

**Manuel Semitiel and Tea Stanic, Asociación Cazalla Intercultural, Lorca, Spain:  
"To approach boys - gender appropriate approaches in the prevention of violence in young  
people's intimate relationships"**

The workshop started with a presentation of official data from the year 2009 on the number of mortal victims of gender based violence in Spain (55 victims). Participants discussed why victims don't denounce their aggressors, what are the measures taken by the Government to fight the problem of gender based violence, etc. .

The workshop-facilitators pointed out the most important things one should have in mind while working with boys and young men on the subject of gender based violence in teenage relationships.

- The engine of change is the peer group: use the group experience and not make it as an individual therapy
- Working with ONLY boys is more effective because in this situation they don't tend to show typical male behavior (seduction, competition,...)
- Show and analyze the negative effects that sexism has on men: dissemination of awareness campaigns is not enough
- Analyze the social context which can help understand the conflict and uncertainty of being a man
- Change the starting position : never have the approach that the boy is a potential sexist
- Don't use the language of guilt but SELF-RESPONSIBILITY to change and to find solutions

In the focus of the workshop were two of the methods that Cazalla uses in its work with boys. The workshop-participants (they were a mixed group of men and women) were asked to slip into the role of and feel like 17 year old boys. In groups they had to draw their vision of "the ideal man". The debriefing was about what it means to be an ideal man, what expectations the society has and what kind of pressure is put on boys and young men to fulfill those expectations.

The second activity was "Stand up, boys". The participants had to stand up silently if they recognized themselves in the statements read by one of the facilitators. The statements were dealing with their masculinity and with more or less violent situations connected to it. Examples of the statements given:

Please stand up silently if

- You have ever worried you were not tough enough
- You were ever told not to cry
- You were ever hit to make you stop crying
- Etc.

A discussion about both methods and how they work or affect adolescent boys followed. Participants had many commentaries, doubts and suggestions concerning the application of these methods to different pedagogical realities.

**Summary: Tea Stanic and Manuel Semitiel**