Acid Attacks

What are the most common reasons behind acid attacks?
Acid attacks are one of the most dangerous and easily accessible crimes out there. They are often referred to as a "crime of passion" because their root causes are revenge and jealousy, oftentimes between a couple. Some examples of causes of acid attack violence are the refusal of marriage and sexual rejection. These crimes of passion are most common in the UK, France, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Uganda, and many other places. Why these places? Because acid is sold to anyone in local pharmacies very easily.

Why is it important to give acid attack violence the awareness it needs?
Acid attacks remove the victims facial identity. It gives them a visible scar that they carry with them forever. Giving acid attack violence the awareness it needs leads to more international help given to the victims. International awareness gives women and children, victims of acid attack violence, the confidence and bravery they need to recover. This also gives them the ability to contribute fully to society. By raising awareness this allows societal growth and development in the community which makes it easier for the victims of acid attacks to get out of their shell.

What steps do we have to take to put an end to acid attack violence?
There are many things we can do to help put an end to acid attack violence. An important factor is raising global awareness and teaching people that problems can be resolved through communication instead of violence. One of the ways we can prevent acid attacks is to enforce strict laws to the access of acids. For example pharmacies in the UK, France, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Uganda, and many other places male buying acids easily accessible without any medical prescription or paperwork. Non-profit organizations have started the initiative to stop the sale of acids in pharmacies. This step makes better progress towards cutting down the rate of acid attacks happening all around the world.

What is CERESAV and what is its goal?
The Center of Rehabilitation of Survivors of Acid and Burns Violence is a non-profit organization that was founded by Hanifa Nakiryowa in Uganda that helps acid attack survivors. It aids them by giving them the help the physical and mental help they seek. An important thing CERESAV does is help women and children be confident with their scars. They help them realize that it’s okay and removing their veil to show their faces is better than hiding.

A message to all the oppressed women and men who have invisible and visible scars. If you are suffering from any form of abuse or violence, you need to seek help. Seeking help is the first step you can take to recovery. These mental scars you gain from abuse are just as painful as physical scars. Seeking help is a very brave act, not a lot of people are strong enough to do so, which is a huge problem. It’s really important to know your rights and to be aware of the power of your voice.

“Giving acid attack violence the awareness it needs leads to more international help given to the victims. International awareness gives women and children, victims of acid attack violence, the confidence and bravery they need to recover”
Meet The Execs

Guizar Mohammed
Qatar Academy Doha

What are some misconceptions about admins you would like to dispel?

Throughout my experience, I’ve heard so many misconceptions about the admin team in general or what admins do during the conference. And what I’ve found is that these comments are usually made by those who have never experienced being an admin for such busy conferences. Some of the most common misconceptions that I’ve heard continuously area: “Being an admin is so easy all you is stand in a room” “Admins don’t do anything” “Admins are useless, all they do is hang around”. In fact, people don’t take into account the behind the scenes work the admin team does prior to the conference. Leading to the conference, admin training takes place, to ensure that the conference can be an exceptional experience for all. The admins prepare such resources that are required for all the rooms, participants and presenters. Individuals must understand that within the admin team, factors such as logistics, time and planning play a role in the interest of a conference like QLC to flourish.

Khadija Elmagarmid-
Head of Admin

How do you think being an admin impacts the students?

For students being an admin ensures that they are able to gain leadership experiences, develop their communication skills, and be able to interact with anyone they meet professionally. Being in an admin position ensures that they can think quick, and are able to solve problems on their own. Everything they learn while being an admin, whether it is thinking critically, or organising their time impacts them when they go to college, as they learn important life skills.

Hind N. Al Thani- Head of QLC Press

What are some challenges that you had to deal with pre-conference as a head? Been given the opportunity to be Head of press for this conference comes with various responsibilities and tasks to complete. As the press team Head I have faced many challenges while making decisions with my team. Going through the press team applications was one of those challenges as I discovered many talents with such limited space for the team. Another challenge is making sure the press team manages to meet the deadline requirements. The biggest challenge for us as a team is to make the QLC 2019 a success with minimal mistakes or flaws by making sure all the assigned work be completed on time.

Oroni Hasan - Head of I.T

What challenges have you faced and how have you overcome them?

Leading a big team is challenging but yet enriching. It has taught me how to communicate effectively to reach out to members so that they exactly know their expectations and roles. Selecting and organizing a team was also challenging and required me to invest some time into picking candidates and deciding how their skills and commitment can best be utilized within the conference. There is also a sense of huge responsibility over a team and an entire conference, which I have learned to cope with by staying calm during stressful situations and organizing myself to maximize my productivity, efficiency and communication.

“As the press team Head I have faced many challenges while making decisions with my team. Going through the press team applications was one of those challenges.”
Naturalisation

Gulzar Mohammed
Qatar Academy Doha

’Where are you from?’

For many this is a simple question. For others it brings out a story of confusion, of belonging and a lack of homeland. It is a sad feeling to be an outsider in the country you were born in, where yet this is the reality of many expatriates, who live in the Gulf countries who want the recognition of their true homeland or at least integrated into the society. With the passage of time, there has been a realisation of such feelings of expatriates who have been instrumental in building Qatar to what it is today. In recent times, the government has attempted to bridge the social gap and ease the restrictions of the past, with the removal of exit permits, removal of kafala system and the introduction of permanent residence permit. Laws that would’ve never occured in the past. Yet an unspoken divide between locals and expatriates exist, where some believe one side loves the same country more than the other. While, obviously there are some people who simply come here for the economic benefits of the country, many love and have no other home than this country. This phenomenon is not only in Qatar, yet the rest of the GCC region. The United Arab Emirates is the most infamous in the citizenship issue where at some points even having a second nationality in your lineage can cause issues with your citizenship. Obviously, Qatar is a small nation with a small population and many feel that having too many ethnically non-Qatars would entice foreigners to live in Qatar simply for citizenship and benefits without having to actually care for the country. This is simply not the case as citizenship requirements require people to live in the country for 3 to 4 generations and that it requires to show patriotism to Qatar. Expatriates are some of the people that made Qatar great, it’s time to show appreciation to the people who helped build Qatar.

Viral Bullying

Gulzar Mohammed
Qatar Academy Doha

“Please I don’t want any problems” were the words repeated by a young high-school student studying in a public school in Doha, Qatar’s capital. He was in the school parking lot as a large group of students, mainly bystanders surrounded the student and the bully as the bully keeps on shouting why he was trying to act ‘cool’, the child pleads that he doesn’t want any issues and that he doesn’t want to act cool. The bully then grabs him and punches him repeatedly onto a car. His cries shocked the entire nation when the incident was posted on social media getting the attention of police authorities that arrested the individual for assault as he was above 18 years of age. Unfortunately for many individuals, the video showed practices that are all too common within both private and public schools in Qatar. Around 38% of students in Qatar have reported to have been bullied in school at one point. Obviously bullying was and still is a global issue, impacting many students around the world and causes suicide rates to soar in some countries. In Qatar the issue is not as dire yet many people develop anxiety or mental illness due to the trauma caused to repeated bullying. While proper procedures and support systems across schools have been implemented, many people still have a stigma of seeking help as it is seen as weak, which is the sentiment with most Qatari teenagers (nationals and expatriates). Some willingly deal with it as they see it as simply playful and funny (punching, name-calling, family insults), whereas in fact it is bullying and the recipient simply is accustomed to it. Steps have been made to ensure students do not have to deal with bullying like teaching students to stand up for themselves, a way in which they do not be seen as weak but stop bullying. Much more must be done so that we never have to see such a heartbreaking video again.

“Qatar simply for citizenship and benefits without having to actually care for the country.”

“Around 38% of students in Qatar have reported to have been bullied in school at one point.”
Save The Streak

Deema Al Ali
Vision International School

A lot of snapchat users think streaks are just for the numbers, but streaks have a more meaningful use to them than they think. Snapchat streaks are when two friends keep sending each other snaps everyday without losing touch. In most cases, streaks are the only thing pulling together friendships. How that happens is by using the psychological term of reinforcement.

Reinforcement is when a person is introduced to a stimulus followed by a specific behavior. In this case, the stimulus is the hourglass next to the streak, indicating that the streak will end if the users don’t send a snap to each other while the specific behavior is the sending of the snaps. To many snapchat users, the hourglass isn’t just a friendly reminder to send a streak. It becomes a burden which triggers their anxiety. So, snapchat streaks do more than just show us numbers. Snapchat streaks were created to keep people in touch with each other. Unfortunately, many people misunderstand this feature. Streaks have become a default way of measuring snapchat success.

“Unfortunately, many people misunderstand this feature. Streaks have become a default way of measuring snapchat success.”

History Of MUN

Abdullah Al Nasr
Qatar Academy Doha

Many delegates/participants would know how the actual United Nations was formed after WWII to ensure such a strong force could ever attack the main principles of freedom. Yet if you were to ask someone the history of Model UN, it would be surprising to get a correct response from anyone. Would it surprise you that MUN is actually older than the actual UN? Records of simulations of the League of Nations, the predecessor of the UN were done as early as the 1920s, even before World War Two. The first of these types of conferences were not done by high school students, rather mainly colleges were the ones who practiced the early forms of MUN. The first official MUN conference was set in Harvard University, setting the standard and goal that MUN was for the privileged elite of the elite, with very little schools apart from very selective private schools offering the program for their students, eventually due to increase in the entire U.S education budget, many more schools began offering small, local MUN or Model NATO conferences. Students liked that they could learn about geopolitics in such an interactive manner so it spread across the U.S and Canada as well as Western Europe. Around the 1970s, THIMUN was made for large, international conferences around the world (+2000 delegates). The first of these conferences was held in the actual U.N headquarters in the Netherlands, The Hague. Now, THIMUN has expanded to Singapore and Qatar, in which all three cooperate to ensure all students all over the world have access to such leadership opportunities, especially THIMUN Qatar, whom bring delegates from war-torn nations to Qatar to participate for free. After the 80s, the rest is history, almost every country has MUN within its borders, in different types of languages as well as adhering to different cultures. It truly has changed from a niche for rich people to a school necessity.

“To truly limit your social media usage, you have to admit that you’re addicted.”
Why is “transparency” an issue most Gulf and Arab states reject? Why is that they want secrecy? Isn’t governmental transparency a right for every citizen living on its grounds? Recently, The Gulf Kingdom of Bahrain has started turmoil and controversy all around the Arab region. This scandal caught fire after the well known Qatar based news channel Al Jazeera broadcast an episode “Ma Khafi Aadham” (What Is Hidden Is Greater). This series created a whole dilemma around the region which attracted many other nations to the conflict. Being one of the beacons of free speech Al Jazeera is always under high pressure from neighboring countries, due to it being transparent in what they publish from very confidential issues. But many are asking when will this issue of transparency finally disappear? When will the governments of the world take a stand to create a world that minimizes secrets? Are the people asking for too much from the government?

The episode unveiled the secret blueprint coordinated by Bahrain’s intelligence services in the year 2003 with leaders recruited by Al Qaeda to assassinate and eliminate prominent dissidents. The program contained confidential recordings and testimonies of the executors of the scheme, which was insinuated and proven to be commissioned directly by Bahrain’s King; Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa.

The investigational program titled “Players with fire” reviewed the details of the scheme, which was supervised by three senior officials of the National Security Agency in Bahrain. The assassination list included political leaders of the Bahraini opposition, headed by Abdul Wahab Hussein, who later became a major driver of popular protests in Bahrain, and is now in prison and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Bahraini judiciary.

The investigation revealed that the King of Bahrain personally intervened with the Saudi authorities to release Mohammed Saleh, the leader of the assassination cell, who was arrested there while seeking, on commissioned by the Bahraini security services, to obtain weapons to carry out the assassination plot, which he said was aimed at “Shiite” opponents. He was involved on the basis of what he was told that he was commissioned by the king himself and “serving the homeland”, as well as videotapes of al-Qaeda recruits unveiled for the first time, including a recording of Hisham Hilaal Mohammed al-Balushi, who said Bahraini intelligence recruited him in 2006 for spying and security operations inside Iran before he was killed by Iranian authorities in 2015. That appeared in the recording as the leader of the organization “Ansar al-Furqan”.

The program interviewed Bahraini Lieutenant Colonel Yasiir al-Jalahma, who was the commander of the security battalion that broke up the Pearl-in-the-middle of the Bahraini capital in March 2011, and confirmed that there were deaths of protesters and Bahraini security in those events.

Al-Jalahma, said that the Bahraini security authorities provided them with incorrect information that the protesters were heavily armed and planted roadside bombs, making his battalion think it would face an armed military force, but were surprised that the protesters were unarmed and did not resist them, and the weapons shown by Bahraini television were placed in the protest site after it was removed and was withdrawn after filming.

Among those interviewed by the program was a former adviser to the Royal Court, Salah al-Bander, who supervised the preparation of the “Bandar report” in 2006, revealing the formation of the Bahraini regime cells to liquidate the Bahraini opposition. It manages sensitive files with funding from the Royal Court, and mobilizes the Sunnis in Bahrain by convincing them that they are in constant danger and must protect the existing system.

“He was involved on the basis of what he was told that he was commissioned by the king himself and “serving the homeland”
Illegal Streaming

Abdullah Al Nasr
Qatar Academy Doha

The middle east is looking more like a playground than the essential region that it is. From throwing shoes at opponents in a football match to chanting disrespectful chants. One of the most well known gulf states have recently launched an illegal alternative broadcasting channel called BeoutQ in retaliation to the well known qatari based sports network Bein Sports. They launched BeoutQ in an attempt to show the Qatari government that they’re the boss and that they can take whatever they want from you even if the blockade is still on. Obviously this did not sit well with bein sports as 27 million people are now legally banned from watching their exclusive coverages.

Bein Sports filed a lawsuit against the Saudi Arabia in an attempt to halt all broadcasting of the illegal streaming service. Unfortunately the piracy didn’t end. Saudi Arabia did not show any regard for international law. The international arbitration was not successful as there was no cooperation between the Saudi state and the international court. Now due to the dire situation Bein Sports asked all official domestic leagues to raise awareness and condemnation against BeoutQ. They brought the issue to the sports loving community through advertisements and banners on their channels.

Saudi nationals at first were proud of their nation having launched a channel like BeoutQ to serve their entertainment. Yet very quickly the Saudis realized that BeoutQ was simply a way to get back at the failing blockade. The system was extremely difficult to install which discouraged many people from even buying the streaming service. Qatar has been given a very important role as the host for the 2022 FIFA World Cup as well as many other sporting events. The Qatari government needs to insure that all the rights to streaming are respected and all streaming companies abide by the law.

“You wouldn’t steal someones TV or their receiver, so why would you use an illegal streaming service. It’s all the same in the end.”

Women: Assemble

Deema Al Ali
Vision International School

It’s a known fact that women live longer than men due to changing biological factors and advances in medicine, but is that really true? Women tend to summarize the idea of mental and physical self-care by associating it with working out, eating healthy, and a good skincare routine when in fact, women’s health is more than just “an aesthetic”. As of 2017, about 63 million girls globally have undergone female genital mutilation. Women’s health isn’t just influenced by biological factors, but also environmental factors. What many people aren’t aware of is that female genital mutilation arises from gender inequality, which is why many communities around the world practice it. Therefore, protecting women and fighting for equality is one of the root solutions.

To increase global awareness of breast cancer, one of the most well-known aspects of women’s health, October has been named the Pink Month. This attempt at raising awareness has been widely successful. We can use this month to teach people not only of the seriousness and dangers of breast cancer, but of the many other problems women face, such as under-researched conditions which leads to a lot of misunderstandings.

Women’s health is so very important, yet we don’t seem to hear about it much in the media, which is why many people are starting and joining women wellness organizations and alliances like the Women’s Health Activist Movement (WHAmglobal.org) and Georgetown Qatar’s Women Wellness Alliance (@womenswellnessalliance on Instagram). These organizations and alliances introduce and push the idea that women’s health is not just green smoothies and self-care is more than mainstream diets. Women’s health can be influenced by not just biological factors, but also environmental factors such as poverty, employment, and family responsibilities.

It is our duty as women and men to fight and support our sisters all around the world. As Salma Hayek once said, “In fighting for women, we fight for humanity. We fight for the future - for everyone.”
ORGANIZATION  EQUALITY
ACCEPTION    ACTION
LEADERSHIP   POWER
MOTIVATION   VIRAL
VOICE        BULLYING
GENDER       CHARGE