

SAY
YOUR

PEACE



KEEP THE PEACE NOT THE HEAT

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SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY AGENCIES

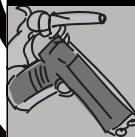
POLICE
PARTNERSHIP

MUSIC

What do Hip-Hop lyrics say about us? What do you have to say? 2



WRITTEN WORD



Youth write their responses to the violence of the city. 3

PEACE

Participants talk about their experiences in PEACE 4



MUSIC

KEEP YA HEAD UP

- TUPAC

WHAT DO WE HEAR IN THE SONGS WE LISTEN TO?

This piece from the song *Keep Ya Head Up* caught my attention the most because it relates to me as a female. I started to really wonder why males disrespect our women the way they do. A lot of these males need to realize that they came from a female and even though it takes two to have a baby, you wouldn't be here if it wasn't for your mother. Some females have to raise these children on their own, and to be disrespected by their own child or someone that loves them just makes things harder. This is where the question comes in, "Do we hate our women?"

*And since we all came from a woman
Got our name from our woman and our game
from our woman
I wonder why we take from our women
Why we rape our women
Do we hate our women?*

Keep Ya Head Up – Tupac

These lyrics are basically telling today's males not to put down women. Be good to your females because they raised you and helped you along the way. Treat them with the most respect you can and be a role model for younger male youth.

– Shoneika

"If he's not interested in your head and heart, then why would you let him near another part of you."

– Girl Tip from a Tipster Guy

*Aiyyo, I remember Marvin Gaye, used to sing ta me
He had me feelin' like black was tha' thing to be
And suddenly tha' ghetto didn't seem so tough
And though we had it rough, we always had enough
I huffed and puffed about my curfew and broke the rules
Ran with the local crew, and had a smoke or two*

Keep Ya Head Up – Tupac

I feel that in this quote Tupac is trying to let today's youth know that they shouldn't let themselves be influenced by everything they hear and see. He is also trying to explain to our youth that they will eventually stop and realize that there will be consequences to a lot of the things that they will be told to do.

– Keenan

DISCUSSION

- 1) What issues do Shoneika and Keenan raise about Tupac's song? How do they affect you?
- 2) Is music in general important to you? Why?
- 3) What type of music do you listen to? Why?
- 4) Do you feel some songs target men only or women only? Are there any songs or artists that speak to both men and women equally?
- 5) What important messages does the music you listen convey?
- 6) Would you say music helps build community?



DREAM

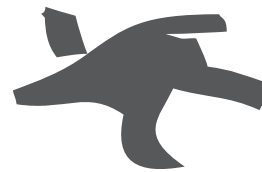
I wish it were all a dream. It would be a sweet escape from the terror that runs this world. This violence that our own community, culture, friends and family bring seems to be leading us to our own destruction. What is your role in all of this, is it being the **hero** or the **villain** or even better the funny man that lightens the mood? You really don't know, so you decide to be the **gangster** bringing fear and pain to all who challenge your might. They think you'll fight fair. They do not know that you have a knife and plus you have a gun but they're both hidden well. The punches fly left-right-left-right from both parties. You realize that your opponent is faster and is getting more punches in than you, so you say, "I am not going out like a punk", so you pull out the knife and stab your opponent several times. Now he is on the ground bleeding, crying for help from the surrounding crowd. Your mind starts to race and you get a weird feeling in the pit of your stomach. All you can hear is the screaming from your opponent and a couple of people. Not even thinking you take your gun and start busting shots not caring where the bullets go cause you have the power. Bang Bang is all you hear when everything starts to slow down. It gets harder to catch your breath and you start to feel cold. Your life starts to flash right before your eyes. Now you're realizing that all the decisions that you made led to this point of impact – this destination. Too bad this is not a dream because this is where you wake up...

– Tony

RUNNING

My heart is still pounding loud as I stop to take a breath. Head is banging from the trauma my body took with each step. The air around seems to tighten, so I grab for my chest hoping that the reason for this feeling is the weight of my vest. Blood is leaking on the ground as my body shifts to shock. The hole cratered in my leg lets me know that I can't stop. So I gather up my strength and run off into the night. My speed increases ever so slightly as I push with all my might but suddenly I feel my leg snap out of place. I scream in fear. As I drop to the concrete, I hear footsteps coming near. I yell to myself to get up, yet my body stays in a paralyzed state. The shouts of my pursuers are approaching, **ready to seal my fate...** This never should have happened, I should have done with it but I never realized, until I hit the ground running...

– Joel



PEACE

**"It's not how smart
you are, it's how you
are smart."**

DISCUSSION

1. What are the daily pressures youth feel?
2. How do you handle the stress you face?
3. What resources do you rely on to help handle these pressures?
4. What positive choices do you make?

What's Goin On?

UPCOMING EVENTS

PEACE YOUTH MEETING

When: Every Thursday from 5:30pm-8:30pm.

Where: The Students Commission office at 23 Isabella Street, Toronto, Ontario.

**All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.*

BATTLE OF THE SEXES BREAK DANCING COMPETITION

When: Friday, February 15th from 7:00pm til it's over.

Where: 1087 Queen Street West, Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario.

**\$20.00 at the door. \$10.00 for camera passes.*

ONGOING FACILITATOR TRAINING

When: Saturday, February 23rd from 10:30am-4:30pm and Tuesday, March 18th from 4:00pm-8:00pm.

Where: Call the Students Commission office at (416) 597-8297.

**All youth 13-25 years of age welcome.*

What do you think?

What would you like the police to do for you in your community?

Let us know at www.peace-project.org



MARY

Why I come to P.E.A.C.E.

I come to PEACE for piece of mind. I have no other way of affecting youth, no other platform to speak my beliefs, no other way to feel heard. So I come here.

And I talk about my trials and tribulations so that others might not feel the need to experience my mistakes.



JENNA

A friend brought me to Peace in the summer of 2007. I thought I would only be passing through for that one day, but now it's February of 2008 and I'm still around. Peace has had a really positive influence on my peers and myself. I'm surrounded by people everyday who lives have been touched in some way or another by gangs, guns and violence. It's a big issue in our society and Peace is a great place for youths to have a voice on the matter and to make a difference. The atmosphere at Peace is very welcoming, everyone can feel at home and at the same time we still manage to be productive and get our work done. The youths are the future so it's really important that we're getting the word out there and keeping each other off the streets and out of trouble. One of the things I like best is that the message is to the youth from the youth.

AMIR



I came to Peace because I would like to get involved and to make a difference. I found out about Peace from my friends. My friends come to Peace and they asked me if I would like to join. Some things I really enjoy about Peace meetings are the discussions we have about community issues. Also another thing I like about Peace are the people, all the students who come to Peace and the facilitators are very kind and friendly. I think Peace is important because it educates kids on topics that are very important for children in society.

Peace Partners

CTI's Breaking The Cycle Youth Gang Exit and Ambassador Leadership Project

1790 Albion Rd., Suite 101 (27 & Albion), (416) 745-1829 or 4500 Sheppard Ave. E., Unit 476 (Sheppard & McCowan / Brimley), (416) 293-1287
www.cantraining.org/BTC/btc.php

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview

Conflict resolution services for all types of relationships, especially parent / youth and family.
95 Eddystone Avenue, 2nd floor (Jane & Finch), (416) 740-2522,
www.cmsd.org

East Metro Youth Services

The Violence Intervention Project

provides youth with realistic strategies and skills to prevent violence.

1200 Markham Road, Suite 200 (Ellesmere & Markham), (416) 438-3697, www.emys.on.ca

The Students Commission

Project PEACE is developed by youth to decrease gun and gang violence.
23 Isabella St. (Yonge & Bloor), (416) 597-8297, www.tgmag.ca

Operation Springboard

Programs that prevent crime and integrate at-risk people into the wider community.
2568 Lawrence Ave. E., (Lawrence & Midland), (416) 615-0788
www.operationspringboard.on.ca

Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

LOVE trains young people who have experienced violence to become community leaders of violence prevention.

3130 Bathurst St. Suite 212 (Bathurst & Lawrence W.) (416) 785-8411,
www.leaveoutviolence.com

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)

Programming for youth who are involved in different stages of the youth justice system.
65 Wellesley St. East, Suite 300 (Wellesley & Church) (416) 924-2100, www.ctys.org

Toronto District School Board

(416) 397-3000, www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board

(416) 222-8282, www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Police Service's Community Mobilization Unit

(416) 808-7080
www.torontopolice.on.ca/communitymobilization

SAY YOUR PEACE

Say Your PEACE is here to give youth an opportunity to share ideas and discuss the things that are important to them and their community. Want to help prevent the negative effects guns and gangs are having? Join the movement.

Call: (416) 597-8297