

## TOOLFOUR

# BRAINSTORMING ON SOLUTION ALTERNATIVES



### What needs to be in place before you can use this tool:

Participants should have formulated the common prevention objective as well as the results from risk and protective factor analysis.



### Objective:

To gather ideas from all participants about what can be done to bring about changes including measures designed to reduce risk factors or strengthen protective factors, or ideas which do or do not require external support to put them into effect.

To pave the way for more in-depth planning.



### Material needed:

Pin board, if available, large brown paper, flipchart paper, moderation cards or A4 paper cut in half, markers, pins, tape, and glue.



### Preparation:

Display the final results of the analysis phase as well as the vision and the prevention objective. The results could for instance be spread out on the floor. Write the questions on a flipchart paper, visible to everybody.



### Procedure:

All participants are invited to a brainstorming session to answer key questions as set out below.

Participants are told: Please stand up and have a look at the vision, which you all developed together. Then have a look at the results of the analysis of risk and protective factors. The questions for participants to consider are:

1. What can you/your organisation, your institution or you personally as citizen of this community do to contribute to the prevention or reduction of violence in this community?
2. With whom could or would you like to co-operate and in what ways?
3. Who can support you in your efforts to contribute to violence prevention and how?

**This tool is part of:**

***Building safer communities through systemic approaches to violence prevention - A toolkit for participatory safety planning***

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**The entire toolkit is available on: [www.saferspaces.org.za](http://www.saferspaces.org.za)**

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The participants should write at least one card in response to question 1. The ideas are written as keywords on presentation cards by the participants themselves (or by participants chosen to help others with the writing). On each card should be noted the name of the participant/organisation, as well as the proposed action. Then each participant presents his/her ideas and attaches them to a pin board. If no pin board is available, then a big brown paper can be laid out on the floor with the participants standing around it. The cards can then be stuck on to the paper on the floor. During this process, the cards are simultaneously grouped into clusters. As facilitator, you will help with the clustering. Use all the space you have and position the cards which are unrelated at a distance from each other. Position others which have a concrete relation to each other, close together. Thus clusters will develop, step by step. At the end, each cluster is given a name or a heading.

In the next step, the group discusses ideas that are sparked by or linked to the different aspects. And so, additional cards can be added to the clusters.

Ideas which can immediately be put into practice, and the actors who are willing and in a position to do so, are now extracted and copied to an action plan.

Then the group can start to prioritise, analysing the ideas according to certain criteria, like:

- ✓ Urgency,
- ✓ Feasibility,
- ✓ Effectiveness,
- ✓ Costs (first rough estimate) and possibilities to access required financing?

This can be done in a similar way to the prioritisation process described in book 4, tool 7, where each participant receives a certain number of points (indicated by beans, glue dots etc.) and where each can vote using the points.

Another possibility is to use a rating system based during discussion in the plenary. Participants can decide how many points shall be awarded to each idea for each of the four criteria (above). Participants can propose and debate suggested points allocations before agreeing on a number. In that case, you can work with a range from 0 – 3. This means, the group has to decide on one out of four options. 0 and 1 are more negative assessments, and 2 and 3 more positive. In such a ranking, there will be no neutral option. For each Idea, the points for each criterion are added up to get a total.

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Now that you have the results, participants can be involved in selecting ideas for further development and the action plan can be drafted. It may include some immediate actions identified before. Activities in this first action plan can be:

- Activities which already belong to a preventive measure and/or
- Activities that are planning-related (like meetings to further concretise an idea or activities aimed at getting further information, etc.).



### **Observations:** (Additional notes for the facilitator)

This tool supports the identification of options for immediate action plus longer term change. It focuses on: (a) possibilities for small changes and quick wins, and, (b) the longer term perspective, which implies integrated measures and the involvement of various actors from different areas and sectors, in order to achieve sustainable changes.



### **End Product:**

At the end of the activity, participants would have achieved the objective. In the process, participants will also have generated the following:

- ✓ The first action plan containing concrete prevention activities which can be realised immediately, as well as activities for further planning.

