

How the Virgin Islands can stop the excessive violence in its community

The Virgin Islands can stop excessive violence in the community by instituting stricter laws and regulations for those who are in possession of firearms and conducting the sale of drugs. The Chief of Police should implement more road blocks and searching of automobiles for weapons and drugs which is the down fall in our community . He should also have rewards for those individuals who have witnessed and reported criminal acts. Police officers should also check and make sure that gun owners have their permits and licenses to operate the weapons that they have in their possession. Most criminal acts happen at night so the authorities can arrange for nightly patrol in certain areas of the islands. Those out there that do criminal acts will think twice if they know the police officers are visible.

Police officers should be more involved in the schools and have violence prevention classes. These classes should be mandatory to help prevent students from making the wrong decisions in life and show them violence is not the answer to solving disagreements. Also to get the children to take part in the big brother/sister programs so they can have a positive role model to look up to. Getting students to do activities after school hours is also another great way to keep them safe and away from certain negative images in the community. Majority of the parents in the community work late and hold two jobs in order to support their household and kids. Children are spending too many hours alone with out their parents supervision. If students do something constructive like playing sports or joining a club this will keep them busy until their parents arrive.

Teachers can play an important role in developing children. They can assist them from committing violent acts through their daily developments in the classrooms. When a new student comes to a school, they can make them feel comfortable by beginning classes on a positive note, so that everyone will be in a relaxed environment. Teachers can also guide students who have issues bottled up and just need to vent off their feelings. There are times when students believe that they can not discuss certain issues with their parents and need an adult that can be trusted as a friend who will listen to their problems or at least direct them to counseling if needed. Words can have a long lasting effect in children's lives whether it is positive or negative .

Students can also help each other to stay away from violence by selecting the right friends. They can have group study for their class home work assignments, and do fun and interesting activities that they enjoy . They can also speak to each other about things in their lives. A trustworthy friend will always be there for you and try to help in any dilemma the other has. At school when there is a new student do not isolate them just because they are different. Help new kids to feel comfortable in their new environment has a positive effect. Children who have a lot of issues in their lives usually hide from their friends and family until they find someone they place their trust. They do not think clearly and always act on what they are feeling. Older students can take part in violence

safety acts such as parades and other get together violence awareness programs so that they can be an example for the younger kids.

In the community to help stop violence it all comes down to parents leading their children down the right path. Parents should ask their children how their day was and try to hold interesting conversation, ask questions where they must give full answers. Make sure you know your children inside and out so that you can identify any sudden changes in their lives. Also know who your children are hanging around with and where they are at all times. Know the parents of your child's friends and make sure you are on the same level in wanting the best for your children. When your child storms off in an angry way because of an argument that you two had, make sure to always speak to them, don't leave them alone, be persistent at getting through to them. Make sure you teach your children that there is always a non violent way to solve a problem. Become a friend to your child but make sure that they know that you are still their parent and they must be respectful. Becoming a friend to your child makes it easier for them to open up to you. Show your children that you are interested in their education when there are activities in school take part in them this might send a message to your children that they must focus more in school and give them a whole new outlook on school in general. Always praise your children for the achievements that they have made both in school and for solving conflicts without violence, this will make your children feel better about themselves and boost their self-esteem. Teach them to never talk badly about themselves but instead speak highly of themselves and to know that if any problem surfaces they can always overcome it.

If people in the Virgin Islands follow these tips I truly believe it will reduce the violence rate. The children of today is the future of tomorrow as adults and as older teenagers we must try to show the youngsters the proper way to act in our society. Most of all the people who commit violent acts probably did not have a positive influence in their lives. Due to holding all of these emotions to themselves it probably caused them to act out violently. The people who acted out in this way when they were younger most likely made it a norm to solve their problems in a violent way.

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I graduated from Sts. Peter and Paul School in 2008 with honors. The Jason Carol Memorial Scholarship has aided me with the opportunity of continuing my education at the University of the Virgin Islands. I have been working on my bachelors degree in psychology and I hope to pursue a masters degree in the future. The Jason Carol Memorial Scholarship has opened many doors for me. If it was not for this scholarship I do not think I would be attending a university. I am extremely grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Caroll for establishing the Jason Carol Memorial Scholarship so that high school graduates can further their education.

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