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CGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Commission for Gender Equality
A society free from gender oppression and inequality

BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH
MEN & BOYS TO PROMOTE
GENDER EQUALITY

BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH MEN & BOYS TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY



Gender equality will not be achieved without engaging men and boys. It encompasses a broad range of gendered norms. The agreement and finalisation of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development fittingly recognises with its theme:

“ensuring that no one is left behind”

The importance of working with men and boys to promote gender equality and drive momentum in the empowerment of women and girls.

Male identity and Masculine norms are unquestionably linked with violence, as men and boys are more likely to be both perpetrators of violent crime and victims of it. This draws clear connections between harmful masculine norms and nine likely forms of violent behaviour.

NINE LIKELY FORMS OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR

1  Intimate Partner Violence	2  Physical violence against children <i>(by parents or caregivers)</i>
3  Child sexual abuse and exploitation	4  Bullying
5  Road Rage	6  Homicide and other violent crime
7  Non-partner sexual violence	8  Suicide
9  Conflict and war	



It is important to engage men and boys as part of the solution for ending men's violence against women and promoting gender equality. Rigid norms related to gender and power differentials between groups of men mean that some men feel the pressure to prove their manhood by using violence against other men. Pervasive intimate partner and sexual violence casts all men as potential perpetrators and infuses fear and distrust in their daily interactions with women.

Toxic masculinity involves cultural pressures for men to behave in a certain way. The idea that men need to act tough and avoid showing all emotions can be harmful to their mental health and result in serious consequences for society, which is how it became known as "toxic masculinity." Toxic masculinity also refers to the notion that some people's idea of "manliness" perpetuates domination, homophobia, and aggression.



Gender Equality

Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for women and men. It implies that the interests, needs and priorities of women and men are taken into consideration, recognising the diversity of different groups of people.

The advancement of gender equality challenges traditional attitudes, and established power hierarchies in organisations. Gender equality is both a human rights principle and an indicator for sustainable people-centred development.

To ensure fairness, strategies and measures must be implemented to compensate for women's historical and social disadvantages that prevent them from participating in level playing fields with men. Gender equality requires equal access to and enjoyment of opportunities and resources, by women and men.