myths on deterrence and presented their findings on the effectiveness of imprisonment as a crime prevention policy. They pointed out that American-style harsh punishment of offenders and lengthy prison sentences are largely ineffective and very costly methods of crime control. Experience of imprisonment may exacerbate, not reduce, recidivism because prisons are often "schools for crime". Despite the evidence, inefficient sentencing policies are still widely maintained. "Many people who want to believe that deterrence and incapacitation are primary mechanisms of crime prevention are hard-wired to see what they want to see and to disdain what undermines their prejudice [...] The blinder of ideology will take longer to fall", said Michael Tonry. Nagin pointed out that certainty of swift and fair sentencing, not long and harsh sentencing, is the core ingredient of effective deterrence and that the police needs to be empowered to better apprehend offenders: "It is the certainty of apprehension, not the severity of the ensuing consequences, that is the effective deterrent. The most important set of actors affecting certainty of apprehension is the police." Principled legal cultures play a key role in producing sentences that are swift and fair, added Tonry. He found that countries in which courts and prisons are "apolitical institutions that consistently impose punishments that are fair, proportionate and humane tend to have relatively low levels of violence".

Offenders should also be treated in a fair and humane manner after release from prison and have access to offender treatment. Thus, Friedrich Lösel recommended considering "RNR principles (risk, need and responsivity)" in the formulation of policies against re-offending since research shows that these principles can reduce recidivism by 30%. The risk principle suggests that more serious offenders need more intensive programmes, the need principle is about focusing on the problem of the criminal and targeting these needs directly, and the responsivity principle recommends the use of adequate programmes that address learning and teaching modes.

## INDIRECT PREVENTION POLICIES

National Action Plans against violence also need to consider public policies that are only indirectly related to violence itself. David Finkelhor (University of New Hampshire), argued that the recent decline in child abuse and neglect in the United States was probably less the result of targeted programmes aimed at child maltreatment, but more the side-effect of a bundle of generic policy changes and social control mechanisms including surveillance technologies, improved prevention and intervention for mental health problems, including medication. In a similar vein, Graham Farrell (Simon Fraser University) argued that some of the decline in violent crime across the Western world is probably a side-effect of more effective security and surveillance technologies built into everyday life including, for example, central deadlocking systems, better and more widespread home protection technologies and more surveillance cameras. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (United Nations Human Rights Office) provided another example of the importance of indirect prevention policies. She demonstrated that the socio-economic status of women is intrinsically linked to their increased vulnerability to human trafficking. Effective strategies to prevent human trafficking therefore need to

# FINDINGS

- Promote access to executive leadership training in violence prevention

- Improve leadership for violence prevention by reinforcing self-legitimacy and self-control in leaders

- Promote good governance for violence prevention through locally-driven and locally-owned reform by political elites (rather than foreign military intervention or conditional aid)

- Strengthen the role of peaceful civil resistance in institutional reform through the study and dissemination of best practices and tools in successful nonviolent campaigns and the normative discussion of the "responsibility to assist" nonviolent activities

- Reform the police force to better prevent violence, considering existing recommendations for good governance in policing including deepen respect for the rule of law, develop clear jurisdiction and protocols, introduce anti-corruption measures, improve human resources, establish accountability procedures for police performance and establish external oversight mechanisms

- Control situational triggers for violence such as easy access to alcohol and guns

- Prevent organised crime by directly targeting illegal markets and organisational hubs/nodes with policies based on international cooperation and network analysis

- Integrate violence prevention considerations in existing public policies not directly related to violence itself (e.g. health policies, socio-economic policies, security and social control policies, education policies)

- Implement penal polices that reduce violent offending by introducing swift and fair sentencing (rather than harsh and long punishments) and granting the right to offender treatment

# 6.

## THE WHOLE IS BIGGER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS:

### CREATE GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES TO PREVENT VIOLENCEPREVENTION

RECOMMENDATION

# 6.1 CREATE A GLOBAL SOCIAL MOVEMENT FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

The Global Violence Prevention Field needs a coordinated social movement to tackle violence, since violence is global in many of its manifestations and therefore needs an integrated and international response. Lawrence Sherman (University of Cambridge) talked about the need to create a "social movement" that promotes evidence-based practices and Alexander

> " Actors in the Global Violence Prevention Field need to cooperate to prepare the scientific and political prerequisites for a global social movement that can reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years.

Butchart (World Health Organization) advocated for mobilising the Global Violence Prevention Field. According to Butchart, the political prerequisites for this movement are (1) to mandate relevant organisations to address violence, (2) advocate for global political prioritisation of violence prevention, ensuring that violence prevention stays in the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals agenda, and (3) get champion countries to ask the General Assembly to produce a policy document. This policy document should ask countries to strengthen their violence prevention capacities and multisectoral planning and call upon international organisations to prepare recommendations for voluntary violence reduction targets and develop a global plan of action. Susan Bissell (United Nations Children Fund) further recommended establishing a world body that would bring ministers together to discuss evidence-based policies in violence reduction. Such a body would be a democratic coordination mechanism for the social movement and help to align the global policy priorities.

## POLITICAL MOMENTUM

Political momentum to achieve a sustainable reduction of global levels of violence is growing. Richard Matzopoulos (Medical Research Council South Africa and University of Cape Town) presented the Integrated Provincial Violence Prevention Policy Framework adopted by the Western Cape Government. The framework emphasises a public health and whole-of-society approach, evidence-led interventions, focus on high-risk areas and the institutionalisation of monitoring and evaluation. Amy Nivette (University of Oxford) mentioned several policy initiatives that are likely to have contributed to citywide violence reductions - the Citizen Security Programme in Bogotá, the Johannesburg City Safety Strategy and the establishment of a Violence Reduction Unit in Glasgow. Arturo Cervantes (Anáhuac University Mexico and National Institute for Educational Evaluation Mexico) discussed the unprecedented creation of the National Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programme by Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. Suneeta Krishnan (Research Triangle Institute) recounted recent positive developments regarding violence against women in India, namely the 2005 Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, the 2012 National Mission for the Empowerment of Women and the 2013 Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act. Furthermore, "the national government announced that it will establish 100 One Stop Crisis Centres and create the Nirbhaya Fund of 1,000 crore Rupees to respond to violence against women and girls". Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (United Nations Human Rights Office) enumerated promising policy developments during her time as United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons such as the Palermo Protocol prohibiting trafficking and the recently published Guidelines against Human Trafficking. Leading international organisations are stepping up

their commitment to global violence reduction. For example, in 2014 UNICEF launched its report "Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children" along with a companion piece called "Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action". Also, UNODC's "Global Study on Homicide" provides a statistical tableau of current global homicide that is detailed and comprehensive enough to serve as a benchmark for specific reduction goals.

## POLITICAL MOBILISATION

Despite the growing political interest in violence prevention, political resistance to global mobilisation still needs to be overcome. Many countries lack national action plans and national rapporteurs to oversee violence prevention and therefore Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (United Nations Human Rights Office) recommended that states should take action to improve institutionalisation and accountability with action plans and rapporteurs. Another issue is political resistance to address certain types of violence that are culturally sensitive (e.g. violence against women and children). Michael Feigelson (Bernard van Leer Foundation) and Patricia Lannen (UBS Optimus Foundation) suggested that actors in the Global Violence Prevention Field should partner up with philanthropies to tackle politically sensitive topics neglected by governmental organisations. States and international organisations often experience pressure to adjust their agendas, while philanthropic organisations can take non-popular viewpoints because they are not tied to political agendas and short election cycles. For instance, Shak/Slum Dwellers International was launched with philanthropic support in order to establish a network of community-based organisations across 33 countries, enabling slum dwellers to engage directly with governments and avoid evictions. Philanthropies have also taken up the challenge to address sexual violence in low- and middle-income countries. Examples include "Girls Not Brides", a campaign against child marriage that was funded by a coalition of philanthropic partners and the "Girl Effect", a movement to empower girls in low- and middle-income countries that was initiated by a collaboration between the Nike Foundation, NoVo and the United Nations Foundation. Nevertheless, Michael Feigelson noted that philanthropies could do much better in becoming advocates for marginalised and non-popular voices in society.

## CONCERTED POLICY ACTION

The global social movement in violence reduction needs to adopt "mixed vector strategies", a term used by David Finkelhor (University of New Hampshire), that unites the strengths of different actors to tackle the major problems of global violence. Important "vectors" of the social movement that can complement each other in their strengths are international

organisations, businesses, philanthropic organisations, academic institutions, civil society organisations, and governments. International organisations are important norm-setting and norm-changing bodies for the movement, said Alexander Butchart from the World Health Organization. Among the roles of international organisations are (1) articulating and aggregating interests (e.g. through a global plan of action), (2) altering belief systems by establishing norms, (3) defining rules that are more or less binding (e.g. for infectious disease control and human rights), and (4) providing support to countries in implementing policies. Businesses can prevent crime by promoting a form of corporate social responsibility in situational prevention and product security, as discussed by Graham Farrell (Simon Fraser University), and by establishing philanthropic organisations. Patricia Lannen (UBS Optimus Foundation) and Michael Feigelson (Bernard van Leer Foundation) highlighted some key strengths of philanthropies: (1) absorbing political and financial risk with innovative investments, (2) convening partnerships, (3) capitalising on time-intensive opportunities (4) building violence prevention capacity, and (5) investing in patient capital. Academic

institutions are knowledge-generating bodies for the movement and play a key role in developing the scientific prerequisites for the social movement. For Alexander Butchart (World Health Organization), the scientific contributions consist of (1) improving measurement of violence that are comparable over time and between settings, (2) improving spread and coverage of studying effective prevention programmes, with special focus on low- and middle-income countries (3) identifying which of the evidence-based programmes should be selected for a global plan, (4) developing a better understanding of the effects of social and economic policies on violence prevention, and (5) building scientific capacity by training the violence prevention work force. Civil society actors are among the main implementers of violence prevention programmes and can trigger political change through "peaceful civil resistance", as discussed by Maria Stephan (United States Institute of Peace). Governments are key actors that implement recommendations in legal frameworks, develop national action plans to tackle violence and reform the police forces to make them better serve their people.

# FINDINGS

Mandate international organisations to address violence

Advocate for global political prioritisation of violence prevention and ensure that violence prevention stays in the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals agenda

Get champion countries to ask the General Assembly to come up with a policy document that requests countries to strengthen their violence prevention capacities and multisectoral planning

Call upon international organisations to prepare recommendations for voluntary reduction targets and develop a global plan of action for violence prevention

Introduce National Action Plans and National Rapporteurs for violence reduction

Partner with philanthropies to absorb the political risk of tackling types of violence that are culturally sensitive and often neglected by governments (e.g. sexual abuse, child maltreatment)

Create a social movement by adapting "mixed vector strategies" for violence prevention that combine the strengths of different actors and create synergies between sectors, disciplines, violence types, prevention types and levels in the ecological model

Establish a world body that brings ministers together to discuss evidence-based policies for violence reduction

# OUTLOOK

"2015 is a chance to change history", said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the opening of the 2015 Youth Forum organised by the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) - referring to the post-2015 development agenda. This includes a chance to revolutionise our approach to violence. For the first time ever policy makers, stakeholders and researchers are beginning to believe that we can find better ways everywhere to protect children from physical and sexual abuse, women from intimate partner violence, and young men from premature death and injury in drug wars and alcohol-related fighting.

The challenges are huge. But the discussions at the first Global Violence Reduction Conference show that a global platform is emerging. It builds on the cross-disciplinary scientific evidence about violence reduction in ways similar to the evidence that supports strategies addressing global threats such as unsustainable development, hunger and poverty, or infant mortality. In the present report we have summarised the discussions of the conference into six main strategic priorities. They are not an endpoint. They are part of a dynamic that will gain speed in the next few years. In the concluding outlook we highlight some important future considerations needed to pursue the strategic priorities and achieve the overarching goal of the conference: Reducing violence by 50% in the coming 30 years.

## TRACKING PROGRESS

If we want to reduce violence globally by 50% over the next 30 years we need to know where we are starting from, what progress is being made, and where we fail. Currently most countries do not have such knowledge. A true global epidemiology of violence requires an information revolution: One important component will be better national and local incident-based and geo-coded data that are rapidly available so that agencies can intervene quickly. But equally important is a global monitoring system based on agreed indicators, repeated measurements, and coherent reporting standards for all major manifestations of violence. The WHO and other international agencies are already working towards this goal. One important next step in this direction could be internationally recognised quality standards for measurement of core indicators such as sexual abuse, school bullying, gang violence, or intimate partner violence, which can be used cross-culturally and over time in various survey settings.

## MOVING FROM PROGRAMMES TO SYSTEMS

Where violence reduction has been achieved in the past it was never due to one particular programme. Violence declined because whole systems and entire cultures changed. This includes changes in which behaviours were deemed acceptable and unacceptable, how parents bring up their children, or how schools promote discipline and commitment. However, our current evidence-base tends to fragment knowledge into single interventions delivered in specific settings with some focused outcomes. If this knowledge is to become useful for changing regional and national trends it needs to be embedded in systems change. This requires a step change in the integration of knowledge systems that provide decision makers and practitioners with the best locally relevant information possible.

The WHO initiatives and the likely endorsement of violence reduction in the post-2015 UN development goals will create incentives for countries and cities to become champions of violence reduction – global pathfinders that prioritise violence prevention and demonstrate what can be achieved. Science will be needed to provide the knowledge commensurate with the population level ambitions. This means that researchers will have to think beyond mere evaluations of single programmes. In fact, a core challenge to prevention science will consist in providing better knowledge of the impact of systemic policy change on levels of violence and convincingly presenting the strengths and weaknesses of what we currently know. This should include reviews of consolidated knowledge both of system change specifically designed to reduce crime and violence, as well as what we know about system change where violence reduction was a by-product of attempts to address other problems like child nutrition, better school achievement or state corruption. All this will require new methods and new standards of evidence for these new methods.

## GENERATING EVIDENCE FOR BETTER LIVES

Caracas in Venezuela has 4,000 murders and Singapore 14, although both cities have roughly the same population. Why? And at what age do the underlying behaviour differences emerge? Embarrassingly, we do not know. In fact, we hardly understand what generates variation in violence between cities, why cities sometimes experience explosions of murder rates and then unexpectedly become successfully pacified, and how influences at various stages of individual lives contribute to these outcomes at the level of whole societies. However, understanding this very question is decisive for any effective violence reduction policy.

One cornerstone of knowledge advancement could be a revolutionary comparative study that traces the lives of cohorts of children born in cities that represent the global variety of

cultures and societies as they develop over the coming decades. Such an "Evidence for Better Lives" study would be the most ambitious project ever for understanding the forces that shape human aggression and cooperation in different cultures, achieving an effective worldwide reduction of violence, and promoting productive lives amongst disadvantaged young people on every continent. It would have the potential to bring together neuroscientists, psychologists, economists and sociologists from across the world with the shared goal of producing the transformative basic science that must guide the future development of better prevention efforts.

## BUILDING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INTO VIOLENCE PREVENTION

A mobile app may be more effective in reducing secondary school sexual violence than expensive training courses. And some of the most cost-effective opportunities for making big steps in better violence reduction may come from progress in science and technology. For example, information technology will likely give victims in all parts of the world access to faster and better support, will make it easier to track and convict offenders, and will help build better security in the daily activities of citizens. Progress in genetics and neuroscience is beginning to unravel the biological mechanisms involved in different forms of violence, and will help to develop more targeted and more effective interventions. Also, private enterprise will probably have a pivotal role to play as security can be built into how information is shared, how financial transactions are enacted, and how alleyways are built and monitored.

It is therefore important to think beyond the current heart of evidence-based violence prevention. We need to reach out to new disciplines and actors who may be crucial in contributing to a more effective way of promoting a positive and healthy development across all stages of the life course, protecting

youth development and criminological research about better and more legitimate policing, more effective courts, and fairer sentences should be priority, especially in countries with high levels of systemic violence.

## CHANGING VALUES AND CULTURES

Governments invest resources, schools implement measures and young men change their behaviour not just because of new evidence–based programmes: The backbone of society-wide change in approaches towards child sexual abuse, harsh corporal punishment, police brutality or vigilante violence in townships is a transformation of the beliefs that sustain and justify such behaviours at every level from the members of parliament and the managers of large corporations to members of communities. To achieve a substantial reduction of violence, we need a change in the cultural beliefs and values that condone and justify violence. In promoting such cultural transformations at a population level we will have to learn more from other prevention campaigns, adapting the knowledge gained about the principles of effective behaviour change in areas such as road safety, smoking or HIV prevention to violence prevention.

## TRANSFERRING KNOWLEDGE AND PURSUING INNOVATION

If the Global Violence Prevention Field is to achieve large-scale progress over the coming years it needs coalitions of academics, policy makers, communication experts, journalists and civil society leaders who want to make a difference. Across the world police officers, social workers, health specialists, civil society actors or urban planners with an interest in violence wish to make a difference. Academics therefore have an obligation to translate and share their knowledge with practitioners – in a form that is accessible – and to promote practices that are more effective. This requires a step change in capacity building and training, including online information, short training courses, targeted graduate programmes in evidence-based violence prevention for practitioners, as well as the expansion of research capacities for innovation and evaluation in the field.

The recent reports by the WHO, UNICEF and UNODC, the commitments by major philanthropic organisations, and the various national and regional initiatives show that leaders across the world are beginning to believe that violence can be reduced through joint action. The first Global Violence Reduction Conference showed that researchers from across the world understand the challenges that lie ahead. We believe that it is important to maintain the momentum generated at that conference and continue a global and interdisciplinary academic forum that can provide critical support to a core development goal of the coming decades.

vulnerable groups from experiences of intentional harm and injury, and addressing the individual and social risk factors that contribute to violence.

## REFORMING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

In every known modern democratic society low levels of interpersonal violence go side by side with an effective, fair, and legitimate criminal justice system. This includes a police seen not as an enemy but as an agency that serves its community, a judiciary that deals with cases effectively and humanely, and a prison system that balances the needs for protecting society against dangerous offenders with the opportunities that modern offender treatment offers. Establishing an effective rule of law enforced by a legitimate state and paralleled by access to education, health and infrastructure is a core challenge in all hot spots of violence across the world. We believe that integrating public health knowledge about supporting positive child and

Is it possible to cut worldwide levels of interpersonal violence in half within the coming 30 years? This question was at the centre of the first Global Violence Reduction Conference 2014, jointly organised by the University of Cambridge and the World Health Organization. The conference lured experts out of their comfort zone, asking to reflect on big strategies to reduce violence by 50% in the next 30 years. It brought together 150 leading representatives from international organisations, academia, civil society institutions and philanthropic organisations to discuss how scientific knowledge can contribute to the advancement of this violence reduction goal. The main message of the conference was that a global violence reduction by 50% in the next 30 years is achievable if policy makers harness the power of scientific evidence on violence reduction. This report outlines important ideas presented at the conference that could help to reach this goal and groups them into six key policy recommendations:

**1.**
**TACKLE THE BIGGEST PROBLEM AREAS FIRST: FOCUS ON LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES, HOT SPOTS AND TOP VIOLENT CITIES**

**2.**
**STOP THE REINVENTION OF THE WHEEL: DISSEMINATE, ADAPT AND REPLICATE BEST PRACTICES GLOBALLY**

**3.**
**HARNESS THE POWER OF BIG DATA IN VIOLENCE REDUCTION: DEVELOP DATA SCOPE, ACCESS AND STANDARDS**

**4.**
**PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE: FOCUS ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND WOMEN**

**5.**
**INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT MATTERS: IMPROVE LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

**6.**
**THE WHOLE IS BIGGER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS: CREATE GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES TO PREVENT VIOLENCE**