



Twitter Town Hall Summary

Wednesday October 19, 2011

#reachyouth

VAWnet.org

a project of the



NRCDDV

@VAWnet: Who's out there?

STATE COALITIONS

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (@DCCADV)
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (@OCADSV)
Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (@mcadsvorg)
Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence (@TNCoalition)

ALLIED INITIATIVES

Dingaroo Press (@DingarooPress)
Feminism 2.0 (@Fem2pt0)
Sin by Silence (@sinbysilence)

LOCAL PROGRAMS

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (@BARCC)
Day One NY (@DayOneNY)
Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (@DAOSofDaneCo)
New Beginnings (@newbegginingsnh)
Partnership for Violence Free Families (@PVFF_ORG)
Rape Victim Advocacy Program (@RVAPiowacity)
Start Strong Atlanta (@StartStrongAtl)
University of New Hampshire Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention Program (@UNHSHARPP)

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Break the Cycle (@BreaktheCycleDV)
Internet Sexuality Information Services (@ISISorg)
Futures Without Violence (@WithoutViolence)
Love Is Not Abuse (@Love_IsNotAbuse)
National Council of Women's Organizations (@ncwo)
PreventConnect (@preventconnect)
Start Strong (@startstrong)
Wider Opportunities for Women (@WOWonlineWOW)

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (@CDCInjury)

@VAWnet: What language are we currently using to communicate with youth on this issue?

A word cloud visualization of language used by youth on VAWnet. The words are arranged in a horizontal, slightly overlapping manner. The central and largest word is "relationship" in a dark brown color. To its right, "bystander" is written in a similar dark brown color. Further right, "violence" is written vertically in a dark brown color. Above "relationship", the word "adolescent" is written in a teal color. To the right of "relationship", the words "upstander", "dating", and "flags" are stacked vertically in a light brown color. Below "relationship", the word "abuse" is written in a green color. To the left of "abuse", the word "respect" is written in a light green color. Below "abuse", the word "red" is written in a light brown color. To the right of "abuse", the word "healthy" is written vertically in a dark brown color.

relationship

adolescent

upstander

dating

flags

violence

bystander

abuse

respect

red

healthy

Discussion Prompts

@VAWnet:

Is this language accessible? Does it resonate? How do you know?

What IS cool re: youth relationships? How are they different from adult intimate relationships?



What are youth saying about their intimate relationships?

How can we involve teens and let their voices guide our understanding of their intimate relationships?

The Discussion

- Youth itself is a culture that we do not credit or understand.
- It is essential to talk about equity in all relationships and especially in friendships.
- How do we invest in youth development goals while not letting adults off the hook for creating safe policies, environments?
- How do we value youth input, development, empowerment while still recognizing that we usually have to reach them via adults?
- The problem isn't in social media or other outlets, it's in making the movement 1) cohesive, and 2) accessible for youth.
- Our messages about their relationships are mixed. We say they're trivial, not "real," then expect youth to approach them seriously.
- 5 good things needed in relationships: 1) A sense of zest or well-being that comes from connecting with another person or other persons. 2) The ability and motivation to take action in the relationship as well as other situations. 3) Increased knowledge of oneself and the other person(s). 4) An increased sense of worth. 5) A desire for more connections beyond a particular one.
- Teaching your child to be a good friend is a good place to start.
- Youth want to be heard and they are experts on themselves.
- Healthy couples aren't in the spotlight.

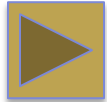
Take Aways



Young people should participate in program/campaign design, implementation, evaluation, and modification.



Youth can and should be among the leaders in programs, even when that means special training for them.



Programs should publicly recognize young people's work and their participation.



Programs should involve youth as educators of other youth.



Programs that fully engage youth succeed because “ownership” of the program shifts to the young people themselves.

The only way to be sure that our messaging is generationally accessible is to involve youth in its development.

Resource Sharing!

Stand Up Speak UP!
is a movement of
Alaska Youth to end
violence and to
create communities
of respect

Safe and Respectful
Relationships For All
is an online resource
engaging youth in
Delaware

CDC offers resources on
healthy relationships
for youth and teens

@hkupwithrespect
allows youth to vote on
each other's stories: cool,
not cool, or not sure

Start Strong Idaho
has done great
work using Twilight
to advance teen
dating violence
prevention

Sound Relationships
offers great youth-
friendly deconstruction
of pop music

DayOneNY has a
peer leadership
program for college
students to engage
with peers about
dating abuse

Students Against
Abuse (SADA) is an
initiative by Newport
COVE in Rhode Island

Love is Respect does a
great job of engaging
youth by starting
discussions about
shows like Jersey Shore

Break the Cycle is a
leading national
nonprofit devoted to
ending teen dating
violence

Know Your Peace is a
youth-driven website
and public education
campaign based in
Florida

Choose Respect has
an awesome list of
characteristics of
healthy relationships

Lead On! For Peace
and Equality in
Alaska is a 30-day
summit for youth
leadership and
nonviolence

The California Partnership
convenes a Teen Dating
Violence Policy and
Research Committee to
engage youth leaders

Feedback

88.4% can apply
what they learned to their work

100% would participate in
future VAWnet/NRCDV Twitter Town Halls

“ My first Twitter Town Hall! It was awesome and I got a ton of great ideas.

“ I really appreciated the links that people provided. There were about three that I want to use regularly in teaching.

“ Brilliant! We are setting up youth participation projects in the UK on VAWG... and its great to see examples from the states. I am hoping to come over next year to visit some projects so good to know what is going on! Thank you.