



# PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST VIOLENCE

## SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS MADE ON THE SUBJECT

During the Universal Periodic Review in 2018, no recommendation on violence in institutions where children live was made. However, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended in 2016 that the French State "accelerate the adoption of a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, as part of the overall child protection policy".

Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence as stated in Article 19 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Goal 16.2 of the MDGs is to "end child abuse, exploitation and trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children";

## NATIONAL FRAME

Article R421-20 of the Education Code states that all schools must include a violence prevention plan, which includes a programme of action against all forms of harassment. The law of 7 February 2022 on the protection of children (Taquet law) makes it compulsory to carry out criminal record checks on all professionals and volunteers working with children in establishments for minors, creates a single shared reference system for reporting acts of violence, and provides for the creation, on an experimental basis, of a departmental committee for the protection of children in voluntary departments, in order to coordinate the actions of the various actors involved in child protection.

## RECOMMANDATIONS

- Establish mechanisms and institutions to monitor violence in juvenile institutions in order to understand the causes of violence and to respond to it at an early stage;
- Strengthen the training of professionals in detecting and reporting violence to protect children.

## 1. School can be perceived as a place of aggression and harassment by/for young people and teachers.

Children are sometimes subjected to violence within the very institutions (schools, child protection centres, etc.) where they should be protected.

This violence is not sufficiently known, analysed or understood to reduce its consequences and prevent recidivism.

## 2. Adults are helpless in the face of violence (including bullying) because they lack the tools to react appropriately.

Sometimes they are themselves actors of violence within the school or institutions.

66% of teachers say they do not feel equipped to prevent or deal with harassment 83% say they have never received any training on the subject.

### SOURCES

A/HRC/38/4, 145.236 (Liechtenstein), 145.237 (Sweden), 145.238 (Uruguay), 145.239 (Andorra), 145.240 (Denmark), 145.241 (Estonia)  
 Alternative report to the UPR, Apprentis d'Auteuil  
 Barometer for Education, Apprentis d'Auteuil, 2021.  
 Barometer for Education, Apprentis d'Auteuil 2022.  
 INED La violence sous protection Expériences et parcours des jeunes récemment sortis de placement " A l'école, le signalement des violences sexuelles, une obligation et surtout un défi ", Le Monde, Mattea Battaglia, 16 May 2022

**"There is a lot of harassment and it starts very early in primary school, even in nursery school."**

Child interviewed by Apprentis d'Auteuil

### Violence in schools :

74% of young people believe that school is a place where violence can be expressed and 29% do not feel safe at school. 63% of secondary school teachers feel violence in their school.

- In secondary school, girls are more often victims of sexist insults and sexual violence.
- **39% of those who had experienced peer-to-peer bullying at school considered that it had affected their social life, 38% their schooling, 34% their emotional life, 20% their family life, 19% their professional life and 17% their sexual life.**

### Violence in residential care or in a family environment :

**1/3 of 10-15 year olds in social care spontaneously mention violence that occurred during their placement, either between young people or linked to the functioning of the institution.**

It is estimated that 35,000 reports of suspected child abuse are made by teachers and 10,000 reports are made by professionals in schools each year.

The psychological, social and educational consequences of violence can be serious: dropping out of school, self-destructive and even suicidal behaviour.

When there is a lack of consideration and listening, the feeling of incomprehension of young people who are harassed and victims of violence increases and isolates them:

**"Teachers don't react, we are told "stop complaining"; "I wish I had been listened to when I was abused".**

When adults are in the position of harassers or provokers or actors of violence, young people feel devalued, demotivated and insecure:

**"One teacher said to me: "Anyway, it's obvious that you look like a drug dealer";**

**"Their comments can be odious: you don't deserve to have the baccalaureate, it's extremely demotivating".**