

Engaging Men and Boys in Violence Prevention: Effective directions for practice

In the past decade, there has been an increasing emphasis on the need to engage men and boys in preventing and reducing men's violence against women, both nationally and internationally. However, little is known about what works and does not work. Using robust evaluations of key strategies and interventions, this project will produce a systematic framework for effective practice in engaging men and boys in preventing violence against women. The project will produce both significant scholarly insights regarding gender and violence prevention and practical directions for policy and programming.

Timing and funding

This is a four-year research project (2015-2018), funded under an Australia Research Council (ARC) Future Fellowship.

Aims

This project aims to discover the most effective ways to engage men and boys in the prevention of violence against women. Achieving this aim will require answering the following five questions:

1. What approaches and frameworks guide existing efforts to involve men and boys in the prevention of violence against women, and to what extent are these well-informed and appropriate?
2. What strategies have been adopted for engaging men and boys in prevention?
3. To what extent are these strategies effective in shifting the attitudes, behaviours, and power relations associated with violence against women?
4. What factors enable or impede the effectiveness of such interventions?
5. Thus, how can future efforts best be designed and implemented?

Impact evaluations

The research centres on a multidimensional assessment of the effectiveness of important or emerging types of violence prevention strategy among men and boys, using a case study of an existing intervention for each. Research design involves a pre-test post-test design with treatment and comparison groups. Interventions are eligible for examination if they include or focus on men and/or boys and they are not already subject to substantive evaluation. Types of interventions which may be evaluated include: efforts to train or mobilise men as public advocates, respectful relationships education in schools and other contexts; bystander intervention, sexual ethics education in the military, and so on.

Researcher

This project is led by Dr Michael Flood, Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Wollongong.