

**Session 10**  
**“Violence Prevention: Anti-Gang” – 1**

**Goals**

- To know the many harms of gangs and violence
- To have students examine the negative effects of gangs

**Materials**

Activity 1  
Activity 2  
Activity 3

**Procedure**

Greet the students. Wait until the students are seated and quieted. Briefly describe the goals of today’s lesson. Choose an activity and follow the directions.

**Script**

Young people need help in learning to deal with emotions without using violence. It is important that young people know that violence is never an acceptable form of behavior. Unfortunately, there is so much violence in our society that gangs can look attractive to young people. The gangster life may seem like a daring adventure. It may seem like a way to get wealth or respect. For many young people, it may provide something like a family to turn to. The problem is that the gangster life is built on a foundation of violence. Gang members as well as many innocent people lose their lives needlessly as a result. In this lesson, we will continue our education on violence prevention while focusing on anti-gang lessons and activities. We will look at the costs of joining a gang from the point of view of a man who was once one of the most influential gang leaders in America. His thinking about gangs turned around 180 degrees after he was imprisoned for murder, but in his mind it was too late to undo the damage he caused

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### Violence Prevention: Anti-Gang

#### **Activity 1 instructions: Tookie Williams, Founder of the Crips**

Read the short biography of Tookie William’s life. Discuss as a class how his childhood parallels the life of so many young people in our city. Write a letter to a 5<sup>th</sup> grader encouraging them to avoid gang activity.

#### **Activity 2 instructions: My Letter To Incarcerated Youth, No. 1**

Read Tookie William’s letter to an incarcerated youth. Allow the students to discuss the questions that follow.

#### **Activity 3 instructions: The Apology**

Tookie Williams was charged with murdering four people. In 1981, Tookie was convicted of those crimes and placed on death row. Tookie always insisted that he was innocent of the crimes for which he was arrested. He was however, apologetic about his role in the founding of the youth gang called the Crips. This apology and his crusade for peace was not enough to keep him from being executed in 2005.

Allow the class to read “The Apology” and respond to the discussion questions.

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#### **Activity 3: Quote For Discussion**

Read the quote. Do you agree with the author?

Let us refrain from doing evil to each other,  
And let us love each other as brothers,  
As we are the same flesh and blood...  
It is a fool who does not love himself and his people.

*Elijah Muhammad (1897-1975)*  
*American Religious Leader*

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#### Activity 4: VA Hero

**Oliver White Hill** (b.1907) became Richmond's first African American city councilman in the twentieth century. From 1940 to 1961 he led the Virginia legal team of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), including work on the 1954 case that resulted in a ban on legally mandated segregated schools. His work against racial discrimination helped end the doctrine of "separate but equal." He retired in 1998 after practicing law for almost 60 years. In October 2005, Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner dedicated a newly renovated building in Virginia's Capital Square in his honor.

The Oliver W. Hill Building is the first state-owned building to be named for an African American Virginian.

#### Activity 5: Life Skill

If someone bumps into you, say excuse me, even if it was not your fault.