



A Men's Issue

The number one pressing issue on the agenda of Women's Organizations all over the world is *Violence Against Women and Children*. For decades, we have thought of violence against women as a women's issue. And why wouldn't we? Women and children are disproportionately the victims of rape, physical abuse, and intimate partner homicide.

We have also known that rape is disproportionately perpetrated by men. 99% of rapists are men and 1% are women. Men rape women, children, and other men. Why then have we thought of this as a women's issue instead of a men's issue?

The answer to this is complex, yet it has a single stream of cause and effect. Our social norms and cultural rearing have been unwavering and universally committed to the idea that power and control are inherent characteristics of men. These characteristics in and of themselves are not without valor, but when inwardly twisted and outwardly misogynist, they are deadly to women, children, other men, AND to the men who inherit these distorted traits.

In the past decade or two, the term "toxic masculinity" has emerged to describe the cultural pressures for men to behave in a certain way - dominant, void of feminine attributes, homophobic, and aggressive. For the vast majority of men, this is detrimental to their mental health, intimate partner

relationships, and overall success in life. And yet, it remains a pervasive training that men receive from society. To address this, as a men's issue, will require deep dives into the roots of our cultural norms, strong actions, and full collaboration of men and women together.

Thinking of domestic and sexual violence as a women's issue is part of the problem. It is one that Starting Point hopes to rectify by engaging men and supporting them in mobilizing other men to take action against domestic and sexual violence by raising awareness through advocacy, education, and volunteerism. (See below for more information on our Men's Advocacy Group, starting in September.)

Our Prevention Specialists are also currently engaged in facilitator training for CBIM (Coaching Boys Into Men, a program of "Futures Without Violence"). The hope is to provide support to our coaches who coach male teams by offering materials and advocacy for implementing team-building activities that aid in dismantling toxic masculinity and that build positive, healthy character in our young athletic leaders. CBIM has been around long enough to gather the data that has shown the program's success in addressing the issues of domestic and sexual violence and building positive team culture.

The need for crisis intervention has not lessened but the inclusion of prevention has shown a better path to reducing violence in our communities. To be clear, increased delivery of services is directly related to increased disclosure, not increased violence. In other words, do not be disheartened; we are making progress!

Facing the root causes of the issues of domestic and sexual violence takes team effort and courage. Starting Point is posed to take the next step in the work, moving along the continuum from a central delivery for crisis intervention to prevention. Our Advocacy Center is much more than a location: it is an investment in our future, *a future without violence*.

Starting Point

Men's Advocacy Group

Men mobilizing men
to take action against domestic and sexual
violence by raising awareness through advocacy,
education, and volunteerism.

Group meets quarterly on third Tuesday.
Beginning September 20, 2022, at 6 pm
at Starting Point Advocacy Center,
30 Pleasant St. in Conway



Community@StartingPointNH.org



Big thank you to the
International Airstream Rally
folks who converged on the
Valley last week and left a
legacy of support in the form of
a \$3500 donation for our
Prevention work with children!



We are pleased to announce the new location of our southern Carroll County office at Mountainside Business Center 127-Rt28 in Ossipee.

Our southern office was previously located in Huggins Hospital and we are grateful to Huggins for providing our rental space over the past 5 years.

The new Ossipee office is centrally located to help aid in response to Ossipee Court's request for services and Huggins Hospital. When a victim presents at the hospital or at the courthouse Starting Point's protocol is to dispatch an advocate in person to assist.

Advocates in the southern office also attend to CAC (Child Advocacy Center) interviews in the southern part of the county.

Victims and survivors can make appointments to speak with an advocate in person at our Ossipee office by calling 603-447-2494 Monday through Friday from 9 to 4 pm.

Hours at the Conway Advocacy Center at 30 Pleasant Street are Monday through Friday from 9 to 4 pm, walk-ins are welcome.

As always, Starting Point advocates are available 24/7/365 at 1-800-336-3795 or online Monday through Friday from 8 to 4 pm at <https://www.resourceconnect.com/sp/chat>.

All Starting Point services are free and confidential.



Stay Up to Date with our Dates!

August 16, 5 to 7pm; Chamber After Hours/Open House hosted by Starting Point at our new Advocacy Center at 30 Pleasant St. Conway.

August 23, 4 to 7 pm; Join SP at the North Conway Farmer's Market

Sept 20, 6 pm; Men's Advocacy Group at SP Advocacy Center, 30 Pleasant St Conway

Sept 22, Tee Times start at 2 pm: 8th Annual Golf Tournament at NCCC

October TBD: Volunteer Training

Oct 20, 6 pm: Domestic Violence Awareness Month Vigil in Schouler Park, North Conway

As always please check our Facebook page or email community@StartingPointNH.org for updates or changes in scheduled events. We will continue to follow CDC recommendations and do our very best to keep our community safe and healthy.

Yep, we know it's our August enews, but this kind of helps us make the point that donations in the form of gift cards is needed all year long...so Christmas in August too!!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY - GIFT CARD DRIVE



What would you do if you had to get away and didn't have enough gas? Have you ever needed essentials but your partner didn't allow you access to your money? What would you do if you had to flee in the middle of the night and couldn't even pack a bag?

These are all real-life situations for victims of domestic violence.

You can help by donating a gift card from a supermarket, department store, or gas station.

**Starting Point
PO Box 1972
Conway, NH 03818**



**Chamber After Hours
& Open House
August 16th 5 to 7 pm**

Please join us at the Starting Point Advocacy Center at 30 Pleasant Street in Conway from 5-7 pm, August 16 as we host Chamber After Hours. Enjoy the company of our community, learn about the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce, sample offerings from the Valley Smoothie Shop, Tuckerman's Brewery, and Varsity Pepsi, meet our staff & volunteers, and take a tour of the Advocacy Center.

What do You do to Keep from Being Raped?

Activist and advocate Jackson Katz has been speaking at colleges across the country for decades highlighting the importance of men taking an active role in ending violence against women and children.

Below is an activity that he does at the beginning of his talks.

Katz starts by asking the men in the room what they do to keep

from being raped. This is often met with awkward silence, eventually followed by an admission that they do not think of ways not to be raped.

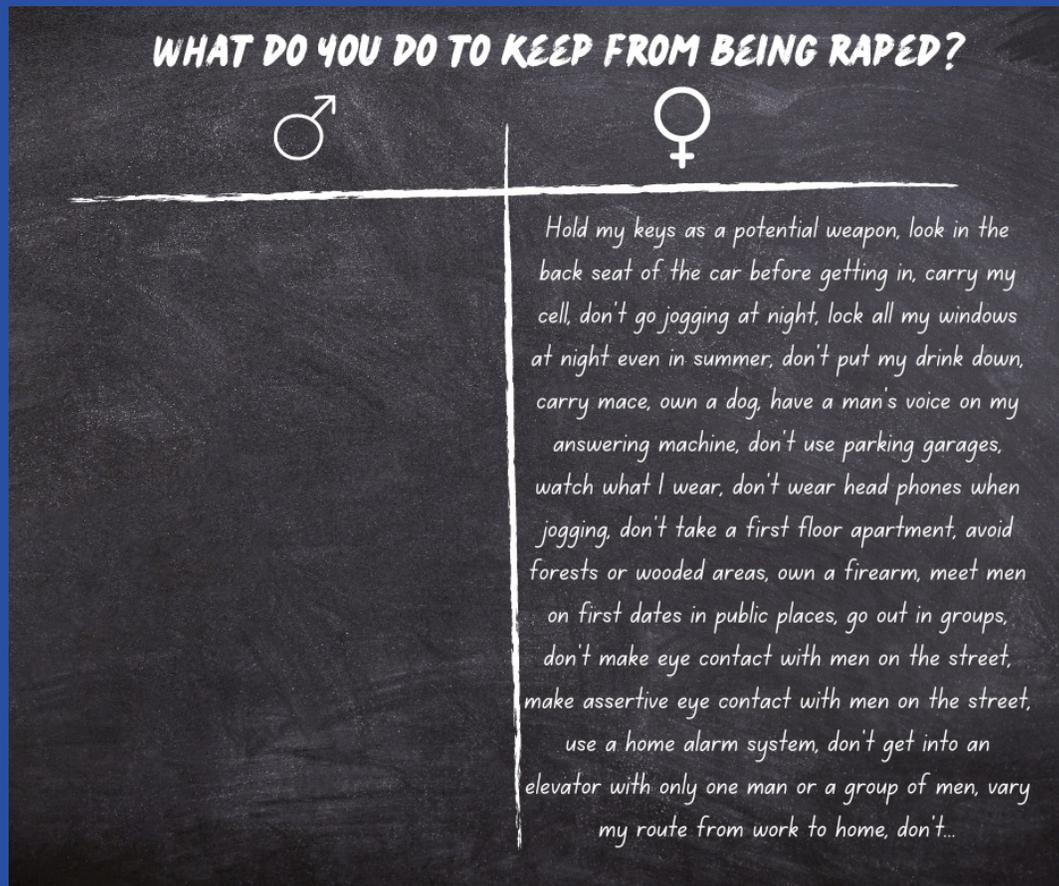
When the question is asked of the women in the room the board is quickly filled.

The stark comparison of the two sides of the board causes outrage, enlightenment, and grief. For many men in the room, this is an awakening.

When men were surveyed with the question, "what percentage of women do you think are affected by sexism in the form of harassment?" Men answered 40%. When women were surveyed as to whether they had experienced sexual harassment 96% responded yes.

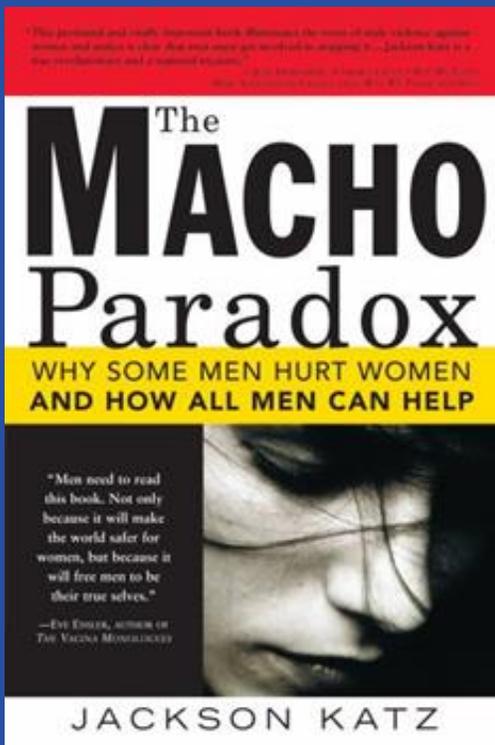
If this is our reality, then an adjustment in recognizing the reality is due. We have no doubt that the decent men in our lives will act once they understand how the issues affect us all.

Our featured book of the Month, *The Macho Paradox*, is an excellent conversation starter.



LIBRARY CORNER:

Macho Paradox by Jackson Katz



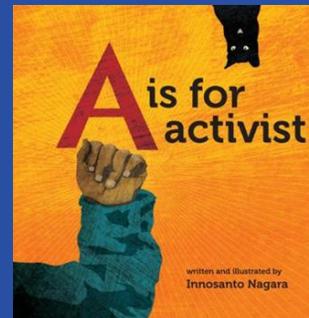
In the Macho Paradox, Jackson Katz brings forward the basis for involving men in the anti-violence movement.

Jackson's writing style models the very approach needed to create change, listening. He has been listening to women, victims, and those who are and have been doing anti-oppression work, for decades. In the Macho Paradox, he brings what he has learned through active listening and what he knows about the "macho paradox" together to highlight the unique opportunity men have and must leverage, in order to bring an end to violence against women, children, and other

men.

Children's Book Nook

A is For Activist by Innosanto Nag is a board book for up-and-coming activists!



Don't have a child in your life to buy books for? No worries we do! We are always happy to receive books to enhance our children's library or to distribute to children in our network. Please go to our website for our book list at:

White Birch Books

to view our list and order online.



FULL
SERVICE

Outreach

Starting Point outreach is aimed at targeting and creating greater awareness of our services for the populations we serve as well as shedding light on the issues of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and human trafficking to all our denizens.

Most of what an outreach specialist does falls under social justice initiatives. Because we are a small nonprofit, our outreach specialist also helps organize and run our fundraising events, supports grant-writing and development, takes care of our social media reach, prepares press releases, recruits and trains volunteers, attends community and town meetings, and when needed provides direct services to our constituents.

An outreach specialist navigates the fine line between being the voice of the organization and making sure to step aside, so those we advocate for, are heard All while maintaining strict confidentiality and providing advocacy for those who choose to speak out and share their own experiences.

Education is essential in staying current, spotting and tracking trends, and creating best practices. Our outreach and prevention specialists, along with all of our advocates, must stay up to date on the most current trauma-informed methods and emerging social justice strategies to effectively reduce violence in our community. Searching, researching, and vetting methods and trends to make sure that supplemental tools acquired are sustainable and will do no harm, are key elements of an outreach specialist's job duties.

Mobilizing advocates by working with specific groups or through our volunteer program is also essential to the work, it truly does *take a village!*

It is also the outreach specialist's job to remind us that we are making progress and to cheer us on!



Our next volunteer training will begin in October 2022. Be part of the team and help us reduce violence in our community. Volunteer positions range from direct service to prevention, and we can always use help licking stamps! In other words, we will help you find a position that works for you!

If you are interested in learning more please email:
community@StartingPointNH.org



Starting Point | PO Box 1972, Conway, NH 03818 603-447-2494

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with



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