



## Gloves Up, Guns Down Program Overview

The GLOVES UP, GUNS DOWN PROGRAM, a collaborative effort between the [H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation](#) and [Voices of Our Youth](#), aims to combat violence in schools, streets, and communities. Emphasizing peace, empathy, and mutual respect, the initiative fosters a non-aggression pact to create a safe and harmonious environment.

Central to the program are commitments to non-violence, peaceful conflict resolution, and promoting respect and understanding. By upholding these principles, the initiative seeks to reduce conflicts, build trust, nurture positive relationships, and instill respect within communities.

Participants pledge to prioritize peaceful conflict resolution, reject causing harm, and uphold values of empathy and respect. By creating a nurturing and secure space, the program encourages collaboration, open communication, and shared understanding among individuals, ultimately enhancing community well-being and fostering a culture of peace and cooperation.

Participants in the program are currently engaged in H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation's 13-week Impact Sessions within a school setting. During these sessions, the focus is on youth development, promoting pro-social behavior, engaging in group activities, building team bonds, and making positive lifestyle choices.

Moreover, the program addresses overcoming childhood trauma, mediating conflicts, managing emotions, understanding the importance of self-determination, interventions and prevention strategies for gang involvement, and breaking self-fulfilling prophecies.

A unique feature of the program is the opportunity for participants to settle disputes in a boxing ring with full protective gear, rather than through street violence reducing the likelihood of injury. Our goal is to enlist Celebrities and Professional Boxers, familiar with the challenges faced by at-risk youth, to oversee these matches, demonstrating how positive conflict resolution can

positively impact life trajectories. The option for rematches further ensures community safety and prosperity.

To provide additional motivation for participants, we will be raising funds to offer each individual a cash stipend. This incentive aims to support and encourage their involvement in our proactive peacekeeping efforts.

