Definition of Male Peer Support

- Male peer support is a concept Walter DeKeseredy developed.
- He defined it as the attachments to male peers and the resources that these men provide which encourage and legitimate woman abuse.

One of the Most Powerful Determinants of VAW

- Since 1988, Martin Schwartz and I have consistently found that male peer support is one of the most robust predictors of woman abuse in universities/colleges, public housing estates, rural communities, and in other contexts.
A Brief History of This Book

- It grew out of seeds planted in several places at York University in Toronto and at the 1987 American Society of Criminology meetings in Montreal.

DeKeseredy's 1988 Male Peer Support Model

Modified Male Peer Support Model
Contemporary MPS Theories

• A Gendered Social Bond/Male Peer Support Theory of University Woman Abuse

[Diagram showing relationships between economic exclusion, social isolation, stress, and woman abuse]

A FEMINIST/MALE PEER SUPPORT MODEL OF SOCIETAL PATRIARCHY
SEXUAL ASSAULT DURING AND AFTER SEPARATION/DIVORCE

[Diagram showing pathways from societal patriarchy to sexual assault with stages such as 'man's powerlessness' and 'breaking the silence']
A Rural Masculinity Crisis/Male Peer Support Model of Separation/Divorce Sexual Assault

- Rural Social and Economic Formations
- Challenges to Masculine Identity
- Male Peer Support
- Separation/Divorce Sexual Assault

Two Other Theories

- A social and economic exclusion model of separation/divorce woman abuse in public housing.
- A New Left Realist Gendered Subcultural Theory

What Do The Data Say?

- Data scattered throughout our new book support what Lee Bowker (1983) said close to 30 years ago about all-male subcultures of violence:
  
  "This is not a subculture that is confine to a single class, religion, occupational grouping, or race. It is spread throughout all parts of society. Men are socialized by other subculture members to accept common definitions of the situation, norms, values, and beliefs about male dominance and the necessity of keeping their wives in line. These violence-supporting social relations may occur at any time and in any place."
What Is To Be Done?

Ending Woman Abuse: The Contribution of Feminist Men

“Since it is men who are the offenders, it should be men – not women – who change their behavior”

Ron Thorne-Finch, author of Ending the Silence.

Individual Strategies

- Each day, always ask yourself “What can I do to help prevent woman abuse today?”
• Protesting and boycotting hotels and video stores that carry pornography.
• Demanding that issues of central concern to the gay, lesbian, and transgendered community be addressed in schools, workplaces, etc.
• Confronting men who make sexist jokes and who are abusive.

Other Feminist Men’ s Strategies

• Supporting and participating in woman abuse awareness programs.
• Actively listening to women and reading literature on their concerns.
• Protesting racist practices and discourses.

• Use new technologies
• “Takin’ It to the Streets”
• Boycotting Harmful Companies, Stores, Products, and Services
• Transforming “Well-Meaning Men” into Responders
• The Home and School
Conclusion

- Many scholars and activists contend that much of what is bad in our world is the product of men and masculinity.
- This is understandable because men commit most of the predatory street and corporate crimes, take us to war, and are the main perpetrators of intimate violence.

However,

- We often forget an important point made by Lee Bowker, "Much of what is good in the world...has been contributed by masculine role players."

Feminist Men Can Challenge
Male Peer Support for Woman Abuse

- They replace proabuse peers with antisexist peers and patriarchal norms, values and beliefs with those that are profeminist.
- Feminist men are also challenging the antifeminist backlash, homophobia, etc. that are precluding men from "giving up their patriarchal baggage."
Prepare for the Long Haul

• There is no short cut to ending woman abuse.
• But, regardless of how long it takes to get there, the long hard feminist journey toward equality is worth it, and we encourage all men to be fellow travelers.