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Meaningful Inclusion and Involvement of Men in the Elimination and Prevention of Violence against Mothers

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Meaningful Inclusion and Involvement of Men in the Elimination and Prevention of Violence against Mothers

By

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for inviting me to speak today on a vital issue in our society. It is exciting to be invited alongside other committed men and women to support what for a long time has been silently destroying the fabrics of our national life which some may call “women palaver”, as if violence against women is solely women’s problem to be solved solely by women.

No.

This is wrong!

If women cannot expect to be safe in their own homes and communities, how can they expect equality in society? Everyone is a stakeholder on issues concerning equity, respect and safety of our girls, our women and our mothers.

Advocacy for support to women or mothers violated in our society (most times unfortunately by men) has been growing across the globe, and today in Igboland where violence against women is prevalent, is being discussed with the hope that with more awareness and enlightenment our ignorant men (including women and custodians of cultures) would give peace a chance and let our women...
live safe, better lives in their communities. This is where the issue of *inclusion* and involvement of men comes in.

*Inclusion and involvement* in this context refers to the coming together or engagement of men with various abilities in the same community with women while mutually interacting, collaborating, sharing diversity and cultures without bias. Educating men, irrespective of status, titles, positions in the society to the maximum extent live and work in peace with women to understand and participate in campaign on violence against mothers in the homes, offices, marketplace, and other private and public settings. This must be a priority for all stakeholders.

As Goward (2005) argues, it is not always easy for people to acknowledge, let alone take steps to address violence against women. And perhaps it is harder for the majority of men who do not use violence, who while not condoning violence do not know what role they can or should take to condemn it. Other men fear that all men are branded by campaigns to stop violence against women, which in a sense is even more of a reason why men must be part of the leadership of this campaign.

Just like Goward stressed, I think it’s also true that violence against women and particularly domestic and family violence is not always easy to talk about because it is so connected to deeply held traditions and superstitions, that many would rather not discuss it, let alone support the need for national awareness! Therefore, congratulations to all of you who have made this conference and campaign possible at this 2013 International Women’s Day celebration in Onitsha, Anambra State - Southeast Nigeria.

So, today I am presenting myself and other men present here in Onitsha to support our women in this important campaign to stop violence against mothers.

In the course of this keynote speech, let’s reflect on the issues at stake –

- **Violence against Women:**

Keynote speech by Dr. Obiozor on “Violence against women, inclusion of men in the fight to stop it”.
Although it is true today that while the incidence of violence may not have altered, violence against women is much less acceptable, and much more likely to be treated seriously than thirty years ago. This is a part of the greater international recognition of women’s rights (Goward, 2005). However, we still have a long way to go and it sometimes seems that as a society we are forever taking tentative steps forward only to then take a few more steps back. For all the signs of progress, whether they are greater public awareness, changes within the criminal justice system and policing or preventative measures, we can find so many examples where little has changed, where the system has failed to protect women and where justice has not been served (Goward, 2005).

According to Villines (2012), a woman is abused every nine seconds. More than 85% of domestic violence is directed toward women, and women are much more likely to incur serious injuries or be killed during domestic violence incidents. Men are between 400% and 800% more likely to kill their partners than women.

There has been many recent instances locally and overseas, ranging from the gang rape of a female university student at a higher institution in Abia State; rape and murder of an undergraduate lured from Facebook in Lagos; gang rape and murder of a young girl in India; daily wife battery cases in Onitsha and other communities across Igboland. These women are yet to receive justice!

In 2012, I attended two women-related conferences in Southeastern Nigeria-1. *Forum for University Women in Africa* (FUWA) and

Keynote speech by Dr. Obiozor on “Violence against women, inclusion of men in the fight to stop it”.

I spoke extensively on violence against Igbo women in America where I lived and worked for more than a decade; the need to re-evaluate our Igbo cultural and general societal values; government laxity in the enforcement of legislations on violence against women. I was also privileged to work on the Women and Family Affairs Committee of World Igbo Congress (WIC) Workshop Survey, analyzed the research questionnaire - where the participants bared their minds on what constitutes violence against women in Igboland. Permit me to share some of the findings:

In the WIC research survey, Twenty-seven (27) respondents admitted there is violence against girls, women and mothers in their communities, local government areas and states. Six (6) respondents did not admit there is violence against women in their community (what a shame?!).

**Examples of Violence against Women as revealed by the respondents were as follows:**

1. Domestic violence – wife battery, maiming, murder, emotional, verbal and physical abuse, rape, etc.
2. Sexual assault and Gang rape of young girls and women.
3. Cultural bias and unacceptable traditional practices – discrimination and gender inequality, maltreatment of widows, denial of widow’s rights and privileges – especially access to husband’s assets, denial of inheritance rights where there is no Will.
4. Girl child, kidnapping, slavery and trafficking
5. Female genital mutilation (FGM)
6. Denial of reproductive rights – child bearing issues, sexual abuse by husbands
7. Early child and forced marriage
8. Preference of the male child to the female – inheritance issues
9. Denial of right to education

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Keynote speech by Dr. Obiozor on “Violence against women, inclusion of men in the fight to stop it”.
On the prevalence of violent acts against women in IgboLand: Sixteen (16) respondents revealed that it is very rampant, fifteen (15) stated that it is rampant while three (3) stated that it is rare.

When the participants were asked if Cultural bias becloud what constitutes violence against women?

Thirteen (13) respondents said YES while four (4) said NO. Others declined to comment. The reason for the individuals who responded YES, were as follows:-

A. Cultural norms encourage the violators of women’s rights, and make the victims view such violence as a normal issue. So, women have to live with it.
B. Culture mandates the male to decide how things happen in the homes and community with little or no consideration of the woman's feelings or rights. Thus, women are not expected to speak.

Effects of violence against girls, women and mothers

1. Gender bias and inequality
2. Affects the emotional and psychological state of the girl/women
3. Disrupts their socialization and education status
4. Gives room for drop outs, unwanted pregnancy, prostitution, missing children due to escape from violence at home, suicidal activities, etc.
5. Intimidation and lack of freedom
6. Early girl child marriage
7. Ignorance, illiteracy and poverty situations in IgboLand
8. Young girls becoming house-helps, nannies, and engaged in child labor to escape domestic violence.
9. Engaging criminal activities to survive

Furthermore, Violence prevention and justice activist, James Lang, is currently working for, the Partners for Prevention group on a project called The Change Project which aims to understand the root causes of gender-based violence and their relation to masculinities. Over 10,000 men have been surveyed in seven countries across Asia and the Pacific - Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam – providing a more holistic picture of the social
structures, underlying norms, attitudes and behaviours related to men’s use of violence in different countries.

Lang’s (2012) research has confirmed the voices of many gender activists and theorists - that violence is a gendered issue that are tied to notions of what it means to be a man. For example, a large proportion of both women and men in the region believe that a woman must tolerate violence to keep her family together and that, to be a man, you must be tough. Similarly, the most common motivation cited by men for their perpetration of rape was a sense of sexual entitlement – a belief that they had a right to control women’s bodies and choices.

The research also depicted different types of violence (e.g. intimate partner physical violence, sexual violence within and outside relationships) - all have different risk and protective factors associated with their use in different settings, and are perpetrated by different kinds of men at different times in their lives. Across all countries, men’s experiences of child abuse significantly increased the risk that they would perpetrate violence against women later in life. Other risk factors for men’s perpetration included holding gender inequitable attitudes, controlling behaviours, arguing frequently, and being implicated in other types of violence. Mental health issues – stress, depression, a low sense of life satisfaction, alcohol and/or drug abuse – were also seen to be risk factors associated with men’s use of violence. And these are gender issues for men (Lang, 2012).

**Men’s Inclusion and Involvement**

We cannot go further in addressing violence against women without the support of men. In the campaign against violence on mothers, men or fathers must be "included".

The menfolk have significant roles to play in the public advocacy for the “stop-the-violence” against women, as well as promote enlightenment activities on preferable attitudes and good lifestyles. Men must be involved in principles and
practice towards women no matter the culture or affiliations - rather than being perceived as the sole determinant of the fate of women. Men and women must be partners in progress to achieve positive co-habitation in our communities.

Thus, it is significant for men to join hands with women in building a more inclusive world by helping to raise awareness on issues concerning the womenfolk, recognizing exemplary inclusive efforts, providing technical assistance and linking mothers to better life in the society.

Therefore, *inclusion and involvement* again refers to the idea that all individuals belong in a setting, which is part of their regular, daily routine, just like human beings living together and working together to achieve a common purpose in the society. If institutional responses can change and if the leader of the country can condemn violence against women then it is high time the response of all male onlookers change.

According to Goward (2005), attitudinal research shows that many still say there are situations when men’s violence is acceptable, where she must have deserved it, or provoked it, and most of the time other women say "if it had been me, I would have walked away". The dynamics of violence between people who say they love each other are complex but this does not mean we sit by and do nothing when we witness violence taking place. Perpetrators of violence need to know they will not be indulged, that they will be held accountable.

This is where men come in . . .

It is men who are in a strong position to call other men to account for their actions. It is men who currently control most of the resources required to effect change and they are integrally involved in the relationships that produce gender inequality (Connell, 2003).

It is men who can play a key role in social change, who have the power to not only act as gatekeepers of their privilege, as Connell reminds us, but to be "willing gatekeepers" who open the door to gender equality. Women cannot achieve gender equality without the active involvement of men and women must be partners in this journey.

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Keynote speech by Dr. Obiozor on “Violence against women, inclusion of men in the fight to stop it”.
equality without men to let them into the structures of power, whether we are talking about public institutions or private life, in equitable relationships where couples share the responsibilities for paid and unpaid work. Women cannot achieve gender equality if men are silent about violence towards them.

**Case Studies: Men’s Efforts so far!**

**Bangkok, Thailand**: November 25, 2012 was the *White Ribbon Day*. The White Ribbon Campaign is a male-led campaign to end violence against women. Men are encouraged to take a stand and say that violence, in any form, is never acceptable.

James Lang, the Coordinator of Partners for Prevention in Thailand, blogged about *why it is important to engage men in ending violence against women*:

- It is primarily men’s violence that we are talking about, so men must be involved in preventing it. We do know violence is preventable, and boys and men need to be involved for the solutions to work.
- Ending violence against women requires partnerships among women and men of all walks of life. Along with women, men have important roles to play as peers, colleagues, role models, decision makers, parents, partners and friends to create the change needed to stop violence.
- Personally, I want to see a world defined by peace, empathy and equality where all people are free to choose how they live, relate to one another, and share in both public and private spheres. So as a man, this is my issue too (Lang, 2012).

**Australia**

In Australia a greater proportion of family homicides involve people who were not employed at the time of the incident. International research on family homicides suggests that as women’s social status improves the incidence of family homicide
declines. Australia is encouraging women to work, as well as support men who will let women into positions of influence and applaud those who refuse to be silent about violence against women.

**India**
The recent gang rape and subsequent murder of a young Indian lady resulted in a massive outcry and prompted mass protests and rallies. Both men and women marched along India’s city streets in protest of the gang rape of women and other atrocities committed by heartless hoodlums in Indian communities. The awareness brought about new considerations for legislations and stringent measures on violence against women by the government and stakeholders in India.

**United States of America**
In April 2011, the U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan traveled to the University of New Hampshire to announce new guidance on Title IX to address sexual assault on college campuses. While announcing this extraordinary step forward, the Vice President reiterated what he has said many times, that everyone – men, women, boys and girls – all must play a part to end violence against women. Speaking directly to male students on campus, Rosenthal (2011) reported that the VP said: “You guys have an absolute obligation as men to speak up... If you see a man in any way threatening a woman on this campus, if a friend even hints at potential abuse, you have an obligation to speak up. Peer to peer, friend to friend – we know what works best, and that's how real change happens.”

Furthermore, under the auspices of the United States government, the Men Stopping Violence (MSV) project was a project supported by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. According to Bathrick; Douglas; El; Perry & White (n.d.) for 24 years, Men Stopping Violence (MSV) has done the very

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necessary work of creating and testing theories, strategies, and techniques for working with men to end male violence against women.

Men Stopping Violence has many years of experience working in African-American communities, with African-American men in the classroom, and with African-American female advocates. What about Race matters? It matters because, although race is a social construct, it has meaning for how people are treated. In justice-seeking, the marginalization of black women’s voices undermines the work to end the violence perpetrated against them. That marginalization means that what works for white women doesn’t always work for black women (Bathrick, et al (n.d.).

The historical facts of slavery, segregation and the continuing discrimination that occurs at every level of American life demand a thoughtful and thorough examination of race and how it influences the work to end violence against women, specifically African-American women. In tensions between black men and black women have been, in part, the results of the white power structure’s manipulation of their lives and their control of images and messages about African-Americans, beginning in slavery and continuing after emancipation (Bathrick, et al (n.d.).

In her book, “What’s Love Got to Do with It? Healing the Rift between Black Men and Women,” Donna L. Franklin writes:

The roots of black gender conflict can be traced to this experience of powerlessness during slavery. Stripped of the most fundamental control over their family lives, slaves could not ordinarily choose how to fulfill the human roles of husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, sons and daughters (Franklin, 2000; p.28).

Men Stopping Violence’s group focus on Community accountability as key to ending male violence against women; Organizing male allies to end violence against women which takes precedence over intervening with batterers; and addressing Patriarchal violence, which includes domestic violence. Through several researches and

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functional institutes, the group is sensitizing the populace to stop violence against women and the campaign is gaining grounds in the American society.

**Nigeria** is yet to respond strongly to the violence against women compared to developed countries like the United States and Australia. There has been several cases of wife battery, rape, ritual murders, sexual harassment of female students by their lecturers going unpunished, rape of women in police custody, including a law maker marrying a 12 year old girl and been celebrated by his colleagues, etc., but nothing happens to the perpetrators of violence against women rather the Nigerian society blame the helpless victims, shamelessly! Where is the justice for our girls, women and mothers in Nigeria? The human rights group and civil groups should be more proactive to assist our less privileged mothers with strong advocacy.

- **Elimination and Prevention of Violence against Mothers**

Preventing, reducing and elimination of violence against women with men’s involvement, Lang (2012) argued that several men are out there with great support for the womenfolk who are abused and violated, and determined to end the violence.

The researcher wrote, thus; men, who were more oriented towards peace, showed empathy, had healthy, non-violent childhood experiences, non-violent conflict resolution skills, and held gender-equitable attitudes. These are all attributes and experiences that can be promoted as ways to prevent violence in the long-term, as well as achieve healthy relationships and communities overall. Whether we use a gender-power perspective or a public health approach, we reach the same conclusions: **we need to understand ‘men and gender’ better and we need men involved in partnerships with women to transform the versions of masculinities that promote men’s use of violence and control over women.**

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In the WIC research, majority of the respondents (which included women and men) made the following recommendations which I pray government and civil societies and communities should implement to end the violence against our women and mothers:

1. Creation of awareness on what constitutes violence against girls and women, as well as overall peoples’ rights and privileges via the media, schools, health centers, churches, public events and townhall meetings, etc.
2. Literacy and Civic education programmes –
3. Provision of gender equity and economic-sociopolitical rights and privileges to all.
4. Use of traditional rulers and community leaders to disseminate information on women’s rights and privileges
5. Review of biased and discriminatory gender rights in the Igbo culture and traditional heritage – issues of FGM and circumcision of girls and young women must be stopped and make it a criminal act punishable by law.
6. Government legislation and constitutional rights on women must be reinforced by the policy and law makers to give women their rightful place in the Igbo society.
7. Sensitization training on men concerning need for domestic harmony and peaceful co-existence in their household.
8. Women empowerment via skill training and vocational opportunities for entrepreneurship.
9. Girl child education and community education on rights and privileges in Igboland.
10. Schools should include in their curriculum studies on women rights and causes of violence/prevention.
11. Intensify women education and vocational programmes in rural Igbo communities.
12. Government support by providing social and infrastructural facilities to enable rural women cope better with life.
13. NGOs, town unions, women groups, etc., should organize periodic trainings and workshops to sensitize the women and men on issues concerning violence and its consequences to the culprits.
14. Full teacher and parental involvement
15. Counseling opportunities and free medical assistance to victims

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16. Reinforcement of government edicts and laws with severe punishment against rape, girl child trafficking, wife battery, kidnapping and overall abuse of girls and women.

**Societal Challenge to Men on Ending Violence**

The point to make here is this: being anti-violence against women does not mean you are pro-violence towards men, or that you do not support the prevention of violence against men or support for male victims. It is obvious from reports and research evidences overwhelmingly show that women are more likely to be victims and men more likely to be perpetrators.

Men have a stake in their effort to tackle violence against women because some men’s violence against women gives all men a bad name.

By doing nothing, men give their tacit approval of violence against women, and in doing so they diminish the status of men, as well as the status of women. In his seminars, *Violence prevention and social justice activist* Kivel aims to help men understand that aggression doesn’t have to be a central part of masculinity. Men can be strong and assertive while being nurturing and gentle, and men who understand the harm traditional gender roles have done are better able to avoid repeating the harm. Fathers who teach these lessons to their sons are less likely to raise their boys into violent men (Villines, 2012).

Furthermore, Villines (2012) writes that activist Kivel emphasizes that men’s violence doesn’t just harm women. It’s also exceedingly damaging to men, hinders their intimate relationships, reduces their ability to be close to their partners, and removes men’s ability to be nurturers. Men also are frequently the victims of other men’s violence. A violent culture provides a very limited range of acceptable behaviors for men. By actively working to end violence, men make it safer for all adults and young people in the community. We should avoid Victim-blaming which is dangerous because it takes the focus off of holding perpetrators accountable and

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makes it less likely that a victim will come forward and report the criminal act because she believes that she will be blamed for the violence she experienced.

**WHAT MEN CAN DO TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

*(As suggested by the Violence prevention and social justice activist Paul Kivel)*

Most men are not abusers. Indeed, many men are dedicated to finding solutions to stop the destructive violence that tears families and communities apart, and others are intimately aware of the problematic role aggression and anger plays in their lives. These men, however, may be unsure of what to do. Kivel offered four steps men who are serious about ending violence can take:

1. **Examine your own behavior.** Men must work to ignore these dangerous messages and examine problematic assumptions of power and control. Kivel pointed out that it’s nearly impossible to work to end violence until you’ve addressed your own socialization and problematic behaviors. For many men, this means accepting that simply being male grants them a certain degree of privilege. You can’t fix what you don’t acknowledge, and acknowledging the power imbalance between men and women is a meaningful first step.

2. **Challenge other men.** Most men have encountered sexist, derogatory, and degrading locker-room talk, jokes, and insinuations about women. Kivel emphasized that these behaviors aren’t harmless. They contribute to a culture of violence against women. Challenging other men is not easy, especially because the men who are confronted often respond by questioning the masculinity of the challenger. For this reason, men need to be secure in their masculinity and comprehend that degrading behavior toward women is not a sign of strength. Men who realize that violence does not have to be a part of the male identity will be empowered to confront violent or sexist behavior when they see it—even among friends and family.

3. **Talk to your sons.** Kivel explains that “sons” aren’t just your children. All young men need role models and mentors, and men should reach out to family members, friends, and boys in their communities. By educating young men about alternatives to traditional aggressive masculinity and by modeling caring behavior, confidence, and emotional intelligence, you can help redefine “masculinity” and move away from the violence forced upon young men. In modeling ethical behavior, men will shape the minds and inclinations of the next generation.
4. **Work for better education and public policy.** Legislation that treats domestic violence as the serious offense it is should be a top priority, Kivel says. Kivel also emphasizes the value of transformative justice, which encourages systemic change through education and rehabilitation. He explains that most male abusers who enter the criminal justice system are there for charges unrelated to their abuse. For this reason, the justice system needs to provide education that works to undermine systemic violence and teach men meaningful coping skills. It is equally important to provide education to young men to prevent abuse before it begins rather than punishing it after it happens (Villines, 2012).

**More actions expected from men to end violence against women**

**Be aware.**

- Words are very powerful, especially when spoken by people with power over others. We live in a society in which words are often used to put women down, where calling a girl or woman a “bitch,” “freak,” “ashawo”, “whore,” “baby,” or “dog” is common. Such language sends a message that females are less than fully human. When we see women as inferior, it becomes easier to treat them with less respect, disregard their rights, and ignore their well-being.

- Don’t fund sexism. Refuse to purchase any magazine, rent any video, subscribe to any Web site, or buy any music that portrays girls or women in a sexually degrading or abusive manner. Protest sexism in the media.

- Rape and relationship abuse won’t be taken seriously until everyone knows how common it is. In the U.S. alone, more than one million women and girls are raped each year (Rape in America, 1992). Approximately one in three women will be in an abusive relationship in their lifetime (Report on the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family, 1996).

- Understand the arguments against pornography depicting adult women. Realize that the sex trade in the world is worth billions of dollars. Examine your thoughts about the existence of strip clubs, prostitution and related sex trade businesses. Question the purpose behind the proliferation of explicit and graphic sex sites on the Internet. Think about how eroticizing violent sex contributes to violence against women.

**Speak up.**

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• You may never see a man abusing his partner or witness a rape, but you will see and hear attitudes and behaviors that degrade women and promote rape and abuse. When your best friend tells a joke about abusing women in some way, say you don’t find it funny. When you read an article that blames an abusive relationship survivor for being abused, write a letter to the editor. When laws are proposed that limit women’s rights, let politicians know that you won’t support them. Do anything but remain silent.
• Don’t engage in any forms of sexual harassment, such as wolf-whistling, cat-calling, unwanted touching, outrageous or inappropriate behavior. Women are not public property, available for our intrusions. Neither are men.
• Develop an awareness of the cultural supports for violence against women. Develop the ability to recognize myths which support violence against women.
• If a brother, friend, classmate, or teammate is abusing his female partner—or is disrespectful or abusive to girls and women in general—don’t look the other way. If you feel comfortable doing so, try to talk to him about it. Urge him to seek help. Or if you don’t know what to do, consult a friend, a parent, a professor, or a counselor. DON’T REMAIN SILENT.

Talk with women...

• About how violence against women and fear of violence against women affects their daily lives; about how they want to be supported if it has happened to them; about what they think men can do to prevent sexual violence. If you’re willing to listen, you can learn a lot from women about the impact of relationship abuse and how to stop it.
• Become an ally to the women in your life – do not participate in sexist behavior by objectifying or stereotyping women.
• Believe people when they tell you they’ve been raped or abused. Support what they say about it. Don’t ask about their behavior, what they were wearing, etc. Listen to them.
• Recognize that women neither ask for nor deserve to be raped or abused ever.

Talk with men...

• About how it feels to be seen as a potential abuser; about whether they know someone who’s been abused. Learn about how relationship abuse touches the lives of men and what we can do to stop it.
• Mentor and teach young boys about how to be men in ways that don’t involve degrading or abusing girls and women. Volunteer to work with gender
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violence prevention programs, including anti-sexist men’s programs. Lead by example.

- Approach gender violence as a MEN’s issue involving men of all ages and socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds. View men not only as perpetrators or possible offenders, but as empowered bystanders who can confront abusive peers.

Confront Yourself

- Have the confidence to confront your own actions, beliefs, and opinions. Have the strength to look inside and admit your own faults and to commit to changing the way you think and act.

- Become educated and engaged. Attend training sessions, read books and articles, join a (student group - for students, Women group for mothers). Learn the myths and realities of violence against women and understand how our society condones it.

- Be aware of sexual stereotypes and how they influence attitudes and behaviors. Social roles and expectations may affect a man’s decisions about relationships. Men are taught that expressing feelings is not masculine. Examining your social role and learning ways to express feelings directly and non-violently can help to create deeper and more meaningful interpersonal relationships. You don’t have to prove yourself.

- Don’t have sex with anyone against their will. Be responsible with your penis. “Having an erection doesn’t mean you have to put it somewhere.” Take “no” for an answer, and heed the “no” equivalents (“stop,” “I don’t want to do that,” “I’m not ready,” “Isi na awamu – I have a headache”, etc.) Don’t assume that when women say “no” they really mean “maybe” or “yes.” It is never okay to use force or coercion. Don’t assume that because a woman dresses or flirts in a manner you consider to be sexy it means she wants to have sex with you.

- Don’t abuse girlfriends or partners. This includes controlling, intimidating, manipulative, threatening, and harmful behavior. Realize that abuse takes many forms, and that abuse is a choice. A partner always has the option of leaving the room or breaking up.

(Culled online from: Daily Life: Confronting and Helping » What Men Can Do to End Violence against Women)

In concluding, empowering women in public and private life is the way to move forward because empowerment and living free from violence go hand in hand. Empowering women through greater economic participation is a protective strategy.
against violence. We need men who will take ownership of this issue. We need men who will stand up on behalf of all men who abhor violence and speak out, whether this is stepping in to prevent an attack on a woman or helping to create a culture where violence is unacceptable. Men in all organisations and in every workplace can play a part by getting behind the campaign.

Thank you, for listening!
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