

EXPERIENCES OF NONVIOLENCE IN EDUCATION

Have you got the conflict card set yet?

(...)

Don't you have anything better? If you get to the point of violence, it's because there was a hidden conflict before it that you haven't worked out yet. Conflicts are positive. Violence, on the other hand..., is not. There will always be conflicts in our lives and those problems actually help us to learn! But it's important to know how to play your hand.

First, you can play the **provention** card. Do you know what it means? It means anticipating a situation before there's an actual conflict. It means preparing the terrain so that as conflicts arise, they sort of "float", and as you see them, you can change them from within the heart and through the words you speak.

If that's not enough, take out the **negotiation** card. This is valuable: it doesn't depend on a third person. Rather, it means reaching an agreement with the other person!

When you can't get anywhere with that card, have ready your **peer support** card. This can mean for some companions to stay always vigilant about conflicts by unblocking them before they burst. If they do, you've still got the wild card of **mediation**: a person or team with certain qualities, or who's been trained as an expert mediator. Choose someone who can understand you both and mediate between you.

If that doesn't work, you can try using the **arbitrator** card: Here, you trust in someone who will listen to you both and tell you how to proceed. But you must do what that person tells you to do, alright?

If your situation still isn't any better, you'll have to reach for more complex cards: the **judge**, someone with authority over you both and who will decide for you and see that you both adhere to that decision. And if you still can't work it out... sometimes limits must be set and there may even be a penalty. The **penalty** would have to be related to the conflict, as the aim is educational; not to cause harm. And that is the very last card!

Don't turn the pyramid upside down by responding to a conflict with a penalty: always push for a culture of nonviolence wherever you are!

