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New Book, Movement Reveals Keys to Ending Violence Against Women

- ▶ *1/3 of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.*
- ▶ *92 percent of women named “reducing domestic violence and sexual assault” the top priority for women’s movements.*

After decades of anti-violence campaigns and billions of dollars spent, the trend of abuse and sexual violence against women shows little sign of abating.

Jackson Katz, gender violence prevention pioneer and author of the new book, *The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help*, claims that a fundamental shift in society must occur before these crimes can be reduced.

Simply, abuse and sexual violence against women must no longer be considered solely a “Women’s Issue,” but rather understood as a “Men’s Issue;” with a critical mass of WELL-MEANING MEN aware, concerned, and taking responsibility for change. Jackson Katz’s book is the first to comprehensively make this case.

The Macho Paradox argues that the prevailing “normal” attitudes in society – such as the ever-popular “boys will be boys” attitude – are not harmless and funny, but are actually the roots of a **vicious but invisible cycle** that eventually explodes into male violence against women. It demonstrates that violence against women is so ingrained in American society that most women and girls take a series of steps **every day** to prevent themselves from being sexually assaulted, whereas most men never even give the subject a second thought.

The *Macho Paradox* incorporates the voices, experiences, and personal stories of women and men who have confronted the problem from all angles. It meets controversial issues head-on including:

- ▶ Pornography, prostitution and stripping (How these shape men’s attitudes toward women)
- ▶ Pop culture (including discussions about *Eminem*, *Howard Stern*, and *Kobe Bryant*)
- ▶ The media’s obsession with sexual deviants (and not the “normal” guys who commit most rapes)
- ▶ Parenting (the special challenges for parents of daughters *and* sons)
- ▶ Alpha-male culture in sports, the military, college campuses, in the workplace, etc.
 - And more...

Katz's growing movement of men – allied with women – against female targeted violence seeks to reframe the national debate concerning this abuse, and calls for an awareness that causes cultural change. His work has been ascribed as holding the seeds of a “cultural revolution.”

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jackson Katz has long been recognized as one of America's leading anti-sexist male activists. In 1993, he founded the *Mentors in Violence Prevention Program (MVP)* at Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sports in Society. Today, MVP is the most widely utilized gender violence prevention program in college athletics.

In 1996, Katz became the founder and director of MVP Strategies, which is an organization that specializes in providing gender violence prevention education and training for men and boys in schools, colleges, the US military, and small and large corporations.

Since 1996, Katz has been directing the first worldwide gender violence program in the history of the *United States Marine Corps* – the first such program in the United States military. From 2000-2003 he served as a member of the *U.S. Secretary of Defense's Task Force on Domestic Violence in the military*. Since the Columbine tragedy in 1999, Katz and MVP have been working with several schools in the Jefferson County, Colorado school district, including Columbine High School.

Katz is the creator of award-winning educational videos for college and high school students, including *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity*, which was named one of the Top Ten Young Adult Videos for 2000 by the American Library Association. His video *Wrestling with Manhood (2002)*, which examines the gender and sexual politics of professional wrestling, in collaboration with Sut Jhally. His latest video, *Spin the Bottle; Sex, Lies and Alcohol with Jean Kilbourne (2004)*, looks at gender in the marketing and pop culture representation of alcohol.

Katz is the author of numerous articles in academic journals and popular newspapers that are widely used in undergraduate and graduate courses. He has appeared on numerous radio and TV programs coast to coast, including the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Montel Williams*, *ABC News 20/20*, *MSNBC* and *Lifetime Television*.

A former three-sport high school athlete and all-star football player, Katz was the first man at the University of Massachusetts Amherst to earn a minor in women's studies. He holds a Masters degree from the **Harvard Graduate School of Education**. Since 1990, he has lectured at over 800 colleges, prep schools, high schools, middle schools, professional conferences and military installations in 43 states.