

## #ReimagineManhood Symposium – Call to action

Approximately 300 attendees gathered at Southbridge Conference Center on 12/14/18 for this event sponsored by Jane Doe Inc. Focus: What can be done to Change Rape Culture, and Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence. Primary sponsor was Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Keynote speaker was Tony Porter, co-founder and CEO of A CALL TO MEN.

The #MeToo movement and other hashtags have changed the conversation about sexual assault, rape, and sexual harassment. Women have been encouraged to use your voices, but this is not a women's issue – men must be part of the solution. At the core of the issue is the need to transform gender power norms.



**Tony Porter** Ted Talk 2010 – Everyone should watch this video:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/tony\\_porter\\_a\\_call\\_to\\_men](https://www.ted.com/talks/tony_porter_a_call_to_men)

**A Call to Men - The Next Generation of Manhood** <http://www.acalltomen.org/> -

Help create a world where all men and boys are loving and respectful and all women and girls are valued and safe.

**LiveRespect curriculum can be downloaded for free at [acalltomen.org](http://www.acalltomen.org)**

Schools, Colleges, Workplace, Community trainings available. Intergenerational effort needed. Status quo is unacceptable for females. It's not working for males either.

## A CALL TO MEN Guiding Principles

### 1 | ROOTS OF VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Men's violence and discrimination against women and girls is rooted in a history of male domination that has deeply influenced the definition of manhood in our culture. This definition of manhood has three primary aspects that promote and support a culture of violence and discrimination against women and girls. It teaches that women are of less value than men, the property of men and sexual objects. A CALL TO MEN views these three components as an equation that equals violence against women and girls.

### 2 | MEN'S WORK

Preventing domestic, sexual, and all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls is primarily the responsibility of men. This also includes teaching and promoting healthy concepts of manhood to each other, our sons and other boys.

### 3 | ADDRESSING ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

We cannot focus only on one form of violence and discrimination against women and girls. All forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls are interwoven. We will not end one form of violence without working to end them all.

### 4 | VOICES OF WOMEN

While men are primarily and ultimately responsible for ending men's violence, this cannot be done without adhering to the voices, leadership and experiences of women. When working to end any form of abuse you must be accountable to those experiencing the abuse.

### 5 | INTERSECTIONS OF OPPRESSION

We have to be purposeful and comprehensive in our work, understanding that many women and communities experience multiple forms of oppression. Without this understanding, our work will be limited and "mainstream focused." This approach is required if our work is to end violence against ALL women. It also then requires us to work with ALL men.

## 6 | COMMITMENT TO GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY-BASED EFFORTS

Ending violence against ALL women and girls requires a collaborative effort with grassroots, culturally specific community-based organizations. These organizations have to be part of, and in many respects lead, the process if we re to engage in any purposeful and cultural specific prevention effort.

## 7 | HOPE FOR MEN

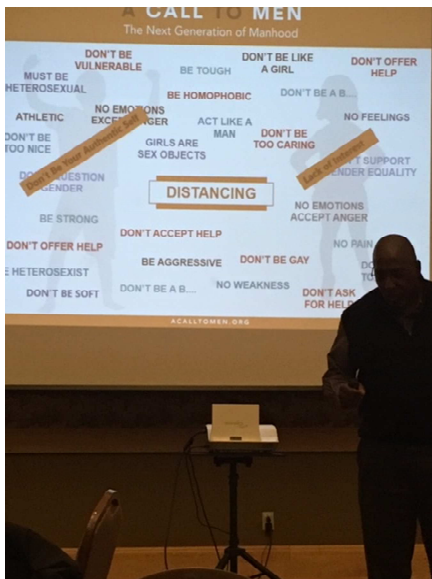
**The majority of men don't perpetrate violence against women and girls.** What they are responsible for is creating, maintaining and benefiting from a male dominating culture that is required for the violence to exist. Once educated to these realities we believe there is hope for men.

---

### What is the Man Box?

<http://www.acalltomen.org/news/2017/7/21/what-is-the-man-box>

[https://youtu.be/l-IB\\_xJpQho](https://youtu.be/l-IB_xJpQho)



Embracing a healthy, respectful manhood prevents violence against women, sexual assault, sexual harassment, bullying and many other social ills. Men who promote a healthy, respectful manhood make a positive contribution to their families, their communities and humanity at large.

Healthy, respectful manhood is also linked to improved physical health and emotional well-being for men. When boys are told not to cry or feel, there are long-term lasting negative effects on their health and relationships. Research by the Harvard School of Public Health found that those who suppress their emotions are one-third more likely to die prematurely than people who regularly express what they are feeling. Issue of rage, anxiety, depression and unhealthy coping mechanisms can manifest. According to the CDC, the suicide rate is four times higher in men than in women.

**A CALL TO MEN uses the Man Box to illustrate the collective socialization of men. The Man Box identifies the limitations on what a man is supposed to be and what he believes.** These expectations are taught to men – sometimes unconsciously – and reinforced by society. In the Man Box, men are supposed to be:

Powerful and dominating

Fearless and in control

Strong and emotionless

Successful – in the boardroom, the bedroom and on the ball field

In the Man Box, women are objects, the property of men, and of less value than men. The teachings of the Man Box allow violence against women, girls and other marginalized groups to persist.

**Break out of the Man Box and live by the Principles of Healthy, Respectful Manhood**

1. Embrace and express a full range of emotion.
  - a. Allow men and boys to cry.
  - b. Validate men and boys' feelings.
2. Do not conform to the pressure to always be fearless and in control.
  - a. Allow men and boys to be and act afraid.
  - b. Allow men and boys to ask for help.
3. Value a woman's life, treat all people equally and promote the betterment of humanity.
  - a. Never use power, control or violence.
  - b. Never use gender-based attributes to bully or discriminate.
4. Do not use language that denigrates women and girls.
  - a. Do not make or laugh at sexist jokes
  - b. Do not perpetuate negative stereotypes with phrases like "You throw like a girl"
5. Develop an interest in the experience of women and girls, outside of sexual conquest.
  - a. Listen to women and validate their experiences.
  - b. Embrace female friendships
6. Model a healthy, respectful manhood to other men and boys.

Laura Penny Edwards from Safe Passage (Northampton) was one of the panelists.

Will Sutton – a senior at Hingham High School was another panelist who was very impressive. He cofounded PEERS (Providing Education, Empowerment, Respect and Support) a club dedicated to ending rape culture in his community. This sounds like something Monica Moran referred to.

Takeaways:

@ Some very good information, training tools available.

Everyone should watch Tony Porter's TedTalk and explore his website: [acalltomen.org](http://acalltomen.org).

Jane Doe has a teaching and action guide: <http://whiteribbonday.janedoe.org/take-action/action-kit/psaguide/>  
MergeforEquality.org is working with Early Childhood caretakers to start changing the culture.

@ "Change" requires engaging both sexes, all ages and all venues (schools, sports, colleges, workplace and communities) – and focusing on the ROOT CAUSES of gender-based violence. We need partnerships to gain critical mass. Need to create spaces for honest conversations that will change the collective socialization of manhood.

@ We need to look for opportunities to use this information and find partners to move this forward. Meanwhile – model healthy relationships, listen/learn and share information learned from these resources, take small steps to challenge toxic stereotypes.