

Engaging Boys and Men

Why

Men and boys can play an important role in working together with community members on issues of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. They can be powerful role models for their community by taking a stand against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and by not participating in activities that might exploit girls and women. Men and boys can end demand for goods and services that may contribute to human trafficking.

Men as business leaders can ensure that labour exploitation as a form of human trafficking is not tolerated in their company or supply chain.

Men and boys can also be the victims of human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation. Outreach to vulnerable young males and youth should also be considered in efforts to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation in your community.

How

Many men and boys in leadership roles may already be supporting women's equality and promoting a community free from violence, exploitation and human trafficking. Others may be interested in getting involved and playing a new role in the community. Here are some suggestions for engaging boys and men in this work!

TAKING ACTION: Moosehide Campaign's Third Annual Gathering of Men

In February, 2014, hundreds of men gathered in Victoria with a piece of moosehide pinned over their hearts to show their commitment to the Moosehide Campaign. This campaign was launched by Paul Lacerte, Executive Director of the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres in 2011 as a movement to raise awareness about and end violence towards Aboriginal women and children. The annual gathering is open to all men, and invites women to offer support and prayers. Healing circles are conducted for men to speak about their experiences of violence, and a public pledge is made to end violence against Aboriginal women and children in our communities.

<http://moosehidecampaign.ca/>

- Begin by identifying key male leaders in your community who could be included in activities to prevent and address sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
- Invite men and boys to participate in local events to learn more about these issues.
- Encourage men and boys to take a stand against human trafficking and exploitation by participating in awareness raising events and campaigns.
- Invite male adult and youth leaders to start a men's group, or campaign to promote a community that is free from violence and exploitation (see suggestions below).



Campaigns aimed at men and boys to end violence against women, including human trafficking and sexual exploitation, are listed below:

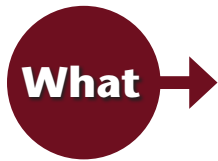
- **Moosehide Campaign**
<http://moosehidecampaign.ca/>
A campaign lead by men in support of efforts to address violence against Aboriginal women. See the “Taking Action” story below for more details.
- **I am a Kind Man Campaign**
[I am a Kind Man Campaign](#) by the Kishaay Anishinaabe First Nation promotes the elimination of violence against Aboriginal women. The site offers ideas, traditional teachings, and a cultural foundation to the concept of being a kind man. The site promotes activities at the family, neighbourhood, and community levels to address violence against women.
- **Be More Than a Bystander**
[Be More Than a Bystander](#) is an initiative between EVA BC and the BC Lions football club to increase the understanding of men’s violence against women. The campaign provides tools, language and practical ideas about how to be more than a bystander in dealing with gender violence.

TAKING ACTION: Empowering Young Men to End Sexual Exploitation— A Curriculum for High School Boys

The Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE) was founded in 2006 to end sexual exploitation. The *Empowering Young Men to End Sexual Exploitation Curriculum* uses a popular education approach, promoting mutual learning and self-reflection and is led by a CAASE facilitator. The course invites young men to examine our culture’s constructs of masculinity, and learn about the realities of sex trafficking and the sex industry.

<http://www.caase.org/prevention>

- **Ring the Bell: One million men, One million promises, End violence Against Women**
<http://breakthrough.tv/ringthebell/>
Breakthrough is an international human rights organization dedicated to eliminating violence against women. The site offers practical ideas to engage the community with training and activities, and to educate and mobilize men as agents for change.
- **White Ribbon Campaign**
<http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>
White Ribbon is a movement engaging men and boys to work against gender violence. The site offers resources, workshops and information on how to promote the White Ribbon campaign locally.
- **Renaissance Male Project Inc. 10 Things Men & Boys Can Do to Stop Human Trafficking**
<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/renaissancemaletenthings4fin.pdf>
A downloadable brochure with 10 practical actions men can take to stop human trafficking for sexual exploitation.



Video Resources:

- **Spoken Word video:**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlb4Pu23kqw>
Powerful performance of a poem by Jeremy Loveday, calling men to remove their masks, take a stand and challenge violence against women and all the societal practices that allows it to happen.
- **Jackson Katz: Violence against women—it's a men's issue (Ted Talk):**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIJxUVJ8blw>
Jackson Katz discuss how violence against women is a “men's Issue” rather than a “women's issue.” It also makes a case for understanding taking action against gender violence as a leadership quality.
- **Tony Porter: A call to men (Ted Talk):**
http://www.ted.com/talks/tony_porter_a_call_to_men
Tony Porter explores how the way boys are men are raised and how some aspects of their upbringing shape violent attitudes and behaviours towards each other and towards women. He calls on men to pay attention to and take responsibility for what they say and do.

Reflecting

1. What do we need to learn more about?
2. Who are the male leaders in our community?
3. Can we identify youth, in particular young men, who may be emerging leaders in our community?
4. What role can men and boys play to combat human trafficking?
5. What is the best way to attract male leaders to join in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking in our community?
6. If you are a boy or man, what steps can you take to connect with others to address human trafficking issues in your community?