

Why Violence is Never the Answer

Martin Luther King once said, "*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*" Going by this idea, violence cannot drive out violence; only peace can. For many people this is true, not only for minute situations, but also for national, regional and global matters in question. Although there are situations in which violence may seem like the only answer, people can find alternative responses to get their arguments and points across.

Countries like Mexico and Syria constantly face government corruption; leading to wars for independence, resources and government changes. About a year ago advocates stood up against the Mexican government to fight against corruption. "Advocates presented the government with hundreds of thousands of signatures backing a nationwide campaign to combat corruption. The president, facing tough questions about his administration and personal conflicts of interest, including his wife's purchase of a multimillion-dollar custom home from a major government contractor, conceded" (Mexico's Government Is Blocking Its Own Anti-Corruption Drive, Azam Ahmed). This along with many other problems that the citizens of Mexico find unfair has led to a fight against the Mexican government and its citizens in which many of innocent people have had to suffer and be spectators of the violence that has unleashed. Many times, violence caused by government ruling is unfair and affects innocent people the most, leaving them not only traumatized but sometimes even left to die. Because innocent people are left to suffer in hands of governmental injustices, violence in this situation should never be the answer.

Governments should rather seek agreement with their communities and with other nations in order to do what's best for their people. During a time in which we are currently

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dealing with losses of natural resources, it is easy for leaders of different nations to turn to violence in order to get resources they need. Because it is human nature to fight for survival, not being able to approach conflicts with different problem solving methods could lead to more violent wars. It is important to be able to act upon situations with a cold mind in order to avoid the death of those who don't deserve it.

On an individual level, violence may be the only answer in certain situations. Sometimes self defense requires acts of violence but the main goal of self defense is to apply enough physical force in order to escape the dangerous situation. Because self defense isn't powered by hatred but with fear, self defense is different than other kinds of violence.

Acting with violence could influence younger generations to believe that violence is acceptable. According to NCADV, "one in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence". Not only is this mentally and emotionally unhealthy for a child but there could also be a higher chance of that child experiencing domestic abuse in the future or even being the abuser. According to the childhood domestic violence association, children who witnessed and faced domestic violence are three times more likely to repeat the cycle they were once in.

Conflicts that require violence have already been created by some form of violence meaning that violence will only make problems worse. Personally, I had a situation in which a couple of my friends and I have had arguments in which one person would start off mad, which then would eventually lead to the rest of my friends getting frustrated with the situation. After several arguments we realized that if there were to be at least one person to calm things down the arguments would turn into discussions in which compromise would be achieved.

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Overall, violence is almost never the right answer because it brings in more violence, affects younger generations in negative ways and because there are always alternative responses. Learning to act and respond in nonviolent ways can not only ease a conflict but even save lives. Violence has been around since the beginning of time, but now is the time to end violence.