

Violence in the Home

Difficulty:



Date of release:

Wednesday 26th October 2011

Discussion activities to be done after completing this EA lesson

Today's report is about violence in the home. How common is it? What are some of its effects on children? What is happening to reduce domestic violence?

Extension discussion topics

A. Talking about and going over the specific topic / idea / issue in listening text

Introduction = What is domestic violence? How many people are affected? What are its effects on children? What is being done to prevent it?

1. What is domestic violence and how many people are affected?

- any form of behavior used to gain power or control over another person.
- includes verbal, emotional, physical or sexual abuse.
- also, physical attacks and rape are examples of domestic violence.
- two hundred seventy five million children worldwide are affected.
- one in four American women suffer during their life.
- one and a half million women are physically attacked or raped each year.
- in the U.S. three women die each day.
- one in thirteen men in the United States is a victim.

What do you think about these numbers? Are they accurate do you think? Do they surprise you? Do you think the numbers are the same in your country?

2. What are some of the effects of domestic violence, especially on children?

- they face a greater risk of problems in school, emotional disorders, and drug abuse.
- it is like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- victims feel responsible for the abuse they suffer.
- victims have a strong sense of shame or dishonor.
- they may grow up to become abusers or victims themselves.

3. What is being done to prevent domestic violence?

- Domestic Violence Awareness Month organized in the U.S.
- research been done into the numbers of people affected.
- a briefing by experts in Washington for U.S. law makers.
- talking about it and bringing it out in the open will help.
- difficult as many cases not reported, especially from men.
- knowing facts may help to save lives.

What do you think can be done to prevent domestic violence? Are there similar actions and groups in your country?

B. Expanding on (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

Topic = Violence.

1. The report was about a type of violence which happens in the home. What other types of violence, or violent behavior, are there? Make a list. (Suggestions: wars, riots, fights, etc.). What crimes do you know which might include violent acts? (Suggestions: robbery, burglary, mugging, etc.). What things do people use in violent acts? Make a list and compare it with a friend's. (Suggestions: guns, fists, knives, sticks, etc.)
2. Have you ever seen any physical violence? If so, what, where, when, etc. (... if you want to talk about it) Were the police involved? Violence is part of many films. Why is this do you think? Do you like violent films? Why, or why not?
3. Is physical violence common in your country? If so, what types are common? Where do these violent acts mostly happen? What do you think are their causes? Why do you think men commit more violent acts than women?
4. The report described physical violence, as well as emotional and verbal violence. What types of verbal, and or emotional violence are there? Make a list and compare it with a friend's. (Suggestions: anger, shouting, swearing, hurtful comments, refusing to reply or silence, criticism, etc.). Do you think that physical violence is worse than verbal, and or emotional violence? Why do you think this?

C. Extending discussion of (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

Topic = Childhood.

1. Tell me about your childhood. Where were you born? Were you born at home or in hospital? Where did you live when you were between one and five years old? Did you have brothers or sisters? Who were your earliest friends? Do you remember anything about this time, if so what? If not, what is your earliest memory?

2. What was your first school? What was it like? How far from where you lived was it? How many were in your class? Who were your friends? What teachers do you remember from this time? What were they like? What sports did you play? Which lessons were your favorite? Did you change schools at any time? What was your last school like?
3. Think back to the years when you were between ten and sixteen years-old. What were your hobbies? Who were your friends, and do you still know them now? What did you used to do at weekends? What other members of your family did you see? Were these years happy? If you could change one thing about it, what would it be?
4. Do you have children, or want children? How is / or would you like their childhood to be different from, or the same as, yours? In what ways is childhood different now, from when you were growing up? Is it better or worse for parents and for children? In what ways?

Audioscript

Domestic violence experts from across the country gathered last week in Washington, DC. They took part in a special congressional briefing on the effects of domestic violence on children. A group called the Makers of Memories Foundation helped organize the event. Another organizer was the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Five years ago, the United Nations published results of a study about domestic violence. It found that as many as two hundred seventy five million children worldwide witness violence in the home. These boys and girls represent a secret society of sufferers. Officials say they are the forgotten victims of domestic violence.

Research shows such children face a greater risk of problems in school, emotional disorders, and drug abuse, among other things. Some research has suggested that their experiences are severe enough to meet the requirements for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Many children who witness violence at home grow up to become abusers or victims themselves. That is why the UN Children's Fund calls domestic violence "one of the most pervasive human rights challenges of our times."

The congressional hearing was held last week to educate American policy makers about the problem. Domestic violence is defined as any form of behavior used to gain power or control over another person. It can include verbal, emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

The National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control say one in four American women will suffer some form of domestic violence in her lifetime. One and a half million women are physically attacked or raped each year. In the United States, three women die each day because of violence in the home.

The problem is believed to be even more widespread than these numbers suggest. Many cases of domestic violence are never reported. Victims often feel responsible for the abuse they suffer. They also experience a strong sense of shame or dishonor.

This is even truer among men, who are less likely to report abuse. Studies show that one in thirteen men in the United States is a victim of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month seeks to bring these issues out into the open, and to get more people involved in finding a solution. Officials say knowing the facts about domestic violence may help save lives and end the cycle of violence.