



INTERNATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

Statement of Beliefs

We, the members of the International Bullying Prevention Association, are committed to preventing bullying and victimization in children and youth and to the development of healthy relationships in our schools and communities.

Our beliefs:

- Every child and youth has the right to be respected and safe. Bullying is a violation of this basic human right.
- It is the moral responsibility of adults to ensure these rights are honored and that healthy development and citizenship are promoted.
- Bullying is a form of aggression, involving the abuse of power in relationships. It is recognized globally as a complex and serious problem. It has many faces, and varies by age, gender, and culture.
- Cyberbullying should be considered within the context of bullying, rather than as a separate entity.
- Children and youth involved in bullying suffer. Bullying and victimization problems begin early in life and for some last a lifetime.
- Some populations are more vulnerable to bullying, including youth with disabilities, youth with chronic health problems including obesity, and youth who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.
- Many protective factors associated with bullying are known, and prevention programs are being implemented in many countries with encouraging results. There is not a “one size fits all” approach to bullying prevention.
- The consequences of bullying - emotional, physical, social, and academic - have an enormous impact on human and social capital. The costs of bullying burden our education, healthcare, social services, and criminal justice systems, as well as work force productivity and innovation.
- Bullying concerns and affects us all.

Actions we promote

- Intervene whenever and wherever bullying occurs among children and youth.
- Start evidence-based prevention efforts early and continue these through childhood and adolescence, targeting known risk and protective factors and promoting healthy relationships.
- Educate and empower all adults involved with children and youth to promote healthy relationships and prevent bullying.
- Use policy and prevention programs, based on scientific research, that are appropriate for age, gender, and culture, and that involve families, peers, schools, and communities.
- Adopt multi-component school wide programs that include both universal and indicated prevention strategies. Discontinue the use of zero-tolerance programs.
- Provide ongoing assessment and monitoring necessary to evaluate the success of policies and programs and to guarantee the rights of children and youth.

IBPA acknowledges the work of the European Association of Developmental Psychology in providing a model for our statement with their Kandersteg Declaration Against Bullying in Children and Youth.