Most of our international cultures do not like to acknowledge or discuss childhood abuse, especially childhood sexual abuse. When the topic is brought up the focus is generally on female victims and male perpetrators. However, boys are sexually assaulted at a much greater rate than many cultures admit. In the US statistics indicate that between one in four and one in six boys is sexually assaulted before their 18\textsuperscript{th} birthday. Male survivors of childhood sexual abuse face an uphill battle of receiving support and help because of the large number of \textit{false myths about boys/men and sexual abuse}:

- “Boys always welcome any kind of sexual attention.”
- “Boys who experience sexual arousal during abuse must have wanted the attention and the experience.”
- “Boys who are sexually abused grow up to become men who sexually abuse others.”
- “Real men aren’t upset by having been sexually abused. They easily brush it off.”
- “Boys are rarely abused by men or adult female relatives. Most of the time it’s an older female and everyone knows all boys enjoy any sexual attention they can get.”

These horrible myths combine to make reporting and getting support for sexual abuse very challenging, if not impossible for male survivors. The truth is boys are just as likely to be abused by someone they know as girls and are no more likely to “enjoy” being abused as girls are. And \textit{there is no evidence} to support the myth that males abused as children become perpetrators when adults at a higher rate than women do. Finally, having been abused as a child does not make a male any less of a “man”. Sadly, profound misunderstanding—or worse, denial—of the needs and challenges faced by male survivors is all too common. \textit{Many cultures around the world still openly endorse or unquestioningly reinforce toxic masculine stereotypes that highlight invulnerability and denial of pain as essential qualities of manliness}. Across the globe men simply are not allowed to admit they have been sexually exploited and abused. When they do, they are often disregarded, disbelieved, or treated as though they themselves are now more likely to harm others. All of these response are toxic and misinformed. \textit{Suicide rates skyrocket as a result.}

\textbf{Resources for male survivors:}

- \url{http://mensmovement.com} - A website where men come together and share, blog, inspire, encourage, and help one another in aspects of life.
- \url{http://www.goodmenproject.com} - Huge online community of bloggers and podcasters, both men and women sharing about what it means to be a good man in the 21st century.
- \url{http://www.malesurvivor.org} - Resources, Conferences/Weekend Retreats and a wealth of information for male survivors of abuse.
- \url{http://1in6.org} - High quality resources and community interaction for male survivors.
- \url{http://SurvivingMyPast.net} - Excellent blog from a male perspective, about Dissociation, Anxiety & PTSD
- \textit{We want to encourage all men and women to develop a safe support system} where you can receive the validation you deserve, as well as practice new & healthy relational skills. Cultivating healthy relationships with other survivors is extremely healing, regardless of gender. Ask us today about getting plugged into a free, online safe supportive group for male and female survivors alike. \url{Click Here}