

Workshop TOXIC MASCULINITY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

* Dr. Stephen Whitehead with Ms. Van Thanh Binh

April 20th, 2023

1PM (CET) on Zoom - 90 minutes







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This workshop explores toxic masculinity and in particular its effects on females. It will provide an understanding of identity work and how TM originates in males; it will offer guidance for how females can recognize TM in males, and solutions for dealing with TM behavior in males.

Toxic masculinity is not only about the lives of boys and men, it is about the lives of girls and women. TM is a mindset which creates divisions between the sexes, harms both males and females, and validates misogyny and patriarchal behavior. Males with TM as their basic identity construct are more likely to be homophobic, racist, aggressive, and emotionally dysfunctional. Their levels of EQ will be low as will their self-awareness and empathy. They may try to appear confident and 'strong' but are in fact highly vulnerable and insecure.

Although males suffer from TM, the corrosive and negative impact of TM on females cannot be over-stated. It is not only that females are physically at risk from TM, they are at risk of acquiring toxic femininity.

I define toxic femininity as follows:

Toxic femininity is the internalization and expression of negative, painful feelings and emotions produced by shame, guilt, rejection, frustration, neglect, confusion, disenchantment, abuse, violence, and hopelessness. Toxic femininity is a mindset of helplessness, a belief that one is no longer worthy of love.'

(From; Van Thanh Binh and Stephen Whitehead, 2023-forthcoming; 'Toxic Femininity: Overcoming suffering through self-love')

Toxic masculinity creates suffering for girls and women and directly impacts their sense of self-worth and self-confidence.

As Binh and myself will discuss in this workshop, there are solutions to the threats which TM poses to females and similar solutions apply to males. But interventions within any school need to be undertaken early, be consistent, be emotionally intelligent, and enlist the support of the whole school community.



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Dr. Stephen M. Whitehead is an internationally recognised expert on gender identity, men and masculinities, and international education. Author of 17 books; Co-founder and Director of Whitehead, Lee & Associates (education consultants); Co-founder and Lead Writer for Educational Digest International; Total Inclusivity Trainer and Advisor for international and private schools; Co-founder and Director of Intelligence Partnership Consultancy (Vietnam).

Stephen's books and writing span nearly 30 years and range from the essential sociological text on 'Men and Masculinities' (2002) to the mainstream best-selling 'Many Faces of Men' (2004) (translated into 15 languages). His most recent works are 'Toxic Masculinity' (2020); 'International Schooling: The Teacher's Guide' (2020); 'Becoming a Totally Inclusive School' (2022); and 'Total Inclusivity at Work' (2022).

Stephen's latest project is www.intelligencepartnership.com. This unique consultancy provides training and education in emotional intelligence for individuals, organisations and schools. His 17th book, to be published later this year and co-authored with Van Thanh Binh, is on femininity, toxic masculinity and self-love.

Stephen will be joined in this workshop by Ms Van Thanh Binh, an expert on femininities, emotional intelligence, and the practice of self-love for females.

Dr. Stephen M. Whitehead





