

saferlondon

Violence Against Young Women & Girls Project

Is VAWG a Men's issue?

Violence against Women and Girls is an issue that effects everybody – including Men!

1 in 3 women experience violence (physical, emotional, financial, forced Marriage) during their lifetime and this will be someone's Mother, Sister, Aunt, Teacher, Friend.. The list goes on. As well as Men being most likely to be the perpetrators of violence they are also likely to have witnessed violence within the home and wider community. So is this a Men's issue from all areas?

YES!

A lot of students are experiencing domestic violence within the home and this is why it is extremely important for us to provide prevention and intervention sessions.

Preventative X Intervention

PREVENTATIVE

By delivering sessions to young people (Secondary School) focusing on violence against women and girls, we are able to put in preventative measures to stop this from happening.

Sessions focusing on healthy relationships, understanding the different types of abuse and violence and raising awareness of support services for individuals at risk of becoming a perpetrator/victim.

INTERVENTION

If you are aware that a young person may be displaying harmful behaviour (inappropriate language, sexual behaviour, coercing in to unsafe situations etc) it is important to intervene. Delivering targeted sessions for individuals that need intervention will provide education, a greater insight in to their attitudes & beliefs and ultimately enable them to receive the education needed to make a positive change.

Intervention is also important for those experiencing violence. Raising awareness of why violence is wrong, how to access support and a space to disclose is key.

Topics

The importance of identity

Healthy Relationships

Consent, Sex & The Law

Anger & Emotions

What is Violence & Abuse

Support Services

Positives & Negatives of the young men's groups

POSITIVES

- Safe space to facilitate conversations and activities focusing on VAWG
- Raising awareness of violence against women & girls and it's importance
- Young men are given an opportunity to share their views and not be judged
 - Young men who are in need of sign-posting can be identified
 - Peers are able to challenge each other's attitudes and beliefs

NEGATIVES

- Sometimes young men are referred due to behavioural issues rather than VAWG referral criteria
- Not enough information is provided by the referrer and in some cases young men may be better not participating in a group setting.
- A lot of the young men need to have sessions focusing on issues such as gangs, peer groups and safety first in order to facilitate a conversation on empathy and caring for others.
- A lot of the young men referred to the programme are young black males and the conversation of race and stereotyping is brought up by the young men.

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