



We don't know all the details yet, but it's a familiar story. One year ago, Matt Lauer NBC's leading anchor, signed a contract to extend his work with NBC through 2018. Earlier this week, he was at the top of his game. Yesterday, he was fired following a detailed accusation of inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace. By last night, the story began to unfold...

Men. If you are like me.

If you're like me, you have learned a lot in recent weeks. It's been eye-opening to hear so many courageous survivors tell their stories and share their pain with a desire to make this stop. You may be asking some questions.

How is it that I failed to notice something that is literally everywhere? Did I notice, but choose not to act? How have I contributed to the problem?

Why is it that men - who are overwhelmingly responsible for this and often in positions of power - have largely left these issues to women to deal with on their own? Where have we been?

If you're like me, you genuinely want to do better. If you're like me, you can do better. Much better.

Small steps.

The firing of several high powered, highly privileged individuals has been a catalyst for greater awareness and has sent a message of accountability. This may serve as a deterrent for some.

But, this goes deeper and the roots need to be exposed.

The roots of sexual harassment and assault need to be dug up, understood, and replanted.

We know from the work we've been doing at Maine Boys to Men for nearly 20 years, that this is a complex process. It requires greater awareness, self-reflection, and thinking critically while listening to the perspectives of others. Can we agree that inappropriate sexual behavior has become a habit for far too many men in power? A major shift requires the adoption of new ways of thinking. For these new ways of thinking to turn into positive change, it takes consistent action until it becomes habit. We need to come together, not as

women and men, but as humans, to address this pandemic issue that is staring us in the face.

This is not about fixing boys and men, because we aren't broken.

At Maine Boys to Men, our Reducing Sexism and Violence Program has never been about 'fixing boys'. It's been about fixing issues in our society that impact boys and men, and ultimately impact those around us. The issues are related to sexism, rigid definitions of gender, and the resulting self-harm and violence against others that too often follows.

Men, where do you stand?

This is an open invitation to all men to actively become part of the solution. Please consider one or more of the steps below.

- Make a donation today to support our **Reducing Sexism and Violence Program** which is helping to raise a generation of boys and girls who notice inappropriate behaviors and work together to prevent sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.



- Register [here](#) to attend our January 24, 2018 free screening of **The Mask You Live In** ([see trailer here](#)) in Scarborough, ME. The film explores elements of our culture that lead to these disrespectful and abusive behaviors. Maine Boys to Men will host a community conversation immediate following the film screening.
- Register [here](#) to attend one of our free **full day intensive workshops** for adults. Join the hundreds of others who have taken this step to become part of the solution!

With urgency and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Theodores".

Matt Theodores
Executive Director