

Jackson Katz: Violence against Women—It's a Men's Issue

http://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue.html

7/20/13

This is the way the dominant group stays in dominance! Sentence structure and use of language keeps focus off men.

- John beat Mary. ~ Active voice
- Mary was beaten by John. ~ Passive voice, shifted focus to her
- Mary was beaten. ~ Now it's all about her
- Mary was battered.
- Mary is a battered woman. ~ Her very identity is done to her by him, and he's out of the picture; blaming the victim

The fact is that John beat Mary.

Cognitive structure is set up to blame women. Asking questions about her (ie Why did she wear that lipstick?) gets us nowhere in preventing violence. We need to ask questions about him. Why does he beat her? Why do so many men violate women they claim to love? Why do so many men abuse and rape women and children and other men? What are the roles of institutions that help to produce porn, rape, violence, and racism? When we get answers, we can then ask, how can we change the socialization of our boys? How can we do something differently to get different results?

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This information is not intended to be a substitute for professional services. If you or someone you know is involved in domestic violence or any type of abuse, get in touch with your local authorities, licensed mental health providers, and The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). More information can be found at [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org).