



# **Presentation for the Interactive Dialogue to Evaluate Progress in the Implementation of the Agreed Conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women in 2004**

## **Introduction**

- 1.



11. Similarly, in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and much of South Asia, girls studying in mixed sex schools report harassment and sexual violence at the hands of male students and male teachers. Thus, even if empowered to be in public spaces (such as workplaces, schools or universities), girls and women are too often subject to harassment and abuse

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its efforts in early childhood development has supported and encouraged activities by NGOs

men or individual men who influence the behavior of other men, including coaches, fathers, and religious leaders. Others actively recruited and involved men from the community settings (or men in positions of power or celebrities) who already supported gender-equitable attitudes. Several, but not all, effective mass media campaigns have involved high-cost and high-quality media, including commercials, soap operas or TV and radio dramas produced by commercial studios with professional actors and technicians. Such campaigns are generally among the most expensive, but have also been those that have reached the highest numbers of men and boys (and women and girls). Overall, the

boys in reducing gender-based violence. As the recent multi-country WHO study on violence against women made clear, such violence is not the activity of a few men against women. It is instead part of deeply held social norms in most if not all settings; in some cases it is tolerated or simply ignored in national laws and policies. Thus, engaging men and boys to reduce gender-based violence (GBV) must be widespread, integrated, large-scale and well-designed. We have cited examples earlier of campaigns engaging men and boys in preventing GBV, some that have shown evidence of leading to attitude change. In addition, there are several examples of community-based or school-based group sensitization or education activities that have also shown evidence of effectiveness, including Stepping Stones and Men as Partners in South Africa and Program H in India and Brazil. But again, the scale has been modest. Engaging men and boys to question and end violence against women and girls must be scaled up, must include policymakers and must be sustained.

24. But we should keep in mind the limitations

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leave, for example), family policy, and laws against gender-based violence to measure or assess the impact of such policies. Similarly, what do we know about naturally or spontaneously occurring change, or long-term trends in terms of men's behaviors and attitudes related to sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and participation in child and maternal health and well-being? It could also be useful to review what we might call "natural experiments" or naturally occurring differences, such as factors that seem to explain higher rates of men's use of GBV in one setting versus another as a way to understand pathways or factors that lead to change.

31. There is, understandably, skepticism about whether men and boys, and masculinities, can change, precisely because change on the part of men and boys means giving up power and privilege. But there is evidence of men and boys changing in meaningful ways in some settings as a result of program interventions. We have a good idea about what