



## **Gender Equality in Singapore: An Action Plan for Progress**

**Thursday, 3 June 2021**

PANEL III  
Mindsets and Minefields

**SPEAKER**

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# Masculinity in Singapore

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# Masculinity

*“A set of physical & behavioral traits that are male typical and that therefore distinguishes men from women, on average”*

[Source: Lippa, R. A. (2016). Biological influences on masculinity. American Psychological Association Handbook of Men & Masculinities, 187-209]

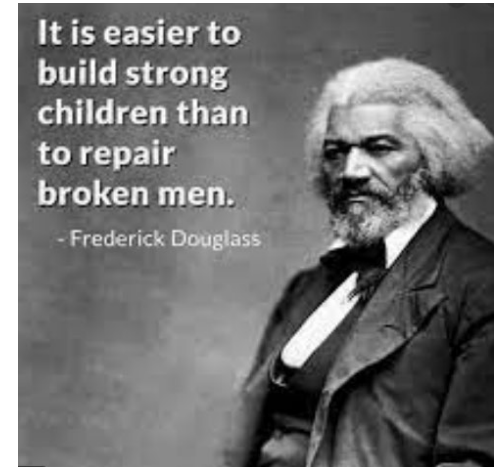
# Societal Expectations of Masculinity

- *Acts as a leader*
- *Aggressive*
- *Ambitious*
- *Analytical*
- *Assertive*
- *Athletic*
- *Competitive*
- *Defends own beliefs*
- *Dominant*
- *Forceful*
- *Has leadership abilities*
- *Independent*
- *Individualistic*
- *Makes decisions easily*
- *Masculine*
- *Self-reliant*
- *Self-sufficient*
- *Strong personality*
- *Willing to take a stand*
- *Willing to take risks*

[Source: Auster, C. & Ohm, S. (2000). Masculinity and Femininity in Contemporary American Society: A Reevaluation Using the Bem Sex-Role Inventory. *Sex Roles*, 43]

# Recommendation 1

- Government to support the establishment of more specialized services for men, especially Fathers, to model masculinity & support those undergoing challenges & stresses in life



# Toxic Masculinity

- Suppressing Emotions
- Masking Distress
- Maintaining an appearance of hardness
- Violence as an indicator of power

[Source: American Psychological Association. (n.d.). Harmful masculinity and violence. American Psychological Association]

[Source: Salam, M. (2019, January 22). What is Toxic Masculinity? The New York Times]

# Impact on Women & Society

- Rigid adherence to stereotypes of dominance & aggression can result in an increased likelihood of abusing women & domestic partner violence

[Source: Flood, Michael. (2021). Forceful and dominant: men with sexist ideas of masculinity are more likely to abuse women. *The Conversation*]

[Source: Hong, L. (2000). Toward a Transformed Approach to Prevention: Breaking the Link Between Masculinity and Violence, *Journal of American College Health*, 48]

- Toxic masculinity tends to emphasize hyper-sexualisation of women & hyper-competitiveness, which can lead to hostile workplace environments for women

[Source: Althof, H. (2021, March 6). How Toxic Masculinity Is Ruining Your Workplace Culture. SHRM]

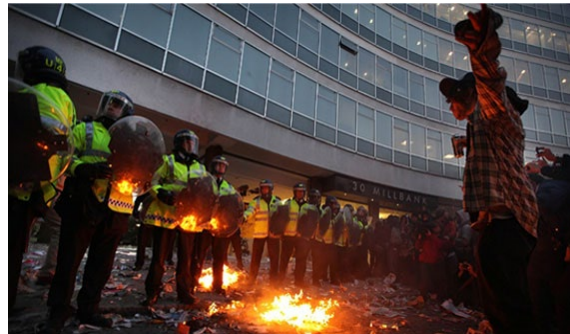


## Recommendation 2

- Government to enhance legislation against pornography & establish agencies to protect women & children against online harm



# The UK Riots (August 2011)



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“In the UK, 40% of all children are born outside of marriage. British society is characterized by whole communities without fathers and without meaningful male role models... By the time boys are in their early teens they are physically stronger than their mothers. Having no fathers, they are socialized in gangs. No one can control them: not parents, teachers, or even the local police.”

- Dr Jim Eckman (Issues In Perspective)

# Impact of Singapore's Fathering Movement

- 5,000,000 Reach annually
- 300,000 Families engaged annually
- 50,000 Fathers equipped/supported (fr. 2000)
- 121 Father Groups in community
- 27 Nations partnering on Fathering Movement



*“In a longitudinal study looking at boys age 7 to 16, boys with involved fathers were less likely to get into trouble with the police”*

[Source: Flouri, Eirini & Buchanan, Ann. (2005). Father involvement in childhood and trouble with the Police in Adolescence Findings from the 1958 British Cohort. Journal of Interpersonal Violence 17(6)]

# Community & Resource for Fathers

- Greater Social Impact when your passions/ expertise combine with our community engagement platforms:

