

Involving Men in Ending Men's Violence Against Women

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3 points

- Men's violence against women is fundamentally linked to gender inequalities.
- Men's involvements in violence prevention are shaped by these same gender inequalities.
- So... Gender inequality is the problem, and gender equality is the solution.

Gender inequalities

- Men's violence against women is fundamentally linked to gender inequalities.
- Men's violence against women both expresses and maintains men's power over women.
 - Men perpetrate violence against women because they believe in gender inequality.
 - Men perpetrate violence against women because of gender inequalities of power.

Gender inequalities

- Men's violence against women has social and structural roots.
- Individual men's use of violence is enabled by wider gender inequalities.
 - Men's use of coercive control against women exploits persistent gender inequalities.
- Men's violence itself may be practised collectively.
- Men's violence against women has a collective impact.

Men's violence prevention: The state of the field

- Good news: There are some significant achievements:
 - numbers
 - organisations
 - partnerships
 - policy support
 - community goodwill
 - evidence of effectiveness

More good news

- Increased regional and global networking;
 - E.g., White Ribbon Campaign, MenEngage, Partners for Prevention
- Increasing diversity in prevention strategies;
- New domains through to which engage men in prevention, e.g. fathering;
- An orientation towards 'scaling up', including through policy;
- An increasing emphasis on evaluation.

Bad news

- Much of the work engaging men and boys in violence prevention is conceptually simplistic and thus ineffective.
- The growing focus on engaging men and boys in prevention is politically delicate and, in some instances, dangerous.
 - E.g., 'work with men' sometimes has ceased to be the strategy and has become the goal.
- There is much which is unknown about the effectiveness of violence prevention efforts among men and boys.

Gender inequalities

- Just like men's violence, men's violence prevention is shaped by gender inequalities:
 - Men start in a worse place than women.
 - Far fewer men than women take up the cause of preventing violence against women.
 - Men in general are hostile to involvement in violence prevention efforts.

Gender inequalities

- Male audiences may react to educational efforts with hostility or defensiveness.
- Some groups of men actively campaign in defence of gender inequalities:
 - Men's rights and fathers' rights groups
- Those men who are involved also may be complicit in patriarchal masculinities.

Gender inequality and other problems

- Gender is not the only story, and gender inequality is not the only problem.
 - An intersectional approach: Gender intersects with other forms of social difference: ethnicity, class, sexuality, etc.
- Gender itself is part of the problem.

Some questions

- How do we work or engage with organisations which themselves are characterised by gender inequality?
- What do we do about governments which are not very supportive of gender equality?

So...

- Gender inequality is the problem, and gender equality is the solution.

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Online resources on men's roles in ending violence against women: <http://www.xyonline.net>

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>