

Practical Guide: Preparing your community's effective non-violence response.

A practical guide for leaders: making the decision together, understanding what justice requires and practising the response before it is needed.

STEP 1 Make the decision together.

Urge a meeting of your:

- > community's leaders;
- > people most affected by the consequences of tribal fighting – such as those caring for children when displaced; and
- > people likely to be involved in tribal fighting or any other dispute response.

The key point to be discussed and hopefully agreed is simple: the more an attacker believes they will go to jail and lose their status, the less likely they are to attack and the safer our community will be.

As well as encouraging your rivals to respond to any disputes without shooting, you want to show them that you are committed to doing all things necessary to get them arrested, convicted and jailed for any deadly violent crimes, including payback.

STEP 2 Understand what it takes to get someone sent to jail.

Many people escape conviction because of a lack of evidence. They won't be prosecuted or arrested in the first place if there isn't enough evidence. To provide evidence to a court, you need enough witnesses giving a statement, and wherever possible photos and video. Some offences need fewer witnesses than others – such as unlawful possession of a firearm which can carry a lengthy prison sentence. Some people post pictures of themselves on Facebook holding a gun for which they don't have a licence. There are lots of criminal offences about tribal fighting, unlawful possession and homicide.

The other thing that is needed is for a clan to not stop the police from arresting the attacker. It will make it more likely that your rival clan lets the police do its job, if you also commit to the same.

CONTINUED · A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Practise it, and **rehearse the hard moments**

STEP 3 Practice responses as a community.

Run scenarios as exercises. Start with the most likely dispute that could trigger violence for your clan — such as a land dispute — and walk through it step by step.

- **How to try to resolve the dispute without violence:** what each person involved does.
- **How else to reduce the likelihood of it escalating to violence:** who will do that and how.
- **If violence does start:** what does each person need to do to stay safe and keep others safe. How will evidence be collected and submitted to police. You may want to invite a police representative in the practice. How will your community remain committed to criminal justice for the attackers and not continue the cycle of violent payback.

STEP 4 Rehearse the hard moments, not just the easy ones.

Each exercise of different dispute types and situations, should include the pressures that break most justice commitments, because they will come:



A generous compensation offer made on condition that no one testifies



Threats against witnesses and their families



Demands for immediate violent payback from your own



The long silence while a case moves slowly through the courts

Agree in advance, and out loud, how the community will answer each one.

A commitment that has never been tested against a compensation offer is not yet a commitment.

STEP 5 Keep witnesses safe.

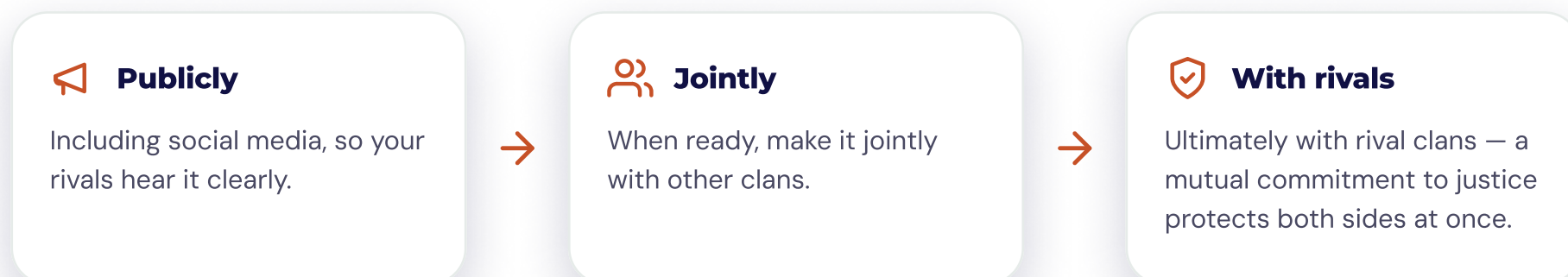
No one should ever put themselves in danger to gather evidence, and no witness should have to stand alone. If unsafe to submit evidence directly to the police, you may be able to use ShieldPNG's Evidence reporting system or other ways of getting evidence to police. Part of your community's agreement should be that witnesses are supported and protected by the clan, not left exposed as individuals.

CONTINUED · A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Say it publicly. **Keep it alive.**

STEP 6 Say it publicly.

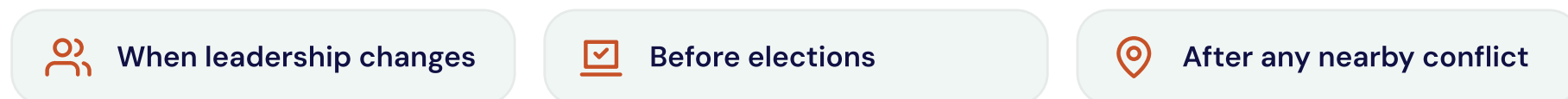
Deterrence only works if your rivals know about it. Announce your commitment to effective non-violence dispute response and achieving non-violent justice for attacks:



Every public statement of commitment to justice does the work that a photo of a gun pretends to do: it tells rivals your community is not an easy target. The difference is that this message makes an attack costly without inviting one.

STEP 7 Keep it alive.

A commitment made once fades. Repeat the exercise:



Keep your police engagement going. ShieldPNG can support communities through this process with resources, training materials and stories of communities that have done it — and can help share your community's public commitment through our media channels.