

# Principles and promising practices for engaging boys and young men in ending men's violence against women

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# Three principles for work with men & boys

- 1) Feminist / Gender-transformative
- 2) Committed to enhancing boys' and men's lives
- 3) Intersectional

# 1) Feminist / Gender-transformative

- Feminist / gender-transformative aims and frameworks (agendas and approach)
  - Intended to promote gender equality
  - Oriented towards transforming gender roles, relations, and structures towards gender equality
    - ‘Gender-transformative’
  - A human rights / rights-based agenda

# 1) Feminist / Gender-transformative

- Feminist / gender-transformative content
  - Curricula on gender, gender roles, and gender inequalities
    - See e.g. <http://xyonline.net/content/engaging-men-preventing-mens-violence-against-women-and-or-building-gender-equality>
  - Content e.g. on the factors known to drive violence (both physical *and* sexual violence)
    - Men's control and power in relationships and families
    - Stereotyped constructions of masculinity and femininity
    - Male sexual entitlement
    - Etc.
  - Explicit attention to privilege and power
- Feminist / gender-transformative processes
  - Involve men in critical reflection on masculinities and gender
  - Foster men's support for gender equality and non-violence (See Flood's book, pp. 324-332)

# 1) Feminist / Gender-transformative *cont'd*

- Feminist / gender-transformative structures
  - Partnerships with women and women's groups
  - Protection of 'women's space', women-only, and women-focused programs
  - Accountability: lines of consultation and collaboration

## 2) Committed to enhancing boys' and men's lives

- Show a commitment to enhancing boys' and men's lives
- Adopt strengths-based or positive approaches to engaging men and boys
- Recognise men as stakeholders and beneficiaries
- Recognise the good in what men and boys do and are
- Recognise the social and structural contexts which shape men's and boys' lives and relations, while holding them to account for their behaviour



# 3) Intersectional

- Intersectionality:
  - Recognises that all people's lives are shaped by multiple, intersecting patterns of privilege and disadvantage (to do with gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, etc.)
  - Examines how systems of power are implicated in the development, organisation, and maintenance of inequalities and injustices
  - Seeks to empower or liberate people from social inequalities
- In practice: Address intersecting forms of privilege and disadvantage among men and boys

# Work intersectionally

- Engage with the specific (and diverse) cultural and material conditions of the boys and men you are working with
- Address culturally specific risk and protective factors
  - Include culturally relevant content.
  - Draw on local resources and texts in promoting the desirable behaviour or interaction
- Acknowledge intersectional disadvantage and privilege
- See Chapter 11 of *Engaging Men and Boys in Violence Prevention*, free at <https://xyonline.net/content/new-book-engaging-men-and-boys-violence-prevention>



# Resources on engaging men and boys

- Free book, *Engaging Men and Boys in Violence Prevention* (Flood, 2019): <https://xyonline.net/content/new-book-engaging-men-and-boys-violence-prevention>
- Engaging men in violence prevention: A massive collection of resources: <https://xyonline.net/content/engaging-men-violence-prevention-walking-tour-some-xys-content>
- Men building gender equality: <https://xyonline.net/content/men-building-gender-equality-guide-xys-content>
- Dr Michael Flood's publications: <http://www.xyonline.net/category/authors/michael-flood>
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