

Script - Brave Campaign

(Slide 1) -Brave logo

Display on screen when speakers are Setting up

Speaker 1:

Hi everyone and thank you for having us today. My name is _____.

Speaker 2:

And I'm _____. Today we are talking about something very important to us and after today, we are hoping it becomes important to you. We will be covering a few topics and viewing two video's we created for you.

Before we get into all that, I'd like to take a minute to tell you a little bit about who we are and what we do.

(Slide 2) - Brave description

Earlier this year we joined a program called BRAVE- which stands for Brothers Resisting All Violence Everyday. Us, along with a group of guys, decided to join a program that would teach us about healthy relationships, gender based violence, domestic violence and healthy masculinity.

We are here today to raise awareness about these issues and how it affects the youth, the community we live in, and the people closest to us.

It could beour sisters mothers and girlfriends. Our message today, is to tell you that this is not just a woman's issue, its a man's issue.

(Slide 3)- Old school Hip Hop

Speaker 1:

We are going to start off by talking to you a little bit about a topic some of you may be familiar with, hip hop music. Back in the day hip hop was created as a means to get people involved in a new art form and away from violence on the streets... it was created to instil a culture of peace, unity, love and fun...who can tell me if they know the original 4 elements of hip hop???

Pause and let them answer, then carry on...

(Slide 4) 4 elements:

1. MCing
2. DJ
3. B-BOY
4. GRAFFITI

Now a days hip hop looks more and more like this...

(Slide 5)- Hip Hop culture today..

It can be violent and to emphasize our point today....demeaning to women. When lyrics talk about "big booty hoes" and video's like Niki Minaj's Anaconda. It turns women into objects not human beings...

So, we live in a world of media and most of us watch video's everyday, from Vines, meme's to You Tube.

We decided to create two video's to emphasize our message.
here is the first....

(Slide 6) VIDEO 1: TMZ style/ Hip Hop Culture

What did you think about the video?

Speaker 2:

Okay thank you for your input now we are going to shift into another topic here and that's

Healthy masculinity:

(Slide 7)- Unhealthy Masculinity vs. Healthy Masculinity

Let's look at characteristics of healthy and unhealthy masculinity, the myth's of masculinity and what it means to "be a man".

We will start with Unhealthy Masculinity, here are some examples:

1. **Sports-** its all about your athletic ability, size and strength it's about being the the better player. Truth: Men are given more value, more of a sense of worth and more masculinity how athletic you are does not make you a man there is so much more to it.
2. **Men are big and strong and don't have emotion-** in other words they have to be tough strong and competitive. They are told things like "suck it up", "no pain, no gain" and "be a man". They have to hide how they feel and talking about it is more of a female thing to do. Guys are taught not to cry and repress their emotion, this makes it really difficult to express emotion and feelings when in any future relationships.

Speaker 1:

3. **Bedroom-** Men are experts on sex and sexual conquest and is to be celebrated- using a woman or young girl to validate any masculine insecurity

Truth: user of other human beings, this distorts the image of women and may cause an inability to build healthy relationships with women.

4. **Money** - " what do you do?" "how much do you make"? In other words economic success like your job title, what you own or what you drive. Self worth is not determined by your Net worth. So although it's not a negative to be successful , who you are isn't determined by how much you make.

Speaker 2:

Now let's look at some examples of Healthy Masculinity:

(Slide 8)- Healthy Masculinity:

1. **Relationships-** to love and be loved
2. **Cause-** Commitment to a cause, make the world a better place,leave a legacy a mark that you were here.
3. **Responsibility-** Taking care of the people who matter the most to you, your responsibilities as a person and your responsibility to give back.

Joe Ehrmann " If you don't understand your own feelings your own emotions, you'll never understand the feelings and emotions of another human being".

Does that make sense to everyone?

Speaker 1:

So moving on, we are going to present you with our second video....

This video features a local recording artist who discusses his career in music and what it was like for him growing up.

(Slide 09) -VIDEO 2- Charlie Stumbles featured artist

So as you saw in the video Charlie spoke a bit about his thought on domestic violence and his upbringing. We are going to take some time now to talk about unhealthy and healthy relationship habits. We are going to start with:

(Slide 10)- Relationship Red Flags

Relationship Red Flags: (warning signs for an unhealthy relationship and or a possible abusive relationship)

1. It's always your fault for how they treat you, when there are problems or arguments.
2. Abuse siblings, other family members, children or pets.
3. Try to isolate you and control whom you see or where you go.
4. Nag you or force you to be sexual when you don't want to be or are unsure.
5. You are afraid to break up with them out of fear of what they might do to you or themselves or you feel tied down or like you need to check-in.
6. They tell you how to dress or how to act
7. You feel physical or emotional abuse getting worse over time.

Please Take note, it is very important that you know: Domestic Violence does not only take the form of physical violence it's expressed in mental, sexual and emotional abuse as well.

Speaker 2:

Now let's look at:

(Slide 11)- Examples of Healthy Relationships:

Examples of Healthy Relationships:

A few characteristics would be:

Trustworthy:

Means being reliable, being honest and open with your partner, and showing integrity.

Supportive:

supporting each other's goals in life, and respecting each other's right to his/her own feelings, opinions, friends, activities and interest. It is valuing one's partner as an individual.

Honest:

communicating openly and truthfully, admitting mistakes or being wrong, acknowledging your past, and accepting responsibility for yourself and your actions.

Speaker 1:

Respectful:

listening to one another in a non-judgmental manner, valuing each other's opinions. Respect also involves attempting to understand and affirm the other's emotions.

Negotiation and fairness - Willing to compromise, accepting change, and seeking mutually satisfying solutions to conflict

Non-threatening behaviour - talking and acting in a way that promotes both partners' feelings of safety in the relationship. Both should feel comfortable and safe in expressing him/herself.

I hope that explanation gives you all a clear example of what you should and shouldn't do in relationships. A very simple thing to think about is this " treat others how you would want to be treated".

Speaker 2:

Celebrities:

These days media brings celebrities and their lives to our magazine stands, online viewing, twitter etc. We get consumed by what's going on in their lives good or bad but we are going to quickly go over a few celebrities that pertain to what we are talking about here today....

(Slide 12)- You never know who can be affected by this issue.....

You never know who can be affected by this issue.....

- Do you know of any celebrities who are the perpetrators of domestic violence?

Pause and see if anyone in the audience answersif not then show slide 14 and say the names.

(Slide 13)-(Chris Brown, Ray Rice, Mike Tyson)

- These stories make breaking news and its the buzz everywhere but they fade as a topic of discussion just as fast as they become one. What could be the problem with that?

Pause and see if anyone in the audience answersif not then continue...

Answer: The topic of violence against women needs to be kept circulating, just because people stop talking about it, doesn't mean it goes away.

Speaker 1:

Here is a glimpse of some celebrities you may not be aware of that are affected by this issue:

(Slide 14)- Celebrities you may not be aware of...

Mariah Carey

You may know her as a judge on American Idol for a while but mainly as music legend. At the age of 18 she met her first husband and divorced him in 1998. in 2009 she publicly spoke out on Larry King Live. about the mental and emotional abuse she endured for the duration of the relationship.

***Charlize Theron**

You may know her from such movies as "A Million Ways to Die in the West" and "Snow White and the Huntsman"

Her childhood was like a horror movie, her father was a violent alcoholic who abused her and her mother and threatened to kill them both.

At the age of 15 her mother shot her father in self defence.

***Robin Givens**

Was married to Boxer Mike Tyson for only a year. She said "I didn't understand how a man could say that the best punch he ever threw was against his wife". Today she dedicates much of her time to helping other women who have experienced the same abuse.

Speaker 2:

Christina Aguilera

Who is currently a judge from the show "The Voice" She would sing as a way of coping with the pain and escaping from growing up in a home with domestic violence.
"growing up I didn't feel safe, I turned to singing as an outlet".

* **Tina Turner**

Is a music Legend who is an icon and a strong independent woman who reclaimed her life after she was abused by her husband Ike Turner for years until she left him in 1976.

Halle Berry - Some of you may know her as storm from x-men, Halle Berry opened up about her experience growing up with domestic violence. During her childhood she watched her father abuse her mother and older sister. After a beating Halle endured from a boyfriend, she lost 80 percent of the hearing in her right ear. Today, she's an advocate for victims of domestic violence.

Speaker 1:

Another problem is that we as a society become numb to the issue when we turn it into something amusing.

Hands up who checks out Meme's?

Pause and let them respond, then carry on...

By no means are we saying its a bad thing to look at something funny but we can change if stop viewing one's like this:

(Slide 16) - "this stuff numbs people"

- * Ike Turner was the one married to Tina Turner.
- * Also Tina Nash, some of you may not know who this is but she is a survivor of a brutal attack from her boyfriend who gouged her eyes out saying "now you'll never be able to see your children" along with a horrible assault and he wouldn't allow her son to call the paramedics until 12 hours after the attack.
- * So this is definitely not someone we should be seeing meme's about or laughing at.

Here are some that are way better.....

(Slide 17) funny meme's
-PAUSE and let them read

You guys get the point right, you can choose what you look at.

Speaker 2:

Now we are going to cover another topic -Stat's. It's the reality and the severity of the issue. The last thing we want to do is bore you with a bunch of statistics but we found these one's to be very important and relevant to what we are talking about today. Please keep in mind stat's are not just numbers they represent people.

(Slide 18) Stats:

- Both women and men were more at risk of violence by dating partners than by spouses. Among women, rates of dating violence in 2011 were 60% higher than the spousal violence rate.
- The police-reported rate of violent crime against women aged 15 to 24 was 42% higher than the rate for women aged 25 to 34, and nearly double the rate for women aged 35 to 44.
- ★ So according to these statistics the younger you are the more at risk you are.

- In addition, nearly 27,000 female youth aged 12-17 were victims of violent crimes in 2011; casual acquaintances were the most common offenders.

Speaker 1:

So what are those stats saying to you?(give audience time to respond)

Then summarize: You don't have to be married for this to happen it mainly happens when dating and mainly to younger women.

That's why it is so important to learn and know about healthy relationships at a young age. And that's why we are speaking to you today.

(Slide 19) - Stats Continued

- Reporting to police was more likely when women had sustained an injury, when they feared for their lives, or when the abuse had gone on for some time.

This further emphasizes the point that many crimes are not even reported!

Speaker 2:

- It's not just a woman issue, look at the person beside you, it could be anyone in this room, what if it was your mother, a sister, your friend it can leave scars that never go away or are just incredibly hard to talk about.
- Men are affected daily, because of your gender you can be looked at as rapist or abusers, so much that women don't want to be anywhere near a guy walking late at night. Even if it was someone who could potentially stop an assault. Simply because of the men who **are** the perpetrator's out there.

(Slide 20) - What can you do

* So, change starts with you, ask yourself what can I do, well here are some steps you can take:

- 1) Remember earlier we talked about maybe screening some of the things you look at online or MeMe's

Speaker 1:

2) Be respectful towards women, girls and other guys, lead by example for men influenced by you. Like your younger brother's, cousin's, nephews etc. you get the idea.

Speaker 2:

3) Communicate with your partner or possible partner: in other words ask first don't assume it's okay, from kissing to anything more and most importantly don't pressure someone if you see they are uncomfortable.

Speaker 1:

4) Accept your role in helping to end violence against women.

Speaker 2:

5) Challenge and speak out- against hurtful language, sexist jokes and bullying. Also think first before you post things on your Facebook that may be offensive or demeaning towards the opposite sex, even if it's funny.

Speaker 1:

6) Never use violence, force or threats in any of your relationships with others.

Speaker 2:

Ask yourself..what kind of man do you want to be?

Speaker 1:

For more information as to what you can do or where you can go if you suspect this is happening to someone you love or care about, please check these out:

(Slide 21) Resources:

- We have some brochures that include this information as well, that will be handed out at the door.
- If anyone has any questions about the presentation or questions about the content, we will be sticking around for a few minutes.
- Also, if you weren't aware Charlie Stumbles is a local recording artist, you can check out some of his music at _____.

(Slide 22) Closing slide-logo's, funders "thank you"

Speaker 2:

Thank you all so much for having us here today and listening to what we had to say. You are the future and what you do can make a difference in years to come.