

## **TIMM Initiative Comes to a Closing**

The Training Institute for Mobilizing Men (TIMM) came to a close on May 20 with a final gathering that took place in New York City. The eight participating coalitions (Idaho, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia and Texas) and their community partners spoke thoughtfully with the social change organizations, Men Stopping Violence and A Call to Men that offered technical assistance during this two year process. Representatives from the Office on Violence Against Women, the sponsoring entity, were present supporting the work of the TIMM Initiative.

The TIMM Initiative sought to reinforce the work of domestic violence coalitions in engaging men and boys through community partnerships to end violence against women. Each coalition was paired with a representative from either A Call to Men or Men Stopping Violence. The technical assistance that coalitions received from these organizations varied depending on need. Complications shared revolved around technical assistance people receive and discussions on privilege based on gender, race and sexual orientation. Another challenge identified was the issue of accountability to women and following women's leadership. Men Stopping Violence and A Call to Men worked with coalitions and community partners to help them work through these issues to strengthen their collaborations. [Read More...](#) (this will be a link to go to the rest of the article)

There were many lessons learned as a result of this process. Men Stopping Violence will be providing a final draft of those lessons to groups interested in engaging and mobilizing men. In brief, lessons learned included:

- 1) The assumption of using a heterosexist paradigm when engaging men and boys needs to change;
- 2) The need for national organizations that engage and mobilize men and boys to work collaboratively to build a stronger branch of the violence against women movement;
- 3) Working to understand why some statewide domestic violence coalitions do not seem interested in engaging men and boys to end violence against women; and
- 4) The need to work in real solidarity with women in order to further the VAW movement. What does true solidarity look like?

TCFV benefited from the technical assistance of John Trammel with Men Stopping Violence who helped frame and edit a "Guide to Engaging Men and Boys in Preventing Violence Against Women". The guide will be available electronically in Fall 2009. Part of the assistance TCFV received through the TIMM Initiative, was a free webinar on engaging men and boys conducted by Ulester Douglas and John Trammel from Men Stopping Violence. This has been the webinar with highest participation of the TCFV Topics in Prevention webinar series.