

# Preface

The book has been designed to encourage reflective learning. Summary points, critical questions and examples of theory and research are included at various points in the text for readers who would like to review and reflect on the issues covered. Each chapter provides some recommended further readings for those who want to extend their learning.

Part 1 identifies the key debates and the questions that will be considered throughout the book. Key definitions and the historical context in which concerns about violence and childhood developed are briefly considered in Chapter 1.

Part 2 provides an interdisciplinary review of research and scholarship. The major focus of the book will be on children and violence in the UK; however, international research literature and policy developments are included where relevant and where this adds to our understanding. Chapter 2 reviews research and scholarly works that consider the question 'Why are some children violent?' Chapter 3 reviews research and scholarly works on the causes of violence and maltreatment of children.

In Part 3 the implications for children's lives are considered. Chapter 4 reviews research on the impact and consequences for children's well-being of living with violence and maltreatment. Chapter 5 explores public attitudes on violence towards and by children and the positioning of children as 'victims' or 'villains'. Chapter 6 looks at the framing of childhood violence in recent UK crime prevention policies in public and in cyberspace, and the consequences of these policies for children's lives. Chapter 7 explores the expansion and differentiation in the focus of child protection and the shift towards early intervention, safeguarding and prevention, and looks at how policies on keeping safe have affected children's lives.

Throughout the book, materials from research are used to illustrate how children's voices and participation can challenge us all to rethink our approaches to their experiences of violence.