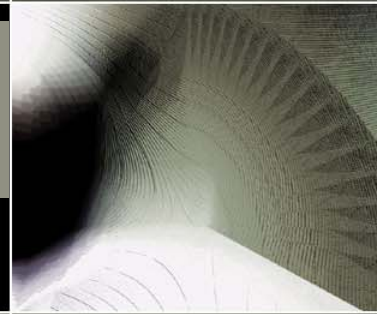




MEN

Breaking the chains of male culture



NO MORE

- o We have been silent witnesses of violence and abuse. Will our inward power of resistance be strong enough for us to find our way back and to hold the perpetrators of violence and abuse accountable? (cf Bonhoeffer)

From now on

- As long as men take the view that these are problems for women alone to solve, we cannot expect to reverse the high incidence of rape and child abuse ... and domestic violence. *We do know that many men do not abuse women and children; and that they strive always to live with respect and dignity.* But until today the collective voice of these men has never been heard, because the issue has not been regarded as one for the whole nation. *From today those who inflict violence on others will know they are being isolated and cannot count on other men to protect them. From now on all men will hear the call to assume their responsibility for solving this problem.* *President Nelson Mandela, 1997, National Men's March, Pretoria, South Africa.*

PLEASE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS MYTH:

- That women are as violent as men –
THEY ARE NOT!

This distracts us from the real issue -
Men's violence to women

- Women's motivations:
 1. SELF-DEFENCE
 2. FEAR
 3. DEFENCE OF CHILDREN
 4. RETALIATION

The 2 Key Criteria for Violence Intervention

1. SAFETY of WOMEN and CHILDREN
2. ACCOUNTABILITY of MALE PERPETRATORS (and accountability of justice officials and service providers for their interventions)

STARTING POINT

- NO ONE DESERVES TO BE ABUSED OR ASSAULTED
- VIOLENCE MUST NEVER BE EXCUSED, MINIMIZED, TOLERATED, OR JUSTIFIED.
- SEVERITY AND EXTENT OF WOMAN ABUSE - EPIDEMIC
- MEN MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR.
- MANDATORY INTERVENTION FOR MEN WHO ARE ABUSIVE

SYSTEMS

Brother
I don't want to hear
about how my real enemy
is the system.
i'm no genius
but I do know
that system
you hit me with
is called
a fist



THE SYSTEM MATTERS

○ THE SYSTEM MATTERS

- Elders
- Leaders
- Magistrates
- Police
- Corrections
- Women's services
- Education
- Health
- Housing
- Centrelink, etc.

- Men's program outcome is likely to be improved with swift and certain court referral, periodic court review or specialized probation surveillance and ongoing risk management

Gondolf, E. (2002) Batterer Intervention Systems. Thousand Oaks, CA:Sage.

THE COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY RESPONSE

- o Government agencies and services, non-government agencies, community leaders, and key community groups working in an integrated way to increase safety for women and children, and to hold men accountable (not working against each other)

Recommendations for Men's Violence Rehabilitation Programs

- Men's programs embedded in C.C.R.
- Dedicated specialized DV court
- With court-mandated programs
- Consistent systems –
Court/Police/Corrections/Human Services with interlocking policies
- Accreditation of programs, curriculum and facilitators
- Ongoing audit and evaluation is critical

Men's Violence Rehabilitation

- Mandated group programs
- Long-term (26 sessions at least)
- Addressing beliefs and behaviours which fuel violence
- Focus on change of abusive beliefs and behaviours
- **Not** about support or counselling or reuniting families, but stopping violence
- Linked to Indigenous communities with culturally appropriate input supervised by Indigenous men and women
- Offering support for children exposed to domestic violence
- Prevention Programs for young Indigenous males (Key findings from NT program)

Our Challenge and Responsibility

- Our challenge and our responsibility is to raise socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually healthy female and male children in a society which can make it difficult and is often not supportive, because it has competing goals and values.
- Violence sabotages children's healthy development



WHAT CAN MEN DO?

1. Listen to women, value women, be guided by women in this area.
2. Believe this is a men's issue
3. Believe this is a Social Justice issue
4. Refuse to be a silent bystander
5. Examine your own attitudes
6. If you know a woman who is being abused, gently ask if you can help
7. If you are abusive, seek help
8. Be an ally to women working against violence
9. Don't fund sexism via music, website, or dvd
10. Mentor and teach young boys about how to be a man without degrading or abusing women.

Courage

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak.

Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

Winston Churchill