



Making the Peace:

a 15-Session Violence Prevention Curriculum for Young People

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MAKING THE PEACE IS A VIOLENCE PREVENTION CURRICULUM that includes two manuals, *Making the Peace* and *Days of Respect*, each presenting complementary approaches that can be used in schools, correctional facilities, and community youth programs. Developed by the Oakland Men's Project, the books provide a framework for understanding the issues, creating an atmosphere of safety and trust, and fostering open dialogue among participants.

Making the Peace is written to help young people break away from violence, develop self-esteem, and regain a sense of community. It provides exercises, role-plays, in-class handouts, homework sheets, and discussion guidelines to explore issues such as dating violence, gangs, interracial tension, suicide, sexual harassment, and the social roots of violence.

Drawing from years of experience in violence prevention, the authors outline a 15-session program that is grouped into three units. **Part One** explains basic concepts and establishes a framework of safety and respect within the class, **Part Two** looks at the forms which violence takes. **Part Three** focuses on healing from the past and introduces individual and group activities that can help to make the peace. The opening chapter, "Before You Begin," offers specific advice and guidelines to teachers for doing violence prevention work with young people.

Throughout the book there are practical suggestions—from arranging desks to facilitate discussion, to anticipating rough spots and handling difficult responses. All handouts and homework exercises come ready-to-use and designed for easy reproduction. Flexible enough to use during consecutive days or throughout a semester, *Making The Peace* is a beginning, not an end. By addressing sensitive issues with respect, it models the important



process of developing the skills that can help young people to build violence-free relationships

192 pages, 15 photos, 35 reproducible handouts

Abridged Table of Contents

Sessions 1-5

The Roots of Violence

Making the Peace

What Violence Is

The Roots of Violence

How Violence is Learned

Sessions 6-10

Race, Class & Gender

Who I Am, Where I'm From

Who We're Going To Be

Economic Class

Women and Men Together

Sessions 11-15

Making the Peace Now

Guns and Violence

Self-Directed Violence

Becoming Allies

What's Next?

"Violence is usually dealt with as a question of managing offenders and protecting everyone else from their acts. It is therefore refreshing and wonderful to come upon a curriculum that tackles the root causes of violence while at the same time trying to help violent people come to terms with their actions."

— Herbert Kohl, for *RETHINKING SCHOOLS* magazine

