

Engaging Men from Diverse Backgrounds in Preventing Men's Violence Against Women

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Why involve men in violence prevention?

We must address men because:

1. It is largely men who perpetrate this violence.
2. Constructions of masculinity play a crucial role in shaping violence against women.
3. Men have a positive role to play in helping to stop violence against women.

An intersectional analysis of men and masculinities

- Men's lives, like women's, are structured not only by gender but by various axes of social division and difference such as race and ethnicity.
 - There are multiple masculinities.
- Dominant images of masculinity involve a white masculinity.
- Notions of masculinity are central to colonialism and to contemporary racism.

An intersectional analysis of men and masculinities *cont'd*

- Men in different social locations have differential access to social resources and social status.
- There are powerful cultural stereotypes and myths regarding men, ethnicity, and violence.
- Men from marginalised ethnic groups often are portrayed in derogatory ways in media.
 - Men from such groups themselves may resist, adopt, or refine such stereotypes. E.g., young black men's 'cool pose' culture.

An intersectional approach to men's violence against women

- Approaches to men's violence against women increasingly adopt an intersectional analysis.
 - Complex intersections of social difference and social location shape women's and men's understandings of, experiences of, and involvements in violence
- Women in immigrant and CaLD communities and refugees face a heightened vulnerability to violence.

Attitudes...

- Men's violence-supportive attitudes are shaped by gender, ethnicity, and other factors.
 - Attitudes shape men's involvements in violence against women, whether as bystanders or perpetrators.
- Community attitudes towards violence against women are shaped above all by gender: Men have worse attitudes than women.
- Attitudes are shaped also by culture and ethnicity.
 - Attitudes are poorer in selected CaLD samples than in the general community.
- In acknowledging such patterns, there is a danger of reinforcing racism.

Attitudes...

- Ethnicity also shapes how male perpetrators are treated.
 - Male perpetrators are more likely to be held accountable and criminalized, and their crimes are more likely to be seen as linked to their ethnicity, if they are poor, black or men of color.

Violence prevention in CaLD communities

- Frame efforts in culturally relevant ways;
- Address communities' perceived needs and community issues and values;
- Engage key community and religious leaders;
- Build relationships and networks among immigrant and refugee women themselves and between such women and their local communities and services;
- Change the social and community conditions which lead to violence.

Violence prevention in CaLD communities

- Challenges:
 - Intensifying racism?
 - Support or undermine cultural traditions?

Engaging men in prevention

- Three key principles for male involvement:
 1. Pro-feminist
 - Feminist content and frameworks
 - Partnerships with women and women's groups
 - Protection of 'women's space', women-only, and women-focused programs.
 2. Committed to enhancing boys' and men's lives
 3. Acknowledge diversities

A spectrum of prevention

Level of Spectrum	Definition
Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills	Enhancing an individual's capability of preventing violence and promoting safety
Promoting Community Education	Reaching groups of people with information and resources to prevent violence and promote safety
Educating Providers	Informing providers who will transmit skills and knowledge to others and model positive norms
Fostering Coalitions and Networks	Bringing together groups and individuals for broader goals and greater impact
Changing Organizational Practices	Adopting regulations and shaping norms to prevent violence and improve safety
Influencing Policies and Legislation	Enacting laws and policies that support healthy community norms and a violence-free society

Engaging CaLD men in prevention: Key strategies

- Address the social and economic conditions of CaLD men and communities.
- Include culturally relevant content. And acknowledge racism.
 - Among diverse men, culturally relevant interventions are more effective than 'colourblind' ones.
- Address culturally specific supports for violence and gender inequality.
 - E.g., responding to defences of violence or sexism in terms of theology, 'tradition', or 'culture'.

Engaging CaLD men in prevention: Key strategies

- Draw on local resources and texts in promoting non-violence and gender equality.
- Be sensitive to *gender* cultures.
- Engage (male) community and religious leaders.
- Address men's experiences of changing gender dynamics in families.
- Improve CaLD men's access to services.
 - CaLD men face barriers to services both similar to, and different from, those faced by CaLD women.

Conclusion

- To prevent men's violence against women, we must:
 - Challenge the gender inequalities at the root of this violence;
 - Engage men;
 - Address complex intersections of ethnicity, class, etc.
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Online resources on violence prevention, engaging men, etc.

- www.xyonline.net
- Articles, manuals, & other resources:
<http://www.xyonline.net/category/article-content/violence>
- Web links to organisations, projects, and campaigns:
<http://www.xyonline.net/links#a2>
- References on men's anti-violence work:
<http://mensbiblio.xyonline.net/violence2.html#Antiviolenceactivism>
- References on violence prevention:
<http://mensbiblio.xyonline.net/violence3.html#Violenceprevention>