Written by By Melissa Martin  Guest Columnist
Friday, 28 December 2018 07:36



To prevent and stop violence against women, men in all 50 states of the USA need to stand up and speak out.

Mothers, sisters and daughters are victims of domestic violence. Wives, live-in partners, and girlfriends are victims of domestic violence. Relatives are victims of domestic violence. Neighbors are victims of domestic violence. Teenagers are victims of dating violence. Children are victims of family violence.

Throughout history it's been women at the forefront for change at the grassroots level and at our nation's capital as they marched for the courts to pass laws to intervene in family violence. Women marched for law enforcement to enforce the laws. And women are still marching.

Where are the male voices? Why aren't men involved in stopping domestic violence? Will men listen to men? They certainly aren't listening to women.

"Now, when it comes to men and male culture, the goal is to get men who are not abusive to challenge men who are," proclaimed Jackson Katz at TEDxFiDiWomen. He continued, "We need more men with the guts, with the courage, with the strength, with the moral integrity to break our complicit silence and challenge each other and stand with women and not against them."

Journalist for *The Guardian,* Anna Moore interviewed Patrick Stewart (Star Trek's Captain

Picard) and the Hart brothers at a 2018 domestic violence charity event before they took the stage to speak. Moore asked why these men are speaking out.

Why? “Because domestic violence is a man’s problem...We are the ones who are committing the offenses, performing the cruel acts, controlling and denying. It’s the men,” Patrick Stewart commented after sharing that his father abused his mother.

Why? “To tackle domestic abuse, you need to look at masculinity,” Luke Hart asserted. “Our father’s need for control came from his beliefs on what it means to be a man. I think most men – like me, before this happened – don’t realize how dangerous it is.” In 2016 in a small town in England, Lance Hart shot Claire, his wife, and 19-year-old daughter Charlotte, four days after the women had left him. Both died. Ryan and Luke Hart have become advocates against domestic violence.

***RESOURCE***

A CALL TO MEN is internationally recognized for training and educating men to embrace and promote a healthy, respectful manhood.

The organization’s approach is grounded in the social ecological model, advocated by the Centers for Disease Control, as a framework for primary prevention of gender-based violence.

A CALL TO MEN partners with schools, universities, corporations, government, social service agencies, military installations, communities to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

A CALL TO MEN educates men all over the world on healthy, respectful manhood. Embracing and promoting a healthy, respectful manhood prevents violence against women, sexual assault and harassment, bullying and many other social ills.

A CALL TO MEN is a violence prevention organization and respected leader on issues of manhood, male socialization and its intersection with violence, and preventing violence against all women and girls.

A CALL TO MEN Training Institutes provide advanced training on engaging men and boys in domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, and educating them on healthy, respectful manhood. (Visit: www.acalltomen.org.)

This is a call for men in America to stand up and speak out against domestic violence. Will you answer?

***Melissa Martin, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator and therapist. She lives in Ohio.***

By Melissa Martin
Guest Columnist