

# What does Children First do?

It creates an evidence base on the phenomenon and collects best practices on how to prevent and tackle dating violence amongst young people;

It develops an online educational game to challenge gender stereotypes and norms leading to violence;

It develops and delivers a comprehensive and accredited training programme, face-to-face and online, for school teachers and educators on how to prevent and contrast gender-based violence in school;

It supports the communication and cooperation of education institutions, human rights organisations, teachers, educators, parents, children and young people via an informal network;

It runs an awareness-raising campaign to support gender equality and inclusion among children and young people.

[childrenfirst.info](http://childrenfirst.info)

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All project activities take place in the UK, Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania and Italy, thanks to the work of 6 organisations:



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# Children First

Addressing Gender Based Violence  
from the bottom-up



# The Project

Gender-based violence is a widespread phenomenon in all fields of society. Children and young people are no strangers to this type of violence, and policy and literature on the issue are

slowly growing. However “dating violence” amongst children and teenagers remains largely under-researched and untackled. The “Children First” project is a shared effort to educate school

children (aged 12-18) in order to prevent and tackle dating violence from an early age by undermining gender stereotypes, norms and roles that are the main causes of such violence.

## How?

*Children First adopts three main approaches:*

### 1 Bottom-up approach

We start from the views of children and young people and understand how they perceive violence in their relationships;

### 2 User-led approach

In this project, children come first. Children and young people are consultants in the project, as members of the youth-led Advisory Board, which proactively communicates and engages with other young people for the creation and delivery of awareness-raising campaigns, and engages with the staff of the project to create the main tools and content.

### 3 Non-discrimination

Children First supports the principle of non-discrimination, of equality between women and men, and the rights of the child.

Gender balance is sought in all project activities, no one is discriminated against, and diversity of gender identity and sexual orientation is encouraged. Gender stereotypes and gender roles are undermined and rejected, and principles of equality and inclusion for all are embedded in the whole project.

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