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A CALL TO MEN

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R&B singer Chris Brown's alleged violence and abuse toward Rihanna

It is alleged that R&B singer Chris Brown was physically violent and abusive toward R&B singer Rihanna. The alleged abuse occurred on their way to the Grammy Awards on February 8, 2009 in Los Angeles, California. If Chris Brown is guilty of these charges, like all men who are violent and abusive toward women, he should be held accountable.

Domestic Violence is the manifestation of sexism. This means that men, as a collective, are the problem. The collective socialization of men teaches men and boys that men are superior to women, that women are the property and objects of men and that they have less value than men. Chris Brown, like all men, is a product of that teaching.

As we respond to these allegations let us make note that men's violence against women is the number one cause of injury to women. In the United States it is estimated that men will use violence against more than 3 million women this year. Unfortunately, this means that nearly 8,500 men will use physical violence against women every day. Men will rape 1 out of 6 women. Men sexually assault girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24 at a higher rate than any other group of women. Men will sexually assault 1 out of 4 women during her time in college. Each day several men murder their present or former female partner. The majority of these murders occur during or after a separation

The Center for Disease control states that men's violence against women is a major health issue facing women in the United States. With this being said, not just Chris Brown, but all men are part of the problem. Those of us who continue to view women as less than, as property and sexual objects support a culture of male dominance and violence against women. If you are a man, Chris Brown is you, Chris Brown is me, and Chris Brown is all of us.

Chris is 19 years old. He received many messages about manhood and relationships with women from men. Possibly much of what he has learned is unfortunately, from the collective body of men, which continues to teach our boys that male dominance, control, privilege and entitlement is the correct way to behave.

For information: www.acalltomen.org

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A CALL TO MEN is a leading national men's organization addressing men's violence against women, and the eradication of sexism, while maintaining strong coalitions with women's organizations already doing this important work. We help to organize communities in order to raise awareness and get men involved in ending violence against women. Our mission is to galvanize a national movement of men committed to ending all forms of violence against women.