

**Partners in Change:
Working with Men
to
End Gender-Based Violence**

United Nations
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for the Advancement of Women
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Contents

Preface	
Introduction	
James Lang	
Political connections: Men, Gender and Violence	
Alan Greig	
The Crowing of the Rooster: Violence and Masculinity in North-East Brazil	
Sarah Hautzinger	
Entgering the Labyrinth: Coming to Grips With Gender War Zones – the Case of South Africa	
Helen Moffett	
Giving Men Choices: A Rozan Project with the Police Force in Pakistan	
Maria Rashid	
Men Reinventing Themselves: Resisting Dominant Masculinities	
Bernard Tonkin	
A Coordinated collaborative Approach to Address and Combat Teen Dating Abuse	
Rus Ervin Funk	
Conclusion	
Alan Greig	
About the Contributors	

Preface

During 2001 INSTRAW implemented a collaborative research project on *Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender-based Violence* as part of INSTRAW's Strategic Area of "Building Partnerships for Gender Equality". The activities of this project were aimed at understanding the linkages between men, masculinities and gender-based violence, and how stronger partnerships can be built among those working to end violence.

This was the first INSTRAW project to be implemented through the Institute's new working method - Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS) – a web-based system for collaborative research, training, information and networking. The assumption behind the project was that there is plenty of knowledge and learning embedded in the experiences and questions of those around the world – women and men, academics, practitioners, policy makers, survivors and perpetrators – and that this knowledge and learning can be synthesized with the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The project featured a special website presenting all relevant information related to the activities, including the background papers and discussion summaries, a community page and a useful collection of resources on the subject. These pages are accessible through the INSTRAW website.

The central component of this project consisted of a 'virtual' seminar series carried out through an electronic listserv - "EMVnet" - which drew some 560 subscribers. Over a period of five months, the members of EMVnet focused their attention on specific aspects of the issue by participating in four two-week seminars facilitated by the moderating services of well-known experts in the field and supported by several background papers. As a 'virtual' on-line community, EMVnet members shared experiences, ideas and research findings on the causes of violence, working with men and boys to end violence, and collective lessons and practices. It was

the ‘virtual community’ that provided a better understanding of who was doing what, and where, and what common practices and challenges are to be found in violence prevention work. The community has also helped shape a vision of what new coalitions may look like to reach our goals of gender equality and violence prevention worldwide.

The papers presented in this publication were commissioned under this INSTRAW project originally as a set of “Working Papers”. Although a few suggestions for topics were made for these papers, INSTRAW turned to the ‘virtual community’ to define what was important, where gaps may be, and what type of work had not been published before. The Working Papers thus were nurtured by the interactive characteristics inspired by the project methodology. The papers came from participants in different regions and drafts were offered to the entire community for learning, feedback and refinement.

Following further review and editing, these Working Papers have been gathered together for publication in this single volume, which provides a glimpse of the scope of work that is currently being undertaken around the world as well as an insight into the concepts that are useful in understanding gender violence and the systems by which it is supported. More importantly, this publication presents some future interventions and prevention policies that may be required to more effectively confront and end this worldwide plague. INSTRAW hopes that this publication will stimulate both thinking and action on working with men, as partners in a range of programme and policy settings, to end gender-based violence.

In doing so, INSTRAW acknowledges the contribution of many people to the process of creating this publication. It, and the project from which it has emerged, would not have been possible without the EMVnet community, whose many individuals around the world voluntarily shared their experiences, questions and emotions to bring the entire endeavour to life. These individuals gave witness to the true spirit behind the project – namely that knowledge lies within the experiences and stories of a wide range of people of varied backgrounds.

INSTRAW would like to extend its gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for its collaboration in providing part of the funding for the implementation of this research project from which this publication results. We would also like to thank the seminar facilitators for their clarity and sensitivity in guiding our on-line discussions. Most importantly, we would like to thank the authors of the working papers that constitute the substance of this publication.

Tatjana Sikoska
Officer-in-Charge
INSTRAW
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