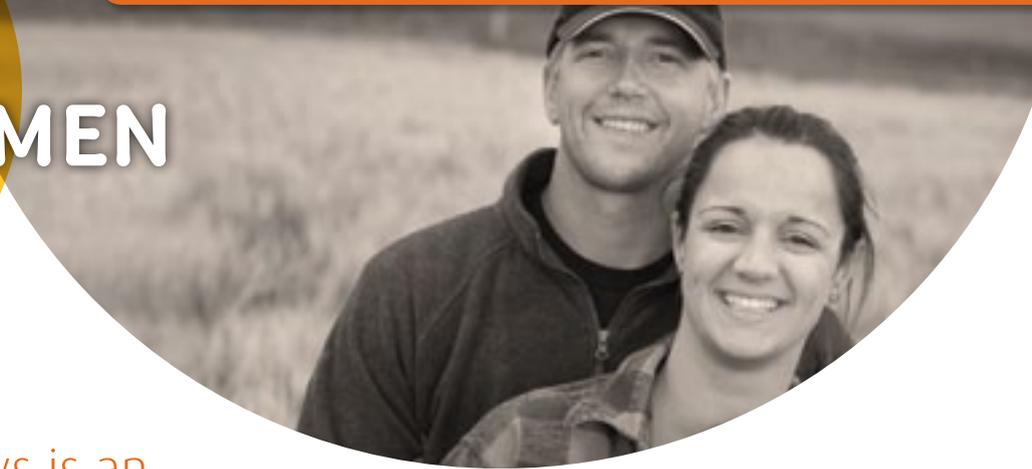


## fact sheet #9. **ENGAGING MEN AND BOYS**



Engaging men and boys is an important part of effective violence prevention work. When men examine their own beliefs and attitudes and speak out about violence against women, they become positive role models for other men in their community. This can be an effective strategy in the primary prevention of violence against women.

**Men can help stop violence against women by:**

- Not using violence or abusive behaviour of any kind.
- Challenging their own sexist and violent attitudes and developing relationships with women that are based on respect and equality.
- Informing themselves and others about the realities of violence against women and challenging the social and cultural causes of violence.
- Challenging attitudes and behaviours that are violent or abusive or that perpetuate and tolerate violence against women.

Any man can be a positive role model for ending violence against women, including fathers, teachers, community leaders, elders, tradespeople, politicians and businesspeople.

### **CASE STUDY: THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN**

The White Ribbon Campaign is a global, male-led campaign to end violence against women. The campaign uses 'White Ribbon Ambassadors' who make an Oath to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. In taking the Oath, Ambassadors become the local leaders and faces of the White Ribbon Campaign in their community. Men who are committed to ending violence against women can become a White Ribbon Ambassador.

Find out more at

[www.whiteribbon.org.au/ambassadors](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/ambassadors)

Every year, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, White Ribbon Day is celebrated. On this day, communities all around Australia and the world hold events and activities to raise awareness about violence against women.

**A full list of ideas and resources for hosting White Ribbon Day events can be found online at**

[www.whiteribbon.org.au/host-event/resources](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/host-event/resources)



**1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)**

A free 24 hour national domestic and family violence and sexual assault counselling service for people who have experienced violence, and for workers supporting them.

## CASE STUDY: MENTORS IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program was developed in the US in 1993 and is now delivered throughout the world, including in Australia through Griffith University. It is a leadership program that uses a bystander approach to preventing all forms of violence, including violence against women. The program views all participants, not as either perpetrators or victims of violence, but as empowered bystanders who can confront, interrupt or prevent violence. It seeks to engage all people in the fight against violence by equipping them with the skills to be effective bystanders.

The MVP program's highly interactive training sessions help participants develop concrete options that they can use in a range of school or social situations. Additionally, the training sessions get people talking about issues such as domestic and family violence, sexual assault, fighting, and bullying. The MVP program aims to challenge participants to understand the importance of taking ethical action when faced with violent situations and empowers them with realistic options intervening in real-life situations.

## RECOMMENDED READING



**Title** Where Men Stand: Men's Roles in Ending Violence Against Women  
**Author** White Ribbon Foundation  
**Link** [www.whiteribbon.org.au/resources/research](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/resources/research)



**Title** Respect and Responsibility Booklet  
**Author** The Australian Football League (AFL)  
**Link** [www.afl.com.au/Portals/0/afl\\_docs/Practical\\_Education.pdf](http://www.afl.com.au/Portals/0/afl_docs/Practical_Education.pdf)



**Title** Building Cultures of Respect and Non Violence  
**Author** The Australian Football League (AFL)  
**Link** [www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/Publications/Freedom-from-violence](http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/Publications/Freedom-from-violence)



**Title** Men and Violence Fact Sheets  
**Author** The White Ribbon Foundation  
**Link** [www.whiteribbon.org.au/resources/facts](http://www.whiteribbon.org.au/resources/facts)



**Title** Be the Hero  
**Author** The Victorian Women's Trust  
**Link** [www.bethehero.com.au](http://www.bethehero.com.au)



This is 9 in a series of 15 fact sheets to help communities stop violence against women before it happens. Download the full set at [www.nrwn.org.au](http://www.nrwn.org.au)