

Helping and interrupting someone **before they shoot.**

Preparing for and reacting to triggers before it's too late.

Many public killings are in response to a dispute – a trigger. The trigger might be an act of violence or non-violence, like a land dispute or insult. The people who are best placed to see that a person capable of killing has been triggered are those close to him – his **Connections**. This could be family or friends or clan leaders, anyone who he trusts and who has some influence over him. It is unlikely to be the trained peace mediator who flies in when the shootings die down.

The time between a trigger and when a person starts shooting or shooting back depends on the person and the situation. In most countries with group violence, a retaliation is **usually within 48 hours**. In PNG, it can be much, much longer.



Seeing that a person has been triggered and convincing them not to start shooting is called an **Interruption**. Interruption programs are a key part of the most effective violence reduction programs around the world. An effective interruption can save the life of the person they stop, and the lives of the people that person would have killed. It can prevent a long-lasting cycle of payback.

HOW TO INTERRUPT

- Work out who in your community is most likely to respond to triggers with violence.
- Work out which people they might trust and listen to when talking about trigger response. Trust matters more than status.
- Encourage and support those people. Please also pass on any ShieldPNG information you find useful about this.
- Make sure there is somewhere for a dispute to go once it has been cooled down. Interrupting buys time. It does not settle the argument.

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How to help **before the next trigger**

The Connections who can interrupt a person can also help that person before they are triggered. Some people feel drawn to deadly violence for different reasons – it is how they think and get stuck thinking, especially under stress and anger. This may be because they have seen so much violence it feels natural to continue it. It may be that they have been traumatized and been the victim of violence before.

Talking to the person and finding out why they think about violent responses and non-violent responses the way they do can show a way to change their thinking about both.

WHAT SHIELD PNG WILL PROVIDE



Resources about interrupting after triggers, including videos, stories and plans



Resources about helping people change their behaviour and thinking about violent responses before the next trigger



Training, discussion with you and research



Support for people who wish to sign up to our Peacemakers program