

***Shifting Attitudes toward Violent Discipline among Parents  
in the Chronic Conflict Zone of Gaza and the West Bank***

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Families in Gaza and the West Bank have endured decades of political violence with little access to mental health services, resulting in high trauma rates among parents and children. High levels of stress and worries about safety make violent discipline of children common. A 2010 regional survey found that 92% of children aged 1-14 years had experienced violent discipline by household members in the previous month. We piloted Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting in this region to assess whether it could reduce parents' acceptance of violent discipline. The 8-week program was delivered to 216 parents (63 mothers and 148 fathers) through community-based organizations. Of these parents, 54% had high school education or less, and 63% had three or more children. Paper- and-pencil questionnaires adapted for parents with low education levels were administered at pre- and post-test to assess change. Over the course of the program, parents' support for violent discipline significantly decreased ( $p < .001$ ). Virtually all parents (98.4%) were 'mostly' or 'very' satisfied with the program. These results suggest that the program may be effective in promoting attitudinal change in parents living in a chronic conflict zone with high rates of war trauma.