Prevention of violence

The Fiftieth World Health Assembly,

Welcoming the report of the Director-General on prevention of violence;

Expressing satisfaction with the rapid progress in the development of the plan of action for progress towards a public health approach to violence prevention based on scientific data;

Recognizing the opportunities to give effect to the plan of action through the collaborative mechanisms of the WHO programmes concerned, collaborating centres and institutions, professional and other nongovernmental organizations, and in collaboration with other appropriate organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, with particular attention to those dealing with human rights;

Concerned with:

1. The increase in all forms of violence particularly domestic violence that is directed, mainly at women and children;
2. Child trafficking and sexual abuse;
3. Bullying in schools and in institutions, and various forms of organized violence;

Realizing the complexity of the issue, and that violence does not only affect health but in many cases is the outcome of practices detrimental to health such as alcohol and drug abuse as well as of various socioeconomic factors;

Reiterating WHO’s role of leadership and guidance to Member States in assessing the problem of violence and in order to prevent self-inflicted violence and violence against others,

1. ENDORSES the Organization’s integrated plan of action on violence prevention and health;
2. URGES Member States to collaborate with WHO in attaining the objectives and implementing the tasks of the plan of action;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to develop the plan of action and to submit to the next Assembly:
(1) a report of the past year’s activities, a budget, a timetable for implementation and a list of priority actions to be undertaken by WHO with its appropriate collaborating centres;

(2) guidelines for the development of preventive activities to be taken by Member States.

Ninth plenary meeting, 13 May 1997
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