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Violence cuts short the lives of millions of people across the world each year, and damages the lives of millions more. It knows no boundaries of geography, race, age or income. It strikes at children, young people, women and the elderly. It finds its way into homes, schools and the workplace. Men and women everywhere have the right to live their lives and raise their children free from the fear of violence. We must help them enjoy that right by making it clearly understood that violence is preventable, and by working together to identify and address its underlying causes.

Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations,  
Nobel Peace Laureate, 2001

Massacres, forced displacement of populations, discriminatory access to health care – in the contexts in which MSF works, violence, particularly political violence, is often one of the main causes of mortality. The absence of this category in epidemiological registers often reflects the ambiguity of doctors and experts to authorities in power. This report is a welcome break in this wall of silence.

Morten Rostrup, President, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) International Council,  
Nobel Peace Laureate, 1999

A stronger commitment to increase global violence prevention efforts is desperately needed. Therefore, I welcome this report very much. For the first time all of the available knowledge has been assembled into one publication. Civil society, United Nations agencies and governments need to work hand in hand on the implementation of the recommendations of this report.

Jody Williams, International Campaign to Ban Landmines,  
Nobel Peace Laureate, 1997

As long as humanity continues to rely on violence to resolve conflicts, the world will enjoy neither peace nor security, and our health will continue to suffer. This report is an important resource for opening our eyes to the reality of violence as a public health problem, and for providing a source of hope for the future. Perhaps only when we realize that violence is destroying both our bodies and our souls will we begin to collectively address its roots and consequences. This report is an important step in that direction.

Oscar Arias, Former President of Costa Rica,  
Nobel Peace Laureate, 1987

WHO has made a substantial contribution by providing a global perspective on all forms of violence. The colossal human and social cost of violence hitherto has been inadequately addressed as a public health issue. This report will raise the struggle against violence to a new level of engagement by health workers and others. Over 20 years we in IPPNW have maintained that nuclear weapons and war are the ultimate expressions of violence that must be eliminated if we are to bequeath a liveable planet to generations yet unborn.

Anton Chazov and Bernard Lown, International Physicians for the Prevention  
of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Nobel Peace Laureates, 1985

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