

SESSION 2: GENDER ROLES/STEREOTYPES FOR MEN

Anticipated Learning Objectives:

Students will learn how to identify masculine stereotypes and examine the role of society in reinforcing them, especially through the popular media. They will also learn how some of these stereotypes can set men up as perpetrators or victims of violence.

Materials/Equipment:

Video: Tough Guise, with Jackson Katz
TV/VCR

Procedure:

- ❖ Facilitators should quickly review yesterday's lesson on stereotypes for women and announce that today's lesson will focus on similar types of stereotypes about men, as portrayed in the popular media.
- ❖ View Part I of Tough Guise.
- ❖ After showing the video, elicit any questions and comments that may have occurred to the students. Questions and comments may take until the end of the period. If they don't have any questions or comments, get them to discuss some of the issues discussed in the video.
 - What are some of the benefits to boys and men of putting on the tough guise? When is it an effective response, and when is it self-destructive and dangerous to others?
 - Discuss the term, "male-bashing." Is this video guilty of male-bashing, i.e. by pointing out that males commit the vast majority of violence in our society?
 - Aside from the popular media like movies, where else do men learn to put on the tough guise? Have we made progress in our society on allowing men to be accepted if they refuse to wear the tough guise?
 - Other questions or comments?

SESSION 2 SUMMARY: Stereotypes about men compel them to adopt the tough guise, where to get respect they must be seen as tough, strong and capable of violence. This sets men up for violence because many men feel that they must do whatever it takes to avoid looking weak, sensitive or feminine, which would subject them to ridicule and shame. If another man, or even a woman, challenges a man's sense of masculinity, the perception is that he may need to fight or physically dominate the other in order to maintain self-respect. Many men who lack the physical strength to dominate the other resort to a weapon, especially a gun, the "great equalizer." Men get the message that "real men" are "in charge" and "in control" at all times, no matter what it takes.