

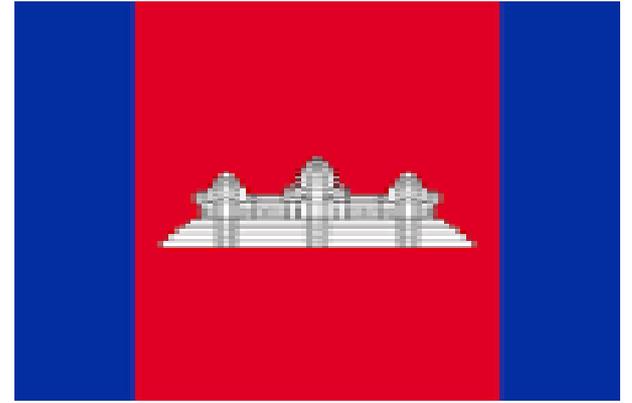
Changing Social norms for gender equality Masculinity and GBV in Cambodia



Sexual Violence Research Initiative 2019
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I. Introduction



“Men is gold, women is white clothes”

“Bleeding is better than crying”

- Patriarchal social system in Cambodia have attributed to the acceptance of male perpetration of gender-based violence.
- More than 20% of adult women ever experienced IPV, more than 50% children experienced violence
- Patriarchal notion deny “male weakness”, homosexual relationship, and reinforce male dominance

2. Purpose of masculinity study

- With the young generation, explore the dynamic intersection between the idea of masculinity and gender-based violence
- Through rigorous discussion, provide insights of linkage between power dynamics and gender inequality and male perpetration of gender-based violence in Cambodia
- Contribute GBV prevention efforts.



3. Scope of the study

- The study was conducted from September 2018 to September 2019
- Interviews were carried out in the capital city Phnom Penh, but covered the youth from all provinces except Keap
- In total, 874 youth were interviewed (408 females, 411 males and 40 monk); all were university students



4. Limitation of the study



- Sample size; small and all were university students who is a minority of Cambodian youth
- Many participants had never thought about gender power dynamics/masculinities issues, so it was difficult to obtain analytical views

Hegemonic Masculinity

Key Findings

The Study on Masculinity and
Sexual



Hegemonic masculinities in Cambodia

- Brave and strong (physically)
- Responsibility to handle and take care of the family
- Well-educated and rational
- Discipline, independent and trusted by people
- Never behave “girly” or show weakness

“Real men are brave to take any risk”- a male university student

How do boys learn all those traits and characteristic from?

- Environment where they are living in
 - i. Family
 - ii. School (friends, peers, teachers)
 - iii. Community (including pagoda)
- Influence by social media (Face book/Youtube)

“In family, we never talked about sexualities.

We talk it with friends, and learn from facebook”

- a male university student



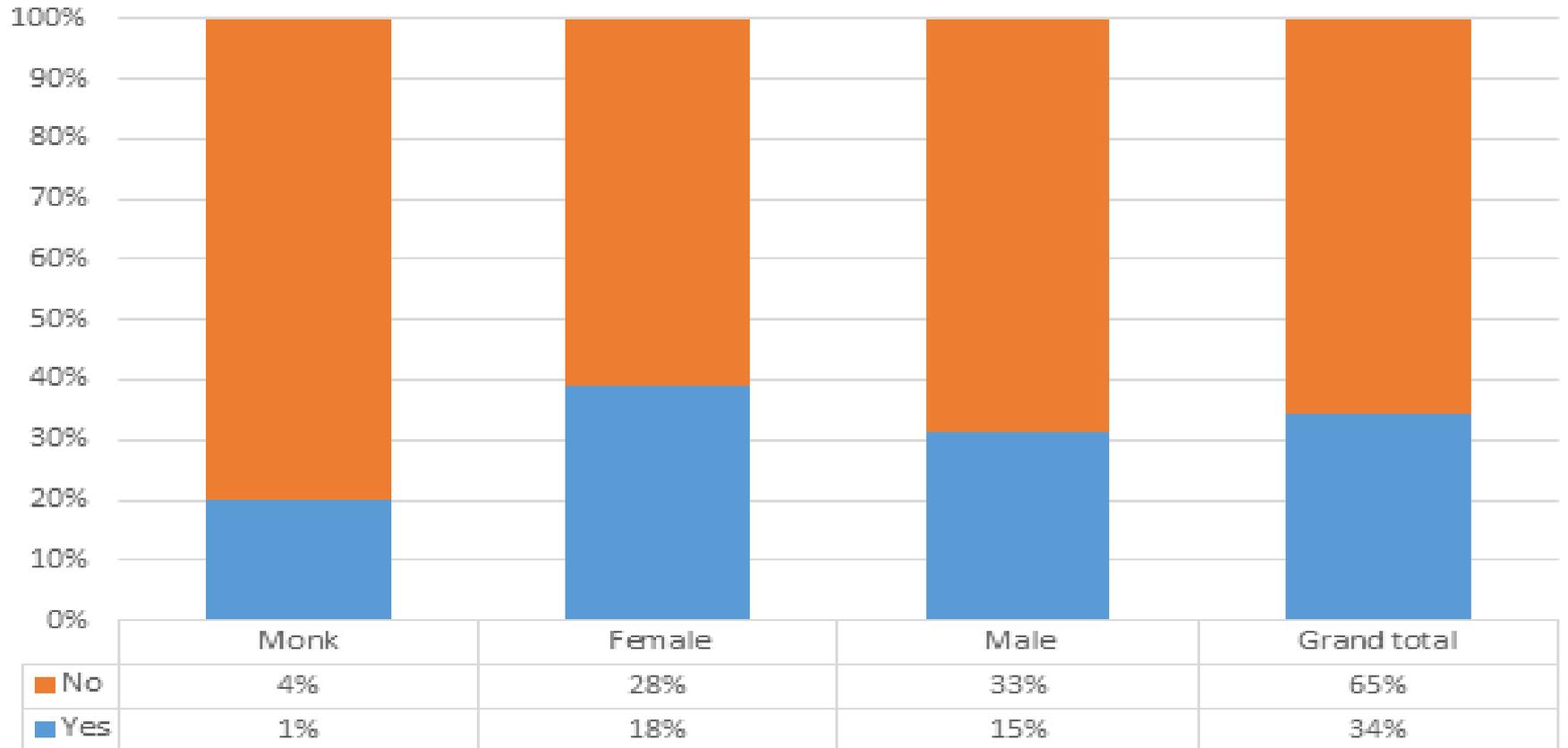
Pressures that married men face

- Changes in the life may pressure them;
 1. Less freedom
 2. Less time for personal activities
- Family burdens as the head of the family- responsibility to generate income to support family and for children's education
- Face work pressure (outside of house)

“I do not have freedom that I enjoyed while I was single. I have to care my wife, and her parents too, and must take credits to finish my university degree. Too much pressure.”

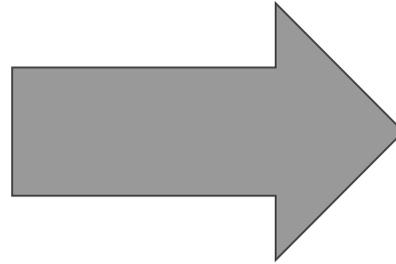
- A male married student

Is it okay for adult men to cry in front of other people?



No, its not okay to cry

- Show weakness
- Look down on them
- Affect to their fame and reputation



Yes, its okay

- Crying is a way to release sadness and suffering
- Better way to show his emotion to reduce their depressed

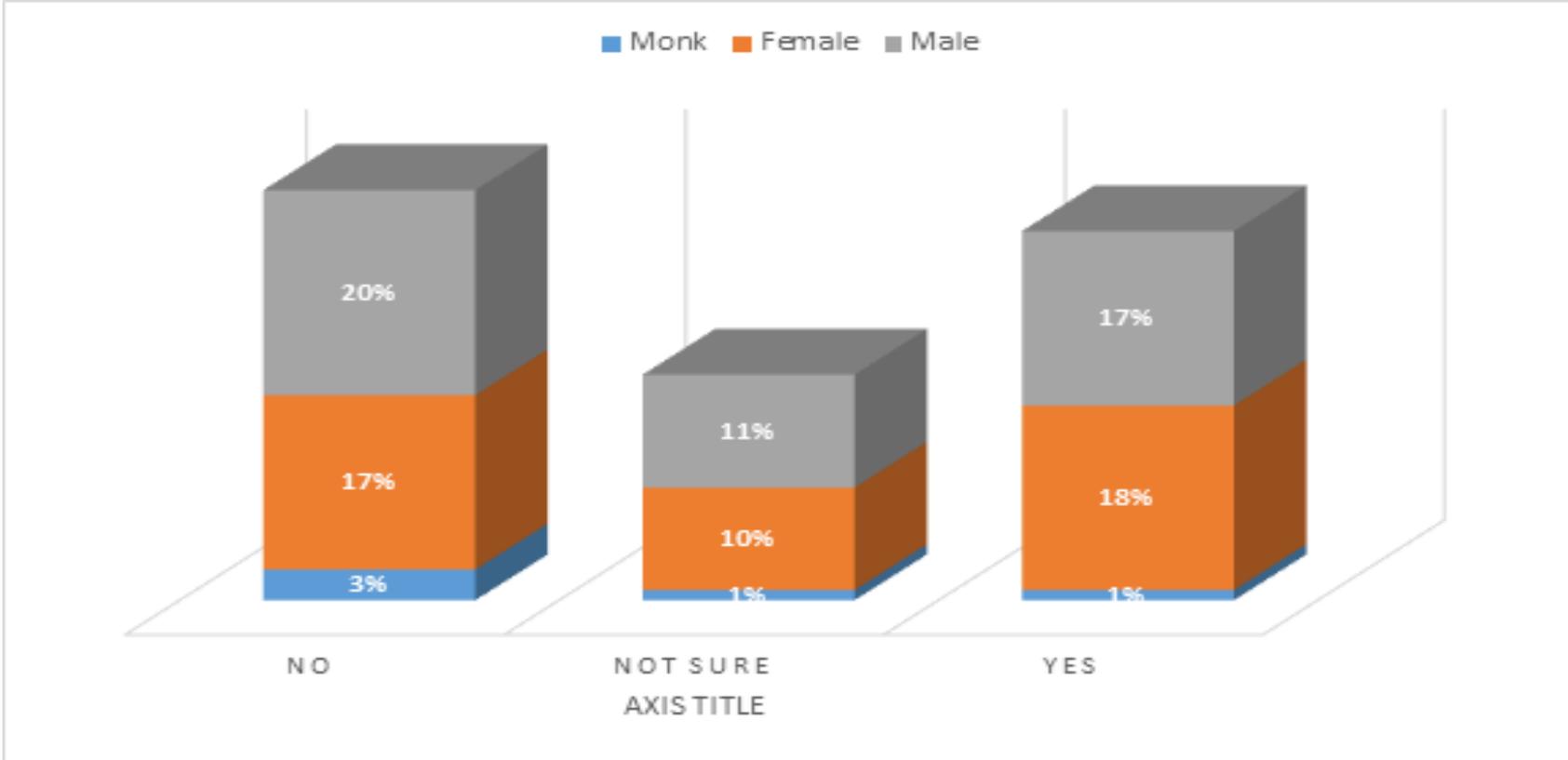
Masculinities and GBV

Key Findings

The Study on Masculinity and Sexual



Do you think an idea “How men should be” link to men’s perpetration of sexual violence against women?



NO

- Based on behavior of person
- Derived from cultural and environmental influence

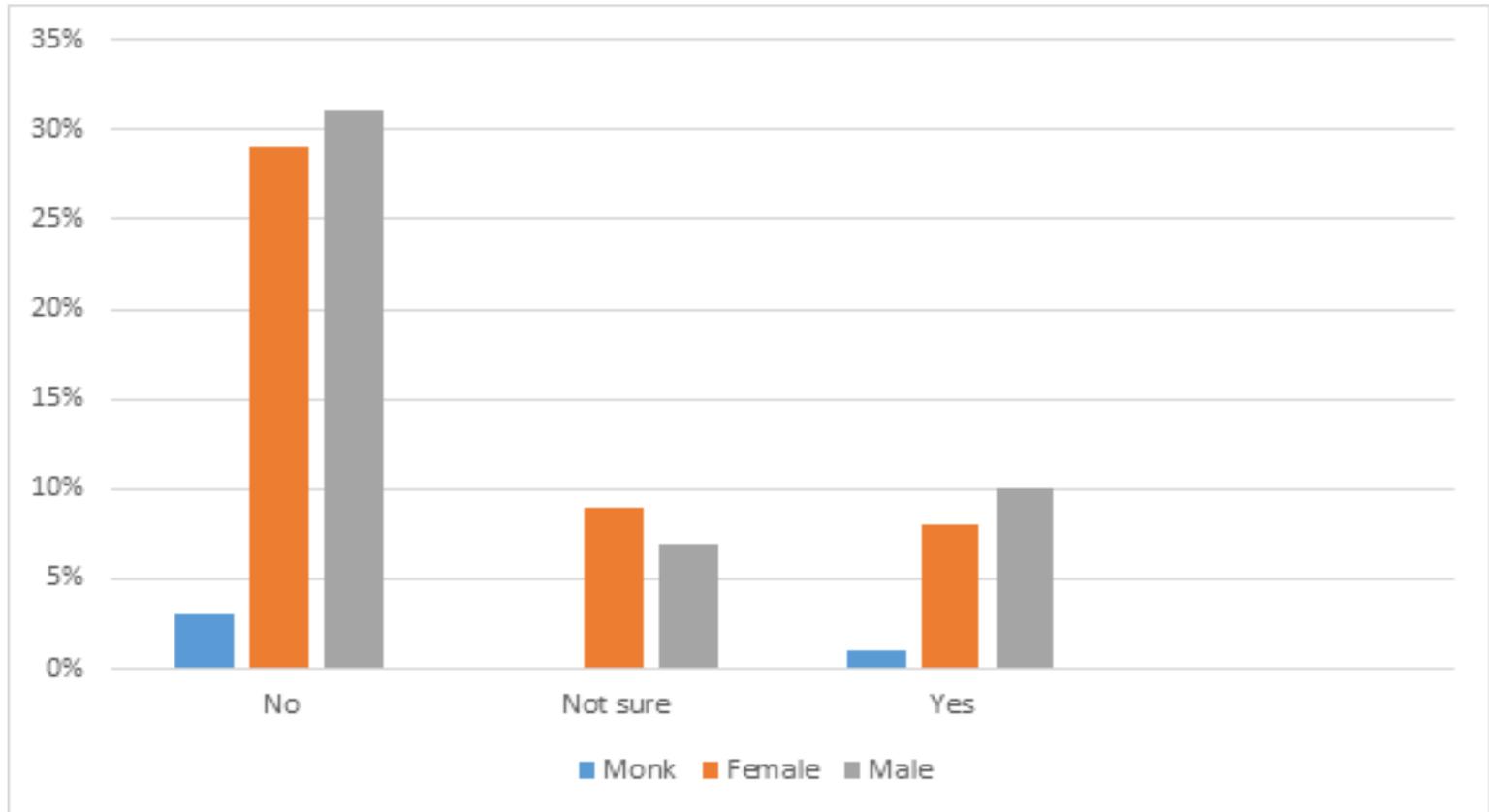
Yes

- Linkage between idea of how men should be and sexual violence against women
- Men should be strong and powerful
- Superior that they can do whatever they want

Not sure

- There were many cases that well-educated person commit sexual violence
- other , Have no idea

Do most men think it is okay that he used violence against wife?



NO

- Need to get consent from wives
- Should understand about their wife's health
- Should give value to their wife and can't have sex whenever they want

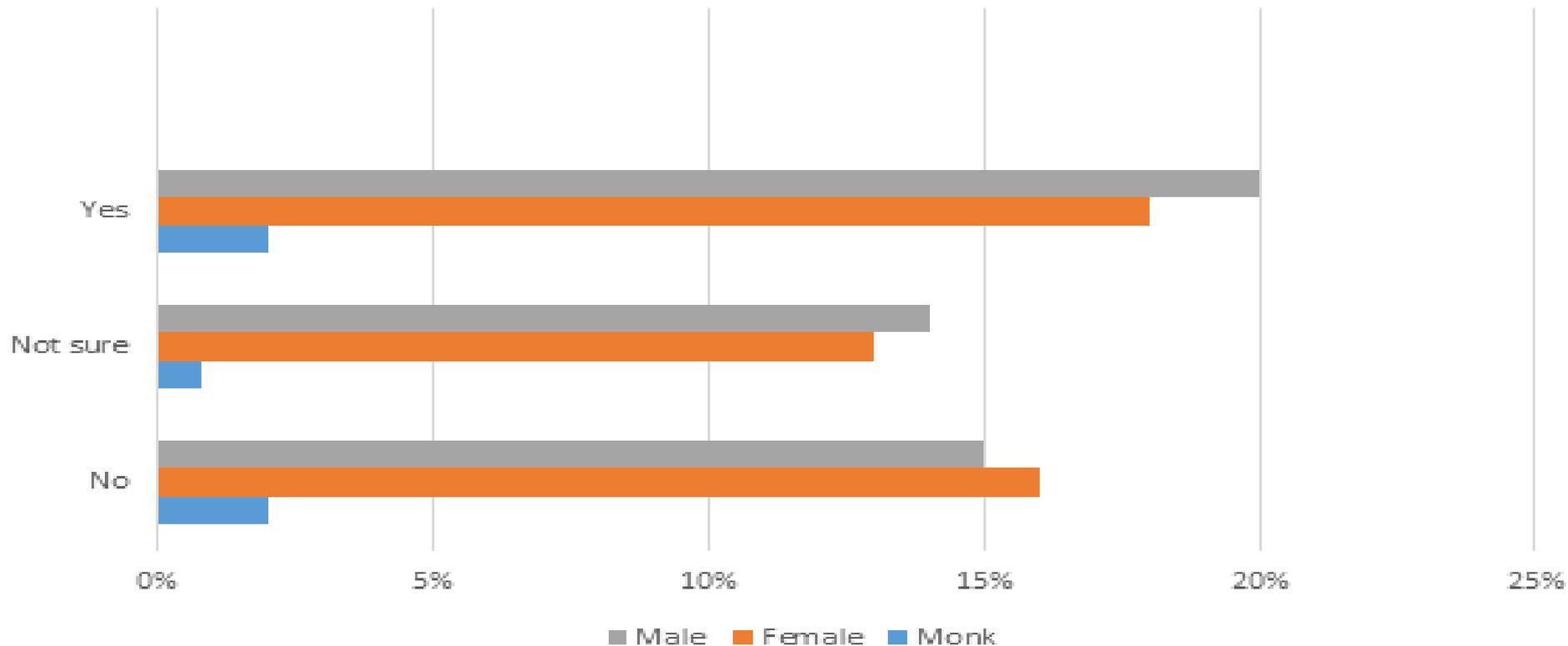
Yes

- Husband is superior and wife can't refuse
- Husband think they have more power on their wife
- Husband have the rights to control everything

Not sure

- If men understand the rights of wife, they will ask consent from them
- As real men, they should respect and value of their wives

If wife is working outside and earning substantive income (200-300USD/month), does husband avoid using violence?



Yes

- The substantive income can increase the power of women
- Husband will value his wife more and respect them

No

- Violence is not caused by income of wife but a husband's feeling of entitlement and the attitude

Not sure

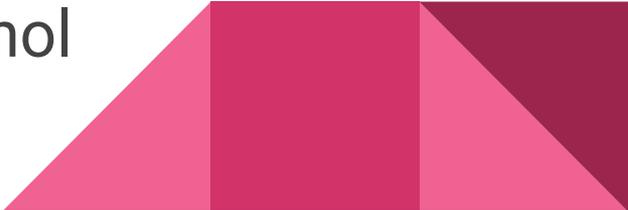
- Depend on characteristic of a husband.
- Depends on individual.
- Violence will not disappear if man doesn't value their wife

Anaysis

The Study on Masculinity and
Sexual violence

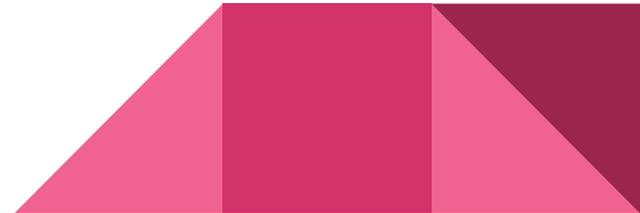


Why do some men use violence against their wives?

- Feeling of entitlement: Traditional perception that men are superior and notion of hegemonic masculinities are embodied amongst men
 - Influence from the surrounding environment where boys grow up (childhood experience/exposure to violence)
 - Other factors identified (contributing factors): Individual personality, addicted to drugs and alcohol
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How can we change harmful masculinities for social justice and gender equality?

We have an enabling environment to change



How can we change harmful masculinities for social justice and gender equality?

Family/individual setting

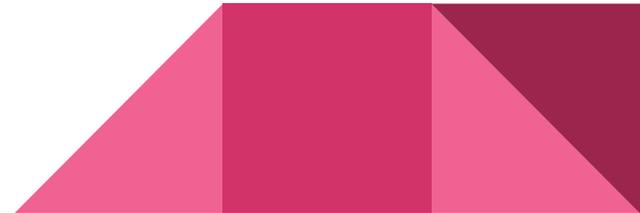
- Early intervention is a key: ensure boys learn gender equality, to wipe out patriarchal privileges (that their father/grandfather may enjoy), and to embrace sexual diversity
- Parenting skills- accelerate implementation of a national parenting strategy to make all families violent free

School setting

- Ensure CSE is taught nation wide
- Utilize social media to reach out-of-school boys

Policy level

- Strong law enforcement, eliminate impunity



Smash toxic masculinities!!

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