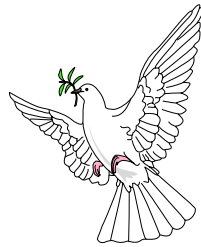


How Communities Can Help:

- Create community strategies to promote cooperation and confront bullying among girls.
- Educate parents.
- Provide comprehensive training for school caregivers in dealing with girls relational aggression, starting in preschool.
- Increase academic support for struggling students and parents.
- Encourage and model emotional maturity.
- Advocate for clear expectations and consequences for aggression among girls.
- Encourage or train older girls to mentor younger girls who fall into this self-destructive behavior.

How to Fund Programs to Prevent, Educate and Solve Girl to Girl Violence?

Tax entertainment industries that make money off violence in music, films and on television.



For Further Help and Information

Call HopeWorks at (860) 561-1175, ext. 0 or email us at hopeworks@snet.net.
or
Vivian Carlson, PHD at St Joseph College
860-231-5341

Contributions to HopeWorks

HopeWorks is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Harm2Harmony: Intervening in Preschool Girls' Relational Aggression

"Creating opportunities for girls to move from harmful to harmonious relationships"



90 North Main Street
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Providing hope and help to young people and their families through counseling, education and community outreach



Indicators of Problematic Aggression:

1. Verbal aggression and threats
2. Name calling
3. Mean teasing
4. Leaving other kids out
5. Creating intentional problems in close relationships
6. Enjoying other peer's misery
7. Not sharing toys
8. Play that becomes frightening
9. Biting and hitting



Resulting Damage

1. Beginning patterns of cruelty
2. Unhappy shunned children/target
3. Dislike of school
4. Lost trust in friendship which leads to isolation and depression
5. Violence can cause:
 - a. Expulsion from school
 - b. Negative identity / get labeled
 - c. Broken relationships
 - d. Loss of safety in schools

In this way many girls' hopes for the future can be derailed.

Why Does This Happen?

Adults ignore or minimize early indicators.

Adults don't know how to intervene.

Adults may model coercive control when dealing with challenging girls.

Girls who witness or experience abuse at home may withdraw, be rejected by others and/or have outbursts of rage.

Girls who don't understand requests and routines may learn to use verbal abilities to manipulate peers instead of trying to comply with adult expectations.



Proven Research Methods for Intervening with Pre School Students:

Train all teachers and staff to attend to and intervene in all relationally aggressive incidents as well as on physical aggression.

Educate parents and caregivers about the future negative outcomes from the habit of relational cruelty.

Teach and model positive social skill development, compassion and self control in young children.

Provide universal access to effective public and private family counseling.

Provide access to mental and behavioral health consultation for all preschool teachers.