



**PREVENTION
CONNECTION**
THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

A Project of



**Prevention Connection Web Dialogue
Engaging Men and Boys: A Dialogue on Changing Norms about Masculinity that
Contribute to Violence
Text Chat Q&A
March 23, 2006**

Q1: What agencies are present? If you are a state coalition or other type of organization, please identify who you are.

- A: Managed care
- A: University
- A: DV and SA together
- A: University
- A: RCC and DVS
- A: University
- A: Prevention Education Group
- A: family violence prevention collaborative: 40 + agencies
- A: University
- A: Policy
- A: Domestic Violence Victim Advocate Military base
- A: University
- A: Department of Health & Welfare
- A: federal abstinence program
- A: Student Life
- A: University

Q2: Did any particular point resonate with you? Or not?

- A: I found that there was an analogy of the Latino culture to the Native American culture.
- A: The issue is primary prevention, not corrective behavior change

A: I am concerned about the wording of the consent 'negotiation'....for a teen it may come across as the pleading method used to get what you want

A: Add to the complex intersections the issue of sexuality

A: I liked the fact the article gave a multi pronged approach as well as addressing the fact that culture and ethnicity play a large role

A: The difficulty of balancing complicity and challenging masculine ideas

A: Very helpful articulation of some very complex issues and challenges. Could have added a critique/analysis of capitalism and how it requires/relies on all forms of oppression in order to function.

A: It takes Robyn point to mean looking at issue from a sickness model or wellness

A: Teaching men masculinity is key concept I liked about the article

A: An added critique that would have been helpful would have been analysis of how all forms of oppression serve to maintain capitalism.

A: And how do we recruit adult male community members to be a part of this work, (Serving as mentors etc)

A: I also liked the fact the article speaks to men's victimization but wonder how we balance talking about both

A: Leadership qualities in society reinforce negative aspects

A: the point about widening the definition of violence and trying to include men in it

A: I would also like to discuss how we promote options for young men who are battling sexist concept especially about bystander roles

Q3: The Next question I want to ask is about the people who are engaging with men. What percentage of the work does your organization focus on engaging with men?

A: I work with early elementary boys

A: particular interest: the concept of male led by men for men-- supports concept that men seek approval of other men through identification and competition

A: Risk factor research on perpetration of sexual violence tells us that a boy/man is at highest risk to perpetrate when he has a constellation of risk factors, i.e. vulnerabilities. I think this is important to consider -
- institutional and societal norms re: men and violence are a powerful piece but only one piece in a bigger picture...

A: women teaching masculinity to men? Is it my problem?

A: some of the question is how do we get men to the movement or how do we take the movement to men

A: Yes Teri I agree it's difficult as women to get men to understand how a woman can instruct a male in his role as being strong NOT violent

A: Although I'm a strong believer in men as role models educating other men, I can think of several examples of women educating men very successfully--Deb Mahlstedt, for example.

A: I like the idea of having male/female co-facilitators to both assist in male role model identification, but also models appropriate relational discussions between the genders

A: What are your ideas about recruitment of male role models-how to connect with the men who could take the ball

A: It seems to me that there is space for all of the above -- men learn what it is to be men from women and men, so having space, facilitated by adult men, adult women, and coed seems really valuable.

A: In a parallel way, it seems that creating space for men to talk and critique masculinity in male-only space as well as in co-ed space; and parallel space for women to talk and critique their experiences of masculinity is also really important.

A: the healing and health hope aspect of what Jacqueline talks about is imperative in doing primary prevention

A: A key point is to also understand the history of rape or accusations of rape has been a tool of oppression in American culture in the black community.

A: I also believe that young men, boys, need to learn that woman-speak, so to speak is viable and valuable and I have found that if the message is interesting and impacting that works

A: It is definitely a difficult task to recruit men, but at Santa Clara University we have found that the best way is once you have a group of men committed to the issue, having them talk to friends and acquaintances and encouraging them to get involved

A: We don't have fatherhood groups or men's support groups here. I would venture that the local cultures don't support men 'needing' support, or actually talking together about these issues. I will need to connect with men in my communities to be the founding members. Who/where do you suggest starting? Churches? Community leaders? Teachers?

A: I've come to learn that recruitment of men in higher education must also focus on subsets of men. For example, men in Greek orgs, or athletes. Last semester three football players (including team captain/QB) took my class and they've started a sort of "chain" by inviting 2-3 teammates to take this spring's course. They told these guys that they were picked specially (they actually were) and that it was sort of an "exclusive" thing. So now I have 2 more football players in my class this semester--one of whom is actually training to

be a coach. They are working to educate their teammates. They said it was important to have senior players do this; that they need to be the kind of guys the other guys look up to (of course), and that have props from the team. These guys, in turn, have huge status with young men in the community.

A: I think that in a world with so many ways in which women AND men are oppressed, violated, mistreated, and abused by the systems-that-be, governments, societal structures, we have to take equal responsibility to overcome the structures that hurt people. I'm thinking as examples, of men and women of color in the US, immigrant men and women in the US, men and women in countries colonized by more powerful nations, etc. When I work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and see the deep abuses wrought upon men by the Israeli military, I find it hard to focus on men as perpetrators and women as victims period. Not to excuse men's violence against women AT ALL, but how do we address the multiple cross-oppressions that harm men just as much as women, sometimes more, when the bigger issue is power imbalance and the ways in which many societal structures are abusive and teach abusive behaviors?

A: There are men in every community that do what Patrick describes of living both the dominant message and subversive messages of masculinity: Priests, teachers, counselors, perhaps male police officers who are also active in their community as choir directors or coaches... If you don't have a formal fatherhood programs, I'd suggest reaching out to those men who are living their lives, in a fairly overt way but not necessarily defining it as antiviolence work.

A: Sometimes mere survival requires addressing wrongs in a different order. But what's going on in the territories, in Central America, Iraq, etc. etc. is an extension of gendered violence. So it's important to always keep the notion of gender--even when it doesn't necessarily appear to be the primary issue--on the table in order to give it a more complete analysis.

A: I teach Gender, Violence, & Society, through the Ed school. Not surprisingly, most of my students are from the Women's Studies program, although I'm currently in a tussle with SWAG to get SWAG credit (believe it or not, it's not cross-listed!)

A: I just returned from a trip to El Salvador (Lisa a couple of former Santa Clara folks were with my delegation and it was led by a SC alumna!) and we met with women working to end violence there, which is huge, and an obvious consequence of a total lack of accountability after the war. I met men who are engaged in work as allies--a few, to be sure, but some--but their collaboration was so appreciated by the women.

Q5: A student here at Santa Clara would like to know what everyone thinks about using male celebrities vs. ordinary men in campaigning against violence?

A: Any man put up as a model carries the risk of not being the role model we hoped for.

A: I wonder what the student thinks. I'd like to find the 'male celebrities' at the local college and in our region.

A: I love the idea of ordinary men/people; because it makes it clearer that it is everyone's responsibility and opportunity

A: The 'ordinary' person needs to look/seem like the audience he's trying to connect with, especially with the young teen group

A: Joanne, pornography, prostitution ("force is irrelevant) and trafficking are integral to our work in engaging men. These issues must be part of the conceptualized whole --- rape, domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, etc is part of the whole of men's sexist violence. And this includes pornography, prostitution and sex trafficking. I think in many ways, talking about these issues provides a different entry point for some men. I'm doing a lot of very focused work on these issues in my communities in Kentucky and Indiana

A: In California's sexual violence prevention campaign, MyStrength.org, we focus group tested images on this message. We found men want to see people who they aspire to be -- not necessarily who they are

A: The students here at SCU agree that the "ordinary" person needs to look/seem like the audience, and we also agree with what David said about seeing people they aspire to be. However, we think that the people teens aspire to be can be college students and teachers as opposed to celebrities

A: I agree completely with your assessment

Q6: How do we meet men where they are at?

A: Rachel, a start is like Jacqueline working with Fatherhood

A: One of the projects that we are doing locally is with all male Catholic High Schools (in Louisville). We've been able to successfully engage the largest all male high school (1500 students) and one other so far, and are in negotiation to follow through with the entire Archdiocese. This has meant not only some really good engagement with a lot of ordinary young men in HS, but also with the institutions of all male high school environments. We've seen some really dramatic

change in both men's attitudes and behaviors, and institutionally in the schools that we've engaged

A: It is us going to new places and leaving our Silo's

A: I think it's important to help men and boys see how they are hurt/limited/weakened by sexism.

A: We here in Ravalli County are creating a 30 second PSA and using volunteers that have been recruiting volunteers from all the local service organizations (i.e. Elks, Eagles, etc). They are excited about the project which will premiere at a local movie theatre and basically gives the individual and the club countywide investment in preventing IPV in their community

A: It's from the "hoods to the woods"

A: The Family Violence Prevention Fund's Coaching Men into Boys is another approach to engage men to be role models to young men. More info at www.endabuse.org.

A: As far as high school boys, make it personal; remind them that it could be their sister or mom who is violated

A: Yes Robyn, got to start so early and the two issues are so-oooo connected

A: There is an aggressive campaign in this country to curb the obesity crisis led by Governors and CEOs because it is an overt public health epidemic - it has exorbitant medical costs, poor QOL, causes death. It seems to me VAW, while covert, should have Gov/CEOs advocating to end the violence because it has the same effects as the obesity crisis.

Q7: What challenges come up within participants' organizations in doing this work? (Or what challenges do you anticipate if you are planning to begin this work?)

A: At the college level I think it is worth saying that there are thousands of men that are already "there" challenging sexist behaviors, the acceptance of rape myths, and the culture of violence against women. So to the question of do we meet men where they are or where we want them to be, there are men at both places and in between. It is important that we give credit to those men already working and support them in their efforts to expand their message to more men.

A: The media needs to be deconstructed

A: 1) Challenges in the work of engaging men/boys; 2) implications and conclusions from the dialogue; 3) next steps and implications for further dialogue

A: focus on positive fatherhood promotion of well being

A: Yes, Marilyn I definitely agree the MEDIA needs to be deconstructed

A: getting men to see this as a priority

Q8: What crystallized for you in this discussion?

A: A challenge of bringing academic scholarship, like the article and making it applicable to all men, are we talking men 490 or men 101 or even men GED?

A: Crafting the messages; engaging starter, core boys and men; and engaging the male communities...all of it.

A: The idea of creating safe environments for men to establish a way of thinking about this issue as something they can and need to do something about

A: having enough actual fathers who are behaving as fathers, being kind, being protective, being the real norm of manhood

A: Challenge: recruiting men of color in a primarily white community; engaging men in general to want to do this work.

Q9: How do we engage men but move away from a blaming focus of men as perpetrators?

A: Make conflict resolution in schools and work places mandatory

A: Working at a military base where men go off to war we are finding it very difficult to deal with men coming back from war and putting violence aside they are coming back "different" from who they were. Many of the wives are saying, "He was never this way before"...

A: The general 'recruitment' of young men to be a part of this movement

A: I would suggest building safe and secure communities one at a time, and linking them up where possible, finding ways for various communities to come forward and take responsibility for balanced safe relationships.

A: Work with the schools to create the space for not accepting violence in any form.

A: insights: men in college-age groups do need male-only space in order to let their guard down and honestly discuss how to redefine masculinity

A: The male peer education program here at SCU has been a great success

A: The public needs to see intimate partner violence as just as alarming as "stranger" violence

Additional Comments/Closing Remarks

Thank you everyone. Please complete an evaluation form.

Thanks to all the participants and fellow guests for your commitment to this work!

Making it possible for men and boys to discuss gender--often young violence prevention programs never even use the "G" word--and integrating discussions of gender/masculinity with mentoring programs for young men/boys. I'm trying to start up such a program here at UVA. Some of the elements are in place, but not all. Male-male violence, for example, is gendered, not only male-female violence. They need to be able to make these connections and then understand that male violence against women is part of the violent culture

Our project works with a lot of immigrant men who are unemployed. We began meeting with them on a weekly basis to talk about their lives...this led into discussions about family violence prevention and "what does it mean to be a man in this new culture? Along the way, the men spoke about new and different ways that they wanted to be with the women in their lives. They used the arts and developed a series of vignettes which they are now using in their community to talk about their role in ending violence against women. They now call themselves, "Men opposed to Violence Against Women. Another community member is using Tough Guise Video in his church. This video has been shown to all the men in his leadership group (35+). They are working in small groups to develop plans to further educate the congregation about Men's role in Ending Violence Against Women.