

Conversation 5

Violence in South Africa

[Introduction]

South Africa experiences extremely high levels of violence. For instance, police statistics show that xx people were murdered last year, which means xx people were murdered every day. Similarly, xx people suffered rape and sexual assault last year. This is thought to be an underestimation of the problem, given that many victims of gender violence do not report incidents to the police.

In pairs:

Describe a time when you witnessed/were affected by violence in your family, community and society.

- What happened? How do you feel about it now?
- Have you ever taken part in something that led to violent conflict? What happened? How do you feel about it now?

In the group:

Why does violence happen in South Africa?

- Think back to a recent incident of violence in South Africa.
- What happened?
- Why did it happen?
- What happened in the long run?
- What would you do to end the violence?
- What would you do to solve the conflict?

Do you think this statement is true?

The story of settlement, colonialism, apartheid, racial domination in South Africa is a story of violence and humiliation.

- How were people affected by violence in South Africa's history?
- What does it mean to be humiliated by violence?
- How can children be affected by the humiliation of their parents?
- What would you do to repair the damage done by the humiliation of violence?

[Conclusion]

Stopping the violence in South Africa is a huge challenge. Violence is embedded in our lives. We have seen how violence continues through generations as it feeds on humiliation and need in the population. Instead of spreading rumours of violence and conflict on social media (often false) it is better to begin conversations about violence to help us think rationally through the problems.

Before the next session ...

Do something

Ask someone, preferably a senior person, the same questions as above. And ask:

- Why is there so much violence in South Africa?
- Do you think it's true that people are HUMILIATED by the violence done to them?
- How does humiliation change a person's behaviour?
- How would you solve the problems?

Find out

The international Nobel Peace Prize is awarded every year to a person or organisation that promotes peace in a way that brings real change. Find out which South Africans have been awarded this prize. Find out the reasons why they were chosen.