

# TAPORI NEWSLETTER

Tapori is a worldwide friendship network which brings together children from different backgrounds who want all children to have the same chances. They learn from children whose everyday life is very different from theirs. They think and act for a fairer world by inventing a way of living where no one is left behind.

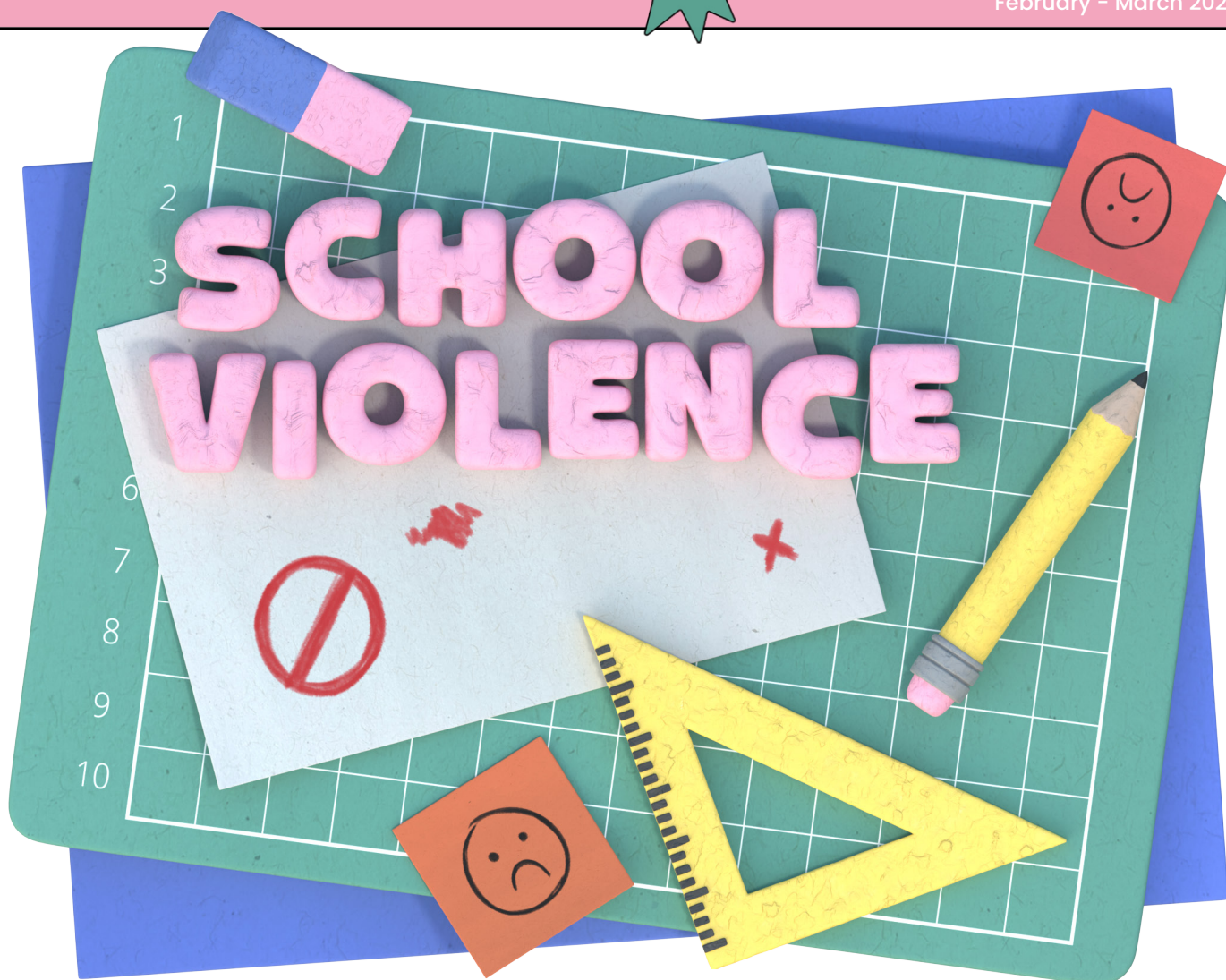


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RACISM



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In these Tapori Newsletters, we are proposing to work on the injustices we see around us. We want to show that children can **change for the better** the spaces where they are present in their daily lives.

The great majority of Tapori children go to school. It's one of the places where they spend most of their time, and yet many children have named **school violence** as one of the **most frequent injustices** in their lives. **What can we do together to make school the place of our dreams?**

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From **Dakar**, Senegal, the Tapori children tell us about school and what it means to them.

We go to school with lots of **hope**. Our families tell us it's a place where we will learn and build a future so that later on, it will be a support for us and help us improve our own lives and our families' lives.

We are happy going to school because we have friends to play with and learn with, but it's not always easy. There are also **difficult things** in school. It can be an unfriendly place for many of us.

Our families don't always have the money to buy us a snack for break time, and our clothes aren't new. Because of this we get nasty remarks and sometimes we are made fun of. We're also laughed at if we get bad marks. Fear and shame prevent us learning at the same pace as others.

Many of the teachers are kind and take good care of us. They want the children to be respectful and help us go forward. However they sometimes use hurtful words, not realising that the other children pick up these words, and repeat them to us and make fun of us on the way home. A lot of the fights between children at school are due to words and attitudes learned from the adults around us.

**We would like school to be a place where we get taught the subjects but also where they teach us how to help those of us who have difficulties.** And where we learn that instead of hurting others to get ourselves **respected**, we look for ways of getting over problems. This is the school we dream of and would like to go to.



# What do children think of...?

## FASHION

### New York, United States

Fashion is calming, It makes me feel good and nice and this is very important to me. I like necklaces and earrings, glitters and flowers.

### Madagascar

There's a girl in our class who's always very fashionable, she lies to her parents so she can keep up with fashion. Everyone in our class envies her, but we can't do anything about it because our situation isn't the same.

### New York, United States

Fashion is when you have style. If you don't have a good style, people will bully you. My style is my uniform and my shoes. And on the bottom of my shoes there's a rainbow! I like to wear my uniform because every day when I wear my uniform, I always get a prize.

### Madagascar

We shouldn't follow fashion because it's expensive, there are fashions that aren't expensive.