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Boys are key to changing domestic violence

August 13, 2016 Jessica Russell The Big Stories 0 Comments



EU Ambassador Mikael Barford

The head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados, Ambassador Mikael Barford has said that to rid the region of domestic violence there needs to be a change in the way boys are socialised.

He said, "Often boys are not raised to be men, but are raised not to be women. Boys are taught that girls and women are 'less than'."

Barford said it is important for men to stand up to not only stop men's violence against women, but to teach young men a broader definition of masculinity that includes being empathetic, loving and non-violent.

"We know that when you are in a broken family and your role model is a violent male, boys grow up believing that this is the way they are supposed to act. And girls think that it is acceptable for men to treat them this way. We hope that these debates will be picked up by civil society organisations and religious leaders, since there is the view that the church could play a major role in preventing domestic violence."

The ambassador said violence against women is a crime with an impact far beyond the immediate moment of violence. "Violence against women impacts us all, even those of us who have never personally experienced it. It impacts the families of these victims, it impacts our society, and it impacts our everyday lives. We all pay for these consequences," Barford said.

His comments were made at a Dissemination Session held by the EU-Funded None in Three Project, which is addressing domestic violence in the Caribbean.

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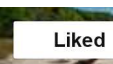
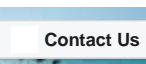
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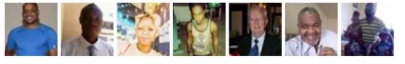
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