

3 MYTHS OR FALSE BELIEFS REGARDING HARASSMENT AMONG STUDENTS

MYTH OR FALSE BELIEF	REALITY
Abuse is just jokes, "boy stuff," and it's best not to get involved.	False. Maltreatment isn't "making jokes." When the student suffers as a result of the violence, it's no longer about fun. Adults must intervene.
The victim "had it coming, they deserved it."	False. No one deserves to be the victim of any kind of abuse, regardless of their conduct or condition.
Abuse is part of growing up. It instills character.	False. Learning to cope with adversity builds character, but abuse isolates victims, diminishes their self-esteem and personal confidence.
The best way to defend yourself is to respond in the same way.	False. Returning an aggression reinforces the idea of violence as the only acceptable means of resolving conflicts. In many cases, the victim's violent reaction serves as a pretext for further aggression.
Abuse is a "boy thing".	False. Girls and adolescent women are often victims of indirect bullying, more often through social networks or as social exclusion (isolation).

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<p>Only kids who live in slums are the attackers.</p>	<p>False. It has been shown that mistreatment occurs in educational institutions regardless of socio-economic status.</p>
<p>Victims are weak people.</p>	<p>False. Anyone can be a victim of bullying. Usually, the victim's physical characteristics, which are not accepted by the bullying group, can make a student the object of bullying (wearing glasses, being short, underweight or overweight, shy, insecure, with few social skills, the most studious in the class).</p>
<p>When kids fight, "it's best not to get involved" and maintain a neutral position.</p>	<p>False. There are no neutral positions in the face of mistreatment or harassment. The observer (student or adult), from the moment he or she does not intervene or report the situation, becomes an accomplice.</p>
<p>Children or adolescents who attack should be punished so that they stop doing so.</p>	<p>False. Punishment is not the most effective option, as it can cause the aggressor to seek revenge against the victim. It is recommended to use regulatory measures with a rights-based approach that helps the aggressor learn.</p>
<p>Only the victim needs help.</p>	<p>False. Both the victim and the aggressor need help. In addition, observers and other students need to re-establish cohabitation after a bullying situation.</p>