

Learning to Abuse

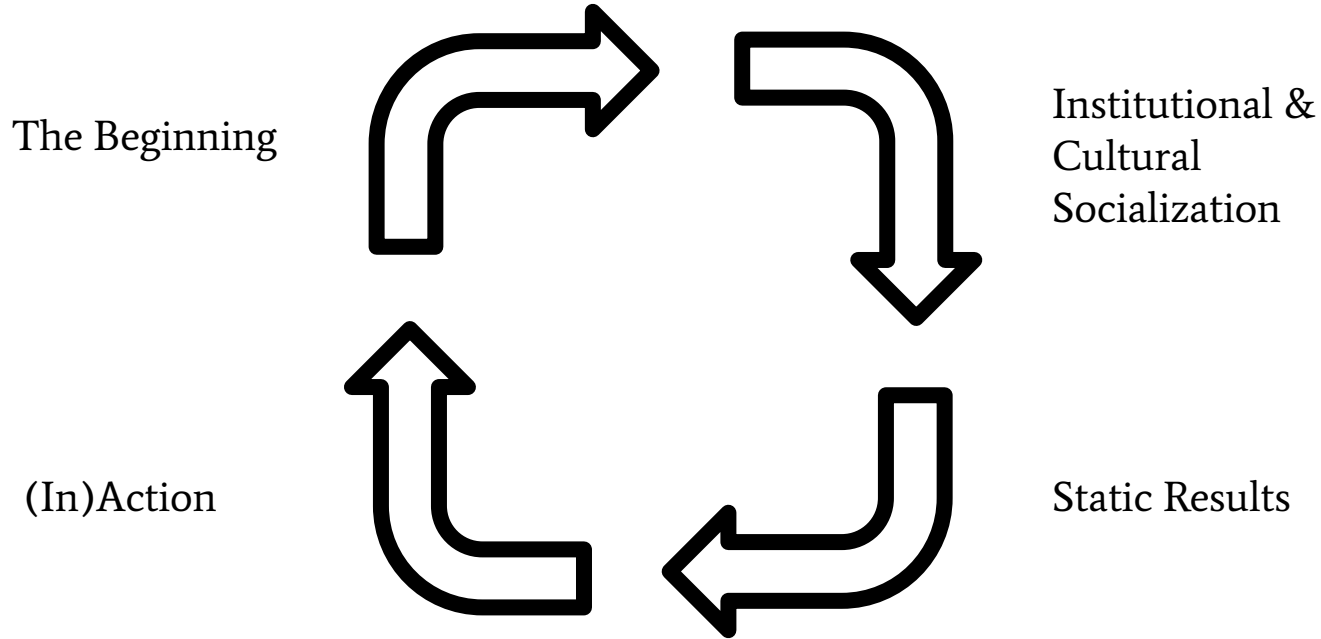
How Pornography & Sex Buying Influence Men's Violence

Eli Zucker, MSW & Dr. Carolyn West

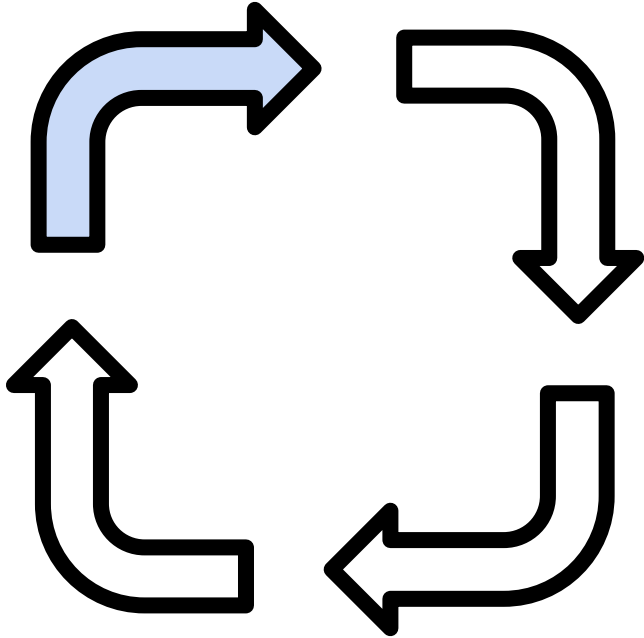
Helpful Notes

1. Take care of your body
1. There are objective patterns concerning gender-based violence AND there are also varied experiences across identity, geography, and circumstance. We will be doing a lot of “Yes, AND”-ing today
2. Today’s session is a beginning or middle, but not an end.

Cycle of Socialization



The Beginning

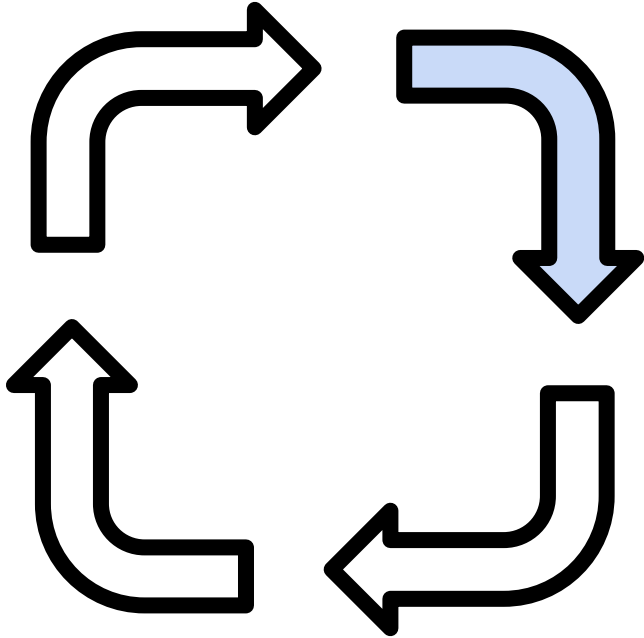


- Born into a world with mechanics already in place
- No Blame
- No Consciousness
- No Choice
- Taught on a personal level by:
 - Parents
 - Relatives
 - Teachers
 - Others we love and trust
- These sources of information are often our first role models and the ones that help build our foundational expectations of the world

“Act Like A Man” Box

- ...

Institutional and Cultural Socialization

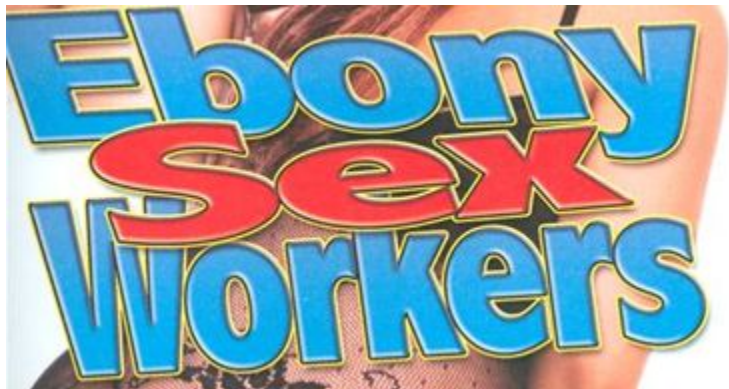


- We are *consciously and unconsciously* bombarded with messages that reinforce our notions of the world:
 - Places of Worship
 - Schools
 - Media
 - Legal Systems
 - Song Lyrics
 - Traditional Practices
 - Language
- These messages are enforced through
 - Stigma
 - Rewards & Punishments
 - Discrimination

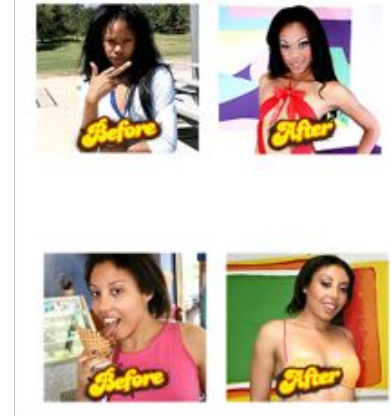
Porn Normalizes & Sexualizes Risk Factors for Trafficking



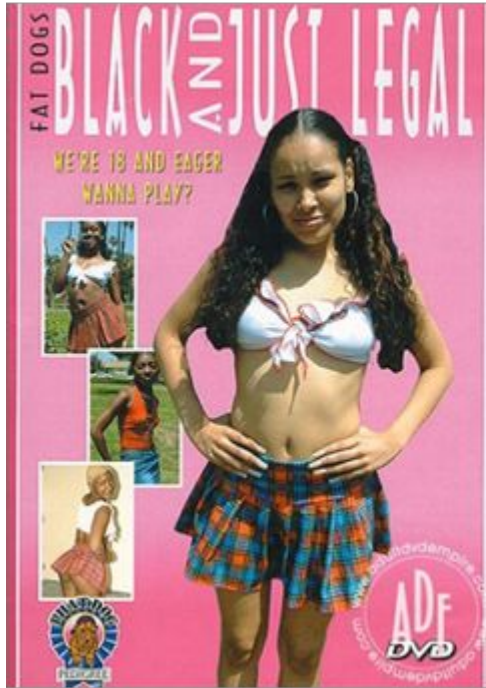
Black Women are Often Associated with Prostitution



Porn Sexualizes Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking



Porn Sexualizes DMST and Running Away



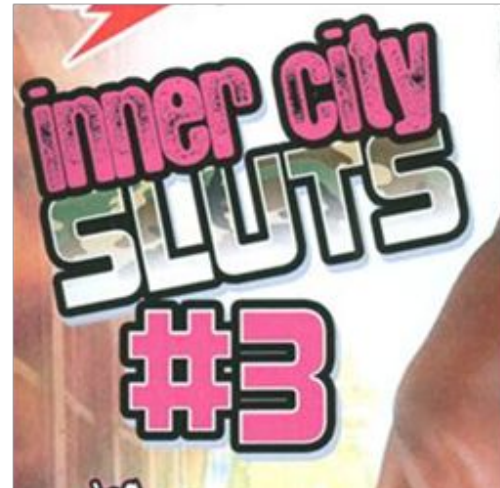
- How would you like to see young girls that are **barely legal**... Girls from the local foodmart or the grand and stab, **fresh out of high school** and still carrying their sweaty gym shorts... **let loose from detention**... Well, we have found them and **they are yours for the grabbing**. Enjoy these fresh new faces as I know you will...

Porn Sexualizes DMST and Running Away



- **Fresh off the plane** or bus, these sexy beginners... Sexy Jazzie from Sacramento is here **right off the bus** and is just a **sweet country girl!** Plus more freaks!

Porn Degrades Economically Disadvantaged Black Women



Porn Celebrates Pimping



Six little **black teen sluts** are **getting pimped out** for the first time in this tale of turning tricks in the 'hood. From the **back alleys** to the **seedy strip clubs**, they're dropping their panties, spreading their legs, and **screaming like wild animals.**

Stopping Sexual Exploitation Program - Testimonial

I first witnessed pornography in my elementary school days from a male friend in a magazine form. I kept my use of pornography a secret because accessibility, anonymity, affordability and I didn't want to be judged or ridiculed for resorting to porn. Pornography influenced my expectations that every female is obedient and well skilled towards fulfilling a man sexual pleasure.

Stopping Sexual Exploitation Program - Testimonial

I was first exposed to porn in Cub Scouts. One of the pack brought Playboy and Hustler magazines to the a few meetings. I believe I was in 6th or 7th grade at the time.

Yes, I had to keep it secret from my parents at the time. I told my older brothers though and they thought it was funny. They said all boys look at “dirty magazines” at some point.

Frankly, looking at the magazines with my friends was beneficial. From watching videos, I learned “how to do it” so to speak by watching pornography illustrating typical positions. Also determining preferences such as breast size; do I like C cup or EE? Do I like thin or thick? Blonde or brunette? How does a man please a woman? What does a female orgasm look like?

Stopping Sexual Exploitation Program - Testimonial

I grew up with a lot of American friends who had problems in their families. We started watching pornography when we were 13 years old in the basement of our friend's remote house. It was just too easy to get a hold of porn. We loved the excitement and arousal. As we grow up, there are girls that are already sexually active, and they actually went after boys. They partied, they showed off how easily they could get hooked up with girls. A friend of mine actually tried to rape a girl. I respect girl/women. They liked me and often called me. I remembered going out with a girl I loved very much. After some years, I went [to] study in another state, I ran away from the relationship.

That being said, I was lonely. I watched porn and I felt less depressed. It was almost like a soothing, comforting effect to me. I hid away in my room all the time and occasionally I watched porn. I do not think it is good to watch porn in the living room, some of them were really gross. I did not want my mom to know that I was watching porn because they can be sexual and violent. From pornography, mostly men are dominant and overpowering the woman. There is little or no romantic love, it is about penis penetration. Men in the video are powerful and rough with no consideration of the woman's feeling and the women have to pretend that they have pleasure in the assault.



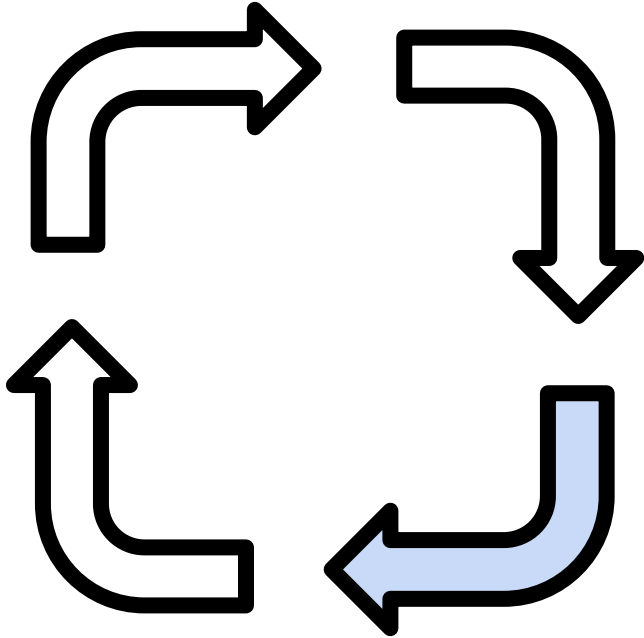
JIMMY

Kimmel

LIVE!



Static Results



- As we solidify the way we see both ourselves and the world through a specific lens, we can carry:
 - Dissonance
 - Dehumanization
 - Collusion
 - Ignorance
 - Horizontal Violence
 - Violence
 - Internalizations of Power

Implications of Socialization

A 2009 survey of sex buyers in London revealed:

- 24% of men who buy sex believe it is not possible for women in prostitution to experience rape and 27% of men who buy sex believe that once they pay a woman for sex, they are entitled to do anything they want to her
 - Yet, 54% of men who buy sex believe that prostitution itself decreases rape
- On average, men who buy sex acknowledge that over $\frac{1}{3}$ of women in the sex trade began prostitution as minors

Implications of Socialization

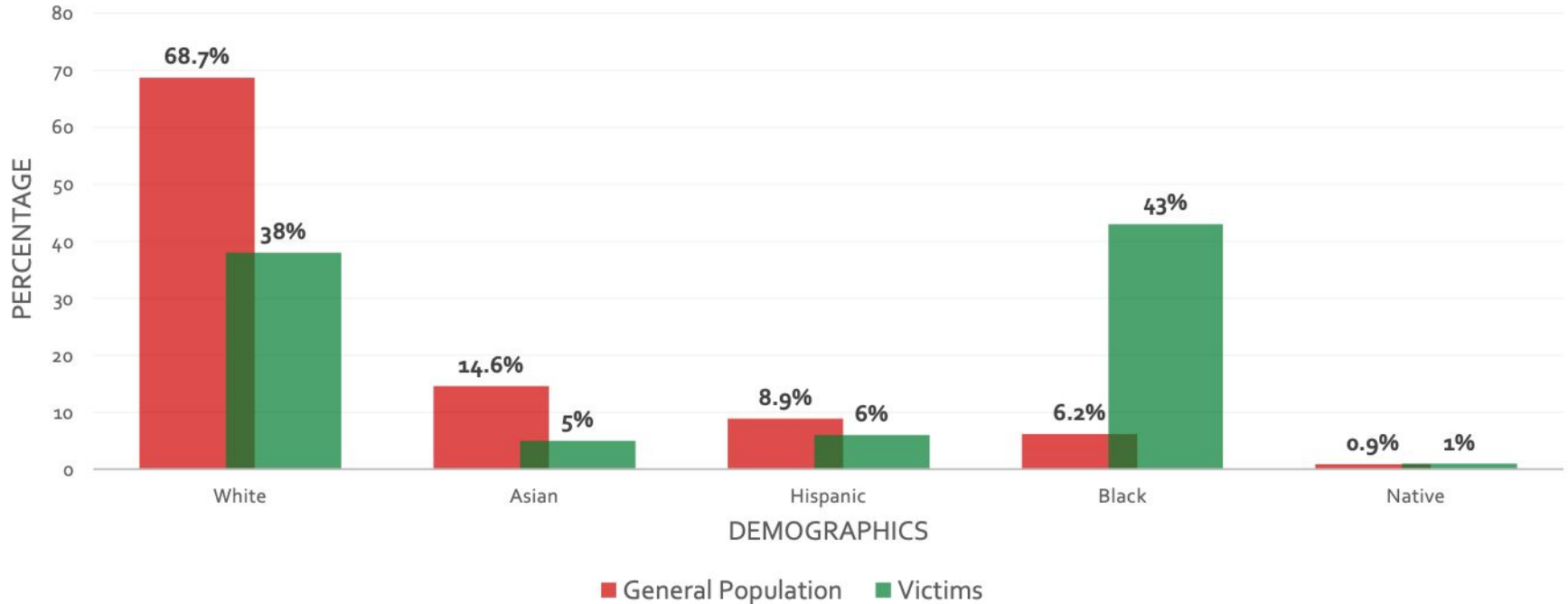
A 2004 global survey of women who were currently or formerly in the life revealed:

- 73% report being physically assaulted
- 95% experience sexual harassment
- 64% report being threatened with a weapon
- 63% report sexual abuse as children (avg. 4 perpetrators/person)
- 49% have had pornography made of them in the life
- 88% experience verbal abuse and social contempt



Comparing Race of Minor-CSEC Victims to General Population of King County 2011-2020

(N=126)



*KCPAO data from 2011-2020 compared to 2010 census data for King County.

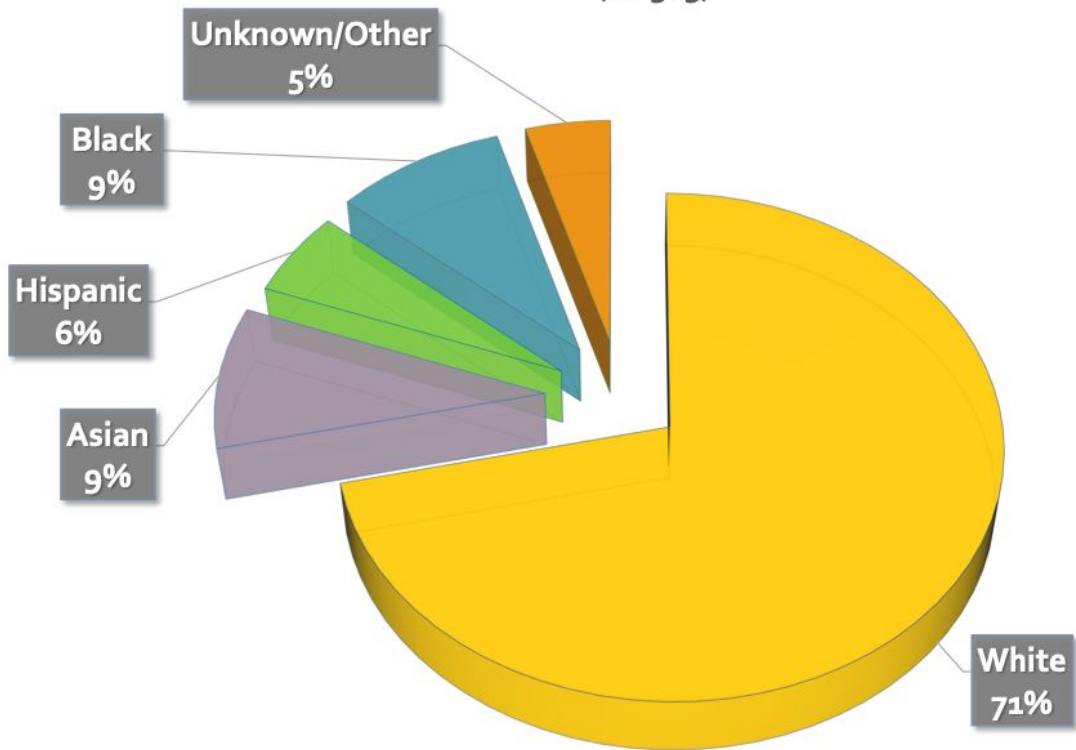
** Census data is gender neutral and does not reflect the disproportionate representation of females of color in victim demographics.

*** Charges are representative of CSAM, ACSAM and PCSAM cases with victims.



SEX BUYERS OF MINORS 2013-2020

(N=305)



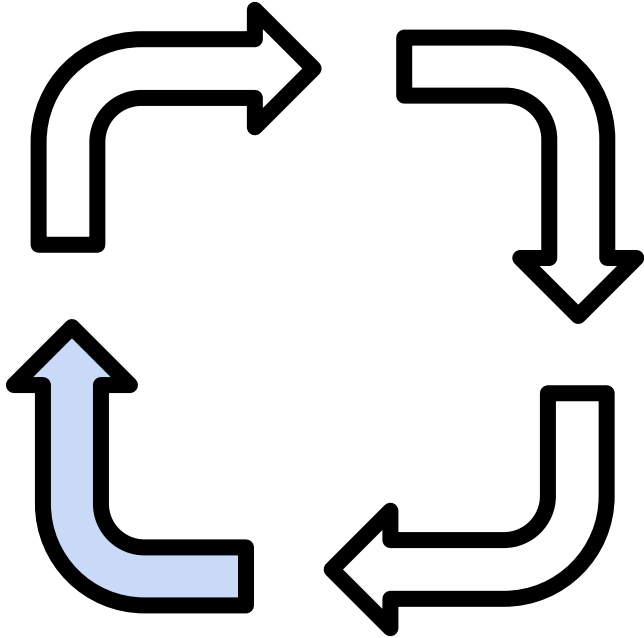
*Sex buyers of minors includes defendants charged with CSAM and ACSAM.

Socialization & The Sex Trade

When I was fifteen or sixteen and working on Benburb Street a man somewhere in his forties brought his teenage son down to the street to buy him his way out of virginity. It was a gift, in this man's understanding. He stopped the car beside me and explained the situation. I wasn't selling intercourse anyway at the time and told him this. Probably because I was around his son's age, whereas all the other women were much older, he asked me would I give his son oral sex instead. I couldn't do it. There was something inexpressibly sick about what he was asking me to do. I couldn't have articulated what exactly about it bothered me so much since I gave blow-jobs to strangers every day; I just knew that I felt a very strong instinctual sense of revulsion, stronger than usual. I know today that it was this up-close-and-personal view of a father training his son to treat women like meat that made me so repulsed. I couldn't be part of that, and I wasn't. I walked away. Thinking about that day now though, and thinking about the teenage boy in that car, I can't help but wonder about what sort of man he has become.

-Rachel Moran, *Paid For*

(In)Action



- When we aren't aware of how this cycle operates on a personal and social level, we become static:
 - Waves of change are shallow
 - The status quo carries on
 - We socialize a new generation to conform to the constructions we were taught

Stopping Sexual Exploitation Program

Week 1

Motivational
Interview #1

Week 2

Motivational
Interview #2

Week 3

“Act Like a Man”

Week 4

Harms of
Prostitution

Week 5

Sexual
Objectification &
Violence

Week 6

Pimping &
Intimate Partner
Violence

Week 7

Power & Violence

Week 8

Vulnerability

Week 9

Mutuality

Week 10

The Will to Change

Men's Accountability Community Core Principles

Who We Are

The Men's Accountability Community (MAC) is a group of men who are committed to repairing harm from gender based violence for others and ourselves. We do this by fostering a healthy community where we can encourage personal growth through accountable relationships.

Values

- Accountability to Survivors** We center survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, abuse, or other forms of male dominance in our work and to consult with them in ways that acknowledge their needs and integrate their experiences and perspectives.
- Commitment to Human Rights** In addition to opposing male supremacy, we also oppose other forms of oppression, including white supremacy and homophobia. We oppose these systems wholeheartedly as an extension of our commitment to feminism.
- Connection** We center our work around the connections created between men and strive to create the conditions where healthy, nourishing relationships grow.
- Engagement** We see positively engaging with other men to end unhealthy behavior, sexual objectification, and male dominance as a central part of our effort.
- Honesty** We aim to create a community where men confront the complexities of our lived experiences, avoiding shame and judgment, to motivate our self-development and personal growth.
- Positive Change** We believe that healthy individuals, relationships, and communities are possible. Male violence, abuse, sexual objectification, and other actions that perpetuate women's inequality are not natural or inevitable, and can be ended.

Thank You

Eli Zucker | eli@seattleagainstsavery.org

Dr. Carolyn West | drcarolynwest.com