

Social Justice Watch 1018

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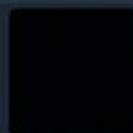
••••• Verizon

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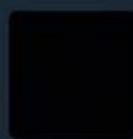
Teenage Closeted
@TeenageCloseted



I didn't watch the VP debate
because I can't bring myself to
listen to Mike Pence speak.

10/4/16, 11:25 PM

525 RETWEETS 981 LIKES



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h



In case you didn't know, Mike Pence
wanted to divert all national HIV
funding into "conversion therapy"
for the LGBT community



2,041



1,675



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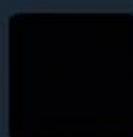
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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

Conversion therapy is when they take someone who's LGBT and force them to become straight by any means necessary (including shock therapy)



409

479



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I was in conversation therapy from November 2012 to May 2013 (I was 15/16). Those are the darkest days of my life.



248

405



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

The first session they sat down with my parents and I and explained their tactics. They used a 2 part system that usually takes 9 months



157

207



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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

The first part (the first 6 months)
they "deconstructed us as a
person." Essentially teaching us to
hate ourselves



206

331



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

And this wasn't just the fake "oh I
hate myself" you hear on the
streets. This was a deep loathing for
everything you are.



155

299



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

This stage was done when we were
so desperate to change ourselves
that we were willing to do anything.



156

280



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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

They explained that about 50% of their "patients" killed themselves when this process was near completion



284

365



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I found this to be true. I met around 50 people during my time there, and 27 killed themselves. We were all between the ages of 13 and 17



253

400



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

Jamie, the only 13 year old I met during my time there killed himself during my second week. He was the first I saw die



178

316



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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

After him, they all kind of blended together. Every week (we did groups on Mondays) I would wonder who would be there and who would be dead



142

276



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I was also suicidal as I was reaching the end of the first step. I attempted several times, but they didn't work. All I wanted was death



142

256



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

The second stage was when they would "rebuild you in their image." Basically, they would teach you how to be straight



150

252



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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

This stage never lasted long
because we were desperate. Most
people finished in a couple months.
It was all about repressing yourself



137

252



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

They taught you how to talk, walk,
eat, dress, and act. They stripped
you of your individuality and made
you a robot



153

275



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I got out because I was lucky. In
October before I had started, I
applied for a missions trip with my
church to Jamaica



135

255



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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

When I was there, I saw my opportunity. If I could come back and act like I was ready and on fire for step two, I could make it.



127



245



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I fucking sold it. I came back in the start of April and I finished in May. They even told to my parents that I was excited to be straight



128



265



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I never finished step one, but when I left I was destroyed. I still hated myself because they didn't teach you to love yourself



147



278



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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

All they taught was repression. They even encouraged suicide because "at least we wouldn't be gay anymore."



245

379



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

Every time I see Mike Pence, I have flashbacks to these horrible months. I remember what they did to us



208

388



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I couldn't even begin to tell you the tactics they used during step one because when I try to talk about it I completely shut down



157

301



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Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

I couldn't even begin to tell you the tactics they used during step one because when I try to talk about it I completely shut down



157

301



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

But it was enough to make 27 people kill themselves in 6 months. Conversion therapy is vile. Do not support this vile man



306

539



Teenage Closeted @Teenag... · 20h

Please, share this story. Let America know exactly who this man is and what he supports. It is evil. This man is evil.



331

519



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TW: Conversion therapy, suicide, self harm, familial cruelty, abuse.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/transarmy/permalink/676526132996887/>

"Patriarchy is like a man, having his boot on a woman's neck.

Feminism is a woman complaining about the boot.

Conservatives insist there wasn't a problem with the boot being on the neck until the woman started talking about it. If she would just be quiet about the boot, there wouldn't be a problem.

Male allies think there's a way to talk about the boot being on the neck that appeals to everyone and doesn't "alienate" those that would help remove the boot.

"Good Guys" insist that not all men wear boots.

Women with internalized misogyny insist they have a boot on their neck by choice and they love it! They insist something is wrong with women complaining about the boot.

The boot is never removed from the neck."

-LeAndra Lee Baker-

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10158709876313887>

S O Y O U W A N T T O T A L K A B O U T

Toxic Masculinity



Discussing toxic masculinity is not saying men are bad or evil, and the term is NOT an assertion that men are naturally violent.

In fact, this conversation was started by men.

The phrase is derived from studies that focus on violent behavior perpetrated by men, and - this is key - is designed to describe not masculinity itself, but a form of gendered behavior that results when expectations of “what it means to be a man” go wrong.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
SOURCE: TOLERANCE.ORG



Toxic masculinity.

is a narrow and repressive description of manhood, designating manhood as defined by violence, sex, status and aggression. It's the cultural ideal of manliness, where strength is everything while emotions are a weakness; where sex and brutality are yardsticks by which men are measured, while supposedly "feminine" traits—which can range from emotional vulnerability to simply not being hypersexual—are the means by which your status as "man" can be taken away.

Men AND women suffer from toxic masculinity.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
SOURCE: GOODMENPROJECT.COM



Toxic masculinity is best described as a box. It's narrow, rigid, and men have to contort themselves to fit inside it.

To fit in the man box of toxic masculinity, a man must live by a particular set of beliefs and behaviors:

- Suffer pain in silence
- Don't depend on anyone
- Have no needs
- Don't do anything that could be construed as weakness
- Never lose
- Never snitch.
- Show no emotions other than bravado or rage

The man box also requires that men buy into a rigid hierarchy in which straight men are dominant over everybody else.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
SOURCE: SCIENTIFICAMERICAN.COM



The World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized that men's tendency to die at younger ages may correlate to the harmful ways that masculinity has been defined in society and the ways that men have been conditioned to practice it. The gender roles, norms and practices socially imposed on men reinforce a lack of self-care and neglect of their own physical and mental health.

WHO determined that risk-taking behaviors and lack of willingness to seek help were among the reasons for negative health outcomes that men experience. This lack of willingness to seek help is not limited to physical injury and illness. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reports that the suicide rate for men is about four times higher than it is for women.



This concept of toxic masculinity leads to three overarching risks:

- Risk to women and children, in the form of violence, sexually transmitted infections, and lack of shared responsibility in the home
- Risk to other men, such accidents, homicides and other violence
- Risk to self, such as suicide, accidents, alcoholism and other addictions.

Not only does this affect the health of men themselves, but it also leads to negative outcomes for women and children in terms of interpersonal violence, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections, imposed pregnancy and absent paternity.



“Boys will be boys.”

The phrase ‘boys will be boys,’ is often used to describe what some consider are normal masculine tendencies boys might have, such as being rough and reckless.

Dr. Tyler Sasser, a psychologist in Seattle Children’s Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine clinic believes these characteristics of what society deems as masculine can often reflect unhealthy and sometimes risky behaviors.

“In Western culture, boys and men are expected to be competitive, tough and dominant,” Sasser said. “The term, traditional masculinity, labels these expectations. Meaning, boys and men need to be stoic and suppress emotions they experience, other than anger.”

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
SOURCE: SEATTLECHILDRENS.ORG



There is no such thing as a gendered brain.

British neuroscientist Gina Rippon has sounded the alarm on the myth that our brains are gendered. Instead, she says, “it’s our gendered world” that shapes everything from educational policy and social hierarchies to relationships, self-identity, wellbeing and mental health.

“The brain is very flexible throughout our lives, and the human brain is more affected by external demands, including social attitudes and expectations, than any other species. It’s good for us to be social beings, but it’s bad for us if the expectations and attitudes are negative.”

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
SOURCE: GINA RIPON VIA UNDARK.ORG



What we don't say enough:

There is no official guide on "how to be a man."

In a study by the Journal of Adolescent Health, researchers look at the hegemonic myth: the perception that men are the dominant sex, strong and independent, while women need to be protected.

This idea starts in early childhood, reinforced by schools, parents and media. While boys, men described having the freedom to come and go as they pleased to pursue education and other opportunities, girls found their mobility and access to education restricted, the study notes.

"This phenomenon leads to numerous cascading cultural perceptions."

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
SOURCE: NIH.GOV



What can we do?

- Fight against the idea that violence is a natural expression for men. Provide boys and men with nonviolent conflict resolution skills and stress to them how important it is in this world to be able to handle conflict nonviolently.
- Consider how masculine norms are taught and reinforced, how gender inequalities show themselves in the lives of both men, women, and non-binary people.
- Focus on violence-prevention approaches directly addressing gender and power.
- Decouple harmful norms from masculinity and rebuild with healthy expectations. For example, we often teach boys leadership, but not how to be a sympathetic and considerate leader. We see leadership as a binary where you either rule with an iron fist or don't rule at all. Teach our boys that listening to those that you lead and taking their opinions and thoughts into consideration is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength.

@SOYOUWANTTOTALKABOUT
SOURCE: FOCUSFORHEALTH.ORG

<https://www.facebook.com/transarmy/posts/201658521329334>

The Actual Wealth Distribution of the U.S., What Americans Think the Wealth Distribution Is, and What They'd Like It to Be





These charts are from a 2014 study by folks at the Harvard Business School and they're mind blowing. Americans grossly underestimate how unequal American society is. And what they identify as "ideal" is dramatically more equal than the reality. [source](#)

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