

TEN APPLIED PRINCIPLES OF VIOLENCE

Principles

1. Violence and the threat of violence preempt other events for attention and action.
2. The perpetrator group, victim group, and context in interaction constitute the violent event for collectivities.
3. Perpetrator violence involves a temporal series of discrete stages.
4. Deliberate deception by the perpetrator typically occurs at every stage of the lethal violence sequence.
5. History, opportunity, and triggers to violence, operating in concert against inhibitions, are the principle contributions to violence.
6. Violence is always a choice after costs are weighed and nonviolent options are excluded.
7. Successful violence is frequently followed by self-reinforcing thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.
8. Interventions that respond violently to violent events lead to self-generating violent interlocks.
9. Micro-violence and macro-violence are functionally similar and tend to potentiate each other.
10. Reframing and redirecting our violent mindsets require transcending violent interlocks to cycles of affection and gratitude.

Implied Interventions

- Knowledge of nondeliberate distortion about violent events should be factored into our observations.
- Because violence is often the result of mutual contributions, the designation of perpetrator group or victim group should be based on careful interactional analysis.
- Interventions can be targeted to any stage in the violence sequence.
- Deception should be accounted for in order to plan appropriate intervention effectively.
- Inhibitions acting to reduce the incentive to behave violently should be developed and implemented.
- The decision path of organizations that lead to violence should be articulated before intervening.
- Care should be taken to ensure that violence is neither successful nor reinforced socially.
- Violence interlocks are initially broken by unilateral, non-violent actions, not by bilateral actions.
- Expect and plan for micro and macro changes affecting each other.
- Training in altruism and the advocacy of others, even of our perceived adversaries, should start in childhood and proceed throughout the lifetime of each individual.

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