

"From this day forward, I promise to be part of the solution in ending violence against women."



Massachusetts White Ribbon Day

A Men's Initiative Project of Jane Doe Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 6, 2011

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MASSACHUSETTS MEN GEAR UP TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & CHILDREN

To advocates against sexual and domestic violence, the latest sex abuse charges against former Red Sox club manager Donald Fitzpatrick is one more example that no one is immune from these issues and more must be done to help protect kids and end violence in general.

Jane Doe Inc.'s Men's Engagement Coordinator, Craig Norberg-Bohm, sees an opportunity among these disheartening news reports. Norberg-Bohm stated, "So much of the conversation around Penn State, Syracuse and now the Red Sox has centered on people asking why those who knew about the abuse didn't do more to stop it. The fact is that the responsibility extends beyond those with immediate knowledge of the abuse. We all have a role to play in preventing sexual abuse of children as well as sexual and domestic violence against anyone. One place to start is for men to address one another to promote a culture of positive masculinity that fosters equality and non-violence."

On Tuesday, December 6, 2011, Jane Doe Inc. will launch the 5th Annual Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign, calling on men to step up and be part of the solution in ending men's violence against women. The Co-Chairs for the 2012 Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign are Angelo McClain, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Paulo Pinto, MPA, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers. Over the next few months McClain and Pinto will work with Jane Doe Inc. to recruit men and boys across the Commonwealth to join them in taking this pledge.

"I am honored to be Co-Chair of this year's White Ribbon Day Campaign and join with Jane Doe Inc. and the sexual and domestic violence prevention community in the everyday work to curb, reduce, and eventually eliminate sexual and domestic violence," said DCF Commissioner McClain. "Great strides have been taken toward reducing sexual and

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domestic violence, but there is still important work to be done to ensure that people are safe in their homes and in their relationships.”

Jane Doe Inc. chose to launch the campaign on December 6th because it is the 22nd anniversary of the massacre of 14 women in Montreal and the 20th anniversary of the international White Ribbon Campaign. Bringing the campaign to Massachusetts has helped elevate the possibility and the promise of welcoming men and boys to the work of preventing sexual assault and domestic violence here in Massachusetts and beyond.

Co-Chair Paulo Pinto remarked, “As an immigrant, I am delighted to be connected with this international campaign because the devastation caused by domestic violence and sexual assault knows no boundaries. Freedom from violence is a human right, and each and every incident of sexual and domestic violence reminds us how important it is to fight for those rights, for equality and for the safety and liberty of survivors.”

Through the Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign, men and boys are invited to take the White Ribbon Day Pledge and sign up as ambassadors. By taking a stand against violence, these men serve as positive role models for other men and boys.

More information about the campaign is available at janedoe.org/whiteribbonday.

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