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### **Adult Male Sexual Assault– Let’s Start a Movement!**

Contrary to popular belief, sexual assaults committed against males are not an uncommon occurrence. Male victimization can and does have a profound effect, not only on the victim but on their friends, their families and the people with whom they share love. In fact, in the military- more victims of sexual violence are male.

This presentation will explore male gender socialization, masculine identity, and social expectations for men and boys. We will explore the role that “fear” plays because there are tangible consequences for being perceived “less than” manly. These fears frequently become barriers to reporting and in seeking help following these tragic identity-challenging experiences. All these variables together create an impossible atmosphere for a healthy expression of emotions and access to justice and healing.

Participants will be presented with hard-hitting video and audio examples to assist in understanding the overwhelming and frequent maladaptive reactions to male sexual assault. Cutting-edge research, coupled with contrasts and comparisons between female and male victimization will also be presented.

Finally, we will explore how identifying as trans or having other complicated identities (ability, race, nation status issues, HIV, poverty...) can further impact marginalization.

This presentation will be extremely beneficial to all professionals responding to male victims. Law enforcement, mental health, medical and criminal justice professionals as well as researchers and victim advocates.

“Ending Violence Against Women” can be more effectively accomplished with a better understanding of the implications and outcomes of violence against all genders and other identities that play an important role. Adult male sexual assault victims rarely report and have no movement to support them.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Identify the impact of sexual assaults against males
- Understand male biology and emotions and gender socialization effecting the development of the male identity
- Differentiate between the themes and beliefs unique to male sexual assault victims
- Determine the risk of PTSD of males exposed to specific traumas and the impact of multilevel ecological factors
- Explore intersectionality and how multiple identities further compound the experience
- Discuss implications for first responders and implications for intervention, investigation and victim advocacy
- Present ideas on starting a movement to assist men to report and seek help for sexual assault