

"School is supposed to be a safe haven where young people can go to learn the basis of mathematics, literature, science, and other subject without fearing for their safety"

### Causes of crime at school and community

- \* Poverty
- \* Drug usage
- \* Anger
- \* Owning illegal fire arms
- \* Lack of knowledge.

### How to stop crimes at school and in the community

Work with your local public agencies and other organisations - Neighbourhood-based or community based on solving common problems. Make sure that all the youth in neighbourhood have positive ways to spend their spare time, through organized recreation, tutoring programmes, parttime work and volunteer opportunities. Set up a Neighbourhood watch or community patrol, working with police. Make sure your streets and homes are well lighted.

Build a partnership with police, focused on solving problem instead of reacting to crises. Make it possible for neighbours to report suspicious activity or crimes without fear of retaliation. Clean up the neighbourhood! involve everyone - teens, children, senior citizens. Litter, abandoned cars and run-down buildings tell criminals that you don't care about where you live or each other.

Work with schools to establish drug-free, gun-free zones; work with recreation officials to do the same for parks. Report a crime if you witness it or something you suspect might be a crime. Agree to testify if needed.

Emphasize prevention as the preferred way to deal with violence. Ask what schools, law enforcement agencies, public health agencies, libraries, workplaces etc. are doing to prevent not just react to violence.

Develop an anti violence competition, including speech, dance, painting, drawing, singing, instrumental music, acting, play writing and other creative arts. Get youth to help suggest prizes. Make it a community celebration.

Report any crime immediately to school authorities or police, there's even a free app for that: MacGruff Mobile, available on iTunes or on the Google play store.