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## Boston youths to join black clergy to discuss ways halt violence

Posted by Matt Rocheleau October 21, 2011 10:30 AM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

More than 200 students from a Roxbury middle school will meet today for what will be the first in a series of events where young people join Boston's black clergy to discuss strategies to eliminate youth violence.

The event series is a follow-up to a [meeting last Saturday](#), when over 200 black clergy, along with elected officials and community activists, gathered at the Melnea A. Cass Recreation Complex in Roxbury in a call to action to stem violence in Boston, organizers said.

Students from the James P. Timilty school will attend a working action meeting and panel discussion Friday with several members of the local black clergy to discuss youth violence prevention and forgiveness, according to planners. Today's gathering will be the inaugural event of the "UC2 You Count" tour.

One of the tour's organizers, Ron Bell, said in the announcement that, "in this grassroots effort, the best experts are those closest to the problem."

Also being planned are events at other area elementary, middle and high schools, as well as at community centers and faith-based organizations "to gather information that will impact on the public approach to this issue," the announcement said.

At noon this Saturday, as part of the No More Murder campaign, a group of 120 volunteers will meet at the One United Bank in Dudley Square "to walk the streets and reach out to at-risk young people, gang members and adults by offering support services," organizers said.

The next school event is scheduled for Nov. 16 at the Tobin School in Mission Hill. As part of a continuing strategy, action groups will be formed at each participating school, the press release said.

Out of last Saturday's meeting, officials said a dozen action groups formed to address various aspects and approaches to the issue, including groups on public safety, public policy, education and civic engagement.

Those interested in having the UC2 You Count tour visiting their school or organization, can contact [ronbel1400@gmail.com](mailto:ronbel1400@gmail.com).

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