

ALL MEN

MALE VOICES TELLING THEIR STORIES TO MAKE A CHANGE

00 Intro

Irene Facheris speaks from the stage of a concert:

You know, the most useless thing we often say to men to raise awareness about violence against women is exactly what we say all the time. And that is: imagine if it were your sister. Imagine if it were your mother, your daughter, your friend, your girlfriend. I say that's the most useless thing we can say because men who actually listen to these speeches don't need to think about being related to a woman in order to respect her. They learned, more or less by the age of seven, how to behave with other people; they don't need to hear that.

[Applause]

Well, tonight I'd like to flip the script. I want to tell you, thinking about who kills a woman, who rapes her, who abuses her... I'd like to say to you: imagine if it were your brother, imagine if it were your friend. Because the truth is that every man who kills, every rapist, every abuser is someone's friend or someone's friend's friend.

[The room falls silent]

And these men who have more or less violent attitudes towards women, I assure you that they don't listen to me when I say it's wrong. They don't listen to me, they don't listen to them (other women, Ed.), they don't listen to us. If there's a chance that these men will listen to this message, it's because it comes to them through another man. When we say "all men," this is what we mean. Every man have the extraordinary privilege of being able to make themselves heard by another man.

This is your power. Here lies your responsibility. And I know it's hard. I know that there will be so many of you tonight saying, "I know, I get it that I should speak up, I know I have this power, but the question remains: how? How do I start such a conversation with my friends? Where do I begin? With what tools?". So if you ask yourself these questions, let's talk about it together. This is a systemic problem. The solution has to be collective.

[Applause]

The speech ends.

Irene:

On November 25, 2023, during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, I said these words from the stage of Alcatraz in Milan, right in the middle of a rock concert, in front of hundreds of people, including many men. From that moment, everything changed for me.

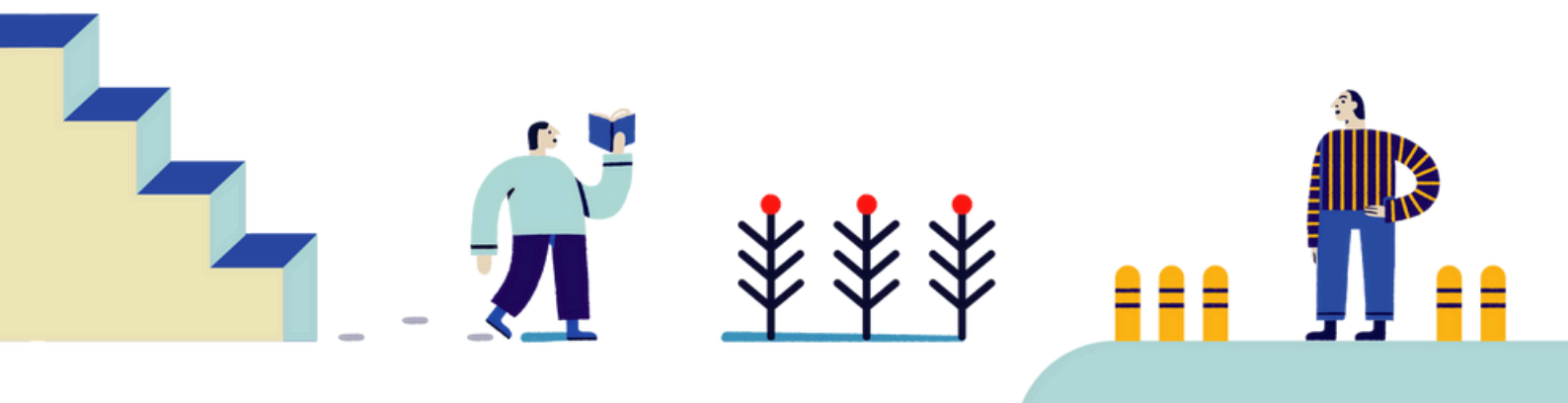
Musical break

And I say that everything changed because from that moment on, many of the men who heard me say those words began to tell me about their difficulties in handling this role, to talk to me about their guilt for not doing enough in their opinion, but most of all, about the feeling of being lost, knowing they should speak up but without knowing where to start. I strongly felt the need to create a space for questions rather than answers, for common problems rather than universal solutions, a place where I could discuss with those men and where I could listen to them while suspending judgment. So, I really listened to them.

Excerpts of testimonies are heard

Man 1:

One of my biggest regrets is not having kept diaries of my life. I think a part of it was influenced by the societal and cultural idea of "what are you doing, writing your emotions in a diary like a girl? Eh, the secret diary?"



Man 2:

Compromising with listening to a female voice would have undermined what it meant to be a man.

Man 3:

At first, I was really frustrated because when I had access to certain information, I felt it was an attack on me, like something that questioned the other forms of discrimination I experienced.

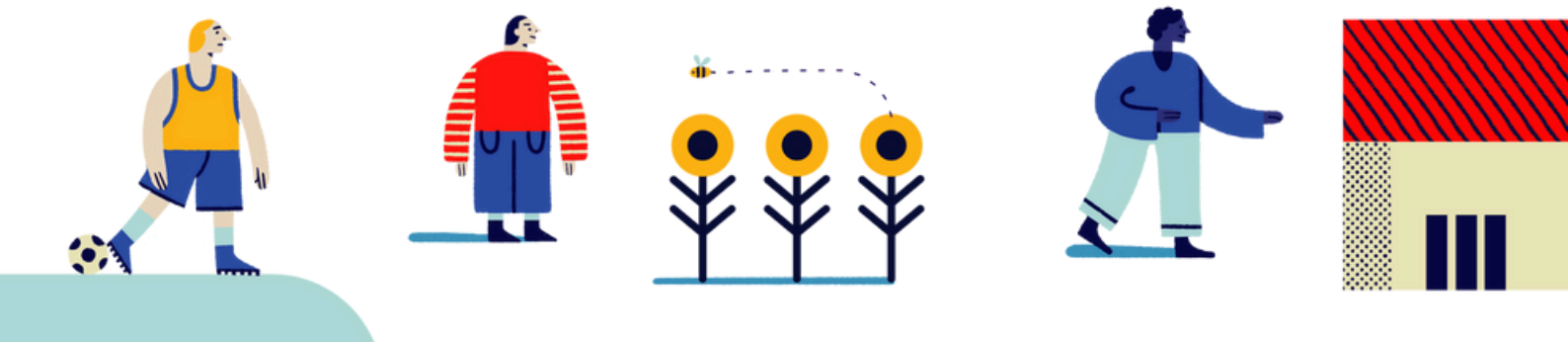
Man 4:

It's hard to be a man within men because there's loads of rivalry.

Irene:

This is All men - Male voices telling their stories to make a change. A podcast that starts with the belief that the role of men in the fight against gender-based violence is central, but that doesn't mean it's easy. Especially because, in order to change things, one cannot fail to question certain beliefs, convictions, and stereotypes. Nor can one move on from certain questions that many find themselves asking. How do I start such conversations with friends? How do I approach someone without coming off as intrusive? What kind of male role model am I showing my children? What kind of man do I want to be?

This podcast is a space to facilitate discussion and help for all those male voices who want to try answering these questions together in order to be helpful to other men, sharing examples and struggles, lights and shadows of a deconstruction journey where everyone is at a different point, and no one is interested in ranking or earning a medal, or feeling like they're falling behind. A place where all men, truly all men, can do their part. Because if the problem is systemic, the solution must be collective.



In each episode, you'll hear the voices of many men answering key questions concerning the male gender. Some of these voices you might recognize, others belong to men who are part of my life and whom I love. You won't find their names, but their experiences will be what matters. From time to time, we'll take a moment to dive into some theory—just a little, I swear—and some texts—I hope many of them—but most of all, we'll listen to the stories of men coming to terms with being male.

Let's begin.

End of intro

