Male Allies in the Anti-Violence Teaching and Learning Guide

Created by Elizabeth Lopez

**Title of Video:**

* Male Allies in the Anti-Violence Activism: Lessons Learned and Next Steps (Online)
* Men’s Role in the Anti-Violence Movement (Website of Video)
* Men as Allies: Mobilizing Men to End Violence Against Women (Talk)

**Speaker:** Dr. Kris Macomber – Assistant Professor of Sociology at Meredith College

**Date of Talk:** March 21, 2016

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| **Which disciplines would find this most useful?** | * Corrections
* Gender and Women’s Studies
* History
* Law Enforcement
* Mass Media
* Non-Profit Leadership
* Nursing
* Political Science
* Psychology
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| **Learning Goal(s)** | After watching this video, students will be able to: * Define key terms relevant to the movement
* Describe the background of the anti-violence women’s movement and how the movement has progressed over time
* Recognize how research is used to investigate the impact of men’s involvement in a historically women-led movement
* Explain men’s past and present involvement in the movement
* Compare and contrast the challenges and benefits of men’s involvement in the movement
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| **Social Justice Learning Goal** | * Students will learn about the foundations, goals, and accomplishments of the anti-violence against women’s movement to achieve gender equity
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| **Relevant Topics, Concepts, and Key Terms** | Key Terms:* *Beneficiary activists:* activists in social movements who directly benefit from the movement’s goals and activities
* *Ally activists:* activists in social movements who do not directly benefit from the movement’s goals and activities; may be dominant group members who have more social, economic, and political power than beneficiary activists
* *Violence against women:* encompasses gender-based violence which includes domestic violence/intimate partner violence and sexual violence/sexual assault/rape
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| **Companion Readings** | A Call to Men – Website* <http://www.acalltomen.org>

A Call to Men – The Next Generation of Manhood* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG9fefzuFWs>

TED Talk* Jackson Katz – Violence Against Women: It’s a Men’s Issue

Casey, Erin. 2010. “Strategies for Engaging Men as Anti-Violence Allies: Implications for Ally Movements.” *Advances in Social Work* 11(2):267-282.Casey, Erin and Tyler Smith. 2010. “’How Can I Not?’: Men’s Pathways to Involvement in Anti-Violence Against Women Work.” *Violence Against Women* 16(8):953-973. Nakagawa, Sandra. 2016. “Lessons in Anti-Violence Work from Male Allies.”Stanford University. Retrieved October 26, 2018 (https://gender.stanford.edu/news-publications/gender-news/lessons-anti-violence-work-male-allies). |
| **Discussion Questions** | See attachment for more details.1. Why do you think men have increasingly become involved in the movement?2. How did women react to men’s early involvement in the movement? Why do you think women reacted this way?3. What are the benefits of men’s involvement in the anti-violence against women’s movement?4. What are the challenges of men’s involvement in the anti-violence against women’s movement?5. Why do you think men’s involvement in the movement is glorified?6. Does the emphasis on mobilizing men’s involvement in the movement detract from the empowerment of women who are the beneficiary activists?7. Do you think men’s involvement in the movement is necessary to continue to facilitate change?8. How do we involve men in the movement without further perpetuating gender inequalities? |
| **Activities/Project Ideas** | * Assign students to complete the learning guide attached below and freewrite or reflect on their thoughts about the video
* Class discussion using attached guide below
* May also be done in the form of online discussion posts
* Assign students to peruse anti-violence organization websites to learn more about the steps organizations are actively taking to facilitate change and write up a brief report on their findings
* Assign students to interview activists in their local regions to further investigate activists’ perspectives on men’s involvement in the movement and share their findings in a class discussion
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| **Viewing Guide** | See attachment for an example a viewing guide with answers.Video information:* Length of video – 1:18:40
* Talk begins – 4:30
* Q&A portion begins – 54:00
* Viewing may be enhanced by headphones for better sound
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| **Instructor Guide** | Outline of the Video:Dr. Kris Macomber’s talk on male allies in the anti-violence against women’s movement discusses:* Key terms relevant to the movement
* Research she has conducted on the topic and findings
* Background information regarding the movement
* Men’s past and present involvement in the movement
* Benefits and challenges of men’s involvement in the movement
* Conclusions and implications of the research
* Recommendations

Summary:Dr. Kris Macomber finds that activists of the anti-violence against women’s movement are both receptive and guarded when it comes to men’s involvement in the movement. While the movement was founded by women, men’s involvement has grown over time. Some activists in the movement have agreed that men’s involvement is necessary and strategic due to men’s dominant role in society and institutional power to facilitate change. Benefits of men’s involvement in the movement are many: the movement has become more widespread, men are helping redefine violence against women from a women’s issue to a men’s issue, and men have the ability to use their positions of influence to create gender equality. However, men’s involvement also leads to a major challenge. Men’s participation in the movement calls for a need to confront gender inequality within the movement because men may bring sexist behaviors into the movement and male activists are often glorified. Suggestions for Incorporating the Video into Course Curriculum: This video may be incorporated into a wide range of course curriculum. Course topics that can be supplemented with the incorporation of this video include but are not limited to gender, violence, victimology, victim advocacy, social movements, popular culture, non-profit organizations, and more. This video is a strong curriculum piece on its own, but can be further supplemented with companion readings for deeper learning. In addition, instructors can choose from a variety of activities and projects depending on the depth in which instructors desire to teach this topic. Possible class activities or assignments include watching the video, writing a reflection, holding a class discussion, writing an essay, interviewing activists, and more. It is highly suggested that viewing this video be assigned outside of class so students have the ability to watch the video at their own leisure. In doing so, it may be a more efficient way for students to pause, rewind, and takes notes if they feel so inclined. |

**Discussion Questions Guide**

1. Why do you think men have increasingly become involved in the movement?

* Their female partners were involved in the movement
* Politicized men interested in social justice causes
* Men were talking with other men to discuss gender and power and how those forces were related to violence against women

2. How did women react to men’s early involvement in the movement? Why do you think women reacted this way?

* Women wanted to know why men were involved
* Many women in the movement were survivors of violence and were resistant to men’s involvement, therefore some women saw men as the enemy and wanted a male-free space to seek safety
* Other women were supportive of men’s involvement because they saw their involvement as necessary and strategic. For example, men were in positions of power and needed their involvement to move forward and create change

3. What are the benefits of men’s involvement in the anti-violence against women’s movement?

* Their involvement helps reach wider audiences
* Men are often more receptive to other men
* Men are helping redefine violence against women as a men’s issue rather than a women’s issue, which further invites men to be agents of change
* Men can use their positions of influence and power to create gender equality

4. What are the challenges of men’s involvement in the anti-violence against women’s movement?

* Must confront gender inequality within the movement
	+ Men’s mistakes – bringing sexist behaviors into the movement
	+ Glorification of male activists
* Women may not be entirely welcoming of men’s involvement in the movement

5. Why do you think men’s involvement in the movement is glorified?

* Men are the dominant sex in our society and are given more legitimacy and credibility
* It may seem noble for men to help women who have been abused
* It is “different” for men to get involved into the kind of work
	+ The pedestal effect

6. Does the emphasis on mobilizing men’s involvement in the movement detract from the empowerment of women who are the beneficiary activists?

* Opinion

7. Do you think men’s involvement in the movement is necessary to continue to facilitate change?

* Opinion

8. How do we involve men in the movement without further perpetuating gender inequalities?

* Opinion

**Viewing Guide**

1. What is an ally activist? What is a beneficiary activist?

* Ally activists: activists in social movements who do not directly benefit from the movement’s goals and activities; may be dominant group members who have more social, economic, political, and ideological power
* Beneficiary activists: activists in social movements who directly benefit from the movement’s goals and activities

2. What constitutes violence against women?

* Domestic violence/intimate partner violence
* Sexual violence/sexual assault/rape

3. Name one statistic you found interesting.

* 1 in 3 women will experience some form of intimate partner violence
* 20,000 phone calls made daily to domestic violence hotlines
* In 2015, 34 people in Minnesota died due to domestic violence homicide
* 1 in 5 women will experience sexual assault
* 8 out of 10 rape survivors know their rapist
* 1 in 10 victims of sexual violence are sexually assaulted by her partner

4. How did Dr. Kris Macomber design her research on men’s involvement in the anti-violence against women’s movement?

* Qualitative research design
* Participant observation of anti-violence activism
* 31 in-depth interviews with anti-violence activists and 100+ informal interviews
* Archival data

5. What are the challenges ally movements have?

* Lack of a construction of a collective identity
	+ Both beneficiary and ally activists working together
* Commitment from allies are hard to maintain
	+ Less personally invested
* Power dynamics between beneficiary and ally activists

6. Name some changes the movement has achieved since its growth in the 1960s and 1970s.

* Awareness of violence
* The term “domestic violence” was founded
* Establishment of domestic violence and rape crisis shelters, domestic violence and rape crisis hotlines, victim’s advocates, and rape prevention educators/advocates on campus
* Implementation of specialized training for law enforcement, lawyers, and nurses
* Passing of legislation to address domestic violence and martial rape

7. How have men been involved in the anti-violence against women’s movement?

* Created their own men’s anti-violence movement and organizations to stop violence
* Have given key notes talks and written books
* Redefined violence against women as a men’s issue

8. How have women reacted to men’s involvement in the movement?

* Reactions have been mixed
	+ Some women are not welcoming of men’s involvement – They may have been victims of violence and may see men as the enemy
	+ Some women are welcoming of men’s involvement – They believe men’s involvement is necessary and strategic to accomplish the movement’s goals

9. What does it mean to redefine violence against women as a men’s issue?

* Men have historically been the perpetrators of violence against women, therefore they are part of the problem and must address this issue together with women

10. What is the purpose of men work? What are the goals of engaging men work?

* Violence prevention with male audiences
	+ Identify and examine the links between masculinity and men’s use of violence against women
	+ Encourage men to “redefine masculinity” to create “healthier masculinity”
	+ Encourage men and boys to engage in bystander intervention

11. Name two benefits of men’s involvement in the movement.

* Their involvement helps reach wider audiences
* Men are often more receptive to other men
* Men are helping redefine violence against women as a men’s issues rather than a women’s issue, which further invites men to be agents of change
* Men can use their positions of influence and power to create gender equality

12. Dr. Kris Macomber states that men’s involvement in the movement creates challenges. One major challenge is that activists must confront gender inequality within the movement. Give one example of gender inequality within the movement.

* Men’s mistakes (bringing sexist behaviors into the movement)
	+ Taking up too much space – dominate meetings, interrupt and talk over women
	+ Expert syndrome
	+ Gendered division of labor; sexist treatment of women
* Glorification of male activists
	+ Men get a lot of attention, praise, accolades
	+ Men are prematurely pushed into visible leadership positions
	+ Men’s contributions are elevated
	+ Men are given more legitimacy and credibility

13. How are activists addressing the challenges of men’s involvement in the movement?

* Emphasizing men’s accountability to women by holding other men accountable

14. Name one of Dr. Kris Macomber’s recommendations.

* Require/encourage newcomers to receive training and education before stepping into visible leadership roles
* Implement and institutionalize a process to address issues of privilege and inequities internally
* Re-conceptualize accountability to include an emphasis on building gender equity into the movement
* Be receptive to feedback from others