MEN’S ROLE IN CONFRONTING EVERYDAY GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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WHY MEN?

BECAUSE WE AREN’T DOING WELL.
PATRIARCHY IS A POLITICAL-SOCIAL SYSTEM THAT INSISTS THAT MALES ARE INHERENTLY DOMINATING, SUPERIOR TO EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE DEEMED WEAK, ESPECIALLY FEMALES, AND ENDOWED WITH THE RIGHT TO DOMINATE AND RULE OVER THE WEAK AND TO MAINTAIN THAT DOMINANCE THROUGH VARIOUS FORMS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE.

BELL HOOKS
PATRIARCHY AS A SYSTEM HAS DENIED MALES ACCESS TO FULL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING, WHICH IS NOT THE SAME AS FEELING REWARDED, SUCCESSFUL, OR POWERFUL BECAUSE OF ONE’S CAPACITY TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER OTHERS. TO TRULY ADDRESS MALE PAIN AND MALE CRISIS, WE MUST AS A NATION BE WILLING TO EXPOSE THE HARSH REALITY THAT PATRIARCHY HAS DAMAGED MEN IN THE PAST AND CONTINUES TO DAMAGE THEM IN THE PRESENT. IF PATRIARCHY WERE TRULY REWARDING TO MEN, THE VIOLENCE AND ADDICTION IN FAMILY LIFE THAT IS SO ALL-PERVASIVE WOULD NOT EXIST.

BELL HOOKS
WHY MEN

GBV won’t end until men understand it as a personal problem.

Just like white people and racism.
MEN’S EDUCATION PROGRAM

A HELPFUL FRAME
WHY MEP?

Aren’t we talking about everyday GBV?

What do microaggressions in the office have to do with attempted murder?
Domestic violence (DV) is an expression of a broader political order.

- The function of DV is to restore an order; the function of GBV is to restore an order.

It’s not a problem of pathology; it’s not about childhood trauma, or substance abuse, or anger management—although those things can certainly make it worse.

GBV, micro- or otherwise, is about a broader political order or ideology.
IT WOULD BE NONSENSICAL TO FOCUS OUR ENERGY ON THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE THEMSELVES RATHER THAN THE CLIMATE OF WHICH THEY ARE AN INEVITABLE OUTCOME.
THE ECOLOGY OF GBV
BREAK-OUT

How do you see this in your world?
Where are points of intervention, leverage to change things?
What does this look like in the University context?
What can we demand and what can we do in the University to undermine this?

REPORT BACK
3 CLOSING THOUGHTS
1. ADDRESS WHITENESS

You are hurting the cause otherwise
It won’t work (they’ve tried)

#SayHerName

Sandra Bland Korryn Gaines Kayla Moore Miriam Carey
Shelley Frey Michelle Cusseaux Alberta Spruill Tanisha
Anderson Mya Hall Alexia Christian Gabriella Nevarez
Shantel Davis Malissa Williams LaTanya Haggerty Sharmel
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Frankie Ann Perkins Shereese Francis Pearlie Golden Tyisha
Miller Natasha McKenna Sheneque Proctor Kyam Livingston
Rekia Boyd Aiyana Stanley-Jones Tarika Wilson Meagn
Hockaday Janisha Fonville Aura Rosser Yvette Smith Duanna
Johnson Nizah Morris
2. ADDRESS VICTIM-BLAMING

Replace culture of victim-blaming with cultures of accountability
3. FOR MEN

1. Safe for emotions
2. Asking for help
3. Listening to women
4. Confront homophobia
5. Confront whiteness
6. Accountable to others because misogyny and male supremacy are so cleverly internalized
RESOURCES

Emerge MEP, mensinfo@emergecenter.org

Bruvluv, bruvluv520@gamil.com

A Call to Men, Tony Porter’s Ted Talk

www.EverydayFeminism.com

The Mask You Live In, it’s on Netflix!


Paul Kivel, Men’s Work: How to Stop the Violence that Tears our Lives Apart (1998)

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