

# MEN AS ROLE MODELS IN FIGHTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

*SOME EXPERIENCES FROM NORWAY*



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# What is the basis?

- Fighting violence in close relationships had been impossible without the women's movement and the fight for women's rights
- Both genders is needed in the struggle for equality. It is not about 'sharing the equality cake', it's about making the cake bigger
- Every development has to start somewhere. Estonia and Norway has the same challenges, even if the level of gender equality may differ

# Why should violence against women upset men?

- Violence hurts the ones we love: Our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends and colleagues
- Boys and young men are affected, too. Violence narrows the norms of masculinity!
- Violence (where it occurs) is the main obstacle for gender equality. No point sharing dishes, violence has to stop!

# What is men's responsibility?

- The majority of men are **not** violent offenders
- The responsibility lies solely with the perpetrators
- Nevertheless: Men should act as role models for boys and young men
- Jackson Katz: 'The bystander approach'
- Men should act as peers, and as leaders

# What is Reform's contribution?

- White Ribbon campaign
- The Red Button/Stop violence against women campaign
- Anger management training
- Stop dating violence projects
- ... and as a consistent defender of the term 'Violence in close relationships'



# Shouldn't women take responsibility as well?

- All violence is harmful and should be fought
- Yes: Women exert significant violence, too
- But it is not men's role to moralize on women's lack of commitment on behalf of men
- **It is men's task to show that we are serious about fighting all kinds of violence**
- Especially: Fighting violence against women

Thank you!  
Aitäh!