

Preventing violent extremism through education: **Queries**

Division for Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development
UNESCO Hqs, Paris

Q. Preventing violent extremism? Through education?
What should be the realistic purpose of education
against violent extremism?

- No preventive measures warrant a 100% success
- It is challenging to stop individuals from performing a violent extremist act
- Education has a key role to play in removing the breeding ground for the formation of a violent extremist mindset
- Quality education also increases employability and reduces poverty

Q. What does a “breeding ground” consist of?

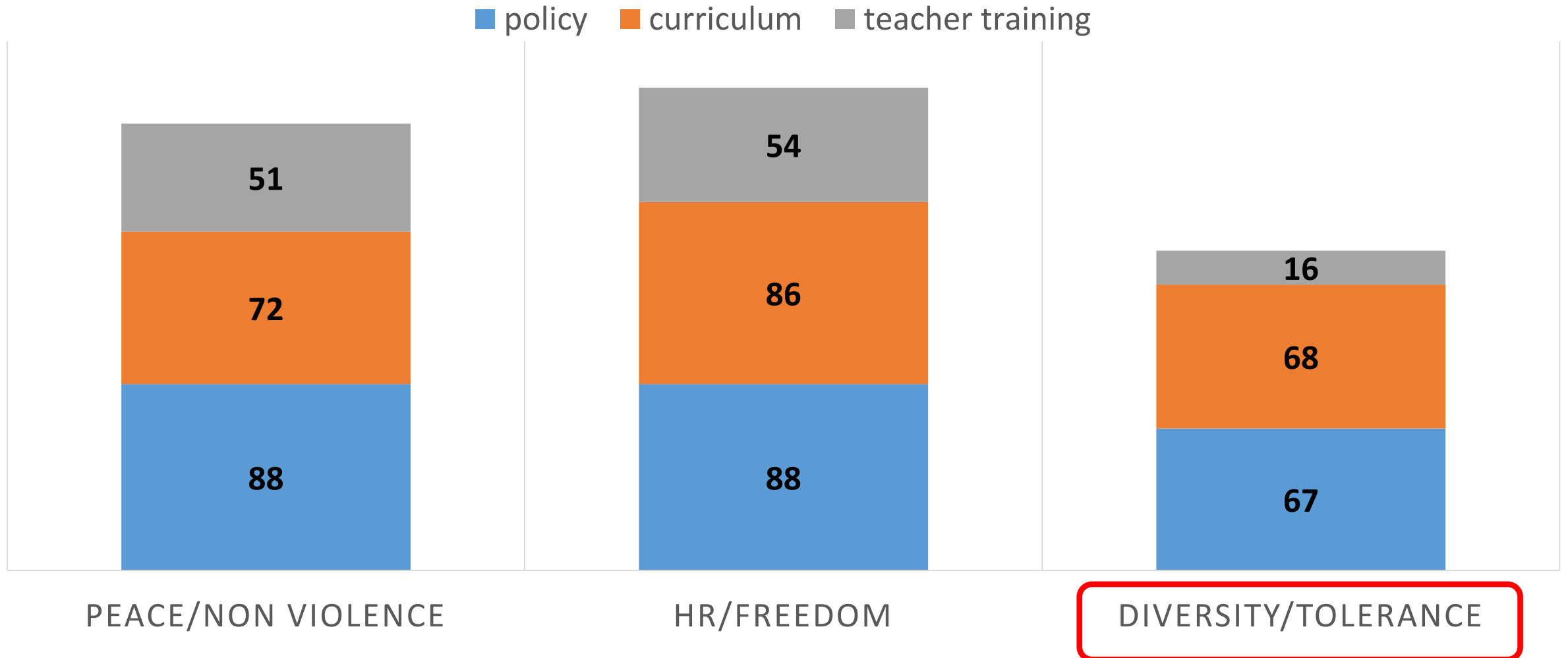
- Some understanding of “push” and “pull” factors
- But not comprehensive, nor conclusive
- Extremism
 - Adamant adherence to a set of values, leaving little recognition of any other views
 - Exclusivity with no room for diversity or difference
 - Leading to black and white world view
- Environment that does not encourage/recognise diversity

Q. What is the single most important policy principle to promote in the education system?

- Inclusion and respect for diversity
 - Conducive to:
 - Belongingness & empathy
 - Tolerance
 - Pluralistic perspective
 - Respect for democratic process, dialogue

Q. How ready are our education systems to embrace the principle of inclusion and respect for diversity?

% OF COUNTRIES WHERE THREE CONCEPTUAL CATEGORIES OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP REFLECTED IN ED. POLICY, CURRICULUM AND TEACHER TRAINING, 2012 (N=57)



Q. How ready are our education systems to embrace the principle of inclusion and respect for diversity (cont'd)?

Promoting respect for diversity and tolerance, which requires an effort of accepting what is different

seems to be more challenging than promoting universal “feel correct” values such as (e.g., peace, non-violence, human rights, freedoms, etc.).

How can this be changed?

Q. What is the best defense against violent extremism, which can be built in the minds of students?

- Resilience:
 - Ability not to fall prey to simple black and white messages
 - Critical thinking, weighing different positions and views
- How? What pedagogy and pedagogical approaches?

Q. What needs to be developed between the school and the students?

- Trust

- School is a safe place for debate, even on “taboo” issues
- School to be free of stigmatization, exclusion and violence

- Where to start? What to prioritize?

Q. Schools/education sector alone?

- No,
- Partnerships; multi-sectoral partnerships are needed
- But how to make it work? Any paradigm shift needed?
 - From schooling to education
 - From education to learning
 - From learning to socialization ?

UNESCO Policy Guide on the prevention of violent extremism

- Zero draft developed
- Comments / suggestions sought
- Send your comments to: gced@unesco.org
- or
- Visit the [Information Desk](#) during the Conference for interactive discussion