



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL TOWN HALL TO DISCUSS THE VALUE OF HEALTHY, NON-VIOLENT MASCULINITY IN NORTH DAKOTA'S OIL PATCH

WATFORD CITY – People from across the state will gather for a national town hall at the end of the month to talk about how healthy and unhealthy masculinity impact North Dakota and how to engage family, friends, and co-workers in promoting healthy, non-violent masculinity and activate positive change.

The event, hosted by [CAWS North Dakota](#), the state's dual sexual assault and domestic violence coalition, in partnership with [MEN CAN STOP RAPE](#), is a part of the [Healthy Masculinity Action Project \(HMAP\)](#), a historic movement to end domestic and sexual violence by promoting a healthier vision of masculinity. The two-hour town hall will focus largely on stories of masculinity, with audience feedback, discussion, and connection to life in North Dakota.

In addition to the town hall, CAWS North Dakota will debut a statewide awareness campaign that focuses on men's roles as active bystanders to prevent sexual and domestic violence. The campaign, called "Where Do You Stand?" was produced in cooperation with MEN CAN STOP RAPE and funded by the Office on Violence Against Women. Scenarios include men's involvement in violence prevention, stalking, human trafficking and/or prostitution, and drug-facilitated sexual assault, with custom photography from North Dakota.

Free materials including posters, yard signs for the workplace or home, and coasters will be distributed at campaign information sessions before and after the town hall. Employers, community groups, educators, and service providers are encouraged to use the campaign materials at their organizations and begin the conversation about healthy masculinity.

The HMAP town hall will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 31 at the Watford Hotel in Watford City. To register, go to ndhmap.eventbrite.com. For lodging, call the Watford Hotel at 701-842-6800 or the Roosevelt Inn at 701-842-3686.

As a special bonus, a Bystander Intervention Train-the-Trainer workshop will be offered on Tuesday, July 30 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Watford City. This training uses the "Where Do You Stand?" campaign materials and will prepare violence prevention workers, advocates, professionals who work with youth or men, community groups, or anyone else who is interested to host bystander intervention training in their communities. This training is free of charge, but seats are limited to 50. To register, go to ndbystanderintervention.eventbrite.com.

More information, agendas, and resources to help promote the event can be found at www.ndcaws.org. Additional organizing partners include the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead and the Men's Action Network.

ABOUT [CAWS North Dakota](#): *CAWS North Dakota is a nonprofit membership organization representing the 20 domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers throughout the state. It is our mission to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of sexual and domestic violence*

ABOUT [MEN CAN STOP RAPE](#): *MEN CAN STOP RAPE is a national men's violence prevention organization that mentors male youth and successfully mobilizes them to prevent men's violence against women and other men; inspires young men to create their own positive definitions of masculinity, manhood, and strength; and works to end violence and build safe communities.*

ABOUT THE [HEALTHY MASCULINITY ACTION PROJECT](#): *HMAP is a collection of nationwide events that will train more than 1,000 ambassadors to host town halls, trainings, workshops, and other awareness and empowerment events in their communities, and will provide nearly 1 million people with knowledge on the importance of healthy, non-violent masculinity.*