Understanding & Explaining #metoo, #timesup & #SayHerName to Young People

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Goal

This webinar will explore how social media (hashtag activism) is being used as a tool to highlight issues of violence, injustice & harassment, particularly against women and girls.
Objectives

- In this webinar, participants will:
  - Get an overview of three current campaigns using social media to affect change.
  - Explore common themes linking all three campaigns.
  - Learn about strategies for discussing these issues with young people.
  - Gain tools to help their students understand, interrupt & speak out against violence and harassment, particularly against women and other marginalized groups.
Agenda

- Poll
- Stats
- Video
- Overview of the movements

- Misconceptions & pushback
- Talking to youth
- Questions, comments & suggestions
- Resources
Poll

- “What does safety mean to you?”
- “Who or what makes you feel safe?”
Why is this important?

- 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted rape or completed rape in her lifetime.
- About 3% of American men---or 1 in 33---have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.
- Young people are at the highest risk of sexual violence.
- Ages 12-34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault.

According to Harvard Grad School of Education’s **Making Caring Common Project**, 76% of the over 3,000 young adults researchers interviewed had never had a conversation with their parents about sexual harassment, misogyny or mature relationships.

1 in 3 women ages 18 to 34 have been sexually harassed at work. 71% of those women said they did not report it. [Source: Cosmopolitan survey of 2,235 full and part-time female employees, 2015](https://www.cosmopolitan.com/politics/a7940205/women-sexual-harassment-survey/)

Sexual harassment is pervasive across industries, but especially in low-wage service jobs. For example, more than 25% of sexual harassment charges filed with the EEOC in the last decade came from industries with service-sector workers. [Source: https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/news/2017/11/20/443139/not-just-rich-famous/](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/news/2017/11/20/443139/not-just-rich-famous/)

Black women and girls are only 13% of the population, but they account for 1/3 of all women shot to death in encounters with the police.
Video

- Tarana Burke on Harry: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SanfD0QMZuQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SanfD0QMZuQ)
In 2006, Tarana Burke founded the me too. movement to help survivors of sexual violence, particularly young women of color from low wealth communities, find pathways to healing. Using the idea of “empowerment through empathy,” the me too. movement was ultimately created to ensure survivors know they're not alone in their journey.
While the movement was started in 2006 by Tarana Burke, it gained new momentum over a decade later following a scandal in Hollywood.

Oct. 2017, film mogul, Harvey Weinstein, was the subject of a NY Times exposé detailing years of accusations of sexual abuse & harassment.

Actress Alyssa Milano, who’s friend, Rose McGowan, was one of the most vocal accusers of Weinstein, tweeted:

- “If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote ‘Me Too.’ as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem.”

The Me Too. movement was finally getting attention on a global level, via media coverage & critical conversations being had in public forums about rape, sexual inappropriateness, abuse & harassment.
About 1 in 4 young people say

“Since the #MeToo movement, I’ve noticed the guys around me have changed their behavior.”

metoo.mtv.com
Video

- Tarana Burke on Harry talking about Time’s Up: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BIMZct4wbk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BIMZct4wbk)
"I want all of the girls watching here now to know, that a new day is on the horizon. And when that new day finally dawns, it will be because of a lot of magnificent women, many of whom are right here in this room tonight, and some pretty phenomenal men, fighting hard to make sure that they become the leaders who take us to the time when nobody ever has to say, 'me too' again." **Oprah Winfrey** accepts the 2018 Cecil B. de Mille award. #GoldenGlobes

TIME’S UP on silence.
TIME’S UP on waiting.
TIME’S UP on tolerating discrimination, harassment and abuse.
The Time’s Up movement was created on Jan. 1st, 2018 by women in Hollywood in response to a culture of rampant sexual assault and harassment that was highlighted by the #MeToo movement.

After receiving a message from Alianza Nacional de Compesinas (The National Farmworker Women’s Alliance), over 300 women in Hollywood drafted a solidarity statement acknowledging their shared experiences with these women as well as their privilege related to their celebrity status. In this statement, they vowed to support these & other women...through their voice & their wallet.
Female celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Janelle Monae & Frances McDormand took the stage during events like The Golden Globes & The Academy Awards to speak out against sexual harassment as well as issues of gender inequality in pay, employment & visibility.

A legal defense fund was created to financially support those who took legal action against perpetrators of assault, harassment and discrimination based on gender. As of February, this fund has retained over 200 volunteer lawyers and raised $20 million
#SayHerName
#SayHerName

- The #SayHerName movement arose as a result of the Black Lives Matter movement and the mainstream media's tendency to sideline the experiences of black women in the context of police brutality and anti-Black violence.

- Black women and girls are only 13% of the population, but they account for 1/3 of all women shot to death in encounters with the police.

- Such is the case of Meagan Hockaday. In March 2015, in Ventura, California, police officers shot and killed Hockaday—a young mother of three—within 20 seconds of entering her home in response to a domestic disturbance.

- The movement was started in 2015 by Kimberle Crenshaw who has been active in highlighting violence & injustices against Black women while pointing out the need for an intersectional approach to exploring and addressing these issues.
Common Threads

- Safety (or lack thereof)
- Violence in some shape or form (sexual, physical, verbal, economic)
- Power & abuse or misuse of Power
- Abuse of vulnerable populations & marginalized groups
- Silence &/or lack of acknowledgement of abuse
- Normalizing abuse, misconduct & predatory behavior
- Use of social media to bring awareness to the issues
Misconceptions & Pushback

- Are we demonizing men, boys & police
- “Women harass/assault men, too!”
- Boys being boys
- Policing language & behavior
Talking to Young People (1)

- **Pro-actively, create a safe space**
  - Group agreements inc. guidelines about appropriate touch & consent e.g. “ask first”, “respect no/stop”, “it’s OK to say no” (post & re-visit if issues arise).

- Talk to ALL the children…don’t only talk to the girls or female-bodied students.

- If/when discussing these campaigns, stick to the basic facts. Keep it simple and developmentally appropriate.

- Define sexual abuse and harassment and what is “OK” behavior between different people.

- **Focus on skill building**. Have young people learn the essential skills for healthy relationship management, decision making, self-management, and advocacy. These are some of the skills in the New York State Education Health Education Scope and Sequence (*in resources section*).
Talking to Young People (2)

- Be mindful of your language when you think young people aren’t around. Even if you are not talking about them, young people hear and remember your comments about other students, staff or celebrities on TV.

- Don’t force kids to hug or show affection to anyone, including an adult, if they don’t want to. That goes against the idea of consent by denying them agency & giving them the mixed message that they can not say “no” to an adult.

- Ask your students to identify trusted adults in their lives. Let them know that you are a trusted ally there to support them, BUT also be clear to them that if they disclose they they have been or are being harmed, you must report it.

- In case someone does disclose harassment and/or abuse/assault, defer to a professional on-site or off-site (e.g. guidance counselor, supervisor, mandated reporter).

- Create a “cheat sheet” of the mandated reporters at your site or all your sites if you work at various locations. Keep on you during programs.
Talking to Young People (3)

- Teach young people what their rights are. This is particularly important if they have been abused, assaulted or intimidated by someone in a position of authority.

- If someone tells you of their experience with abuse, assault, harassment, violence…BELIEVE THEM & ask them what they need.

- You don’t have to have all the answers, but you do need to listen to the questions & concerns of your students.

- **Normalize the conversation around these issues, don’t normalize bad behavior**

- It is easy for youth to feel powerless when discussing or dealing with these issues. Highlight other youth activists who have mobilized around similar issues such as actresses Yara Shahidi & Zendaya, Girl’s Rights Advocate, Malala Yousafzai & Stoneman Douglas H.S. School Shooting survivor, Emma Gonzalez.
Questions, Comments & Suggestions
Resources: Videos

- Tarana Burke on Harry discussing #metoo: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SanfD0QMZuQ
- Tarana Burke on Harry talking about what can people do to address sexual assault: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nU12uh3Uyg
- Tarana Burke on Harry talking about Time’s Up: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BIMZct4wbk
- Oprah Winfrey speaks with “Time’s Up” organizers for CBS Sunday Morning: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CNoAsrvwrg
- The Men of The #MeToo Movement: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GI-jNe8SPmk
- #SAYHERNAME: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49-jhS-H50c
Resources: Articles & Organizations

- Me Too. Movement: https://metoomvmt.org
- Times Up Movement: https://www.timesupnow.com
- Say Her Name Movement: http://www.aapf.org/sayhername/
- What You Need to Know about the #metoo movement: https://www.wellandgood.com/good-advice/me-too-social-media-sexual-abuse-assault/
- #SayHerName: Why We Should Declare That Black Women and Girls Matter, Too. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/21/black-women-matter_n_7363064.html?ncid=engmodushpmg00000006
Resources: Articles & Organizations

- **8 Resources for Teaching About #MeToo and Sexual Harassment**: https://humaneeducation.org/blog/2018/6-resources-teaching-metoo-sexual-harassment/


- **How to Talk to Kids About Difficult Subjects**: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-difficult-subjects
Resources: Hotlines & Websites

- **RAINN** (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) provides information and a 24/7 confidential hotline, staffed by people who are trained to help in matters of sexual harassment or assault. (800) 656.HOPE (4673) /www.rainn.org / [online.rainn.org](http://online.rainn.org)

- **Lean In** - Women in over 150 countries have joined the Lean In community. Read their newly created advice, information, and support for harassment survivors and for anyone who wants to help. [leanin.org/sexual-harassment/](http://leanin.org/sexual-harassment/)

- **NYS Dept. of Ed.**

- **ACT for Youth** - [www.actforyouth.net](http://www.actforyouth.net)
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